

Free? State LIBERTARIAN

July 2005

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

Maryland State Convention – May 15th

Libertarians from around the state converged on Little Italy for the MdLP convention on May 15th, held at the *Luigi Petti* Restaurant. Our impressive first speaker was Ben Brandon, a Libertarian elected county executive from Dade county, Georgia. He opened saying that there are one hundred senators who voted for the “true ID” bill: it *will* happen. The government claims that we have secure borders, but they can’t stop chickens crossing the border; and the District of Columbia is the most dangerous place in the country. Republicans in Georgia have passed a law taking away the right for people to smoke in private establishments, and the governor signed it. The Republican governor made cuts, but the next year added them back into the budget. “You know that *we* are the only ones standing up for our rights.”

Everyone in attendance wants to know how he managed to get elected. Especially in Dade county, Georgia – bible country. Mr. Brandon told us that Dade county seceded from the Union in 1860, and rejoined in 1945 after V-J day. It also threatened to leave Georgia and join Tennessee. So its citizens are

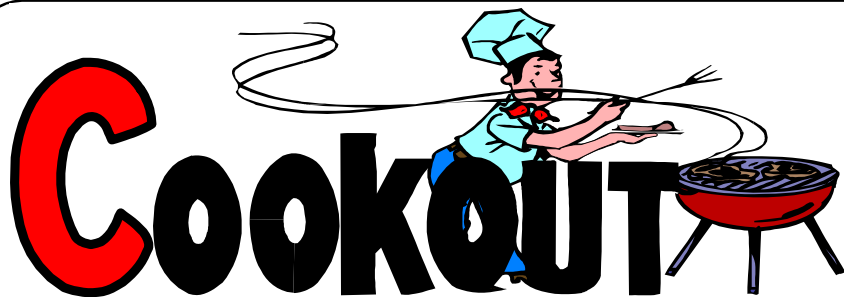
somewhat independent minded, which partially explains his success. Ben Brandon began an op-ed column in the local newspaper, espousing somewhat libertarian positions. Over time, his positions on everything became well known. Since 1999 he has been writing a column titled *North Georgia Libertarian*, and has taken on some controversial subjects. There is no zoning in north Georgia, and people want to keep it that way. A proposal was made in 1998 to institute zoning regulations. He wrote numerous columns opposing it. The county commissioners held a meeting and it was handily killed.

Next, he took on the school system, and anytime he thought they did something dumb, he wrote about it. (He home schools his 6-year-old.) Mr. Brandon became an adversary to the superintendent and the school board.

He also wrote about a bridge to Soggy Bottom – it was well known that the place floods and there would be big problems with the project.

He had to collect signatures to get on the ballot as a third party candidate. On the last day to qualify, the major candidates must show up

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Picnic and Central Committee Meeting

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Chair's Report



By the time this newsletter is out, the Summer outreach season will be well under way. I'm hoping that many of you will be able to help at one of our outreach booths. If you decide to help out, that's Great! Enjoy yourself and have fun, because attitude is everything.

As Libertarians who wish to influence public policy and increase our support base, we should think of ourselves as salesmen. Attitude is everything when it comes to selling. Our product is Liberty and Freedom.

When you ask most Americans if they would like more freedom they will say "no thank you. I have as much as I need." Most people have no concept of what we are "selling." They don't realize that their freedoms are shrinking. We need to get out there and be seen as a viable alternative to the Democrats and Republicans.

Now is the time to act. The Republican controlled Congress and Executive branches have been increasing the size of the federal government at a staggering rate. Intrusive and anti-privacy legislation such as the National ID Act (REAL ACT), the Patriot Act parts I and II and the like are being steamrolled through Congress. We should see this as our opportunity to solicit more members. Citizens who wish to have limited government find themselves with no party to turn to. We need to remind them of our party's dedication to limited government and personal freedom.

It's very easy to become negative when your eyes and ears are open and realize the direction our government is going. There are times that I feel the task at hand is overwhelming. We are outnumbered and they have all the power. Remain positive anyway. We will succeed.

When you are at an outreach booth, remember to be positive when selling your party. Like an Evangelical Christian, we need to "spread the good word." In our case that word is *Liberty*. Try not to seem like a complainer. Remember, people don't like to associate with negative people. Offer solutions to problems.

After finding out the party affiliation of a booth visitor, tell them two good things that you like about their party. Then tell them what you don't like. People like to hear good things about themselves and their choices. By first telling them something good about their choice of party, they will begin to listen and take you seriously. Then when the criticism comes, they will feel that your ideas are more thoughtful, rather than purely emotional.

I know that it can be hard to find something good to say about political parties that have a history of lying, but give it a try anyway. Here are a couple examples of what I'm talking about: "I like how the Democratic Party is in favor of a person's right to choose their own personal habits and lifestyles. I also agree with their idea to end corporate welfare. However, I fear that they wish to expand social programs that are expensive and ineffective." "I like how the Republican Party has been working to lower taxes and how they have been working to support private schooling. However, I'm concerned with the party's support of legislation that infringes on people's privacy."

Sometimes our competition has some good ideas and campaigning techniques. We should keep an open mind and look for possible ways to use some of those techniques.

Sam Walmart was one of the most successful capitalists of our time. His key asset was his attitude. He studied his competition and always found something to learn from them. One story, that relates Sam's winning attitude, starts at a small convenience store owned by one of his competitors. Mr. Walmart, along with several key sales managers, visited the store to size it up. The store was dark, dusty and pretty pathetic. After they left the store Mr. Walmart asked his team what they thought of the store. None

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Check www.MD.LP.org regularly for the current event calendar, news, email listserves, photo album, and more! Be certain to submit all of your current event information to LPMD.Event@ICengineering.com to get the information online.

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The views expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily the views of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, its Executive Board, or the Central Committee. The *Free? State Libertarian* is a first amendment publication, and welcomes diverse participation from many sources.

The Libertarian Party of Maryland

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of them had anything good to say. One said “that place was nasty. The floors looked like they had never been mopped. Nothing was organized. There’s no way we have anything to worry about that place.” Sam said “Yeah. But did you check out that pantyhose rack? I want to know where we can get a rack like that!”

We need to look at our competition the same way. Look at the Democrats and Republicans and take note of what makes them successful, and how we can use the same techniques. Perhaps they have a “pantyhose rack” that we could duplicate.

Get out there and “sell” Liberty.

— *Dave Sten*

The Towson Spring Festival opened up the season’s outreach opportunities on April 30 and May 1. Saturday was rainy, Sunday was fine. Here Bill Buzzell, Mike Linder, and Spear Lancaster collect sigs.



State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	David Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*md.lp.org
Vice Chairman	Katrina Groth	---	Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-8748	Secretary*md.lp.org
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Campaigns	Robert S. Johnston III	---	Campaign*md.lp.org
At Large	Tony Spezio	---	TheSpeez*yahoo.com
Executive Director	Roy J. Meyers III	410-879-5300	Director*md.lp.org

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open. Check the website or contact an officer for date and location.

County Affiliates

www.BC-LP.org	Anne Arundel County	Chris Panasuk	410-636-6112	AnneArundel*md.lp.org
www.LP-CC.org	Baltimore City/County	Jack Mitcham, Jr.	410-491-4111	Baltimore*md.lp.org
	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*LP-CC.org
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www.HC-LP.org	Harford County	Roy J. Meyers III	410-879-5300	Harford*md.lp.org
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www.MontgomeryLP.org	Montgomery County	Nick Sarwark	301-526-7491	Montgomery*md.lp.org
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	Campus Coordinator	Katrina Groth	Campus*md.lp.org
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	Johns Hopkins University	Ashley Dorn	JHU*md.lp.org
	McDaniel College	Andy Ewing	McDaniel*md.lp.org
	Salisbury State University	Mike Wilson	Salisbury*md.lp.org
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	University of Baltimore	Troy Zinderman	UB*md.lp.org
	U. of Md./Balto. County	Stephanie Klein	UMBC*md.lp.org
www.UMLibertarians.org	U. of Md./College Park	Adam Bargar	UMCP*md.lp.org

PICNIC



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 6 (rain or shine)

Location: 16 Partridge Lane, North East, MD 21901 (Dave Sten's home)

Schedule: 2:00 pm: picnicking

4:00 pm: Central Committee meeting (no charge)

Cost: \$ 8.00 to: MdLP, P.O. Box 1128, Bel Air, MD 21014-7128 by August 1
\$10.00 on site

Food: will be provided (hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, beer, soda, juice, water)

Bring: folding chairs

Camping: feel free to camp out on the grounds Friday and/or Saturday night

Directions:

Take North I-95 to exit 100 (North East). Merge onto Route 272 South toward North East and U.S. 40. Continue south on 272 about 2.4 miles to the U.S. 40 intersection, and continue south on 272 (Main Street) through the town of North East. On the other side of town Main Street becomes 272 South and is a two-way road. Continue south for another 5.5 miles. Turn left onto Elk River Lane. (Note: You will notice that Elk River Lane is near when the shoulder of the road disappears and the speed limit changes from 50 mph to 40 mph.) Travel 0.6 miles and then turn right onto Elk River Lane (Elk River Lane is a dirt lane. Dave will make sure that signs directing people to the picnic will be visible.) Follow Elk River Lane for 0.4 miles, and turn right onto Partridge Lane. (There is a row of about 20 mailboxes at the turn for Partridge Lane.) Travel a few hundred feet to Dave's house (small blue cottage on the left). Turn into his driveway, and continue through the grass along the line of trees – the location is at the bottom of the hill.



Activities:

- Beach Volleyball
- Tetherball
- Horseshoe Pits
- Paddleboat
- Canoe
- Powered Boat
- Swimming



Note: \$5.00 toll on I-95 and Route 40 northbound, but free southbound on both. No toll on Route 1.

Don't miss it! We last had the picnic at Dave's in 2001. There was a good turnout and it was a resounding success.

Report from Annapolis

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND – (6/15/05) – In the Capital of the Great Free (?) State, it seems the off-year politics are heating up with the weather.

Under attack is Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., for the crime of wanting to bring in his own people for certain state jobs. On the attack are the leaders of the General Assembly, who have formed a 12-member investigatory panel to find out whether the employment rights of “career civil servants” have been infringed by the administration’s firing policies.

Prominently mentioned in press accounts are dismissals, or attempted firings, that took place in the Public Service Commission, the Maryland Insurance Administration, and the State Board of Elections.

Wait a minute. The State Board of Elections? Yeah... *that* State Board of Elections! The same State Board of Elections where Libertarians are required to deposit reams of signature pages every two years.

Well, we’ve made our deposits so faithfully, and so regularly, that we’ve gotten to know the folks at the State Board of Elections; and now, we’re kind of fond of them.

So watch your step, Governor Ehrlich. Don’t you dare blow out our buds at the SBE!

Who is he, really?

Of course, all this controversy is just a warmup for next year’s general election, in which the champions of the two main factions of the Republicrat Party will square off to see who gets to sit in the General Assembly and make laws, and who gets to sit in the Governor’s Mansion and make statements.

Since Governor Ehrlich has made a whole bunch of statements since he took office, it might be useful to review where he stands on issues that are important to Libertarians. After all, the Guv has influence, veto power, and a self-described “libertarian” outlook.

Is Bob Ehrlich really a “libertarian”?

Well, his position on bringing slot machines to Maryland certainly lines up with the Libertarian idea of letting individuals make their own choices about personal behavior that does not harm anyone else. Apropos, the notion of using slots revenues instead of raising taxes for state spending needs should strike a chord with low-tax advocates.

Interestingly, the Ehrlich administration seems to have picked up a theme that was part of Spear Lancaster’s policy package in the 2002 election: sale of state government assets to raise cash, particularly during times of budget stress. On sale right now is the World Trade Center in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, and the governor’s aides have been studying the potential for sale of state-owned surplus land. Definitely “Libertarian.”

One cannot review the Ehrlich record without admiring his leadership on the issue of medical marijuana. The legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2003 that reduced the penalty for medically prescribed use of marijuana to a \$100 fine was long overdue, and supported by Mr. Ehrlich even before he became governor.

More recently, during one of those odious “Click It Or Ticket” campaigns, the governor opted in favor of personal liberty when he rebuked the Maryland State Police for using night vision equipment to peer into people’s cars to check for seat belt law violations. Right on, Governor Ehrlich!

The other side

There exists, however, another, non-“libertarian” aspect to our state’s chief executive, and it mostly extends to his relationship to President George W. Bush, and in a somewhat larger sense, the relationship of the state government to the federal government.

Bush and Ehrlich have been mutual admirers for years. Ehrlich supports, and supported, the PATRIOT Act. He supports, and supported, the federal takeover of education, also known as “No Child Left Behind.”

He has committed to full funding of the state education boondoggle known as the Thornton legislation.

Perhaps because of his past career as a congressman, Mr. Ehrlich has a view of the state/federal relationship that is less than compliant with the 9th and 10th Amendments.

Recently, President Bush visited Anne Arundel Community College for a forum on higher education, with a focus on “workforce development.” If you are unfamiliar with the term, it’s a euphemism for setting up curricula that is dictated by the needs of business and industry, instead of the desires of the students and their families.

During the proceedings, Governor Ehrlich presented his cabinet members to the President, introducing them proudly as “the people implementing your policies!”

Loud applause followed, demonstrating that neither the governor nor many of the hand-picked members of the audience actually get this “federalism” thing.

Do we want him?

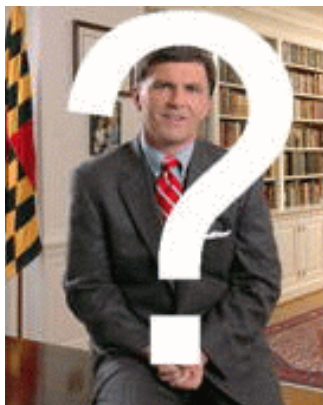
So what are Libertarians to make of Bob Ehrlich? Is he friend or foe?

It’s apparent that Ehrlich has many positives; it’s also apparent that he does not adhere strictly to the Libertarian understanding of constitutional government, and the minimal role it should play in the lives of citizens.

As far as 2006 is concerned, his potential re-election would be far from the worst scenario. If the other options are a county executive who favors a complete smoking ban, or a big-city mayor who thinks al-Qaeda is less dangerous than the Bush administration, we are certainly better off with an incumbent who lives in the real world and supports medical marijuana, slot machines, and privatization of state assets.

But the ideal answer for Maryland is the presence of articulate Libertarian candidates, who can offer the hopeful vision of liberty to an electorate hungering for a solid alternative.

— Dan O’Neil
DanOneil*wnav.com



from page 1, Maryland State Convention

by noon; so he went to the elections office and got his competitors to sign *his* petition. As he collected signatures, he affirmed that everyone's taxes are too high and promised to reduce spending. Property assessments went up, and he proposed replacing the tax assessors. He wrote about it in his column, and when talk of having a state review started, all the assessors resigned.

The three legs of his platform were: **taxes, taxes, taxes**. His slogan was: "the taxpayer's best friend." The campaign used the familiar million dollar bills, personalized for Dade county on the reverse side.

When Ben Brandon was elected as a Libertarian, people expected the district to be transformed into a Libertarian Nirvana. But changes happen incrementally. He can't make drastic decisions, with Democrats and one Republican to deal with. During the election he had promised to take senior citizens of Dade county off of the school district tax rolls: he got the bill passed and signed. Now it will go to referendum.

He had promised to spend smarter and not take as much of the taxpayers' money. He cut the county's cellphone contract significantly, and through that along with other things he has accomplished savings.

He believes that the Republicans are poised to fail huge in the next few years. After *years* of saying what they could do if they controlled the House, the Senate, and the Executive office. Now voters will see that they have been lying to us. They will be looking for an alternative, and *we are it*.

But we have a defeatist attitude. We have got to have a winning attitude. We can either be a lobbying organization or a political party: pick one. He received many votes not because the voters were libertarians, but because they knew of him and agreed with his viewpoints. He reached out and built alliances. We cannot require our candidates to believe in 100% of our platform. If we wait for everyone to agree with us before winning, it will never happen. His goal is for there to be more net liberty in his county when he leaves office than when he started. He stands in front of us as living proof that we *can* get elected. You don't need to have as much faith to be a libertarian as in the past. He wants to be the Roger Bannister of the Libertarian Party (the first person to break the four-minute mile).

Responding to questions from the attendees, he spent about \$8000 of his own money, and collected about \$6000 of contributions for his campaign. He received 32% of the vote on Nov. 2nd, while the Republican got 40% – which forced a runoff election where he got 66% of the vote.

While here on a particular issue (arms), the next speaker Jim Purtilo's talk was on how to do public policy in Maryland. When outspent, "extreme politics" is all we have left: guile. Bad public officials are elected by good people who do not vote. A Computer Science professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, he publishes the *Tripwire* newsletter and runs a PAC, too. He says that we must understand the process. How a bill becomes law. The first, second, and third readings. A committee comes back with a favorable or unfavorable report. The system is designed to *stop* legislation (which is not a bad thing for many bills). Conference committees decide which bills advance.

