

Free? State LIBERTARIAN

March 2006

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

Libertarian National Committee Meeting – November 12th



The LNC held a meeting at the *Embassy Suites* hotel near BWI airport. It was a rare opportunity for Maryland libertarians to witness in person the governing body of the National organization. Susan and Lorenzo Gaztañaga hosted a hospitality suite in the hotel for the convenience of meeting attendees and visiting locals.

Program Committee Meeting

2:00 pm Saturday, 11 March
North East, Maryland
RSVP to Dave Sten

Spring Convention

Saturday, 1 April

IMPORTANT: discount deadline March 23!

info on page 4 

Chair's Report



Well, our situation looks pretty bleak. Our quest to obtain 10,000 signatures by the end of this December has barely started. Membership numbers are way down. This election year we have a free ride for ballot access, yet we have no candidates. We desperately need everyone's help to pull us out of this hole.

In the first week of February a large membership renewal mailing was done. It had been a long time since the last renewal mailing, and

therefore many mem-

bers had their memberships lapse. We now have a working database interface and will have regular renewal mailings from now on.

It's still not too late for people to come forward as candidates. Please let me know if you plan to run, because new election laws require me to submit a nomination form to the Board of Elections – even for local elections. This requirement has been added because candidates are no longer nominated by petition signatures.

Changes are now in effect at National regarding zero dues, *LP News* outsourcing, and outsourcing of LP literature. It appears that LP Stuff (www.lpstuff.com) is the company handling the sales of brochures, bumper stickers, buttons, and literature. I hope to hear soon about *LP News*, and if we can offer a combined Maryland membership with a reduced *LP News* subscription rate.

We have less than 1/5 of the signatures needed to retain our party status. Signature gathering at the typical outreach events will not be enough to get us to our required 10,000 signatures. We either need to have regular outings for volunteer petitioning, or we will need to raise money to pay petitioners to gather the signatures for us. Our current treasury balance is not enough to pay for the remaining counts. Some have suggested raffles to help raise money for the petition drive. We are currently looking into these raffle options, and should have a final decision before this newsletter reaches you.

There are several things that you can do to help our party. Make sure that your membership is up to date, and renew if needed. Make a donation to the party so that we may hire

professional petitioners to get any remaining signatures not obtained by volunteers.

Help organize a petition outing. If you gather signatures outside of a grocery store, please get permission from the store manager first. Outside of Post Offices is also another good place to gather signatures. Check your local paper for public events where people will be standing around – either waiting for the event to begin, or standing in line. A good example is before a parade.

Be a prime contact person for your county or region. Most counties in the state don't have a county Central Committee, and it would be good to have someone who can bring local Libertarians together when they are needed.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

— **Dave Sten**

Chair, Maryland Libertarian Party
410-287-2823 (home)

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Fax: 928-832-3290. Newsletter submissions are solicited.

Editor: Robert E. Glaser

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.

Content Policy

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.

How to Help

- **Renew your membership**
- **Make a donation to hire professional petitioners**
- **Collect signatures**
- **Organize a petition outing**
- **Become a leader for your county**
- **Run for office**

The Libertarian Party of Maryland

P.O. Box 176, Abingdon, MD 21009-0176 1-800-MLP-1776

Website: www.MD.LP.org

Official List Serve: MdLP-A-subscribe@YahooGroups.com

Other List Serves: www.MD.LP.org/email_lists.html

If You Are Not a Subscriber

The *Free? State Libertarian* is mailed to all Libertarian Party of Maryland members and paid subscribers. You may have received a gratis copy (mailing label says "Join the MD Libertarian Party") because you are registered Libertarian, are a member of the National Libertarian Party, or requested information. We appreciate you acting to: join the MdLP with the back page form; join the Central Committee; become a newsletter subscriber only (send \$20 to above address); and/or register Libertarian (when we get 1% of the state registered, we can end collecting petition signatures).

Labor Day – September 5, 2005



The Baltimore Libertarian Party (combined City and County) held a picnic in Rosedale Park

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
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Treasurer*md.lp.org
Membership	Steven Sass	410-602-8401	NewMember*md.lp.org
Campaigns	Robert S. Johnston III	---	Campaign*md.lp.org
At Large	Tony Spezio	---	TheSpeez*yahoo.com

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

County Affiliates

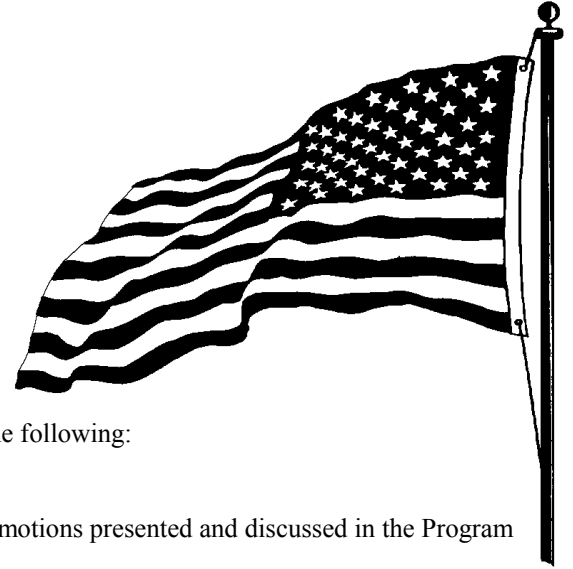
	Baltimore City/County	Jack Mitcham, Jr.	410-491-4111	Baltimore*md.lp.org
www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*LP-CC.org
	Frederick County	Glen Litsinger	301-831-5832	Frederick*md.lp.org
www.HC-LP.org	Harford County	Derek Mancincho		Harford*md.lp.org
	Howard County	David Querido		Howard*md.lp.org
www.MontgomeryLP.org	Montgomery County	Hadassah Aaronson		Montgomery*md.lp.org
	Prince George's County	Jim McLaughlin		PrinceGeorges*md.lp.org
	Talbot County	Dic Gleason	410-364-9847	Talbot*md.lp.org

College Affiliates

	Campus Coordinator	Katrina Groth	Campus*md.lp.org
	Anne Arundel Com. College	Aaron Jones	AACC*md.lp.org
	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
wwwnew.towson.edu/clt	Towson University	Alex Peak	Towson*md.lp.org
	University of Baltimore	Troy Zinderman	UB*md.lp.org
	U. of Md./Balto. County	Stephanie Klein	UMBC*md.lp.org
www.UmdLibertarians.org	U. of Md./College Park	Adam Bargar	UMCP*md.lp.org

Join us at the Libertarian Party of Maryland 2006 Convention!

When: Saturday, April 1st, 2006
Where: *Squire's Italian Restaurant*
6723 Holabird Avenue
Dundalk, MD 21222
www.SquiresCafe.com



Schedule:

- 12:00 pm Registration and Check-In
- 1:00 pm Commencement
- 1:10 pm Afternoon Speakers
- 3:15 pm Afternoon break¹
- 3:30 pm State Central Committee Meeting – including regular business plus the following:
 - Nominations and Elections for the Executive Board
All positions are open for election
 - Voting on motions to amend the State Party Program, if any (only motions presented and discussed in the Program Committee meeting on March 11th will be considered)
 - Nominations and Elections for candidates for public office
 - Check your mailing label to verify that you are paid up and eligible to vote
 - Minutes of the previous Central Committee meeting (6 August 2005) are in this newsletter and on the website
 - Central Committee members may delegate a proxy (Sign and date a statement designating another member of the Central Committee as agent, granting that agent the power to vote in the Central Committee. Either mail the proxy statement to the Secretary (Robert E. Glaser, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117), or the agent should present the proxy to the Credentials Committee upon arrival.)
- 5:20 pm Evening Break
- 5:30 pm Russ Diamond
- 6:20 pm Evening Break
- 6:30 pm Dinner Banquet²
- 7:30 pm Stephen Gordon
- 9:00 pm Adjournment

Directions:

- From the north: take 95 south or 83 south to 695 south to Essex/Key Bridge; exit at Merritt Blvd., go 2 miles, make right on Holabird Ave.; restaurant is 2 miles on the left
- From the south: take 95 north to Baltimore; take 895 Harbor Tunnel Thruway; go through the tunnel; take first exit past tunnel (Holabird Ave.); follow for 2 miles; go through intersection at Dundalk Ave.; restaurant is 1/4 mile on the right

Questions or more information: Bob Johnston, Campaign*md.lp.org

¹Afternoon Break:

Continental breakfast, including sweet rolls, bagels & cream cheese, fresh fruit, coffee, orange juice, soft drinks, tea, water.

²Dinner:

Lasagna, Vegetarian lasagne, Baked chicken, Green beans, Mashed potatoes, Appetizers, Dessert, Coffee, tea, soft drinks

Alcohol:

Cash bar from noon until 5 pm.

Open bar from conclusion of Central Committee meeting until end.

Budweiser & Miller Lite bottles, Coors Lite on tap; wine; name-brand liquors; cash bar for top-shelf liquors and other bottled beer.

The *Afternoon Only* plan includes daytime speakers and continental breakfast

The *Banquet Only* plan includes Russ Diamond, Stephen Gordon, dinner, and open bar

Peter F. Drucker, political economist and author, passed away at the age of 95 on Nov. 11, 2005. Among other things, he advocated legalization of drugs and stimulating innovation by permitting new ventures to charge the government for the cost of regulations and paperwork. He also argued that governments should turn many functions over to private enterprise.

— from the *Baltimore Sun*

MdLP April 1, 2006 Convention Payment Form

	<u>Advance</u> ¹	<u>Youth</u> ²	<u>Late</u> ³
Central Committee Meeting	\$0	\$0	\$0
Entire Convention Package	\$60	\$40	\$75
Afternoon Only	\$25	\$15	\$30
Banquet Only	\$40	\$30	\$50

(Circle all charges above)

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:
(for registration confirmation)

[If you pay by check the party receives more than by credit card]

Total Enclosed (payable to the MdLP): \$_____, or

Email:

Note special needs:

Charge to: VISA MC AmEx Discover (circle one)

Libertarian Party of Maryland

#_____ exp. date: _____

Mail to ➡ PO Box 176
Abingdon, MD 21009-0176

Signature_____

¹received by March 23; will receive a printed name badge

³received after March 23 (or at the door)

²under 21 years of age as of 1/1/06 or older student active in campus/Libertarian organization and received by March 23

Speakers:

Civil Liberties Under Pressure

Dr. Lawrence Egbert

Dr. Egbert is an anesthesiologist and a member of the board of the ACLU of Maryland.

What's New With the Libertarian Party

Shane Cory

Shane is the Director of Communications and Acting Chief of Staff, National LP Headquarters.

How To Get A Letter-To-The-Editor Published

Gerald Schneider

Gerald is a member of the Montgomery County LP, and has had letters-to-the-editor published in newspapers such as the *Washington Post* and *Montgomery County Gazette*.

Russ Diamond

Russ is a small businessman from Annville, PA, and the founder of Pennsylvania Clean Sweep (www.PACleanSweep.com), an effort to unseat every PA state legislator.

Libertarian Campaigns: What Works And What Doesn't

Stephen Gordon

Stephen is the co-founder of the website HammerofTruth.com, VP of the Alabama LP, and helped overturn Gov. Bob Riley's state income tax.

Monitor the website for lineup additions and modifications

Be All You Can Be



Be true to yourself is still the best philosophy to live by. Libertarians should have this in mind when they choose political activity. Running for office, as an example, is not for everyone. Support for candidates, writing letters to editors of newspapers, calling into radio talk shows, collecting ballot access signatures, working on events and on committees within the party, and sharing libertarian ideas with family, friends, and organizations may be the way for you to go. All help. And you are not likely to do a

good job if you are not comfortable or confident in what you do.

I, for example, focus on outreach education in my community. My letters to the editor appear almost monthly (the newspaper frowns on greater frequency) in my county's chief newspaper, the advertiser-supported *Gazette* (a weekly with a greater circulation than *The Washington Post* and *The Washington Times* combined). Being in Montgomery County (population almost one million, with huge numbers of resident government officials, lobbyists, think tanks and non-government political organizations) means the potential of my published letters being read by major political "movers and shakers." If ideas have consequences, my effort is worthwhile!

You have your best chance of being published if you write to a local newspaper. There are plenty of others who write for national newspapers with ideas such as yours. But not everyone can write cogently and concisely enough to be published. Don't frustrate yourself by trying to do this if you are not articulate. We all have different talents.

Another activity of mine is "The Jefferson Cafe." I am one of two "official" facilitators for this so-named discussion group. My cohort, an English professor at Montgomery College, or I choose a topic for discussion for a selected group (could be in a senior center, at the college, or elsewhere). We provide a reading related to the topic (it serves as a jumping-off point for discussion), and limit it to no more than 18 persons (plus observers). We do not sum up or attempt to reach consensus on issues. The purpose of The Jefferson Cafes is to informally talk about American themes, and the role of Americans – us – in the global community, with the hope that it will make us better informed and active citizens. Jefferson Cafes are sponsored by Montgomery College's Paul Peck Institute for American Culture and Civic Engagement, and with a "By the People" grant from PBS-MacNeil/Lehrer Productions.

Topics I have picked and facilitated (I am a participant at others) include the American Dream, what makes for good citizens, moral values in raising children, policies that promote peace, U.S. foreign policy, and the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution.

Last September I was asked to facilitate a special discussion on student rights for Montgomery College in connection with the birthday of the U.S. Constitution. It is nice when people choose you to do these things because of no other reason than they think you are competent to do so! My Jefferson Cafe for February 2006

was titled, "Wal-Mart: What's Not To Like?," and included an appropriate reading from *The Freeman* magazine.

I also participate in a "Behind the Headlines" group at the largest and most active senior center in Montgomery County. We meet each Monday morning (except holidays) to discuss news items. Jay Baker, a fellow Libertarian, has now joined this group as well (and has even acted as leader for two meetings when the regular leader was away). Such discussion groups help to sharpen your ideas, and allow you to test what works and what doesn't work in arguments (better here than on the campaign trail).

You can start such a group in your own area. Senior centers, as an example, are looking for more activities (and seniors vote unlike many younger people). You need not lead such a group to make it happen. Recruit someone who could do it if you can't. Sharing your comments should be no problem. Of course, if it's a senior center, you should be over 55 unless that rule is waived.

Holiday Park Multiservice Senior Center also approved my proposal for a new series of educational programs for 2006 I entitled, "Movies With Messages." (My title contrasts with famous movie mogul Samuel Goldwyn's statement that his films were for entertainment only and that he would use Western Union

Movies With Messages

March 8: the 1940 James Stewart film, *The Mortal Storm*, based on Phyllis Bottome's novel of the same name about the rise of Hitler in pre-war Germany and its effect on a German family and their friends when each takes sides according to conscience. It explores how ordinary people can align themselves with and oppose evil ideas and leaders when freedom and fear conflict.

April 3: the 1998 film, *Enemy of the State*, about how a ruthless executive in a secret intelligence agency (National Security Agency here) can ruin an innocent person's life. It has implications related to the Patriot Act and dangers of abuse of power when government hides its actions under the cover of national security.

June 12: *Not in this Town*. A 1997 film that is a true story about hate violence in a small town, and how residents unite and come up with a peaceful way to curtail the problem. Sets an example of how a community working together can find an intelligent alternative to violence to counteract violence.

July 5: *1776*. This 1972 musical is based on an award-winning Broadway show about America's Founders. While not strictly accurate, it dramatizes the tension between compromise and split from England, division over slavery, doubt about America's ability to win a revolutionary war, and risk of execution for all involved in the rebellion should they lose.

Jefferson Cafes

Exact dates not finalized at this point. Location: Holiday Park Multiservice Senior Center (likely to be repeated elsewhere)

June: Discussion of a reading from *Top of the Class: How Asian Parents Raise High Achievers – and How You Can Too*, by Dr. Soo Kim Abboud and Jane Kim.

July: Discussion of *Against Leviathan: Government Power and a Free Society*, by Robert Higgs.

if he wanted to send a message.) It involves showing of major Hollywood films that touch upon important contemporary social and political issues. Each film is introduced with a brief commentary by me on issues involved, with a follow-up discussion involving the audience. A handout of an article or essay on the issues is available for pickup.

On January 12 was the showing of the 1997 Australian comedy, *The Castle*, about eminent domain. February 8 was the showing of the 1956 Gary Cooper film, *Friendly Persuasion*, based on Jessamy West's novel of the same name about Quakers having to decide individually by conscience whether or not to get involved in the American Civil War. Commentary was on the problems of a military draft.

An independent special by me for "Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Memorial Day," April 25, will be using a 1994 PBS docu-

mentary, *America And The Holocaust – Deceit And Deception*, that examines how the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt purposely blocked rescuing of European Jews from Nazi extermination because of American anti-semitism and Great Depression concerns. Discussion will be on its implications for immigration policies today.

Incidentally, I do not introduce myself or label myself as a "libertarian" in my writings or discussions. I let my ideas speak for themselves. That way, others focus on my arguments instead of partisan leanings or their stereotypes and ignorance about libertarians. Enlightened participants will figure out how to classify my arguments on their own.

— *Gerald Schneider*

Dr. Schneider received a very glowing thank-you letter from the Department of Recreation and Parks for "raising the bar" at the Holiday Park Center.

The MdLP Picnic was held August 6 at Dave's. Here he is cooking up a storm; Steve Sass with Galt and Rourke.



Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 6 August 2005

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met on the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:12 pm by chairman Dave Sten.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Robert Johnston III; and Steven Boone. It validated that 11 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 55 members.

Chair's Report: Dave Sten thanked the members for traveling some distance to attend. The picnic expense is approximately \$455. He reported that Joe Seehusen, the LNC Executive Director, resigned on July 25 effective August 5; the LNC is searching for his replacement and solicits recommendations. There is an LNC meeting today and tomorrow in Kansas City. George Squires is proposing that national LP membership be free, with donation levels used to receive *LP News*, etc. The "Iraq Exit Strategy" was posted without oversight. The LNC's next quarterly meeting is in Baltimore, which offers us a good opportunity to attend.

Executive Director's report: Roy J. Meyers III reported that we have 1219 party recertification petition signatures so far; volunteer petitioners might not be sufficient. Roy's father is providing us space in his new office.

Discussion: about candidates for the upcoming election.

The Central Committee: thanked Dave and Renee Sten for graciously preparing the picnic.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

A Tale of Two Futures

It was the best of times...

January 1, 2007: The Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Maryland announced today that the state party is having difficulty keeping up with its growth. He said that this was due to many causes, but made assurances that new infrastructure will be able to handle the thousands of new members shortly.

"It all happened so fast. Things were looking pretty bleak, but at the Convention last year lots of Libertarians threw their respective hats into the ring and declared runs for public office all over the state." The largest campaign season the Party had ever seen quickly produced the required signatures for recertification by the Board of Elections. Instead of losing every registered Libertarian across the state, young and unaffiliated voters joined the ranks when they saw the ticket and the energy of the campaign.

While some Libertarians supported unity candidates and attracted students to those campaigns, that turned out to be a source of new members as well. Many young people are naturally attracted to the Green Party because of its name; but when they actually read the documentation, they didn't like supporting Socialism, and didn't see the point of despising business. Others who wanted to reduce the size of government and reasonably allied themselves with the Constitution Party because of *its* name came to dislike the merging of Church and State. They all saw the light and became Libertarians! It turned out to be a smart strategy to promote the MdLP.

The rolls of the campus and county affiliates swelled. Disgruntled citizens saw that there really in fact is no difference between Democrats and Republicans. The former gave up our rights, and the latter broke the bank. They said enough is enough – and they, too, saw that Libertarians at least have a consistent world view and joined up!

The newsletter editor complained that he was deluged with submissions, and hated turning some down. But that was handled by forming county newsletters which provided a creative outlet as well as positive outreach. "We're working on a special issue for mass circulation now. We've talked about it for years, but now we have the dollars and interest to justify it."

The county groups are having growth difficulties, too. It wasn't that long ago that a member's home or the corner of a bar was sufficient to hold a meeting. The Baltimore Chair said, "We need longer to plan now, because there are big leadtimes to secure appropriate sized venues. I'm talking with the Stadium Authority now about available dates for M&T Bank Stadium."

Radio talkshow hosts are no longer fearful for their jobs if they publicly claim to be Libertarian. A couple of public access cable channels which have been hosting the Libertarian Hour are about to lose their shows to Baltimore and DC area broadcast TV stations for the Sunday morning political timeslot.

The State Chairman wistfully added, "I'm not sure if I'll still be Chair after the next Convention. Members are actively campaigning for the Executive Board, and some of them are quite impressive. I could lose the election!"

It was the worst of times...

January 1, 2007: The Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Maryland announced today that the state party has officially dissolved. He said that this was due to many causes.

The loss of Party certification by the Board of Elections was the primary blow. "As of now, we have precisely zero registered Libertarians in the State of Maryland." Anyone previously registered as a Libertarian has been converted to unaffiliated status; they can choose one of the certified Parties if they wish.

"Of course, we can still try to collect the required 10,000 signatures, but we would have to start registering voters all over again from scratch after reaching that threshold. We have neither the volunteers nor the money for paid petitioners to accomplish the task. So we're throwing in the towel."

It wasn't hard to predict the demise. With the windfall of the elimination of the requirement to collect additional signatures to run candidates for public office, many had predicted that this opportunity – the first ever for the Party – would produce a prodigious quantity of names on the Libertarian ticket at the 2006 polls. But instead, surprisingly, not a single person volunteered to run! Over the entire state! This proved particularly embarrassing at the summer fairs. The most common question was, "So who are your candidates?" And the answer was not a soul.

Some of the longtime active and dependable Maryland Libertarians decided to lend their support to candidates from other parties. While certainly their rightful choice, all of the energy that previously had been targeted to Libertarians was gone from the MdLP. And no one else stepped in to fill that void. The usually fruitful election season produced few petition signatures. The college and high school students who in the past had campaigned earnestly for Libertarians instead supported the Green, Constitution, and Populist parties because we didn't have anyone for them to assist. And when the election was over, none of them joined *our* Party because they saw no reason to associate themselves with a dying organization.

The newsletter editor grew tired of writing entire issues by himself. "It was always tough, but for the last issue I actually received nothing whatsoever from the membership that I didn't already have when I made a plea for submissions. I asked the county groups for short reports, but the only response was from one which stated that his county organization had disbanded. I don't think more than two or three people read it anyway, so I figured why bother?"

Membership levels had dropped way down. At a Party party, one person said that he viewed the body as a discussion club, so he didn't contribute. Once-vibrant email lists were abandoned.

Old-timers understandably had wearied of working for the Party. But when newcomers suggested we do things differently, they were shooed away. Gradually the elected Board members stopped actually doing anything, and one-by-one they resigned.

The outgoing (and final) Chairman summarized: "It's for the best. Now the MdLP can R.I.P. and we can surrender false hope."

Profound apologies to Mr. Dickens. These schizophrenic speculations are purely the fancy of your editor, so don't blame anyone else. While reality is likely to fall between these two extremes, the choice of which is closest is ours. Take Dave up on his page 2 pleas.

State of Maryland - Petition to Form a New Political Party

We, the undersigned voters of _____ County or ☐ (check if Baltimore City), support the organization of a political party to be known as the _____ Libertarian _____ Party.

The State Chairman is: _____ David H. Sten _____, Address: _____ 16 Partridge Lane, North East, MD 21901 _____.

NOTICE TO SIGNERS: Please print or type all information other than your signature. Post Office Box addresses are not generally accepted as valid. By signing this petition, you agree that the above-named party should be recognized as a political party in Maryland and that, to the best of your knowledge, you are registered to vote in the County or Baltimore City named above and are eligible to have your signature counted for petition purposes.

Please Note: The information you provide on this petition may be used to change your voter registration address.						
DATE (mm/dd/yy)	PRINT FULL NAME	VOTER REGISTRATION ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	DATE OF BIRTH	SIGNATURE, SAME AS PRINTED
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT

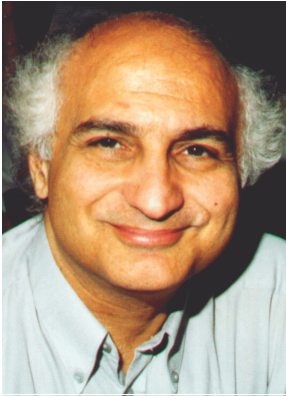
Under penalties of perjury, I swear (or affirm) that: (a) I was at least 18 years old when each signature was obtained; (b) the information given to the left identifying me is true and correct; (c) I personally observed each signer as he or she signed this page; and (d) to the best of my knowledge and belief: (i) all signatures on this page are genuine; and (ii) all signers are registered voters of the County or Baltimore City indicated at the top of this page.

