Region 6 Report – June 30, 2018 New Orleans Pre-Convention LNC Meeting

Respectfully submitted June 26, 2018 by David Pratt Demarest, LNC Region 6 Representative with contributions by Sean O’Toole, LNC Region 6 Alternate

***FREEDOM, Nothing More, Nothing Less***

# Summary

The big news in Region 6 is the likelihood Region 6 will remain intact after the 2018 national convention biannual caucus in New Orleans. Subject to caucus approval, South Dakota will be rejoining Region 6 through the efforts of the new Chair Aaron Alyward and his talented and hardworking team.

Thanks to Bennett Morris, new Illinois Chair for all his help on the Region 6 formation agreement. Illinois is in the midst of their ballot access campaign led by Krysta Walker. We look forward to the results following the June 25 petition turn-in process.

Iowa congratulates Jake Porter on his victory in the Libertarian gubernatorial primary. Porter’s friend and opponent, Marco Battaglia, has agreed to run for Iowa Attorney General.

Nebraska Libertarian State Senator Laura Ebke soundly defeated Governor Rickets’ hand-picked GOP candidate and will move on to the general election in November. Nebraska elected a talented new state central committee headed by the new Chair, Michael Knebel.

South Dakota survived severe out-of-season blizzard that led to a second and highly successful convention. Kurt Evans and Richard Shelatz were nominated for a strong Governor/Lt. Governor ticket.

North Dakota has cleaned up their bylaws. Roland Riemers is running for Secretary of State to maintain major party status.

Missouri is going all out with their candidate recruiting, training and support programs.

Reelected Chair Phillip Anderson reports that Wisconsin will be sending a full delegation to the national convention in New Orleans.

# Illinois

Bennett Morris

LPILLINOIS Chair

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In Illinois, the last three months of work have been dedicated to the petition drive. Led by Ballot Access Director Krysta Walker, statewide petitioning began on March 27th. The turn in date is this Monday, June 25th. The requirement minimum number of valid signatures is 25,000. After approving multiple rounds of additional funding from the State Party operations budget and receiving additional funds from National on 6/21, we have collected an approximate total of 46,000 subject to turn-in count revisions.

Illinois is seeking volunteers to assist with a petition challenge that is likely to come from Republicans. Dates for the challenge process will be established after the petition is filed. We will keep National in the loop if and when a call for volunteers is needed.

In April, members of our new Executive Board and State Central Committee were elected by the 150+ Precinct Committeemen as dictated by Illinois law. Bennett Morris (Chair), Ryan Mahoney (Vice Chair), Jeni Floyd (Secretary), and Brian Dunn (Treasurer) were elected to two-year terms on the Executive Board.

In June, Illinois also established a Party Archivist position to align with the historical preservation efforts by the National Party.  The position was filled by Kate Nadolski who is uniquely qualified with a master’s degree in Library and Information Science.

Members are eager to get past the current ballot access hurdles and start campaigning for the 5% statewide election result needed to achieve established party status in Illinois this November.

# Iowa

Joseph Howe

LPIA Chair

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Iowa Libertarian gubernatorial candidates Marco Battaglia and Jake Porter made history in the first televised Libertarian primary debates, held on the Iowa Public Television Iowa Press program. Additionally, the candidates were featured on the CBS, NBC and ABC local affiliate programming, including Sunday morning shows devoted entirely to our race. As well, Jake Porter was endorsed by The Des Moines Register in our primary race, another first for our party.

Iowa participated in the major party primary elections on June 5th. Jake Porter bested Marco Battaglia in our contested gubernatorial race and will appear on the general ballot as our nominee for governor. Lynne Gentry will be on the general election ballot as Porter’s Lt. Governor nominee, in Iowa gubernatorial candidates run as a team on the ballot.

Porter has also been invited to participate in the Sioux City NBC affiliate televised debates alongside our Republican and Democrat gubernatorial nominees and accepted. If the other two candidates accept, this will be the first time a Libertarian candidate in Iowa has debated the other major party candidates on television.

We held post-primary nominating conventions on the district and state level, placing five statewide candidates and two U.S. Congressional candidates on the general election ballot. Iowa now has all statewide and federal races with a Libertarian candidate for the first time in Iowa history. Major party status has afforded us the ability to place these candidates via convention without petitioning requirements, saving us from gathering over 10,000 signatures. Multiple county parties will also convene nominating conventions, Iowa is on pace to field over thirty candidates statewide, a record for the state.

Marco Battaglia, former gubernatorial candidate, has accepted the LPIA’s nomination to run as Attorney General, with no Republican nominee, this will be our first two-way statewide race, against a long time Democrat incumbent, greatly increasing our opportunity to maintain major party status.

# Minnesota

Chris Holbrook

Chair LPMN

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* Outreach Presence:
  + April 28 Gun Rights Rally at MN State Capitol:

>2000 in attendance

* + June 3 Grand Old Day in St. Paul – booth:

>200,000 in attendance

* + June 23-24 Pride Festival in Minneapolis – booth:

>400,000 in attendance

* Marketing Efforts:
  + Quarterly spring newsletter mailed
  + Special ballot-access-needs letter mailed
  + Active Facebook page with growth >10%
* Affiliate Development:
  + 6 of our 8 Congressional Districts had meet ups:

District 2 has won pub trivia 3 months running over 10 teams

* Candidate Activity:
  + We just achieved getting 5 Libertarian candidates on the ballot for state office for the fall election
  + Our general election ballot access petition window in Minnesota was May 22-June 5 (only)
  + We collected nearly 6000 total signatures despite serious weather and holiday hurdles:
    - Governor/Lt. Gov. race (Josh Welter/Mary O’Connor):

>2000 required

* + - State Auditor race (Chris Dock):

>2000 required

* + - State House of Representatives Races:

>500 required each:

* + - * + Jill Galvan, Matt Swenson exceeded 500
        + Brian McCormick, Troy Sjerven – Thanks for trying
* LNC Convention Delegation:
  + We filled all 19 spots at our State Convention, however there looks to be 3-4 who have last minute conflicts that are doubtful to make it:
    - Party on Wayne
    - Party on Garth

# Missouri

Bill Slantz

LPMO Chair

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LPMO report provided courtesy of Sean O’Toole, LNC Region 6 Alternate:

We held our state convention on February 24. LNC Vice-Chair Arvin Vohra was our keynote speaker and was well received.

