

The Liberty Loon

**The Libertarian Party of Minnesota
Newsletter Q1 2026**



In This Edition:

From the Chair:	3
Executive Committee Updates	4
Minnesota, ICE, and Why Libertarians Were Right	5
Joint Protest with ACP Minnesota	7
LPMN 2026 Convention	9
Resolution Condemning Unconstitutional and Violent Actions by Federal Agents in Minnesota During Operation Metro Surge	12
Upcoming Events at a Glance	14

From the Chair:



The last few months have been like watching a train wreck in slow motion. From ICE in Minneapolis to the war with Iran, it is very easy to feel like nothing is going right.

However, I believe the current circumstances present an opportunity for change. The dissatisfaction is at an all-time high, with a majority of voters not identifying with either the Republicans or the Democrats. That trajectory continues to climb as the dominos from the MAGA movement keep falling, revealing the facade that they were ever anything but part of the two-party swamp to begin with. People are angry, and because of this anger, individuals across the political spectrum are seeking viable alternatives. And here we are.

At the state convention in Owatonna the last week of March, the LPMN endorsed a number of state wide candidates. Each candidate brings with them a call to action to confront unique aspects that the major parties will try to avoid, because these problems all started under their watch. From unequal ballot access and corruption due to a lack of transparency to consistently opposing the illegal use of war powers, our candidates possess unique expertise to speak on these forefront issues shaping the current political conversation and the future.

But first we must get through petitioning, a hurdle the major parties created to keep voices like ours from ever getting onto the ballot. We have two weeks from May 19 to June 2 to gather over 2k signatures for each statewide candidate. If we succeed, the libertarian candidates representing all of us will work to drive a wedge through the two-party system in a way that can never be repaired. That time is now. I truly believe that.

Please consider reaching out to see how you can help with campaigns, petitioning, or donating so that we can take our message further this election cycle. Contact us at lpmn.org

From one liberty loving Minnesotan to another,
Rebecca Whiting

Executive Committee Updates



In the January Executive Committee (EC) meeting, Political Director Hawthorne will be at a MN House Committee on Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight meeting on January 21st. Vice Chair and Communications Director Dugger noted the Libertarian Party of Minnesota's (LPMN) Facebook followers hovers around twenty thousand consistently throughout the year.

The EC unanimously passed the Resolution Condemning Unconstitutional and Violent Actions by Federal Agents in Minnesota During Operation Metro Surge, a copy of said Resolution is provided later in this newsletter.

In the February EC meeting, funding was approved for the Grand Old Day event and for a rack card with the Freshmen 15 Special for students. Social Media is seeing an upward trend in engagement and followers for the Party. The Party members are working on a Minor Party Ballot Access Bill. If passed, that bill would eliminate the requirement that Minor Parties petition to get candidates on the ballot and would make MN ballot access similar to sixteen other States.

In the March EC meeting, it was announced there will be petitioning training at our yearly convention, and online April 22nd and 29th. Details will be posted on the Events page. Defend the Guard legislation seems stalled in the MN Legislature. Social Media followers are up. No Resolutions for March.

Minnesota, ICE, and Why Libertarians Were Right

In January 2026, Minnesota became a clear example of what happens when government power expands faster than accountability. Helicopters hovered over Minneapolis neighborhoods; armed federal agents operate in residential areas, and community group chats warning that even people with valid visas were being detained. For many Minnesotans, this no longer felt like routine law enforcement; it felt like escalation.

For some of us, that escalation became personal. Sleeping through the night became difficult as helicopters circled overhead for hours. Neighbors shared screenshots and updates, and I found myself downloading a flight-tracking app just to understand what was happening above my own home. At that moment, needing civilian tools simply to track government activity in your neighborhood, should give anyone who values liberty pause.

Two deaths, **Renee Good** and **Alex Pretti**, brought this reality into sharp focus. Whatever one's position on immigration policy, the killing of U.S. citizens during federal enforcement operations demands serious scrutiny. Libertarians have warned for decades that centralized power, once unchecked, inevitably erodes civil liberties. Minnesota is now experiencing that warning firsthand.

The public response reflected deep unease. **Most protests were peaceful**; vigils and marches calling for transparency, due process, and limits on federal authority. At the same time, anger spilled into confrontations and property damage, including incidents at hotels believed to be housing ICE personnel. Libertarians reject both extremes. Protest does not justify violating property rights, and enforcement does not justify abandoning constitutional restraint. Liberty requires consistency.

This moment also exposed a growing contradiction, particularly on the political right. For years, the Second Amendment was defended as a safeguard against government abuse. Yet when heavily armed federal agents escalated encounters, many who once championed that principle suddenly looked away. Rights are not conditional. Due process, restraint, and accountability do not disappear because authority wears a federal badge.

What unsettles Minnesotans most isn't ideology; it is a living experience: falling asleep to helicopters, watching poorly trained officers escalate situations, and

seeing federal authority override local judgment. This is precisely why the Libertarian Party has consistently opposed centralized policing, unchecked executive power, and the militarization of law enforcement.

While politicians argued and deflected blame, **voluntary civil society stepped in**. Groups like *Safe Haven* quietly helped people released from detention with necessities; a phone, warmth, transportation, a safe place to wait. No protests. No obstruction. No coercion. Just people helping people. This is libertarianism in practice: voluntary solutions filling gaps created by bureaucratic systems.

Minnesota's crisis isn't just about immigration. It's about a **two-party uniparty** that expands government when convenient and disowns responsibility when things go wrong. Property rights are violated in the name of protest. Civil liberties are brushed aside in the name of enforcement. The left excuses excess when it serves "the cause." The right abandons principle when power wears the right uniform.

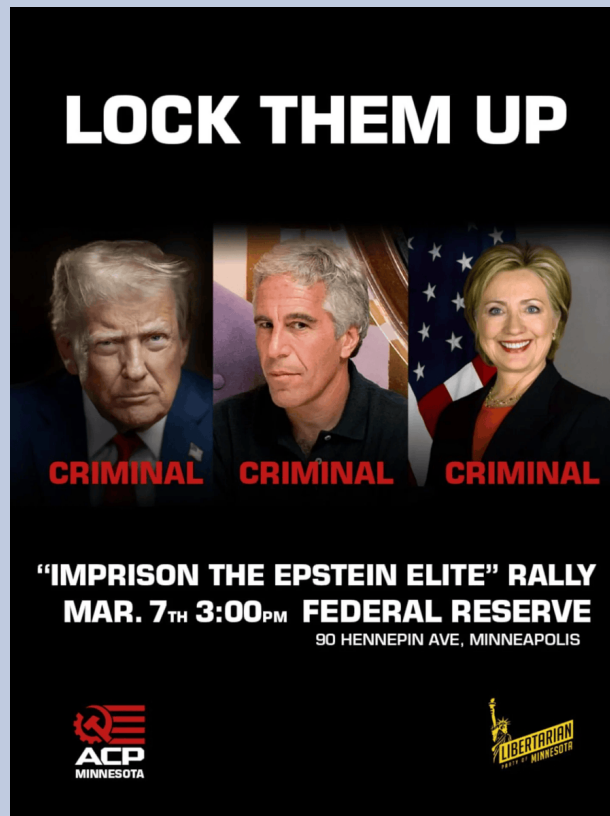
Libertarians reject all of it.

The Libertarian Party stands for limits; on power, on force, and on government overreach. We believe rights belong to individuals, not to bloated agencies. Accountability must apply equally, especially when lethal force is used. Communities are better served by transparency and restraint than by federal spectacles and escalation.

This moment should force Minnesotans to ask a hard question: **how much power are we willing to normalize before it turns on everyone?** As Friedrich Hayek warned, "*Emergencies have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded.*" Liberty doesn't disappear overnight. It fades quietly; until one day the helicopters are overhead, and you're downloading an app just to see who's above you.

This article was written by an anonymous member of the LPMN.

Joint Protest with ACP Minnesota



The Minnesota chapter for the American Communist Party (ACP) reached out to the LPMN over social media regarding a joint protest against the Epstein Elite. This was a surprise for the Party, but the offer was accepted as a single issue coalition.

The LPMN posted on X as a lead up to the protest:

“We couldn't be more different on economics, which tends to drive a major wedge between us, and some might say for good reason. But right now our ties as Americans are stronger than our differences.

Republicans and Democrats in D.C. have sold us out. They've enslaved us to pay for their endless wars for Israel; they have no morals and have completely shredded the constitution, bankrupting our nation while our own citizens rot at home.

If you are a minor party, an independent, a moderate, a centrist, a free thinker, a peace maker, an agorist, an anarchist, someone who's politically

homeless, who mourns for the loss of our constitution and our upstanding morals as Americans... Join us Saturday. This is only the beginning.

We the people are pissed off.”

This was a positive joint gathering where cooperation between the LPMN and the ACP remained civil and surprisingly friendly. Our Chair, Rebecca gave a passionate speech during the event, saying, “With the release of the Epstein files, there is no longer an illusion our government has not been compromised and does not speak for us, the people.”

LPMN members held up signs such as, “End The Fed” and “No More Imperialist Wars and Coverups.” The communists had a banner which read, “They Are All Pedos.”



The showing of people was about equal on the libertarian and communist sides. There were many friendly cars honking their horns in support of the messaging. The tone of the protest on both sides was pro-decentralization and for nullification.

The protest was a resound success showing even opposite sides of the economic spectrum can share a base morality. We stand on friendly terms.

Even with our disagreements, this is an issue which transcends normal political rivalry. The future is starting to look bright for third parties in Minnesota, where the people can actually be heard.

LPMN 2026 Convention

**This article was written live as the convention was going on.*



Convention prep began Friday night for the kickoff on Saturday. Around ten libertarians helped setup the conference room at the Baymont Hotel in Owatonna. It took a couple hours, but the effort was well worth it. Most went out to grab a bite and hangout for a bit once everything was done for the night.

Chair Rebecca Whiting opened the convention at 10:04 AM on Saturday March 28th with positive remarks welcoming everyone who was able to come. The Party's cash funds were lower at the end of 2025 than the beginning but it was close. Outreach said we gained 38 new members from State Fair. Membership did grow on the whole for 2025. The Political Director gave a brief but passionate speech which brought a lot of energy to room. In Communications, we saw large bump in our social media activity near the end of 2025. Followers are up overall.

The Treasurer and Secretary elections were up. The current Treasurer and Secretary were both reelected unanimously. The At-Large elections came next with six spots up for grabs. Charlie Kuchlenz, Ahmed AlRwazek, Bob Seifert, Jake Dahle, Philip Johnson, and Mary Ebert were voted in unanimously.

A brief recess before Platform and Bylaws for 15 minutes was voted in favor unanimously. Returned at 11 AM with a toast with raw milk, then prepared to get into Platform and Bylaws.

For Bylaws, Proposal 1 passed. Proposal 2 fails. Break for lunch at noon for an hour. After the convention reconvened, guest speaker Marvin Haynes was unable to make it so the convention decided to continue with Platform and Bylaws proposals. Proposal 3 fails. Proposal 4 passed. Proposal 5 dies on the floor.

There was a brief approximately 15 minute recess until 2 PM. When the convention reconvened people began to speak to be endorsed and nominated as candidates including TJ Hawthorne for 44B, Toby Leonard for Mayor of Mankato, Chip Tangen for Secretary of State, Charlie Kuchlenz for State Auditor, and Rebecca Whiting for US Senate. Toby, Chip, Charlie, and Rebecca are nominated candidates and TJ is endorsed.

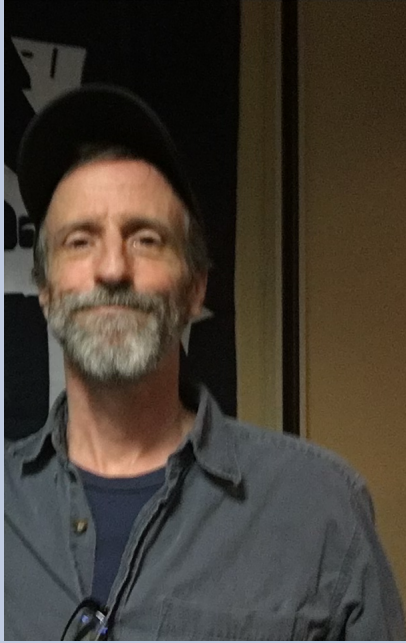


The convention moved to petition training next. A document was prepared about how to petition and an example petition was provided to each member attendee of the convention.

Podcaster Jake Duesenberg came as a guest speaker. He gave a passionate speech touching on anti-war, the Epstein Files, and the state of Government. But the core of the speech was on optimism and the power the people hold. Walz corruption came up as a topic and was well put.

Keynote speaker Scott Horton took the podium to a thunderous applause. He brought books to sell with him as well. Scott provided updates to current wars. He delved into a magnificent speech about anti-war. He gave an overview of the history of the Iran war. His speaking skills are second to none.

Sunday reconvened at 9:32 AM. The Chair started with morning announcements regarding checking out of the hotel, petition sign ups, and silent auction items.



Awards were announced. The libertarian of the year is Brian Paulson. Clinton Toughill is Rising Star. Eric Helstad is Amazing Porcupine.

Judicial Committee elections were up next; Jason Kleitz, Toby Leonard, and Anita were nominated. They were voted in unanimously.

Bylaws Committee nominations up. Chip Tangen, Charley Kuchlenz, Eric Tren, Joey Gamache, Clinton Toughill are voted in unanimously.

For delegates to National's convention, Jake Dahl, Joey Gamache, and Jim Rongstad are elected to represent the LPMN.

Platform came up as the final item on the agenda. The Platform is adopted without opposition with a minor amendment to the Property Rights plank.

Convention adjourned at 10:48 PM.

