

Region 6 Report for the Second Meeting of 2019.

Iowa:

Our recruiting team has been working with municipal level activists and is running eight city level candidates in Des Moines, Cedar Falls, Council Bluffs and Knoxville. We focused heavily this past year on municipal recruiting to build a bench of experienced candidates and elected officials. Iowa party is fighting against ballot access hurdles and is working with Jake Porter, counsels William Bastress and Jules Ofenbakh and will be filing a challenge to an election bill which reduced third party and independent candidate filing deadlines by five months. We view this as a significant hurdle to fielding candidates, this bill is one of several election bills the LPIA has been fighting over the past year and the only one to make it into law. Additionally the LPIA is filing suit against Iowa State Senator Claire Celsi for blocking LPIA members and Iowa voters from public forum social media pages that she runs, we believe that elected officials blocking constituents and state residents is a violation of the 1st Amendment and our ability to petition our government. Iowa activists have also started petitioning for presidential ballot access through substitute candidates and should have access guaranteed for our presidential ticket well ahead of the 2020 August filing deadline.

Minnesota:

1. Political Candidates: We have three likely candidates preparing to announce runs for 2019 local municipal races and three more likely for 2020.
2. Political Policy Action: The LPMN has decided to pursue legal action against the State of Minnesota for statutory violations of our 1st and 14th Amendments rights as guaranteed by the United States Constitution. We have a broad and deep history of trying to change the unreasonable restrictions that exclude minor political parties from participating in elections in this State, including sponsored legislation presented this year in February, which the State legislative committees refuse to allow introductory hearings on. Several within the LNC have been notified about our intent. We accept and understand there are little-to-no resources to aid our situation. We realize other states have much worse situations that take priority. But that will not dissuade us and we welcome financial support referrals.
(some tactical/strategic details were presented here that I have edited out due to the public nature of these reports. I will be happy to discuss them with the LNC in a forum that does not give opponents easy access.)
3. Political Policy Activism: We have recently testified at marijuana legalization hearings and rallies. We have networked and rallied with gun rights and civil rights groups. We are promoting electronic health records privacy. We are vocal (multiple printed editorials) in opposition to pain patient harassment during the current opioid hysteria overreaction.
4. Communications/IT: We've updated our website lpmn.org with more History, Divisions, and Resources information, including our new SOP manual. Our social media has grown on Twitter and our Facebook is now over 12,000 followers. We switched email blast service to Constant Contact for unlimited to our over 7000 contacts. We have an 8 page biannual newsletter going-to-print for mailing this month to our roughly 300 state party dues members.
5. Outreach: We recently hosted kiosks at Minneapolis May Day, St. Paul Grand Old Day, and TC Pride Fest (tens of thousands attend each). We are marching in the Rondo Parade this weekend

(look up the Rondo injustice!) and we are prepping to staff our booth at the 'great voluntary get together' for 12 days of the MN State Fair at the end of August (over 2M attend). We have a new Volunteer Coordinator and volunteer intern that have stepped forward.

6. Internal Structure: We added (by hire) an Affiliates Coordinator who is building our network. We have 6 monthly meeting groups plus 4 developing.
7. State Convention: We had a great 2019 State Convention in April which improved relations with LNC and added fresh faces on our Executive and Judicial Committees. We awarded two sweet Libertarian Legend trophies.

N. Dakota

Chair Steven potter stepped down, replaced by Dalton Brown. Party membership is still growing albeit a bit slower. Ronald Reimers has announced a bid for US Representative and is seeking our endorsement. There are 3 potential candidates for state rep that we're still working on and two other individuals to run as libertarians in local elections. The ballot access drive is progressing smoothly and we expect to have all signatures gathered by the convention.

S. Dakota

We recently had our annual state convention, held June 15th in Rapid City SD, where we selected a new Executive Committee to serve from 2019-2021. Enclosed is a photo of our new ExCom, (Not included in Photo is our new Membership Director, Bryan Reyelts). We also gave out our very first ever Lifetime Activist Award to Bob Newland who's ties to the party go back 1992 (the first year the LP was recognized as a party officially in SD)

Positions filled

Chair- Gideon Oakes

Vice Chair- Greg Baldwin

Secretary- Ashley Strand

Treasurer- Daryl Root

Communications Director- Devin Saxon

Membership Director- Bryan Reyelts

At-Large- Tara Volesky

Committee Member- Garrid Baldwin

Committee Member- Kent Wilsey

We recently had a booth at a local Pride festival on July 13th in Rapid City SD.

Communications Committee recently formed to revitalize social media outreach, Discord channel created.

Voter Registrations are at 6 consecutive months of positive growth. Slow but steady.

We are discussing putting together an end of summer BBQ-picnic, Rib & Homebrew contest in August.

Illinois:

Illinois successfully elected 3 candidates to local office Brandon Wisenburg Peoria Heights Village Trustee, Aisha Pickett Treasurer of Harvey IL, and Jenae Wise who successfully ran write in for Village of

Kingsman Trustee. Most recently we also had Thadeus Freed appointed to his local zoning board after his local run.

We have participated in several different parades across the state, including Chicago Pride. Paul Durr who was a candidate this year ran a protest against our new gas tax and got some good media coverage, and have continuing outreach going at events statewide, and at last report we saw had stepped up in national membership rankings from 10th to 8th.

Plans are proceeding for the 2020 state convention to be held in Peoria IL March 13-15, with plans to host a presidential candidate debate.

The attempt to change the ballot access laws was shot down in committee, but there was some bipartisan action on it in both houses, and the original sponsor and some others have stated they will attempt to get it added to the elections omnibus bill later in the session.

Marijuana legalization passed, to take affect Jan 1st. The bill is not without flaws – taxation, harsh restrictions on dispensary licensing, allowing cities and others to opt out, and others. It does however include record expungement for many.

Our archivist Kate Nadolski is continuing her work, and we are happy to have U.I.C. hosting our records in their special collections library.

Illinois IT Director Lex Green is also working hard on getting a website overhaul ready to roll out, as well as looking at the CRM we currently use, and taking a look at the LP National CRM project in comparison.

Last but not least, Illinois is very happy to welcome Mr Redpath, and he has graciously accepted the role of Ballot Access Director for our state!

Wisconsin:

Nebraska:

The Libertarian Party of Nebraska has had a productive summer!

The LPNE has been active! This Independence Day weekend, the LPNE hosted a series of very successful events starting with “Freedom Friday” which was a Libertarian Fundraiser event. The following day, there was a Liberty Rally at the State Capitol Building. These events provided some wonderful optics and had some press coverage.

The LPNE continues to grow. There are approximately 15000 (1%) registered Libertarians in Nebraska and that number continues to grow. The LPNE has active Libertarians working diligently in each congressional district to grow the county affiliate numbers and the effort shows! Nearly 15% of the counties in Nebraska have an active Libertarian presence and this number continues to grow each month.

Nebraska also already has candidates looking ahead to their next governor race and other races.

Missouri: