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# Get Informed. Get Involved.

LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, REGION 1

## Dear Region 1 Members:

This is my periodic status update in order to keep you up to date on matters concerning the Libertarian National Committee and my involvement as your elected Regional representative. It has been a very busy few months, and thus there was no time for an August newsletter. I will combine the relevant information here. Remember, you can also find copies of referenced reports as well as a lot of other helpful information at the [Region 1 website](#). If you missed my July newsletter, you can read it [here](#).

Following are some of the major issues discussed on the LNC Business List since my last newsletter to you as well as some key issues discussed during the LNC meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on August 19-20. You can read the live-blogging notes [here](#) and draft minutes are prepared [here](#). The report submitted for that meeting can be viewed here [here](#). I highly encourage you to follow this list [LNC Archives of Email Discussions and Votes \(can be viewed by author, date, subject and thread\)](#) and keep track of what your National Party representatives are doing as I can only cover the major items here.

My latest Region 1 report can be found [here](#).

## **AUGUST 2017 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

My analysis of the numbers can be found [here](#). Here is the down and dirty Regional summary:

## ***BSM Membership tracking***

State	7/17 #s/ Rank	8/17 #s/ Rank	Change #s/Rank
Alaska	94/37	86/37	-8/ <u>same</u>
Arizona	340/16	323/16	-17/same
Colorado	525/10	493/10	-32/same
Hawaii	62/43	53/44	-9/-1
Kansas	145/34	134/34	-11/same
Montana	74/41	74/40	<u>same</u> /+1
Utah	112/35	100/35	-12/same
Washington	524/11	492/11	-32/same
Wyoming	35/50	35/49	same/+1

There has been some alarm over the decrease trend. This is of course something we wish to avoid, but it is not unexpected after an election year and one with the volatile "Trump Panic."

Here is a comparison with last year at this time:

## *YEAR OVER YEAR TRENDS*

ALASKA MEMBERSHIP UP 27.6%

ARIZONA MEMBERSHIP DOWN 6.7%

COLORADO MEMBERSHIP UP 7.8%

HAWAII MEMBERSHIP DOWN 12.1 %

KANSAS MEMBERSHIP DOWN 11 %

MONTANA MEMBERSHIP UP 20.2%

UTAH MEMBERSHIP DOWN 14%

WASHINGTON MEMBERSHIP UP 10.1%

WYOMING MEMBERSHIP DOWN 28.5%

I do some member calls and here is my experience by order of reasons for renewal given:

1. Broke, lost job
2. Disliked our ticket
3. Temporary political involvement

Since the July report was not available at the time of the July Newsletter, you can find my comments about it [here](#).

### **JULY 2017 END-OF-MONTH FINANCIAL REPORT**

This can be viewed [here](#).

### **EMAIL MOTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT**

**Co-Sponsors:** Hayes, Demarest, Goldstein, Harlos, Bittner, Katz

**Motion:** *Amend the LNC policy manual section 1.03.1 to define the size of the Convention Oversight Committee as follows: "Seven members, with a minimum of fFour LNC Members or Alternates, plus ~~3~~a minimum of two non-LNC members who are recommended by the Convention Oversight Committee."*

**Voting "aye":** Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Katz, Lark, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Marsh, Mattson, McKnight, Redpath

**Voting "nay":** (none)

**Express Abstention:** Starchild

**With a final vote tally of 13-0, the motion PASSES.**

**Commentary:** The Region 7 Alternate position was vacated and Erin Adams was appointed. However, Erin had already been appointed and working hard on the Convention Committee at a critical time. The Policy Manual limited the number of LNC seats on the Convention Committee and her promotion would have disqualified her. My position is that mid-term promotions should not punish people and this could cause problems in the future with other committees and is potentially punitive.

