



Region 8 Report

Submitted on 3.2.2019 by Regional Representative Justin O'Donnell

Regional Representative: Justin O'Donnell

Regional Alternate: Jeff Lyons

Massachusetts: The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts has had several positive press interactions this quarter. Our National Parks cleanup at Minuteman National Park, the site of the Battles of Lexington & Concord resulted in an interview with the Concord Patch. When former Vice Presidential Candidate Bill Weld switched voter registration from L to R, the Boston Globe called and asked for comment. We released a statement in response to his announcement of intention to run for President as a Republican, which was met with some dissent from self-identified "Reagan Conservatarian", but most of the feedback was in the form of "good riddance". We had another press release regarding the New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and accusation of soliciting prostitutes. We used the opportunity to promote the Libertarian Party plank 2.10 and advocate for the decriminalization of consensual sex work. This statement was quoted by the Metro-West Daily News and at least one town newspaper in the "Wicked Local" online news network.

LPMass also hosted the Leadership Institute for a classroom training session. We sponsored the costs of members which was \$30 per person. Some non-members heard about the training and attended, and it turned out to be a fantastic recruiting tool for potential candidates for office. We hope to plan more training for candidates and campaign volunteers at our upcoming convention.

The LPMass convention is tentatively scheduled for mid-July in Boston. We would like to invite any and all LNC members to join us.

New Hampshire: LPNH will be holding its annual convention in Concord, NH on May 11th. Sponsorships are on sale early on www.lpnh.org and tickets will be on sale soon. Speakers will include Jess Mears and Avens O'Brien. LPNH's focus for 2019 will be to continue building on

the success of 2018 in developing regional and local affiliates of the state party, and growing the volunteer base, while laying the groundwork to prepare for a 2020 Ballot Access Petition Drive for statewide and presidential candidates.

The New Hampshire House Election Law committee heard a bill that would change the dates of the State Primary election, and would adversely affect ballot access for the LP Presidential ticket. State Chair, Chip Spangler, and Region 8 Representative Justin O'Donnell were present to provide testimony before the committee, as a result of which the bill was retained in committee for amendment. The sponsor of the bill asserted that it was not her intention to cause harm to third parties, and wanted to work with LPNH on amending the bill in a favorable manner.

Maine: LPME is continuing to focus on efforts to increase voter registrations and grow party membership, as well as pursuing litigation against the Secretary of State with the support of the LNC. State Chair Chris Lyons informs me there are a number of activities in development, and the state party hopes to have a very active spring and summer ahead of them.

Connecticut: LPCT has been engaging in outreach activity and marketing research, including market research surveys to establish data points to improve their marketing and outreach to grow the party in Connecticut.

New Jersey: The Libertarian Party of New Jersey will be holding its annual convention on March 23rd, in Highstown, NJ. All LNC Members have been invited to attend the convention. Unlike most states, New Jersey holds its state elections in odd numbered years. Ballot access for independent and third party candidates is relatively easy in NJ for legislative races, and we can expect a number of NJLP Candidates to step up and run for these seats in 2019.

NJLP Leadership has opted to not participate in the National CRM project at this time. They are currently using their own locally hosted CiviCRM system, and have opted to continue doing so for the meantime, and will re-evaluate joining the national program at a later date as development progresses.

Vermont: LPVT reports nothing of significance they wish included in this report.

New York: The LPNY Convention will be held on the weekend of May 4-5, 2019. Full details have not been published yet, but will be made available to the LNC as soon as possible, as all LNC members will be welcome to attend.

Rhode Island: LPRI has been working to support the campaign of Billy Hunt in a special election for a state legislative seat to be held on 03/05/2019, and update on the results of this election will be delivered to the LNC Business List as soon as they are available, as well as updated prior to the LNC meeting for reflection in this report.