FOR ELECTION BOARD USE ONLY	Individual circulator's printed or typed name	
	Residence Address	
	City	State Zip
	Telephone Number	
Endorsed by: _____		

Should We Support Non-Libertarian Candidates?

NO

by I. Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.



As an individual I have no problem with supporting a candidate who is not a registered Libertarian, provided that candidate agrees with the non-aggression principle. I will explain why I consider agreement with the non-aggression principle indispensable at the end of this article. Let me first address the question as to whether the Maryland Libertarian Party, as a political party, should not endorse candidates who refuse to register with our party.

If we do not consider the Libertarian Party to be a serious political party, then we should have no objection endorsing the candidates of other parties or who, for whatever reason, decline to run under our banner, and the answer to the question *Should we support non-Libertarian candidates* must be **Why Not?** If we seriously consider ourselves to be a political party, then the answer must be **No**.

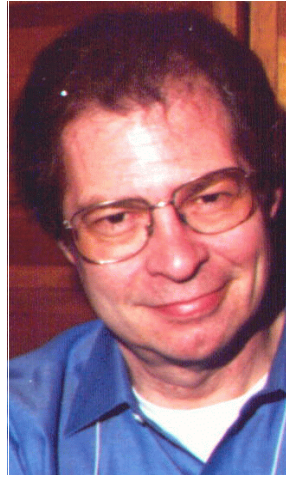
The reason for this is inherent in the nature of what it means to be a viable political party. We could, if it were our purpose, convert the Libertarian Party into the Libertarian Political Club and endorse whatever candidates we thought would advance the libertarian agenda, directly, indirectly, or relatively. A serious political party, however, must concentrate on developing itself as a serious contender. This is especially important in our developmental stage. When the Republican Party in New York endorsed the Conservative Party candidate or when the Republican Party of New Hampshire endorsed the Libertarian candidates, they did so knowing doing so was no threat to those parties status as political parties – that the incentive for other Republicans to run as Republicans remained. Endorsing candidates who are not Libertarians removes the incentive for candidates to affiliate with our party. It will also confuse voters. Until we are a major force in politics, our primary mission must be to induce people to register with this party and openly support its principles as such.

I myself could not support any candidate, “Libertarian” or otherwise, who did not embrace the non-aggression principle. Offering someone a position in government is like offering someone a gun. As libertarians we believe that the right to keep and bear arms is a natural right, yet I would not knowingly sell a gun to someone who did not understand that the murder of innocents was a crime. Similarly I could not vote for someone who didn’t agree that the initiation of force or fraud to seek to attain one’s values is criminal. The power of government is too awesome.

It is the moral responsibility of the Libertarian Party to only nominate those candidates who agree with the non-aggression principle and to take its own mission as a political party seriously enough to only nominate those candidates willing to register Libertarian.

YES

by Doug McNeil



The Libertarian Party should do whatever we decide is in our best interest. Our ultimate goal is to advance the cause of liberty in Maryland by participating in the political process. So what support, if any, should we give candidates who may be members of other parties?

There was a lot of controversy in the party when Howard Stern sought the LP nomination for governor of New York, before he withdrew because he didn’t want to disclose his personal finances. Some party members thought his bid was frivolous, but he’s a very libertarian guy who knows

how to persuade people. He had two dry-as-dust party officers on his show, and asked them, “What do Libertarians want?” They started to give an extended treatise on free market economics, when he stopped them. “No,” he said. “**Less government.** That’s what we want.” And for weeks he covered the party on his show, and millions of people learned something about us and about what we stand for – who had never heard of us before. This was a good thing.

The LP often nominates people who have no credentials other than being long time party activists, and this has not proved to be a great strategy for success.

Also in New York, the Conservative Party sometimes nominates Republicans and sometimes nominates its own party members without Republican support. In 1970 they were able to elect one of their party members (James Buckley) to the U.S. Senate – **and no New York Republican has won statewide office without the Conservative Party nomination for more than 30 years.**

I wish we had that kind of clout. So how do we get it? By being pragmatic, and making it worthwhile for libertarian-leaning politicians to seek our support in every election.

LP members formed “Libertarians for Sauerbrey,” although we didn’t agree with her on every issue – but she was a lot better than the alternative. Some LP members are now forming “Libertarians for Ehrlich,” and we like him less than we liked her; but otherwise Martin O’Malley might get elected, and that would be a disaster.

We work with other groups all the time, and I have no problem working with libertarian-leaning candidates, as well. It’s often in our best interest to do so.

So let’s not worry too much about ideological purity, and do whatever’s in our best interest to advance the cause of liberty in Maryland.

These columns are to an invited response by the Free? State Libertarian



In the News

The *Baltimore Sun* published **Michael Dobak**'s letter on June 11: "States should scorn the 'Real ID' Act." Pointing out that this amounts to a de facto national ID card paid for by the states, he says that "The Constitution is a detailed plan that lays out distinct things the federal government is allowed to do."

Gerald Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on June 15 opposing building regulations in order to promote affordable housing. He instead suggests construction of private apartments above government buildings, such as libraries.

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider**'s letter on July 15, "Property rights are our rights." He relates Montgomery County's use of eminent domain in the 80's to seize an art deco shopping center in Silver Spring, and laments that even the Supreme Court has forgotten that property rights are human rights.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on August 10 opposing commercial subsidies: "Enough is enough! Government has better things to do with public money than subsidize entertainment. Commercial enterprises will provide amusements at their expense if the interest is there."

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider**'s letter on August 19, "Make criminals pay – literally – for crimes." He suggests that the convicted pay for restitution, arrest, trial, and jail expenses; and form businesses under prison auspices to fund unpaid debts.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on September 7 regarding the Katrina hurricane. After pointing out that it was a disaster waiting to happen, he turns the issue to Maryland: "No government subsidies should be given to restore eroded beaches, or subsidize losses by persons who choose to live alongside or near those beaches. Persons who locate there should understand that they and they alone are responsible for damage that comes naturally."

The [Annapolis] *Capital* published **Tomas Estrada-Palma**'s letter on September 11, in response to others blaming the Federal government for the tribulations of New Orleans. He says that Libertarians "would never steal the meager resources of the poor to satisfy delusions of empire of the rich." He suggests logging onto www.LP.org to be reacquainted with the blessings of liberty.

Gerald Schneider participated in the Montgomery County Council's Holiday Park Senior Center Town Hall Meeting on September 16. Zoning and building codes were discussed, and it subsequently aired on the County Cable Montgomery channel 6.

The *Baltimore Sun* published **Doug McNeil**'s letter on October 15: "Just more baloney from anti-gun lobby." Writing about Florida's new "stand your ground" law, he says "If gun control policy were based on demonstrable facts instead of on imaginary fears, Maryland would have rational self-defense laws like the one in Florida."

Steven Sass submitted a letter to the *Baltimore Sun* on October 16 opposing naming government facilities after politicians.

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider**'s letter on October 26, "It's up to the individual to succeed." He says that it is time to

end excuses for substandard academic performance by any racial or ethnic category.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on November 30 about the House vote to pull out from Iraq. He reports that no Maryland representative voted to exit, and suggests that they all be ousted from office on this issue alone.

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider**'s letter on January 18, "Taxi service inspires idea for day labor centers." He suggests the model used by dispatchers at Ronald Reagan National Airport: contractors and workers would be matched up as needed. Anonymity via code numbers could be preserved.

The *Baltimore Sun* published **Adam Bargar**'s letter on January 21 about Maryland's Wal-Mart bill. He writes "The Free State is less free today so that our legislators can feel better about themselves and pat themselves on the back for their 'morality.'"

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Washington Senior Beacon* was published for February 2006: he explains his reasoning for a U.S. withdrawal from Iraq.

Gerald Schneider conducted a question-and-answer seminar on presidential powers – historically and contemporary – and its abuses of the U.S. Constitution for Montgomery College history classes: on the Germantown campus on February 21, and the Takoma Park campus on February 23.

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 continued 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) through December. However, since then Clear Channel fired Jerry Phillips and canceled Metrotalk. 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!

Can Someone Explain This?

The *Baltimore Sun* recently noted that there is now a Paul Sarbanes path on the Appalachia Trail in Western Maryland. Did he pay for this? Did he build it himself?

I have a feeling that our Senator has done what many elected officials have done (most onerously Senator Byrd of W. Virginia). Specifically, he has used his position to honor himself. **Why Why Why** do **our** employees take such advantage of us, and **WHY** do we let them get away with it? If naming is the issue, let's honor soldiers, firemen, and policemen who have **died** serving the public. Those individuals who have made a lifetime career out of the CITIZEN legislator positions our founders pictured deserve no naming privileges. Strip away all such political names, **UNLESS** the politician has been dead at least 5 years. I think that is the rule the Post Service uses.

No, wait, I do know one item that can be named after politicians: *hurricanes* – although considering the damage each have done to the country, I believe this would be a slight on Mother Nature.

— Steven M. Sass

Editor's Corner



The next issue will be July or August. Thanks to this issue's contributors.

Note that the MdLP has secured a new mailing address; if you have any old literature on hand, please change it accordingly.

I encourage everyone to make good use of our website. It generally is updated more or less instantly when events come up (so please advise of those events). Do you have a burning itch to write something, and can't stand to wait for the next newsletter issue to go to print? Submit it for an on-line editorial. To read what others have opined, click the *State Party* tab at the left, and then the *Editorials* link. Check out the *Photos* and *Audio Files* tabs to keep up with recent occurrences. Need petition forms or instructions? Click the *State Party* tab at the left, and then the *Ballot Access Action* link. Have a sudden urge to contribute on-line? On every page there's a *Contribute* charge card at the left (but for now, don't utilize the \$35 state + National option). Need a renewal form? On every page there's a *Renew Membership* section at the left. As an affiliate officer, do you need a listing of your members? Click the *State Party* tab at the left, and then the *Membership Database* link at the bottom. Instructions are provided for you to print out mailing labels or envelopes for members in your county. Looking for a libertarian or governmental web link? Click the *Reference* tab at the left.

