

REGION 5S REPORT

Submitted to: Libertarian National Committee, Mar. 7, 2013

Submitted by: James W. Lark, III

Region 5S Representative, Libertarian National Committee

This report will provide information concerning activities of the Libertarian Party state affiliates in Region 5S since the LNC meeting on Nov. 17-18, 2012. I shall provide an updated report at the LNC meeting in Rosemont 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 as a frequent guest on a two-hour political talk show that airs on weekdays on WINA radio (1070 AM in Charlottesville, Virginia). On Jan. 20 I was interviewed on RT TV in my capacity as former Libertarian Party national chair to offer my analysis of a second Obama administration.

Delaware

Brad Thomas (bradct@verizon.net) serves as chair of the Libertarian Party of Delaware. The LP of New Castle County meets on the third Thursday of each month. The LP of Kent County meets on the third Tuesday of each month, and the LP Sussex County meets on the second Thursday of each month.

District of Columbia

Ryan Sabot (ryan.sabot@dclibertarians.org), chair of the Libertarian Party of the District of Columbia, provided the following report:

There are a few things going on in the DCLP now. The most pertinent issue at hand is getting the DCBOEE (DC Board of Election and Ethics) to update all physical voter registration forms at DMVs and libraries across the District to update our status as a major party. Some of us in the party want to take legal action but the prevailing idea--and mine as well-- is to organize a physical meeting with them and outline what we need them to do before taking the legal route (not to mention the fact that we do not have any money for a lawyer). Once we get those distributed, the plan is to do a massive mailer to get the people/names we get from the LNC's registration dumps to re-register as Libertarian and donate money.

The issue of money is perhaps the most dire one, though. Since our formation, we have only raised ~\$100 from donors. I am hoping to have a fundraiser at Rob Kampia's (the MPP [Marijuana Policy Project] director) house in the near future; he's offered to have one, and he had one last fall for Bruce Majors' congressional campaign, so hopefully we can raise more money at that and he can attract some high-profile attendees. Our current financial situation leaves us with next to nothing in our bank account; I donated some of my own money on top of what we

fundraised so that we could get a mailbox. We have paid for our mailbox through June; as long as we raise at least \$30 before that, we'll be fine, but I wish to eventually move beyond just having enough money to pay for a mailbox. I'd be very open to fundraising suggestions.

We are currently not running any candidates in the current DC election. The reason for this was that, due to its "special" nature, all candidates had to run a ballot drive regardless of party. A candidate would have been technically free to run as a Libertarian and do his own campaign, but he/she would have minimal support from us as we have not yet completely set up party infrastructure and have few funds. We tried to court a high profile candidate from the REP party to run as LIB, but he opted to stay with his own party for the time being. If we can court him over in the future, especially if he loses this election, that would be huge for the party and I do not think it would be out of the question for it to propel the party past the REP party in DC.

The future for the DCLP is very bright. I can attribute this to a few things:

1) The image of the DCGOP is failing. They did not run a candidate for Congress last election. If their candidate does not win this election, their brand will be even further damaged.

2) The demographics of DC are shifting very rapidly and is becoming extremely youthful, Caucasian, and highly educated. We saw the highest LIB percentages in the Nov election come out of the neighborhoods where these people are moving to. If these trends continue, and all indications show that they will, I expect our percentages to grow, especially as libertarianism continues to attract more and more in the college age group.

3) Bruce Majors, our candidate for Congress, received more votes than Governor Romney. It was the first time a Libertarian has been on the ballot since the mid-90's. This is extremely promising. Even though the DCGOP did not run a candidate, this shows that many are in support of the DCLP and that there's a huge space for us to enter. Again, I think that if the DCGOP continues to decline and we can continue to grow, the two big parties in the District could very well be us and the Democrats.

Maryland

Libertarian Party of Maryland chair Bob Johnston (bob.johnston@live.com) provided the following report:

Membership: 83 @ 2/28/13

Registered voters: 11,635 @ 12/31/12

The Board of Elections is behind on their registration reports. Usually the reports come out on the 17th of each month.

With our recent growth, I anticipate the registration for MD Libertarians to be close to 12,000 by the February report.

A new group, Young Libertarians of Maryland, has been started, and is being led by Eric Blitz and Erin Carrington Smith.

The MDLP spring convention will be held on Saturday, 6 April, from 1 to 5 pm at Squires Italian Restaurant in Dundalk, MD. Dr. Jim Lark will be the featured speaker.

I had been in touch with a state Senator over the last year to submit a bill to the General Assembly to lower the threshold for minor party status to 10,000 registered voters, but the Senator has not returned any phone calls or emails recently, so I don't anticipate any ballot access relief this session, which ends in April.

Bob Johnston
Chairman, MDLP

North Carolina

Libertarian Party of North Carolina chair J.J. Summerell (jjsummerell@worksitesinsight.net) provided the following report:

Legislative Day

Legislative Day is scheduled for March 26. More details will follow, but mark your calendar for our first Legislative Day in several years. We'll meet in Raleigh in the morning and have about an hour of training to be sure we are all 'singing out of the same hymnal.' Then, we'll have pre-set appointments with our local representatives and sponsors of bills that we support. Our growth has the attention of both parties. Exact time and meeting place TBA. This is not just an Executive Committee event. All members are welcome, just [email me](mailto:jjsummerell@worksitesinsight.net) and I'll register you and have a packet of materials for you.

