Libertarian National Committee

Region 7

*Region Representative - Whitney Bilyeu*

*Region Alternate - Erin Adams*



July 27-28, 2019

AUSTIN, TX

### ALABAMA - **Laura Lane**

#### STATE ORGANIZATION

* + - Elijah Boyd, Vice Chair; Paul Frankel, Secretary; Scott Hammond, Treasurer; Noah Rhys, Region 1; Scott Neighbors, Region 2; Ash Jennings, Region 3; Anthony Peebles, Region 4; Frank Dillman, At-Large; Richard Fast, At-Large.

#### ELECTIONS

* + - There is a special election to be held in January of 2020 for Alabama House District 42. In accordance with LPAlabama bylaws, the Executive Committee has selected Doug Ward as the Libertarian candidate. Mr. Ward and his team are collecting signatures (which must be turned in Aug 20th), and a campaign kickoff is scheduled for Jul 26th. Currently, no other candidates have declared for any 2020 races. Recruiting is underway.

#### BALLOT ACCESS

* + - Due to voter turnout in 2018, the statewide ballot access requirement is approximately 56k signatures, putting it even further out of reach. We are discussing possible legal actions with the attorney that is handling the voter registration lawsuit.

#### EVENTS

* + - The EC will have it's first in-person meeting on July 27th in Madison County. Following the meeting, there will be a brief training session on CRM for the EC members, then a social gathering for any members that want to attend. We are planning a camping event for the first part of October. Birmingham was selected for the next state convention to be held March 28th, 2020. LPA is also working on plans for a Libertarian Presidential Candidate debate during convention.

#### FINANCE/FUNDRAISING

* + - We are looking at hiring a fundraiser. Our finances seem to hold steady around the $13k mark.

#### MEDIA

* + - With the help of Open Source Liberty, our Marketing/Media team created two videos for social media; one that promotes joining the party in general and a second that focuses on I&R. The first video seems to be a hit. OK, NC, and TX have asked permission to rebrand with their state information. We have given permission for any state to use the video if they desire.
		- In April, a protest over the proposed gas tax was held outside the Capitol. LPA members participated with people from other organizations. We have a great picture of the Vice Chair of the Constitution Party holding one of our signs. The protest was covered by local Montgomery TV stations.

#### OTHER

* + - LPA recently completed switchover to CivicCRM. In process of training EC members on use. Looking at subscribing to Office365 with Cloud storage, so that all EC members are using the same word processing and spreadsheet software, and having more cloud storage.
		- Region Reps are calling all members in their respective areas and giving them news of what's happening at state level, asking them to renew and join national if they have not done so. At-Large reps are helping organize meetings in unorganized counties. We are seeing requests for information and new memberships coming in from these calls and meetings.
		- On Jan 27th, the LPA filed suit against the state claiming discrimination over access to the voter registration list; specifically, Ds and Rs get the list several times per year for free, while minor parties and independents must pay one cent per name ($34,000). On Feb 19th, the State filed a motion to dismiss stating failure to file a claim. LPAlabama’s attorney responded. Awaiting the judge's decision...
			* <https://lpalabama.org/2019/05/27/lpa-sues-state-for-discrimination/>

### ARKANSAS - **Michael Pakko**

#### STATE ORGANIZATION

* + - Michael Pakko, Chris Olson and Stephen Wait were re-elected as Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer, respectively.
		- Chris Lutterloh was also elected to continue as Dist.1 Rep.
		- New members of the Committee:
			* Secretary - Casey Copeland,
			* Dist 2 Rep. - William Brackeen,
			* Dist 3 Rep. - Bryan Aguiar,
			* Dist. 4 Rep. - Ricky Harrington Jr.
			* At-Large - Joe Swafford

#### STATE LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

* + - Stable. Slight decline in direct state-level dues-paying members, offset by higher numbers of national members.

#### COUNTY NEWS

* + - New affiliates have become active in Faulkner and Saline Counties (both in the Little Rock metropolitan area).

#### ELECTIONS

* + - Having attained at least a conditional expectation of ballot-access (at this time), our Elections Committee has begun the work of recruiting candidates and putting together procedures for a nominating convention.
		- We are planning a pre-nomination convention in late October, so that candidates will be in place to complete required registration with the Secretary of State during the first week in November (a ridiculously early deadline, which we continue to contend in court).