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**Co-Sponsors:** Hayes, Starchild, Bittner, Goldstein, Demarest, Harlos

**Motion:** *to appoint LNC Region 7 Alternate Erin Adams to the Convention Oversight Committee*

**Voting "aye":** Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Hewitt, Katz, Lark, Marsh, Mattson, McKnight, Redpath, Starchild

**Voting "nay":** (none)

**With a final vote tally of 15-0, the motion PASSES.**

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**Co-Sponsors:** Harlos, Bilyeu, Demarest, Starchild

**Motion:** *for the LNC to contribute \$5,000 to support the Congressional campaign of Joe*

*Buchman (Utah)*

**Voting “aye”:** Adams, Demarest, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Hewitt, Sarwark, Starchild, Vohra

**Voting “nay”:** Bittner, Goldstein, Katz, Lark, Marsh, Mattson, McKnight, Redpath

**With a final vote tally of 9-8, the motion PASSES.**

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**Co-Sponsors:** Vohra, Bittner, Harlos, Demarest

**Motion:** *The Chair is authorized by the LNC to sign the following petition on behalf of the LNC*  
<http://noforeignbases.org/>

-----*Resolution Text*-----

*Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases*

*Unity Statement*

*We, the undersigned peace, justice and environmental organizations, and individuals, endorse the following Points of Unity and commit ourselves to working together by forming a Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases, with the goal of raising public awareness and organizing non-violent mass resistance against U.S. foreign military bases.*

*While we may have our differences on other issues, we all agree that U.S. foreign military bases are the principal instruments of imperial global domination and environmental damage through wars of aggression and occupation, and that the closure of U.S. foreign military bases is one of the first necessary steps toward a just, peaceful and sustainable world. Our belief in the urgency of this necessary step is based on the following facts:*

- 1. While we are opposed to all foreign military bases, we do recognize that the United States maintains the highest number of military bases outside its territory, estimated at almost 1000 (95% of all foreign military bases in the world). Presently, there are U.S. military bases in every Persian Gulf country except Iran.*
- 2. In addition, the United States has 19 Naval air carriers (and 15 more planned), each as part of a Carrier Strike Group, composed of roughly 7,500 personnel, and a carrier air wing of 65 to 70 aircraft — each of which can be considered a floating military base.*
- 3. These bases are centers of aggressive military actions, threats of political and economic expansion, sabotage and espionage, and crimes against local populations. In addition, these military bases are the largest users of fossil fuel in the world, heavily contributing to environmental degradation.*

*4. The annual cost of these bases to the American taxpayers is approximately \$156 billion. The support of U.S. foreign military bases drains funds that can be used to fund human needs and enable our cities and States to provide necessary services for the people.*

*5. This has made the U.S. a more militarized society and has led to increased tensions between the U.S. and the rest of the world. Stationed throughout the world, almost 1000 in number, U.S. foreign military bases are symbols of the ability of the United States to intrude in the lives of sovereign nations and peoples.*

*6. Many individual national coalitions — for example, Okinawa, Italy, Jeju Island Korea, Diego Garcia, Cyprus, Greece, and Germany — are demanding closure of bases on their territory. The base that the U.S. has illegally occupied the longest, for over a century, is Guantánamo Bay, whose existence constitutes an imposition of the empire and a violation of International Law. Since 1959 the government and people of Cuba have demanded that the government of the U.S. return the Guantánamo territory to Cuba.*

*U.S. foreign military bases are NOT in defense of U.S. national, or global security. They are the military expression of U.S. intrusion in the lives of sovereign countries on behalf of the dominant financial, political, and military interests of the ruling elite. Whether invited in or not by domestic interests that have agreed to be junior partners, no country, no peoples, no government, can claim to be able to make decisions totally in the interest of their people, with foreign troops on their soil representing interests antagonistic to the national purpose.*

*We must all unite to actively oppose the existence of U.S. foreign military bases and call for their immediate closure. We invite all forces of peace, social and environmental justice to join us in our renewed effort to achieve this shared goal.*

*— — — — — End of Resolution Text — — — — —*

**Voting “aye”:** (none)

**Voting “nay”:**

Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Katz, Lark, Mattson, McKnight, Redpath, Starchild, Vohra

**With a final vote tally of 0-14, the motion FAILS.**

**Commentary:** I originally voted "aye" but after Secretary Mattson raised some points, I said I was reconsidering due to this portion of the Resolution:

===environmental damage through wars of aggression and occupation===

It names this as a principal cause. On further reflection, that claim is dubious and has the undertones of a certain environmentalist agenda we would not support.