Convention

The Executive Committee voted to alternate the state convention between locations in western NC and eastern NC this year and next. Flatrock is the location for this year and June 7 to 9 are the dates. We have an exceptional venue in Mountain Lodge of Flatrock, a new but rustic conference facility in the Blue Ridge. More information will be forthcoming about speakers and agenda, but save the date and plan to "head for the hills."

LPNC Bling-Bling

Thanks to the folks at the Durham-Orange Affiliate, LPNC now has lapel pins available to those who donate \$25 or more to the party. It is a handsome way to advertise for the party.



3 New Members of the Leadership Team

After naming Erik Raudsep as Political Director and Mark Rogers as Director of Communications last month, the LPNC now welcomes three more additions to our leadership:

Dr. William Keech has joined the Judicial Committee, replacing Lon Cecil. Dr. Keech is a Political Science professor at Duke.

Jon Byers has re-joined the Executive Committee as Membership Secretary after about 10 years since last serving in that same position. John lives in Arden, near Asheville.

Alex Mathews joins us as our new Director of University Relations, a position previously held by Jason Melehani. Alex is a freshman at Davidson and has been instrumental in building their Libertarian student group to one of the best in the state.

Outreach Director

We still have an opening for Outreach Director for the LPNC. This position liaises with other liberty-minded groups to increase our public profile and visibility. Coordinating local fairs across the state and communicating with these other organizations are the primary duties. If anyone is interested just [email](#) or call, 888.524.7117.

Pennsylvania

Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania chair Dr. Tom Stevens (drtomstevens@aol.com) provided the following report:

A major effort has been undertaken to recruit candidates to run for public office in 2013 and 2014. We are making calls and following up to get 2012 LPPA members to renew for 2013 and new chapters are being organized. Our Annual Convention is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2013 at the Days Inn in Danville, PA.

A slate of candidates has declared to run for party office this year against current incumbents. They mostly object to moderation on state party lists as opposed to any substantive policy positions. A number of people who support these candidates, mostly from one county, led the Vote for Nobody campaign last year, did not support Gary Johnson for President because they didn't think he was libertarian enough, did not obtain a single petition for Gary Johnson or help in the defense of our petitions against the GOP challenge and who self-identify as anarchists. Starchild has interjected himself into the Pennsylvania LP race by endorsing the challenger as has Paul Frankel and others who are perceived to have an interest in future paid petitioner business out of Pennsylvania.

Serious homophobic, anti-gay commentary and personal attacks have taken place every day against State Chair Dr. Tom Stevens and there have been threats of law suits against all Board members made by some of the challengers. While in Maryland on Saturday, February 16, 2013, Dr. Stevens was squeezed off a three lane interstate by an unmarked Blue Van barely surviving the accident. LPPA members who threatened violence against Dr. Stevens continued to make reference to the "Amish Mafia" and "Dutchy" solutions to the problem. The LPPA Chair has been photoshopped onto a woman's body and his supporters have been referred to as "dick-hugging bitches" who "hang on Uncle Tom's dick". His image on the background of the Cowardly Lion has been placed on tee-shirts for sale with the slogan Liberty Lyin". He has also been photoshopped as Chavez hugging Castro and in an ad proposing him for Pope - "For The Children". These challengers are calling all new party members and spreading their campaign nationwide creating misimpressions and a bad reputation for the LPPA. Many believe the motivations of some are to degrade our effort to get a gubernatorial candidate on the ballot in 2014.

90% of all LPPA Committee Chairs and officers are still working hard every day but they are very discouraged by the perception of infighting created by a handful of members mostly from a single county.

Virginia

Libertarian Party of Virginia chair Chuck Moulton (chuck@moulton.org) provided the following report:

The Libertarian Party of Virginia is focusing on candidate recruitment. Wes Benedict's Libertarian Booster PAC has been very helpful in convincing Libertarians to run for Virginia's House of Delegates (the lower house of the state legislature) by offering a website, yard signs, and petitioning help. (Unlike many other states, Virginia holds state legislative elections in odd years.) The LPVA will run a record number of candidates in 2013.

On the technical end, the LPVA has been utilizing Facebook events and meetups for local organizing. Investments in Facebook advertising have catapulted the LPVA's Facebook page to the most liked state affiliate in the country (around 6,000 likes):

<http://www.facebook.com/LPVirginia>

Lack of state legislative districts in the data dump provided by national has made candidate recruitment unnecessarily difficult. A volunteer programmer has recently written a script to hack around this issue. However, Virginia continues to insist that the best long term solution is for LPHQ to populate its database with state legislative districts (and other districts down to individual voting precincts) which would in turn be provided in monthly data dumps to states. Unfortunately other states may not have found such a volunteer programmer, and we fear the Libertarian Party loses many potential candidates due to LPHQ's lack of political subdivision data in its database. Virginia again asks the Libertarian National Committee to instruct staff to address this database need -- a fundamental act of affiliate support facilitating real politics.

Chuck Moulton
Chair, Libertarian Party of Virginia

West Virginia

Michael Wilson (michael.wilson@lpwv.org) serves as chair of the LPWV. As noted previously, David Moran (the party's 2012 gubernatorial candidate) obtained the 1% of the vote necessary to secure "major party" status for the LPWV. A bill has been introduced in the West Virginia legislature that (if enacted) will make it easier for the LPWV to retain ballot status.

The party is working with other organizations to promote legislation introduced in the West Virginia legislature to protect the right to keep and bear arms. Mr. Wilson and Dr. Moran are planning a year-long presentation series at all colleges and universities in West Virginia, with the goal of establishing "Campus Libertarians" affiliates on every campus.