#### BALLOT ACCESS

* + - The state legislature just passed SB163, which raises the petition signature requirement from 10,000 to 3% of the last gubernatorial vote (approximately 27,000). The new standard is beyond our reach. We are taking steps to challenge the constitutionality of the new law.
			* UPDATE: <https://www.lp.org/court-stops-stringent-new-arkansas-ballot-access-law/>

#### FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

* + - The petition drive was, by far, the most expensive that we have mounted to-date. In part, that is due to the change in the law, and the simultaneity of the petition drive and court proceedings, which required us to overshoot the number of raw signatures. In all, the cost was approximately $61,000 ($36K canvassing fees, $20K fundraising costs, $5K legal fees). Our fundraising efforts brought in gross donations of over $57,000.

#### EVENTS

* + - We will be launching a lawsuit in federal court at the same time we begin petitioning. Our contention is that SB163 was unconstitutional, and we will be seeking an injunction to force the Secretary of State to accept 10,000 valid signatures as sufficient.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

* + - We have established an IT Committee.

#### MEDIA

* + - We have received good news coverage of our Federal court case, including the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and the Arkansas Times.

### LOUISIANA - **Rufus Craig**

#### STATE ORGANIZATION

* + - Vice Chair - Mike Dodd. Secretary - Shannon Sloan. Treasurer - Charles Fotsch

#### MEMBERSHIP

* + - 12 parish committees
		- State central committee with 17 members
		- Typically we have 25 to 30 people at our quarterly meetings
		- Approximately 100 dues paying members, approximately 10 of which are recurring, for a total of about $500 per month.

#### ELECTIONS

* + - We have statewide elections in October.
		- Goal to have 100 candidates on the ballot.
		- About 40 commitments, so far.

#### MEDIA

* + - One of our parish executive committees has put billboards on Interstate 10 near the border with Texas which get a lot of exposure.

### OKLAHOMA - **Chad Williams**

#### STATE ORGANIZATION

* + - Chad Williams - Chair
		- Kevin Hobbie - Vice Chair
		- Christy Howard - Treasurer
		- Cherise Norton - Secretary

#### ELECTIONS

* + - Two Libertarians elected to office in April - total of three, including one appointed.
		- We are starting to get people showing an interest in running for various state offices for the 2020 cycle, including a statewide office.

#### COUNTY NEWS

* + - Canadian County has been having a series of exploratory meetings, and could officially affiliate within the next couple of months.

#### MEMBERSHIP

* + - We have 220 total members, of which only 59 are active.
		- Down 5 members over this time last year and 6 from last quarter.
		- The large number of inactive/lapsed members is due to the fact that the OKLP started charging dues in 2018.

#### FINANCE/FUNDRAISING

* + - We have set a budget for the first time, conservatively based on flat growth for the upcoming year.
		- We expect revenues to start peaking towards the end of our fiscal year, as the 2020 election begins to heat up.

#### EVENTS

* + - We are planning a social event in the fall that will include workshops on the benefits of agorism, campaigning, and recruiting. We are also planning two major tabling events at both State Fairs that would allow us to reach out to over 400k potential voters.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

* + - We have purchased Meeting Owl to help facilitate meetings. This will allow Regional Chairs to join by Zoom, while also having an in-person meeting.

#### OTHER

* + - Le Flore County rezoned from the East Central Region to the Southeast Region.

### TEXAS - **John Wilford**

#### STATE ORGANIZATION

* + - Treasurer - Cassie Villela, Vice Chair - Steven Harris, Secretary - Gary Johnson

#### COUNTY NEWS

* + - Affiliating new counties all the time..

#### ELECTIONS

* + - We recently had a member of our SLEC elected as Mayor of Big Spring.

#### BALLOT ACCESS

* + - We successfully fought an attempt by Republicans to double the required vote percentage for our ballot access.
		- Ultimately, another bill passed which implements filing fees for convention party candidates and independent candidates. It, however, reduced the ballot access vote threshold to 2%.