This was our first “nominating convention” where we determined who we wanted to represent the party for state-wide offices in the August Primary.

Japheth Campbell of Springfield is our US Senate candidate. Sean O’Toole is our State Auditor candidate.

With filing now closed, the Libertarian Party of Missouri has 29 candidates for races including US Senate, State Auditor, US Congress, State Senate, and State Representative. All state-wide slots have been filled as have all eight Congressional slots. Two Congressional primaries will be contested.

# Nebraska

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LPNE Chair

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The Libertarian Party of Nebraska held their state convention in May and elected a new State Central Committee. Michael Knebel is the new state chair after being active with the party leadership for the past 8 years. The first month has been very successful for the new SCC. They have set up a new fundraising committee and elected former Congressional candidate David Hunt as the chair.

The fundraising committee has increased the monthly donations and set up a new donor program. The party has also taken on more of a presence across the state by establishing two new county parties and participating in several parades and fairs.

This summer will continue to be busy for the party as they get closer to 15,000 registered Libertarians in the state. The primary focus is to get Senator Laura Ebke re-elected. Senator Ebke soundly defeated Governor Rickets’ hand-picked GOP candidate and will move on to the general election in November.

The secondary focus is to hire an Executive Director, as the job search has already yielded a dozen qualified candidates. Interviews for the Executive Director will take place in July as the LPNE looks to hire its first paid position.

The LPNE continues to garner state wide media recognition. Chair Knebel has appeared on the Tom Becka show on the Fox affiliate in Omaha. Vice-Chair Matt Maly has been interviewed for an AP article about party growth.

Confidence is high as the new leadership team continues to push the party into new areas of growth and recognition.

# North Dakota

Steven Potter

LPNORTHDAKOTA Chair

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North Dakota information was provided by Roland Riemers, Immediate Past Region 6 Representative:

In a recent statewide meeting we finally trashed our ancient bylaws and adopted new bylaws better in line of how we operate. We also elected a new set of state officers. For this election we had an absence of people willing to run for statewide office. We need to get 5% of the November vote for SOS or we lose our ballot status.

I decided to run for this office again, having received 5.3% of the vote 4 years ago. I expect no problem getting the needed 5% again this year, and in fact got 23% of the vote for State Auditor two years ago. The state party endorsed several state legislative candidates and is working to build up party strength and numbers in the next two years.

The SOS race may turn into a spotlight contest this year when the Republican incumbent of 25 years recently lost his party’s endorsement and is now out of the race. That leaves an experienced statewide Libertarian candidate that is running against two young old party candidates with no statewide experience.

I will be closely watching my June primary vote. If I get a significant increase in my previous primary vote, then I will run a serious campaign. If about the same, I will work to maintain my 5%+ in the November election.

Another race of interest this year is the open seat for our sole congressman. It appears that half the state is running or plans to run. One of the contesting Republican candidates is also about as Libertarian as you can get. In any case, unofficial support of candidates is likely to swing some of these statewide elections.

# *South Dakota*

Aaron Alyward

LPSOUTHDAKOTA Chair

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We held our second state mini nomination convention, due to our first state convention being cut short by a blizzard that prevented out-of-town speakers and many members from attending.

The second state convention was a big success. We had a lively gubernatorial debate and a great group of speakers. We ended up nominating Kurt Evans for Governor and Richard Shelatz, also our party Vice Chair, for Lt. Governor.

As far as speakers go, we were very grateful to host David Pratt Demarest, Kevin Bradley, and Apollo Pazel. It was great to learn from all of them! George Hendrickson, the SDLP’s candidate for US House also gave a campaign speech to start things out.

Our Minnehaha County LP had a booth at the Sioux Falls Pride Festival and had a great turn out. The Minnehaha county party, with the leadership of Lisa Nolan, continues to do very well and get people involved.

The state party currently has 1,726 registered Libertarians, up 19 from our last report.

# *Wisconsin*

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The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin State Convention was held in Madison on Saturday, April 14th. Speakers included Larry Sharpe, Kevin Fortune of Liberty America, and Jeffrey Tucker. Despite the terrible weather, attendance was good.

During the afternoon, the convention recessed to attend a gun rally at the Wisconsin State Capitol building, at which our State Chair and gubernatorial candidate Phil Anderson spoke.

At convention LPWI passed several changes to its platform, nominated and elected a full delegation to the Libertarian Party Convention in New Orleans, and endorsed the following candidates for statewide office: Phil Anderson for Governor, Patrick Baird for Lieutenant Governor, and Tyler Danke for Secretary of State.

Also, at convention, LPWI raffled off a Bushmaster rifle, artwork created by LPWI member Brian Defferding, and various other items.

In election news, Brian Defferding was elected to Winnebago County Board. LPWI is currently fielding 14 candidates for office in fall elections, with a few more still making up their minds.

LPWI looks forward to attending the National Convention with a full delegation. Hope to see you all there!

Respectfully submitted by:

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