Additionally:

===For one thing, it is an agreement to "commit ourselves to working together by forming a Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases". We're joining an organization and promising various future cooperative endeavors.===

That is also very persuasive. After some more time, Chuck Moulton pointed this out, and I agreed with him - there is another argument buried in here.

==> 4. The annual cost of these bases to the American taxpayers is approximately \$156 billion. The support of U.S. foreign military bases drains funds that can be used to fund human needs and enable our cities and States to provide necessary services for the people.==

Many LP members and LNC members were justifiably upset with the Iraq Exit Strategy produced by staff in 2010 (I think?) because it suggested taking troops from Iraq and redeploying them to Afghanistan and other places rather than simply reducing our military involvement.

Similarly, instead of simply suggesting eliminating military spending (and reducing taxes as Libertarians would like), this resolution suggests re-allocating the funds to social welfare programs which should be cringe-worthy for anarchists and minarchists alike. At least, that was my reading of "funds that can be used to fund human needs and enable our cities and States to provide necessary services for the people".

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**Motion:** *The Chair is authorized by the LNC to sign the following petition on behalf of the LNC*  
<https://foreignpolicyalliance.org/a-call-to-reform-u-s-foreign-policy/resolution/>

-----*Resolution Text*-----

*A Call to Reform U. S. Foreign Policy*

*1. Whereas, American military personnel are being killed and wounded, and civilian casualties inflicted, in wars fought for purposes unrelated to America's vital security interests, which the U.S. Government defines too broadly;*

*2. Whereas, America's military interventions in other countries have led to costly blowback and*

*unintended consequences;*

*3. Whereas, outdated Cold War alliances create tripwires that could compel the use of U.S. military force to resolve conflicts;*

*4. Whereas, escalating tensions between the U.S. and other nuclear powers are moving our nations toward military confrontation and potential nuclear war;*

*5. Whereas, erosion of civil liberties long held dear by Americans, including freedom from warrantless surveillance, searches and seizures, has accelerated with passage of the USA Patriot Act in 2001, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, and the USA Freedom Act of 2015;*

*6. Whereas, in a post-Cold War era, the U.S. can safely reduce its security budget by developing a new and more relevant strategy for right-sizing the military to better deal with 21st century security needs; and*

*7. Whereas, a healthy U.S. economy is critical to an effective security program but is now put at risk by the trillion dollar annual national security budget that contributes to an \$18 trillion plus national debt;*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Government of the United States should immediately begin a transition to a foreign policy that includes:*

*1. Rejecting the role of “policeman of the world,” ceasing military and covert intervention in the affairs of foreign countries, and using military force only when absolutely necessary to protect U.S. sovereignty, territory, and vital interests, narrowly defined;*

*2. Substantially reducing the more than 700 U.S. military installations around the world;*

*3. Curtailing the bloated military budget, allowing resources to be redirected towards cutting the deficit, cutting taxes, investing in America, or any other use as Americans see fit;*

*4. Reducing the size of the U.S. nuclear arsenal to a minimum deterrent level, and fully supporting the implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;*

*5. Emphasizing diplomacy, law, and cooperation in international relations and dispute resolution;*

*6. Upholding civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution; and*

*7. Reining in executive military action, recognizing that war powers reside solely in the legislative branch.*

*— — — — —End of Resolution Text— — — — —*



**Voting “aye”:** Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Harlos, Hayes, Hewitt, Katz, Lark, Marsh, McKnight, Redpath, Starchild, Vohra

**Voting “nay”:** (none)

**With a final vote tally of 14-0, the motion PASSES.**

### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE AND TRANSPARENCY CONCERNS**

As many are aware, I was one of the LNC appointees to the Bylaws Committee and have been an advocate for transparency along with Kim Ruff, Chuck Moulton, and David Pratt Demarest. Some progress was made at our last meeting in which it was decided that any Party member could record any "meeting" (this does not include the email list), but roll call votes would not be required. Since recording is allowed, anyone, including myself, can reconstruct a roll call vote which I intend to do. I do not intend to comply with any secrecy provisions that I think are not allowed by Rules and principle and would prejudice member rights to know. The first in-person meeting will be next weekend. **If possible, I will stream.**

### **HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

I am pleased to report that we raised more than our budget so that this project is entirely funded through this year by ear-marked donations. You can read my last report as Chair of this Committee [here](#). We also received some coverage in the Colorado Independent which you can read [here](#).

