

REGION 5 REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, July 20, 2019

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III

Region 5 Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state affiliates in Region 5 that have occurred since the previous LNC meeting. I shall provide an updated report at the meeting in Austin should additional information become available.

I am pleased to report that I have been able to represent the LP in various ways since the previous LNC meeting. For example, I continue to serve at least once a month as a guest on a two-hour political talk show that airs on weekdays on WINA radio (1070 AM/98.9 FM in Charlottesville, Virginia).

Delaware

Sean Goward (sean.goward@yahoo.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Delaware. I did not receive a report from him.

District of Columbia

Joe Bishop-Henchman (jdhenchman@gmail.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia. I did not receive a report from him.

Maryland

Bob Johnston (bob.johnston@lp.org), chair of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, provided the following report:

Maryland Libertarian Party membership is 93 as of 30 June, 2019.

Since the Maryland LP is not recognized by the state, the Board of Elections has segregated "Libertarian" registrations into the category "Other-Libertarian".

There has been no decision yet by the US District Court as to our case on ballot access. The case was filed on 11 March, 2019. If the party is not successful in court, it will have to collect at least 10,000 valid signatures from registered Maryland voters by 3 August, 2020.

The state party held its annual convention on April 28 in Mount Airy, MD. Jess Mears, Membership Manager of the LNC, and Mark Pennak of Maryland Shall Issue both conducted presentations. LNC region five representative Dr. James Lark also addressed the attendees.

The annual summer picnic will take place on Saturday, 10 August, in North East, MD. A meeting of the state Central Committee will be conducted. All are welcome to attend.

Bob Johnston
(443) 310-5373
Bob.Johnston@lp.org

North Carolina

Susan Hogarth (hogarth@gmail.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina, provided the following report:

The Libertarian Party of North Carolina has our Convention at the end of May. We revised our bylaws to give us a leaner executive committee and some other changes. We have two special Congressional races and at least three Libertarians running in municipal races for 2019. We are starting the migration to the LNC's CSM software, a process we plan to finish this year. We are preparing for fall fair season and recruiting for several positions within our organization structure. We're also working on programs to welcome newly registered Libertarians to the Party and get them involved in their local affiliates. The affiliate program is launching several new or newly reactivated local parties within the next few months. We are developing a motto-tiered pledge program.

Susan Hogarth
919-906-2106

Pennsylvania

Steve Scheetz (steve@stevescheetz.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, provided the following report:

Board Meeting 4/27/2019

Positive decisions made by the board included everything on the agenda, and items not included on the agenda but passed none the less. Beginning with the LPPA decision to migrate our information technology to the National CiviCRM project. Our migration is in process at this time, and it will include two extra features related to E-mail, the second (Mass E-mail hosting) agreed upon by the board this past meeting on the 15th.

Another item passed was the agreement to adopt the contract for an Executive Director, as well as hiring one, namely Kevin Gaughen, one of the movers in last year's petition drive in PA.

2A Rally in Harrisburg 5/06/2019

Some of us participated in a multi denominational event with the focus on Self Defense and the right to keep and bear arms. Our candidate for City Council, Maj Toure (founder of Black Guns Matter) spoke in the Capitol Building Rotunda to a packed hall and quite a bit of fanfare. I walked around to several Representatives and Senators in the State House, and I will say that we made some of them uncomfortable when asking why they did not honor their oath of office to defend the PA Constitution, but that is a story for another time.

Board Meeting 6/15/2019

During the June Meeting we discussed our next in person which will most likely be in Latrobe, PA on August 3rd, we discussed PA Convention 2020 to which we should have a firm date and venue decided at our September Meeting. We re-formed our Finance Committee in order to remove those inactive members, re-add those who have been active, and some new members, one of whom will be working with me to raise money for the LPPA's Ballot Access Initiative 2020 along with other members of the committee. Our Elections Committee has been busy identifying places where there is no Republican or Democrat on the ballot so that we can concentrate on putting Libertarians onto the ballot unopposed. I was tasked with either subscribing to Zoom or another similarly priced / equipped web based meeting software that includes a call in number for our monthly meetings that are not in person. (we MAY use them for those meetings where we ARE in person, though that will be determined by venue WiFi availability.)