How a bill *really* becomes law: the seeds are sown before the preceding election. Decisions on key bills are made ahead of the



session; the rest is choreography. Our opportunities are on the margin, knowing what bills *can* be affected. Bills are put in to be *killed* for payola. Bills are put in to *pass* purely for political spin, to take care of former legislators turned lobbyists. Unrelated bills are linked. His group successfully stopped an assault weapons ban.

Prof. Purtilo advises: never put in a bill for which you don't have a plan. Otherwise, it will get out of control and reach back and bite you. The cheapest place to have the greatest effect on legislation is before it launches: in the fall before the session, when the deals are being made. Know the value of dealing with leadership.

Also know how to fight. "You get more from a pleasant smile and a .38 than from a smile alone." There is no substitute for wielding raw political power. Focus on issues, and parties will take care of themselves. We don't make up issues to elect candidates: we elect candidates to promote issues. You can't serve two masters: politicians run if you're associated with groups/issues in opposition. Typically, facts aren't why bills are in, so don't fight like that is how they got there. Focus on the fundamentals. But analysis does not translate into understanding. Spinmeisters use analysis the way a drunk uses a lamp post: for support, not illumination.

Our mission in Annapolis is to reach key movers and shakers. Take care formulating the message and who states it. Always. Don't ever say what you don't mean. Ever. Just stay silent. Be ready to show up for political expediency. When you make a deal, stand by it. Don't call someone an SOB and then ask him for his vote. When your opponent is dousing himself in gasoline, don't take away his matches. Don't try to get your incompetent opponents replaced with competent ones. Keep the yahoos home.

Inexpert testimony is welcome under the constitution, but not in the "business" of the legislature. They appreciate when someone finds a way to make it simple for them. Don't make your friends walk the plank every time (don't make it difficult for them to be reelected). They'll appreciate it and work with you longer.



Your power comes from explaining how your issue translates into votes back home.

Strategy: have one! Fight the right battles. Understand what drives each decision, and what are the consequences of each path. Each action has a cost and benefit – know both! – this is the fundamental rule. Losing for the right reasons is still a loss. Don't let the perfect become the enemy of the achievable. Politics is the art of the possible. You can send messages all day, but in the end, the only real message may be we're neophytes and deserve to be ignored. Outreach – reaching the masses – gives the best bang for the buck. Show up. Give a damn.

Implement a buddy system and combine social/fun activities with work. Give till it hurts.

What are the two or three most important things we can do to help? fundraising; collecting money; and shaking people down.



Chris Stio from The Leadership Institute in Arlington, Va. spoke next on the difference between winning and losing. Just because you have the right ideas doesn't mean you will win; victory can still elude you. In 1964 Barry Goldwater ran against Lyndon Johnson for the presidency. LBJ can be classified as a statist. Barry Goldwater was not. Most people on our side want to say "leave me be." Goldwater caused people to go out and fight. And yet, he lost, having won only six states. Upon analysis, every demographic voted against him in resounding fashion.

What does it take to win elections? not just to *be* there? The Goldwater camp believed in the Sir Gallahad view of politics: I'll win because I'm right. The right ideas are necessary, but not sufficient. Over time, the winner of a political contest is determined by the number and effort of the activists on a given side. It requires political technology: the ability to organize and communicate among people who share your values.

We're not normal. We have to reach the people who are

normal. We want to know how to win. George Will said that Goldwater won, only 16 years later with Ronald Reagan. The activists came out and grew. It takes time, talent, and treasure. The most precious resource is time, because it's scarce. We've got to get things right the first time.

The Leadership Institute is not a think-tank; they teach how to *do* (a do-tank). They teach how to make an effective speech, press release, and television appearance. They have 34 different training programs. The campaign leadership school is a 6½ day course. They have programs on public relations, how to run for student government, and political voter mail. Mr. Stio says that you owe it to your philosophy to study how to win. There are two types of people in the political sphere: one will tell you everything that's wrong with the world, along with a five point plan on how to fix it and who to blame. The second says here's the problem, here's the solution, how do we do something effectively to handle it.

One person can't make a difference, but one leader can.

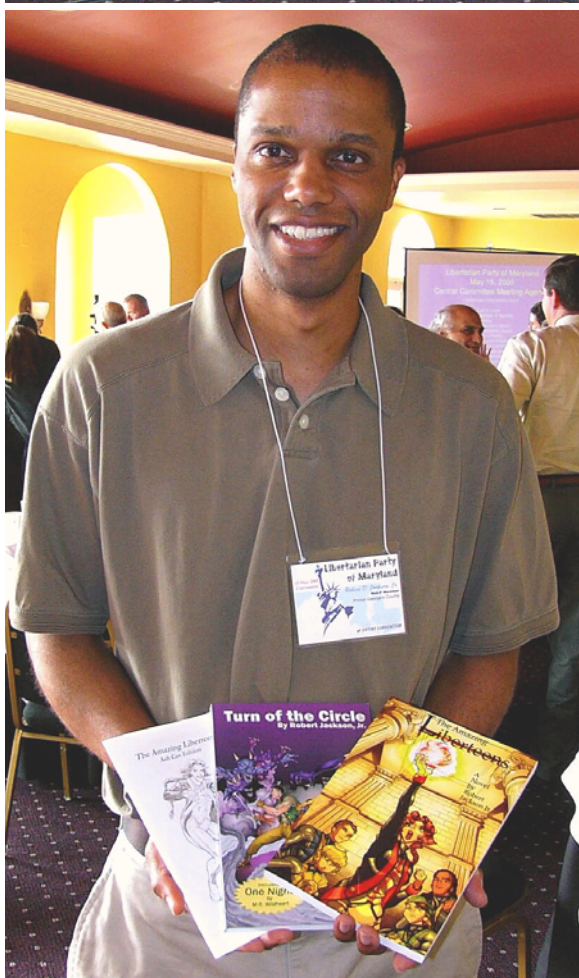
Scott Haiber (who was instrumental in our regaining state certification last year) spoke on the Maryland Board of Elections policies: they have previously held that anyone who had anything to do with registering voters must be Voter Registration Volunteers. The BoE also had policies which stated that Voter Registration Volunteers cannot be paid, and that a Voter Registration Volunteer cannot do anything to influence the selection of party. He sent an inquiry to the BoE, and they confirmed that policy. A lawsuit was threatened and the result was a "clarification" of the policy.

The BoE now agrees that you *can* have paid agents help with voter registration activities; that you *can* express your first amendment right to promote parties; but that you must *not* say you are connected with the state, but are speaking as a Libertarian. Legally we do not have to be Voter Registration Volunteers. We can collect applications, provide them at an outreach booth, recommend registering Libertarian, and say that we are willing to send the application in to the BoE for the visitor. Mr. Haiber added that it might be a good idea to have a handout saying that there is no guarantee that the postal service will deliver it.



***Daily Record* Business Writer James Mosher attended our convention. Under the title Third horse trying to compete in Md.'s two-horse races, he reported on it in the May 27, 2005 issue:**

"After 32 years in the wilderness, Maryland Libertarians are cooling philosophy and making what activists call their greatest push into the business of politics."



Scenes from the Convention

Top: The crowd listens to Chris Stio from The Leadership Institute.

Left: Libertarian author Robert Jackson, Jr. targets his writing to the younger generation. His novels include *The Amazing Liberteen* and *Turn of the Circle*.

Above: Tony Spezio joins the Executive Board; Chairman Dave Sten assists Executive Director Roy J. Meyers III outline Party plans.

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland – Sunday, 15 May 2005

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Luigi Petti Restaurant* in Baltimore, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm by chairman Dave Sten.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Robert Johnston III; and Russell Kominski. It validated that 24 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Additionally, 6 proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 54 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 24 July 2004 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was accepted as displayed. Joe Miller reports that he has \$1564 in undeposited checks as of this morning.

Membership report: Roy J. Meyers III reported that we currently have 149 members. 24 expired in March and April; he expects 20 recoveries from those, projecting we will be at 169 next month.

Chair's Report: Dave Sten reported that in Cecil county there are various upcoming events; Harford county has the farm fair; other counties have events as well; all are posted on the website. Things Cecil county has done to be effective: got involved with the 21st century Republicans club; worked on getting Cecil county to elect its school board; received an invitation from a bible studies group at the Cecil county fair, with a live radio debate; these are various things that can be done to achieve awareness. We don't have very many active members. Would like to get a trifold brochure and business cards for distribution at events.

Executive Director's report: Roy J. Meyers III gave a presentation on strategy. Mission: elect libertarians to office and influence public policy in a libertarian direction. Vision: be organized, professional, competent, proactive and the only viable alternative to Democrats and Republicans in Md. Values: inclusive and

incrementalist; avoid self-destruction on divisive issues; emphasize direction, not destination. Reached a consensus on the statement: "We want to reduce the size and scope of government to its constitutional minimums, increase personal freedoms and promote personal responsibility." Goals: permanent and/or self-sufficient ballot access by 2007; at least one person elected to the state legislature in 2010; at least one person elected to local office in 2010; at least three persons appointed to any county or municipal position by 2010; at least one public policy victory each year; strengthen and increase affiliate Central Committees; strengthen and increase campus organizations. Strategy: ballot access; infrastructure; candidates; everything all the time. Status: ballot access; infrastructure; candidates.

Program Committee's Report: Proposed changes to the State Program:

- (1) after "education funds will follow each child accordingly" add: "(e.g. tax credits, vouchers, etc.)" – committee recommends FOR – vote 16/8 for/against, motion PASSES.
- (2) after "background check" add "(shall-issue)" – committee recommends FOR – vote 17/5, motion PASSES.

Election of Officers: The following people were nominated: David Sten; Robert Glaser; Steven Sass; Robert Johnston III; Katrina Groth; Michael Linder; and Anthony Spezio. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote to vote for officers as a slate. A unanimous voice vote approved the given slate. The Central Committee thanked Joe Miller for ably serving as treasurer for five years.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

*These minutes are not yet approved by the Central Committee.
Minutes can be found at www.MD.LP.org/docs/cc/*



Outgoing Treasurer Joe Miller (left) and incoming Treasurer Mike Linder (right). Joe served well for five years. Does his big smile indicate relief?



A well written counter "Fair-Tax" article

The article is at: www.Mises.org/story/1814

Two choice quotes to get you to read it:

"FairTax advocates claim that their plan would repeal the 16th Amendment. However, all H.R. 25 does is repeal Subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that relates to income taxes and self-employment taxes and Subtitle C that relates to payroll taxes and the withholding of income taxes. The only mention of the 16th Amendment in H.R. 25 is when it says: "Congress further finds that the 16th amendment to the United States Constitution should be repealed."

The IRS stays, only the name changes:

"According to The Fair Tax Act of 2005:

"There shall be in the Department of the Treasury a Sales Tax Bureau to administer the national sales tax in those States where it is required pursuant to section 404, and to discharge other Federal duties and powers relating to the national sales tax (including those required by sections 402, 403, and 405). The Office of Revenue Allocation shall be within the Sales Tax Bureau."

— *Jason Hihn*
scorp1us@yahoo.com



**Our website has been overhauled.
If you haven't checked it out
recently, take another look!**

Some pretty interesting libertarian stuff in Episode III...



Yeah, I admit it, I was one of hundreds of people at the AMC Owings Mills Googolplex who bought a ticket for the 12:01 am showing of *Star Wars Episode III*.

I was pleasantly surprised at a snippet of dialogue that I would LOVE to have the Great Unwashed pay attention to, but I doubt it'll happen. I'm not going to do any major revelations of plot, so don't worry, you can keep on reading.

To set the scene, Senator Palpatine has just started to declare himself Emperor Palpatine, talking about an alleged Jedi plot to overthrow the Republic, the Senate, and their "Democracy" and how important it was to protect the regime by adding new powers and restricting freedoms. The sheep in the Senate applaud loudly.

Senator Amidala (the former Queen of Naboo and Anakin's main squeeze) makes the following remark to fellow Senator Organa: "This is how liberty dies, and to thunderous applause..."

Can we say "Patriot Act?????"

Enjoy the show!

— *Steve Boone*
GoobGrover*netzero.net

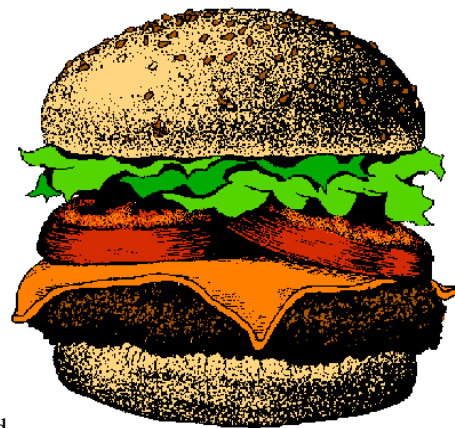
Try This Libertarian Stress Test

(The Hungry Man)

This one-question test will press the limits of your Libertarianism and give you insight into your own, personal Libertarian views.

You're a traveler, walking alone through a forest carrying two hamburgers, one of which you do not need or even want, when you come across a hungry man sitting on a log. The man is starving to death, he's about to die from lack of food. You are aware that if you give him your unwanted hamburger, he'll live. But if you pass him by without giving him food, he'll starve to death. His life is in your hands. Now here is the question:

If you decide not to share your food with the hungry man, and thereby cause his death, should the government have the authority and power to prosecute and convict you for the death of the hungry man? (Y/N) This is the one-question Libertarian Stress Test. It pits liberty against the government's duty to protect innocent life. What do you think is the correct Libertarian answer ... and why? I would be interested in your answer and your reasoning.



— *Major William H. Howcott* (USAF RET.)
WHowcott*optonline.net



Jack Mitcham, Jr. is the new chair of the Baltimore Libertarian Party.

In the News

Gerry Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on March 18 opposing clean indoor air legislation. He points out that the correct and democratic way to challenge smoking or non-smoking at businesses is through patronage. (The Health and Government Operations Committee killed the so-called Clean Indoor Air Act the following week.)

The (Montgomery County) *Gazette* published **Gerry Schneider's** letter on April 13, "Idea of Public Campaign Financing is Flawed." He was responding to a prior letter "Campaign Financing: It's time has come." It failed to pass during the state legislature session.

Tom Burket's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on April 15 about the Strathmore Hall concert hall. He says that taxpayers have already dropped \$100 million on the facility, and now the County Council wants to spend more to improve the view?

Tony Spezio broadcasts a weekly internet "radio" show with his *Maryland Libertarian Forum* 2:00-4:00 pm Saturdays at the www.LibertyFeed.com/libertarian.html URL.

Nick Sarwark continues to make monthly appearances on the *Metrotalk with Jerry Phillips* radio show on 100.3 FM and 980 AM (first Sunday of the month, 8:10 - 9:00 am). Go to the URL www.MD.LP.org/audio/ to listen to archived show recordings.

Congratulations to our public advocates. Please send in reports of your successes, too!

Editor's Corner



The next issue will be November or December. Thanks to this issue's contributors.

I was disheartened by the recent Supreme Court decision against State and individual rights in their affirmation of federal jurisdiction in the medical marijuana case. While somewhat reasonable counterarguments can sometimes be made in opposition to libertarian principles, I fail to make any sense whatsoever of their findings that a person growing their own plants for their own use falls under the interstate commerce clause of the Constitution. Beyond the case at hand, it appears to me that our country has now abandoned all pretense that we are governed by law. I am simply bewildered by interpretations such as this.

Much has been made that this issue is now up to the Congress. Oftentimes I agree that court decisions are too broad, and infringe upon the Legislative Branch. But if that branch is not constrained by the dictates of the document which authorizes it by the Judicial Branch – which is assigned the duty of doing just that – what recourse is there? I suppose none, other than electing candidates who believe in a Nation of Laws.

In 2002 an Anne Arundel County grand jury decided not to indict FBI agent Christopher Braga, who mistook the unarmed Pasadena man Joseph C. Schultz for a suspected bank robber and shot him in the face. I'm not sure why that grand jury believed it not criminal to shoot an innocent person without provocation, but at least the civil case is proceeding. U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz ruled that the shooting victim can proceed to trial. This proves that at least some federal judges have not lost their sanity – kudos to Judge Motz!

— *Robert E. Glaser*

When a candidate for public office faces the voters he does not face men of sense; he faces a mob of men whose chief distinguishing mark is that they are quite incapable of weighing ideas, or even of comprehending any save the most elemental – men whose whole thinking is done in terms of emotion, and whose dominant emotion is dread of what they cannot understand.

... The larger the mob, the harder the test. In small areas, before small electorates, a first-rate man occasionally fights his way through.

... But when the field's nationwide

... then all the odds are on the man who is intrinsically the most devious and mediocre – the man who can most adeptly disperse the notion that his mind's a virtual vacuum.

The presidency tends, year by year, to go to such men. As democracy is perfected, the office represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. We move toward a lofty ideal. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their hearts' desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron.

— *H.L. Mencken, 1920*

Ordering a Pizza in 2008

Operator: “Thank you for calling Pizza Hut. May I have your national ID number?”

Customer: “Hi, I’d like to place an order.”

Operator: “I must have your NIDN first, sir?”

Customer: “My National ID Number, yeah, hold on, eh, it’s 6102049998-45-54610.”

Operator: “Thank you, Mr. Sheehan. I see you live at 1742 Meadowland Drive, and the phone number’s 494-2366. Your office number over at Lincoln Insurance is 745-2302 and your cell number’s 266-2566. Email address is sheehan@home.net. Which number are you calling from, sir?”

Customer: “Huh? I’m at home. Where d’ya get all this information?”

Operator: “We’re wired into the HSS, sir.”

Customer: “The HSS, what is that?”

Operator: “We’re wired into the Homeland Security System, sir. This will add only 15 seconds to your ordering time”

Customer: (Sighs) “Oh, well, I’d like to order a couple of your All-Meat Special pizzas.”

Operator: “I don’t think that’s a good idea, sir.”

Customer: “Whaddya mean?”

Operator: “Sir, your medical records and commode sensors indicate that you’ve got very high blood pressure and extremely high cholesterol. Your National Health Care provider won’t allow such an unhealthy choice.”

Customer: “What?!?! What do you recommend, then?”

Operator: “You might try our low-fat Soybean Pizza. I’m sure you’ll like it.”

Customer: “What makes you think I’d like something like that?”

Operator: “Well, you checked out ‘Gourmet Soybean Recipes’ from your local library last week, sir. That’s why I made the suggestion.”

Customer: “All right, all right. Give me two family-sized ones, then.”

Operator: “That should be plenty for you, your wife and your four kids, and your 2 dogs can finish the crusts, sir. Your total is \$49.99.”

Customer: “Lemme give you my credit card number.”

Operator: “I’m sorry sir, but I’m afraid you’ll have to pay in cash. Your credit card balance is over its limit.”

Customer: “I’ll run over to the ATM and get some cash before your driver gets here.”

Operator: “That won’t work either, sir. Your checking account’s overdrawn also.”

Customer: “Never mind! Just send the pizzas. I’ll have the cash ready. How long will it take?”

Operator: “We’re running a little behind, sir. It’ll be about 45 minutes, sir. If you’re in a hurry you might want to pick ‘em up while you’re out getting the cash, but then, carrying pizzas on a motorcycle can be a little awkward.”

Customer: “Wait! How do you know I ride a scooter?”

Operator: “It says here you’re in arrears on your car payments, so your car got repo’ed. But your Harley’s paid for and you just filled the tank yesterday”

Customer: Well I’ll be a “@#%/\$@&?#!”

Operator: “I’d advise watching your language, sir. You’ve already got a July 4, 2006 conviction for cussing out a cop and another one I see here in September for contempt at your hearing for cussing at a judge.” “Oh yes I see here that you just got out from a 90 day stay in the State Correctional Facility. Is this your first pizza since your return to society?”

Customer: (Speechless)

Operator: “Will there be anything else, sir?”

Customer: “Yes, I have a coupon for a free 2 liter bottle of Coke”.

Operator: “I’m sorry sir, but our ad’s exclusionary clause prevents us from offering free soda to diabetics. The New Constitution prohibits this.”

Operator: “Thank you for calling Pizza Hut!”

— off the internet

Banks and broker-dealers are obliged to retain e-mail and instant messaging documents for three years under U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission rules. But similar requirements will apply to all public companies from July 2006 under the Sarbanes-Oxley corporate reform measures.

— Reuters

Liberty in our Lifetime Free State Project

Free State Project What is the Project About?

The Free State Project is a plan in which 20,000 or more liberty-oriented people will move to the state of New Hampshire and work within its political system to reduce the size and scope of government.

The Project will reduce burdensome taxation and regulation; reform state and local laws; opt out of federal mandates; and press for the restoration of constitutional federalism.

The Free State Project will show the world what liberty can accomplish!

Free State Project Liberty in Our Lifetime

We don't want to wait decades for most citizens in the US to realize that the nanny state is an insult to their dignity. For those of us who already understand the debilitating effects of a government bent on reducing liberty rather than increasing it, the Free State Project aims at liberty in a single state.

What do we mean by liberty? We believe that being free and independent is a great way to live, and that government's maximum role should be to help individuals defend themselves from force and fraud.

Free State Project Where & Why?

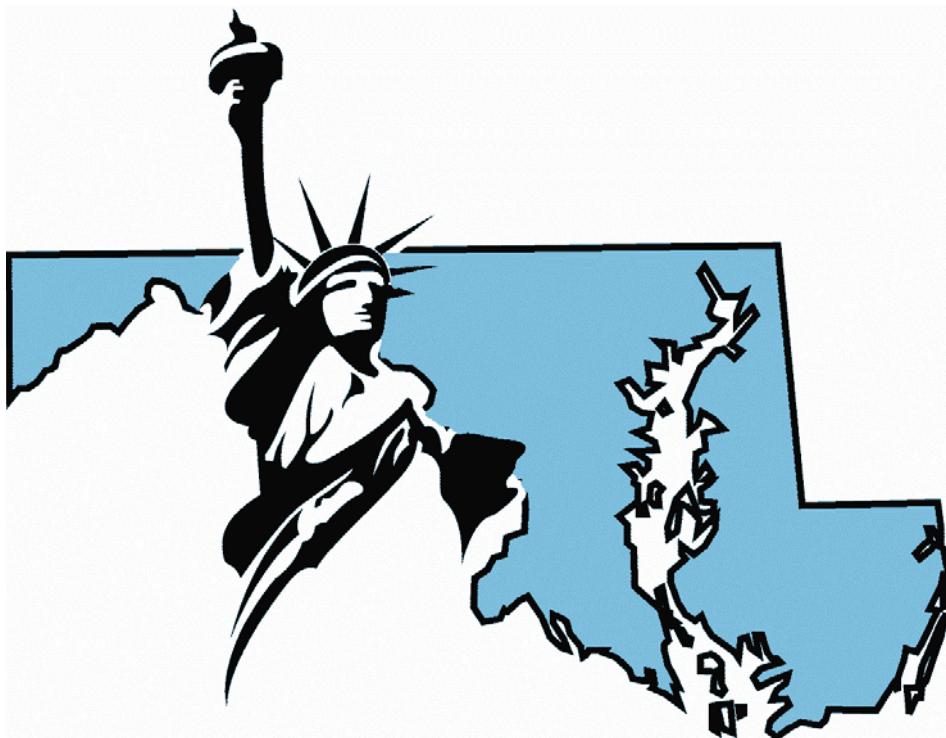
The state where we will move was decided by a vote of the FSP membership after we reached 5,000 commitments. Population was the critical factor. Our research so far indicates that 20,000 activists could heavily influence only states with under about a 1.5 million population, or which spend less than \$10 million on political campaigns in any given two-year election cycle. New Hampshire met the population criterion, and its distaste for big government and a generally welcoming attitude toward the Free State Project were pluses.