Resolution Condemning Unconstitutional and Violent Actions by Federal Agents in Minnesota During Operation Metro Surge

WHEREAS, Operation Metro Surge, initiated by the Trump administration in December 2025, represents a deliberate escalation of federal presence in Minnesota, particularly in the Twin Cities Metro area, aimed at mass deportations and has resulted in widespread chaos, fear, and civil unrest;

WHEREAS, federal agents from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have conducted warrantless raids on homes and workplaces, and harassed peaceful people at sensitive locations such as schools and hospitals, violating the 4th Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches and seizures;

WHEREAS, the deportation of peaceful individuals without due process, including arbitrary detentions and removals, infringes upon the 5th Amendment's guarantee of due process and equal protection under the law;

WHEREAS, violent and retaliatory actions by federal agents against peaceful protesters, observers, and bystanders—including the use of chemical irritants, excessive force, and unlawful arrests—constitute egregious violations of the 1st Amendment's rights to free speech and assembly, the 4th Amendment's safeguards against unreasonable seizures, the 5th Amendment's due process protections, and the 8th Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment;

WHEREAS, these actions have included the fatal shooting of Minnesota resident Renee Good on January 7, 2026, by an ICE agent, further exemplifying the dangerous overreach and lack of accountability in federal operations;

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2026, U.S. District Judge Katherine Menendez of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota issued a preliminary injunction prohibiting DHS and ICE agents from retaliating against peaceful protesters, using crowd-dispersal tools like pepper spray in response to protected speech, or detaining individuals without probable cause or reasonable suspicion;

WHEREAS, despite this court order, reports indicate that DHS and ICE agents continue to engage in non-compliant behavior, including ongoing intimidation and excessive force;

AND WHEREAS, such federal overreach undermines Minnesota's sovereignty and the 10th Amendment's reservation of powers to the states and the people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of Minnesota unequivocally condemns Operation Metro Surge, the unconstitutional and violent actions of DHS and ICE personnel in Minnesota, and any similar federal operations nationwide that infringe upon individual liberties;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of Minnesota advocates for the nullification of unlawful federal directives in Minnesota, including advocating for directives from state and local officials to withhold cooperation from federal agents engaging in activities that violate civil rights, in accordance with the principles of non-aggression and limited government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Libertarian Party of Minnesota demands the immediate withdrawal of all DHS and ICE personnel from Minnesota and calls upon Congress, the courts, and the people of Minnesota to hold federal officials accountable for these violations through peaceful means;

ADOPTED unanimously by the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota, this 19th day of January, 2026.

Upcoming Events at a Glance



- **Freedom Tavern Online Hangout**
 - April 1st, 2026 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
 - Virtual Event

- **Hennepin and Anoka April Meetup**
 - April 7th, 2026 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 - NE Moose Bar & Grill 356 Monroe St NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

- **CD4 Liberty April Meetup**
 - April 8th, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
 - Stout's Pub & Grill 1611 Larpenteur Ave W, Falcon Heights, MN 55113

- **CD2 Live Free April Meetup**
 - April 9th, 2026 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 - Triggers 2920 220th St E, Prior Lake, MN 55372

- **Wabasha Street Caves Tour**
 - April 11th, 2026 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
 - Wabasha Street Caves 215 Wabasha St. S, Saint Paul, MN 55107
 - Ticketed event, purchase your own

- **Freedom Tavern Online Hangout**
 - April 15th, 2026 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
 - Virtual Event

- **April Executive Committee Meeting**
 - April 20th, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 - Virtual Event

- **Ballot Petitioning Training**
 - April 22nd, 2026 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 - Virtual Event
- **5th Annual Adopt a Highway Spring Cleanup**
 - April 25th, 2026 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 - *Stone Systems Parking Lot, 2425 Waters Dr, Mendota Heights, MN 55120*
- **Ballot Petitioning Training**
 - April 29th, 2026 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 - Virtual Event
- **Freedom Tavern Online Hangout**
 - May 6th, 2026 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
 - Virtual Event
- **CD4 Liberty April Meetup**
 - May 13th, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
 - *Stout's Pub & Grill 1611 Larpenteur Ave W, Falcon Heights, MN 55113*
- **CD2 Live Free May Meetup**
 - May 14th, 2026 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 - *Fireside Restaurant & Bar 3410 150th St W, Rosemount, MN 55068*
- **May Executive Committee Meeting**
 - May 18th, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 - Virtual Event
- **Freedom Tavern Online Hangout**
 - May 20th, 2026 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM
 - Virtual Event

- **Grand Old Day 2026**
 - June 7th, 2026 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
 - 1000 Grand Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105

- **CD4 Liberty April Meetup**
 - June 10th, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
 - *Stout's Pub & Grill* 1611 Larpenteur Ave W, Falcon Heights, MN 55113

- **CD2 Live Free June Meetup**
 - June 11th, 2026 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 - *Triggers* 2920 220th St E, Prior Lake, MN 55372

- **June Executive Committee Meeting**
 - June 15th, 2026 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 - Virtual Event