For the hardcore sci-fi fans out there, I recommend *Singularity Sky* by Charles Stross. While it presents a typical off-world futuristic adventure, it centers around the natural conflict which occurs when a repressive world government needs to interact with a more open set of planets. I thought that Mr. Stross revealed himself to be a Libertarian, especially in a conversation near the end of the novel, where one protagonist states:

Yes, terrorists. There are always people who think they're doing the right thing by inflicting misery on their enemies, kid. And you're perfectly right about brewing up biological weapons and spreading rumors. But we can live with a low background rate of that sort of thing more easily than we can live with total surveillance and total censorship of everyone, all the time. If you think a lunatic planting a nuclear weapon in a city is bad, you've never seen what happens when a planet pushes the idea of ubiquitous surveillance and censorship to the limit.

Researching the Brit's biographical information doesn't show any overt affiliation with Libertarians. But much science fiction exhibits libertarian leanings. I was a sci-fi aficionado long before I ever even thought on political themes – but maybe there's a link!

The Convention *is* on April Fool's Day, but that's no joke. Bob Johnston has put a lot of work into the event, and it should prove very worthwhile. I hope to see all of you there.

— Robert E. Glaser

Intoxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Danger of Incrementalism

I have noticed a gradual change in the party's official position on several issues. These changes seem to be motivated by members who think the changes are necessary to get Libertarians elected to public office. While I understand the frustration of failed attempts to elect Libertarians, straying from party principles will not solve the problem. It is not as practical as the changers think. Party members should *tolerate* incremental enactment of libertarian principles, but not alter official party platform positions.

For example, I can put up with Libertarians who are pro-life but otherwise adhere to the party's platform. But I think it was a mistake to modify the party's official stand on abortion as the State Party did at its May 15, 2005 Convention.

Principles are principles! Groucho Marx humorously said: "those are my principles. If you don't like them, I have others." Is the Libertarian Party going to seriously adopt Groucho's dictum spoken in jest?

Desire for political power can corrupt just as having that power can as Lord Acton rightly observed. I hope this will not happen to the Libertarian Party (State and National) any more than I fear it already has.

— Gerald Schneider



On January 14, Baltimore Libertarians held an outing at the *Continental Arms* shooting range.

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



Hadassah Aaronson is the new Montgomery County Libertarian Party Chair

"Some companies are saying they're spending three times as much on the Sarbanes Oxley Act as they are on health care," says Marie Lee, manager and tax policy counsel for the American Electronics Association. The act has ended up costing companies far more than the original SEC estimates and is particularly tough on smaller businesses, because the costs add up to a much larger percentage of revenue.

— from *Electronic Business*

CTIA President and CEO Steve Largent wants repeal of the 3% Federal Excise Tax levied on wireless services. "The FET, which was first enacted to finance the Spanish-American War in 1898, is today slowing the development of innovative products and services that help make our lives more productive and enjoyable," he asserted.

— from *America's Network*

A quick calculation on your editor's telephone bill shows that he pays an effective rate of 74% tax – if government mandated "fees" are considered a different name for taxes.

"But coming to Washington, hat in hand, to get in line with the other lobbyists shows a stunning lack of imagination on the part of semiconductor executives. At the very least, they should be talking about sharing risks and meeting government halfway."

— George Leopold, in *EE Times*

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— *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!*



March 8 (Wednesday): 1:15 pm. *Movies with Messages*. Page 6
 March 11 (Saturday): 2:00 pm. Program Committee Mtg. Page 1
 March 28 (Tuesday): 1:15 pm. *Jefferson Café*. Page 6
 April 1 (Saturday): 1:00-9:00 pm. MdLP Convention. Page 4
 April 3 (Monday): Tax Day protests, *Movies with Messages* (p. 6)
 May 6 (Saturday): Dublin Country Fair. 1421 Whiteford Road,
 Street, MD 21154. Derek Mancinho

June 12 (Wednesday): 1:15 pm. *Movies with Messages*. Page 6
 July 4 (Tuesday): Dundalk Heritage 4th of July Parade. Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173, 1-866-576-9651, waBuzzle11*juno.com
 July 5 (Wednesday): 1:15 pm. *Movies with Messages*. Page 6
 July 27-30 (Thursday-Sunday): Harford County Farm Fair.
 Derek Mancinho
 October 7 (Saturday): Darlington Apple Festival. Derek Mancinho

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):

Phone (evening):

Phone (other):

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: _____

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, and not be registered with any other party): verbally certify your registration status and your agreement with the non-aggression principle with your affiliate officers or the state Secretary. For more information, contact Membership Director Steven Sass at NewMember*md.lp.org or 410-602-8401.

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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.

Gallery Gang: Mondays while the Assembly is in session through April 10 to lobby legislators before the session, attend, drinks afterward. Meet on the State House steps at *Lawyer's Mall* in Annapolis at 7:45 pm. Tony Spezio

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.
Derek Mancinho

Baltimore LP: 1st Monday, 7:00 pm at *Pebbles Pub* (7165 Security Boulevard). Jack Mitcham

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

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

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