Free State Project Get Involved!



Join the Free State Project and take part in a rapidly growing movement aimed at securing liberty in our lifetime. To learn more, you're invited to visit our website at www.freestateproject.org. Check out our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page, and visit our articles sections which contain more detailed information about the project. Whether you wish to become a full-fledged member or are sympathetic but unable to relocate, the Free State Project wants you!

www.freestateproject.org ☀ Call toll-free 1-888-532-4604



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At **\$20.95**, you and the Libertarian Party of Maryland will win, as a payment will be made to the Party for every towel sold. **Call *Crestline* at 410-764-2444, place your order, and be sure to tell them this is a purchase through the Libertarian Party of Maryland.**

—*Steven Sass*

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COMING EVENTS

Note: consult www.MD.LP.org/events/ for up-to-date info. Contact numbers for persons listed on page 3 are omitted here. Regularly scheduled events are listed separately on the back page. *Please mark your calendars now!*



July 4: Fourth of July Celebrations. This is a petitioning/registration gathering year, and there is no better time to get folks to sign a petition or register to vote than when they are kicking back after the parades and waiting for the fireworks to begin. Check the dates for your local community Fourth of July celebration, as it may not be held on the fourth.
Roy J. Meyers III.

July 15/16 (Friday/Saturday): North East Water Festival. 6:00 - 9:00 pm Fri., 10:00 am - 9:00 pm Sat. David Sten

July 16 (Saturday): 10:00 am. Libertarian Club of Baltimore Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. Meet at the Ruxton School on

Charles Street (right side going south, about 3/4 mile south of I-695). Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173 Home, 1-866-576-9651 voice mail, waBuzzle11*juno.com

July 20 (Wednesday): 7:30 pm. MdLP Executive Board meeting via teleconference. Robert Glaser

July 22-30 (Friday-Saturday): Cecil County Fair. 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm July 22; 10:00 am - 10:00 pm remainder. David Sten

July 28-31 (Thursday-Sunday): Harford County Farm Fair. Th-Sat 10am-10pm, Sunday 10am-6pm. Roy J. Meyers III

August 6 (Saturday): MdLP Picnic/Central Committee mtg. p. 4

August 12-20 (Friday-Saturday): Montgomery County Fair. Nick Sarwark

September 24 (Saturday): 10:00 am. Adopt-A-Highway. see 7/16

October 15 (Saturday): 10:00 am. Adopt-A-Highway. see 7/16

November 12/13 (Saturday/Sunday): LNC Meeting in Baltimore.

Copy or Clip Form ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

Libertarian Party of Maryland www.MD.LP.org/join-form.pdf Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____ Email: _____

Phone: day _____ evening _____

New National Members Only

The National LP requires all members to sign in agreement with the following statement: "I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals." Signature: _____

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Payment Information

Combined MdLP/National dues \$35

Maryland/county-only dues \$25

Additional donation: \$ _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Monthly Credit Card Donation: \$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card# _____ Exp: _____

Signature _____

I'd like to volunteer for:

- ☐ Envelope stuffing
- ☐ Outreach programs
- ☐ Computer work
- ☐ County organization
- ☐ Campaign help
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Other: _____

Libertarian Party
of Maryland
P.O. Box 1128
Bel Air, MD 21014-7128

Anyone may become a member of the MdLP. To become a voting member of the Central Committee, your voter registration must be Libertarian (or request it if the state does not permit Libertarian registration): verbally certify your registration status and your agreement with the non-aggression principle with your local chapter officers or the state Membership Director, Steven Sass. For more information, contact Steven at Membership@md.lp.org or 410-602-8401.

www.MD.LP.org

Regularly Scheduled Libertarian Gatherings

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-of-events: visit www.MD.LP.org/events/ (often!). Check page 3 for contact numbers not listed here.

Libertarian Night Out (College Park): 4th Tuesday, 7:00 pm at the 94th Aero Squadron, 5240 Paint Branch Parkway.
Jim McLaughlin

LNO (Harford Co.): 7:30 pm. The date and location rotates.
Roy J. Meyers III


LNO (Riva): 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm at *Mike's Crab House* on 3030 Old Riva Road, Riva. Chris Panasuk

Cecil County Libertarians: 4th Wednesday, 7:00 pm at the *Rising Sun Public Library*. Dave Sten

Metro Talk: 1st Sunday, 8:10 - 9:00 am. Nick Sarwark on the radio, stations WBIG 100.3 FM and WTEM 980 AM.

Maryland Libertarian Forum, Tony Spezio host: 2:00-4:00 pm Saturdays at www.LibertyFeed.com/libertarian.html

1-800-MLP-1776

Please check the first line of the mailing label to verify your MdLP status (see page 2) 

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