You may follow (read-only) the Committee discussions as follows:

Send a message to:

[lphpc-request@lists.dehnbase.net](mailto:lphpc-request@lists.dehnbase.net)

with “subscribe” in the subject line.

The archive/encyclopedia portion of this project, [LPedia.org](http://LPedia.org), is up [and ready for your membership](#) and participation.

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM LNC MEETING**

FULL DRAFT MINUTES CAN BE READ [HERE](#).

***Ms. Mattson moved that Party Officers and Staff shall work with legal counsel to ensure that the Libertarian Party name is used only by authorized entities.***

**Voting “aye”:** Hewitt, Katz, Mattson

**Voting “no”:** Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Lark, Marsh, Redpath, Sarwark, Sharpe, Starchild

**Abstaining: Vohra**

**The motion failed with a 3-13 vote total.**

*Upon inquiry by Ms. Mattson, Mr. Sarwark indicated that we will be proceeding to register a copyright and/or trademark on our Torch Eagle logo.*

**Commentary:**

- The Party name is a "word mark" which are very difficult to defend. Organizations with way more financial means than the LP have failed defending such items. Further it was not trademarked until 2001 which is decades since its first use.
- This would require the Party going after its own activists/caucii. Further at least one caucus was using this name on and off since the 1970s.
- Many in the Party do not believe in intellectual property and thus would resent this type of action.
- Such an action invites trolls and the Streisand Effect.

***Mr. Marsh moved that** the LNC encumber \$67,000 for a ballot access drive in Tennessee. Mr. Sarwark moved to amend the motion to also increase the ballot access budget line by \$67,000. There was no objection to the amendment.*

**Voting “aye”:** Bilyeu, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Hewitt, Lark, Marsh, Moellman, Redpath, Sarwark, Sharpe, Starchild

**Voting “no”:** (none)

**Abstaining:** Katz, Mattson, Vohra

**The motion was adopted with a vote total of 14-0.**

Brett Bittner, as Chair of the Social Media Process Review Committee, submitted a written report (see Appendix J), and he read their nine recommendations.

Following general discussion,

Brett Bittner, as Chair of the Social Media Process Review Committee, submitted a written report (see Appendix J), and he read their nine recommendations.

Following general discussion, **Mr. Starr moved to adopt** the committee’s first six recommendations, but with each instance of “The LNC is recommended to” replaced with “Staff shall”, so that the motion was as follows:

- 1) Staff shall commission the creation of an on-boarding process for all new volunteers with clear titles, responsibilities and goals attached to that position. Current positions for Facebook, for instance, are the creative team as well as the publishing team.
- 2) Staff shall select a point person whose duty it is to create a management hierarchy within the social media team(s) with a clear structure with specific duties, authority and responsibilities.
- 3) Staff shall appoint an ultimate arbiter for social media decisions which would also include pulling content that could be rogue or potentially damaging. We recommend the Press Secretary should fill this position.
- 4) Staff shall create, or appoint a point person or group, to create clear guidelines for replying to user comments and private messages.
- 5) Staff shall create, or appoint a point person or group, to create clear policy for handling HR related concerns.
- 6) Staff shall create, or appoint a point person or group, to create team leaders who will oversee setting the direction of the social media marketing strategies which are in line with current Libertarian Party outreach and political goals.

**Voting “aye”:** Goldstein, Hagan, Hayes, Katz, Lark, Mattson, Nekhaila, O’Toole, Sharpe, Starr, Vohra

**Voting “no”:** Starchild

**Abstaining:** Bilyeu, Bittner, Harlos, Sarwark

**The motion was adopted with a vote total of 11-1.**

**Mr. Goldstein moved** to amend LNC Policy Manual Section 1.03.1 to insert a new table row as follows:

<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Member Selection</b>	<b>Chair Selection</b>
<b>Candidate Support Committee</b>	Five LNC members or LNC alternates and two non-LNC members of the LP	LNC members elected by the LNC; non-LNC members appointed by the LNC Chair based on recommendations from the LNC members of the committee	* Committee Selected
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and to insert a new LNC Policy Manual Section 2.02.5 titled "Candidate Support Committee" as follows:

*The Candidate Support Committee will develop and maintain a set of LNC approved criteria to set standards for LP financial contributions to LP candidates other than President of the United States. The initial set of standards is to be submitted to the LNC for approval no later than the December 2017 LNC meeting. Each succeeding Candidate Support Committee will review the standards and report any needed changes to the LNC for approval no later than the second LNC meeting of the term.*

*The Candidate Support Committee will also be responsible for developing a proposed budget for Candidate Support for each election cycle.*

*Following the approval by the LNC of the Candidate Support criteria and budget, the Candidate Support Committee will then be responsible for administering financial support for Libertarian Party candidates through each election cycle with a report of its activities and spending to the LNC no later than the Spring LNC meeting following each General Election.*

**Voting "aye":** Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Hewitt, Lark, Marsh, Sharpe, Vohra

**Voting "no":** Mattson, Starchild

**Abstaining:** Katz, Redpath, Sarwark

**The motion was adopted with a vote total of 12-2.**

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**Goldstein moved (amended by Starchild)** Resolved, the Libertarian National Committee calls for immediate U.S. government withdrawal from NATO.

**Voting "aye":** Bilyeu, Bittner, Demarest, Goldstein, Hagan, Harlos, Hayes, Lark, Marsh, Redpath, Sharpe, Starchild, Vohra

**Voting "no":** Katz

**Abstaining:** Mattson, Sarwark, Starr

**The motion was adopted with a vote total of 13-1.**

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**Mr. Goldstein moved** that the LNC authorizes contracting for wealth screening services up to \$25,000.

**Voting “aye”:** Bilyeu, Bittner, Goldstein, Hagan, Hayes, Katz, Lark, Marsh, Mattson, Redpath, Sarwark, Sharpe, Starr

**Voting “no”:** Starchild

**Abstaining:** Demarest, Harlos, Vohra

**Commentary:** Ms. Daugherty was recognized to describe that wealth screening is the use of publicly available data (such as property tax records) to identify individuals from our contact lists who are likely capable of making large donations to our organization. Once they are identified, Ms. Daugherty can approach them with one-on-one appeals rather than mass appeals.

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## **CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE POPULATED**

Ben Bachrach, Emily Salvette, Susan Hogarth, and Steven Linnabary were elected, each having received a majority. David Stewart was appointed to the 5th seat

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## **LNC APPOINTMENTS TO CAMPAIGN SUPPORT COMMITTEE POPULATED**

Brett Bittner, Sam Goldstein, Larry Sharpe, Jeff Hewitt, and Caryn Ann Harlos were elected, being the top 5 who received a majority vote. Mr. Sarwark appointed Mr. Bittner as the committee’s interim chair.

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**The pre-Convention LNC meeting is set for April 21-22. The next LNC meeting is December 8-10, 2017 in New Orleans.**

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The Libertarian National Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on its recently created Candidate Support Committee. The duties of this Committee will include formulating recommended criteria for future consideration of monetary support for down-ticket candidates and assisting the Candidate Support Specialist (to be hired).

This Committee comprises five LNC members and up to two (2) additional non-LNC members. Additional volunteers are solicited to assist this Committee in the discharge of its duties, so all willing persons are encouraged to apply.

Specific required qualifications include:

- willingness to attend frequent online meetings and to independently carry out duties
- interest in strategic development of national support for down-ticket candidates

Helpful qualifications include:

- prior candidacies for public office
- experience in campaign support or management

The Committee will meet and do most work electronically. There may be a rare physical meeting. Members interested in serving on the actual Committee are asked to please apply below by Sept. 15, 2017.

Members simply interested in volunteering to assist this Committee, please apply at any time or email [lnc-csc@lp.org](mailto:lnc-csc@lp.org).

**APPLY FOR CANDIDATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE HERE BY 9/15/17**

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**I love to be kept informed about significant happenings in our Region so please feel free to reach out any time with important news and happenings. That information also helps me to keep my reports up to date and thorough. You can always email me at [Caryn.Ann.Harlos@LP.org](mailto:Caryn.Ann.Harlos@LP.org) or call me at 561.523.2250.**

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