Our membership has grown by 21% due to a mailing initiated by our Executive Director, and this brought us three new Lifetime Members as well! We are not done with this, and this initiative is still in its infancy, so I am hoping for an increase by a large number moving forward. Our Treasurer has taken it upon himself to perform an audit over the past couple years to settle some discrepancies in what was brought in vs what was recorded. A previous Treasurer has volunteered to help, and so far, bookkeeping and reports have been thorough. Not sure how to label it.

On the both down and up-side, 3 of our candidates were accused by the GOP in Northampton County, and they have accrued a large legal expense trying to defend against the unfounded accusations. They HAVE to fight. I know that if this action goes unopposed and is allowed to stand, it will become the cost of doing business as a candidate in PA. If that happens, it will be nearly impossible to recruit candidates moving forward. YET THEY ARE FIGHTING US (as opposed to laughing.....)

Due to grand jury proceedings being in play along with recommendations by counsel to NOT talk about it publicly until the Grand Jury issues its ruling, we cannot discuss this publicly. This makes it impossible to fundraise for the effort of fighting. One of those candidates wishes to disassociate from the party for now if not permanently. At this point, I am not equipped to ask anything of the LNC, but I DO want everyone to know what the GOP has been doing to some of our candidates they could not remove from the ballot.

Not necessary for the report, but wanted to share anyway:

On a final note, the state Senate here in PA are trying to push for an open primary. This would label everyone who is not a Republican or a Democrat as unaffiliated, and would allow those people to vote for a Republican or a Democrat in the Primary. I have reached out to the Green Party to discuss this further and see about a unified message about this particular piece of anti-competition legislation... <https://www.politicspa.com/open-primary-bill-advances-out-of-senate-government-committee/91517/?fbclid=IwAR3BGZ9UbOcAdhg-8XXLhcbe-IL1zddMblcqlPvs-4lq2IxenIvYkHTIRpQ> if you want to read more about it and some of my comments.

Sincerely,
Steve Scheetz

South Carolina

Stewart Flood (stewart.f.flood.jr@gmail.com) is the chair of the South Carolina Libertarian Party. I did not receive a report from him.

Virginia

Bo Brown (bocbrown@yahoo.com) is the chair of the Libertarian Party of Virginia. I did not receive a report from him.

West Virginia

Dave Valente (davidtvalente@gmail.com), chair of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia, provided the following report:

April:

- State Conventions was held in Clarksburg, WV
- David Valente was elected Chair, Karl Kolenich was elected Vice Chair, Karl Swisher was reelected Treasurer, Tara Sheffer was elected Secretary, Will Hyman, Brett Rogers and Eddie Wagoner were elected At Large Members.
- We chose April 4, 2020 as the date for our State Nominating Convention for the 2020 election.
- 30+ people attended the state convention this year.

May:

- Held first executive board meeting of the new term. Chose Flatwoods Convention Center as the location for the 2020.

- We purchased over \$200 in literature from LPStore for outreach booths. We committed to 3 big outreach booths for 2019, Bridge Day, Charleston Car Show and Berkeley County Youth Fair.
- Appeared with Brett Rogers on WRNR Radio's Eastern Panhandle Talk to discuss the LP.

June:

- Completed 3 videos for Facebook that explained how people could get more involved with the State Party,
- Shared LP National's Yellow Shirt membership drive to get more national memberships netted some additional members.

Outreach planned:

- Berkeley County Youth Fair
- Charleston Car Show and Doo Wop
- Bridge Day

Candidate recruitment:

Erika Kolenich has announced her candidacy for governor, we must secure 1% of the vote from our gubernatorial candidate for 4 years of ballot access. If we secure 10 percent, we will achieve major party status.