

MdLP 2007 Convention

This year's annual convention was held at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk (the same setting as in 2006) on March 3rd. After opening remarks by convention organizer Bob Johnston, National Libertarian Party Chair Bill Redpath made a presentation. He reminded us that it *is* possible to get lots of signatures in a short period of time – we just did that here. The *Libertarian Party* is a part of the *libertarian movement*. He's been a party member since 1984 and active since 1986. Small "l" libertarians sometimes look down at the big "L" libertarians, as we have not been too successful. But the LP has the toughest job of all organizations in the libertarian movement. He has great admiration and respect for CATO and *Reason*. But why is the LP's task the toughest? Because of finance restrictions: the LP cannot go to 501c3's such as the Ford Foundation. Those groups can give *unlimited amounts* to other organizations. Eugene McCarthy in 1968 was fueled by three large contributors, and that campaign was largely responsible for the Vietnam war opposition.

We also have ballot access difficulties, for example in North Carolina, Illinois, and Pennsylvania (where the state won a judgement in a civil lawsuit against the Green Party and Ralph Nader individually). Plus there are institutional barriers against us. Unless a candidate has name recognition like Ross Perot, so many institutions are stacked against us and ignore us. It's difficult to get into debates – Mr. Redpath never got on the same stage with his Democratic and Republican rivals in his bid for Virginia governor. The Fairfax county Chamber of Commerce wasn't interested in having a Libertarian participate. Business groups like stability and are afraid of outsiders.

The voting system with single member plurality districts results in a two-party system. This causes a "throwaway vote" attitude. Instant runoff voting would be a huge step forward; there's a movement for it – it has won approval in four out of four U.S. municipalities where it has been presented to the voters. Mr. Redpath has worked for years to get a pro proportional representation plank into the LP platform; it was in but removed at the Portland convention. We need a federal system which gives political minorities a chance. He wants to make electoral reform a big issue in the LP. Our candidates need to talk about it, and we

should use proportional voting internally.

But the system is entrenched, what chance is there? It's not going to be easy, but there were lots of people who said there will always be slavery, women will never get the vote, etc. In Ontario there now is a citizens commission reviewing different electoral ideas; it will come out with a proposal for the Ontario legislature on October 4, 2007. It requires a 60% "yes" vote to pass. There was a similar vote in British Columbia; it didn't get the needed 60%, but it *did* get a majority of the vote. Should the Ontario change pass, it will be a huge step for moving forward in the U.K. and U.S., but he believes it will be a multi-decade process. Over time people will see that the lack of choice they perceive is due to the current election system.

What's the LP to do in the meantime? There would still be a need for the LP even in a two-party system, but Mr. Redpath sees our future as a participant in a multi-party system. We must run as many non-embarrassing candidates as possible and keep up the pressure as a protest party. Woody Allen said at least 50% of life is just showing up. Libertarians must consistently show up by running candidates.

Sometimes the word "branding" is overused, but he sees Libertarian campaigns – *good* Libertarian campaigns – which downplay the fact that they're Libertarian. He thinks that there are too many candidates who think that if they hide the fact that they're Libertarian, or certain

issues, they'll win. Then when they don't win, what has been accomplished? There will be a Libertarian coming afterwards who can carry on. Do voters get comfortable with the candidate first and the party second? He thinks it's the reverse. For most libertarians, there are two issues which brought them to the party. Stand up and say things that are unfashionable at the time. But it's up to the candidate to decide what to stress in his campaign. We are proposing in the LP what most people think are radical changes. Our candidates must get their ducks in a row, know the ramifications ahead of time, and be prepared to speak to them.

Mr. Redpath proposes a modest goal: we frequently win at county commissioner races and below; a valid qualitative goal for the near future is to get people to *miss us* when we're not there.

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Chesapeake Pride Festival



The Maryland Libertarian Party had an outreach booth at the Chesapeake Pride Festival on Saturday August 25, 2007. The festival was held at the Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds in Crownsville. The 103 degree heat (THI 115!) kept a lot of people away, and we ourselves packed up and left around 5 pm – two hours before the official closing. The Greens and Democrats also had booths at the event. In the photo left to right: Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Tony Spezio, Bill Buzzell, Susan Gaztañaga; Darlene Nicholas in front. Darlene recently moved to Maryland from

Connecticut, where she and her husband were active in the LP there.

The *Metro Weekly* had an article about the event. Perhaps unintentionally, the tone of the article is a little ungracious toward the political party booths: “The glad-handing politicians were gone this year, but the festival still pulled in more than 40 vendors. Granted, a few were political. The Democrats, Greens, and Libertarians were on offer.”

— Susan Gaztañaga

Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

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Email: LPMD.Newsletter*ICEngineering.com (preferably)

Mail: LPMD Newsletter, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Fax: 360-364-8748. Newsletter submissions are solicited.

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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.

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.

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Freedom is Beautiful

This was the theme of the 2007 Fourth of July Parade, held for the 73rd consecutive year in Dundalk, East Baltimore County. Marching bands came from as far away as Georgia, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada to participate – and once again, Maryland Libertarians were there as well. Bill Buzzell, Susan Gaztañaga, Mike Linder, Alex Peak, and Davis Gallagher carried the Libertarian banner and American flag, with Bill driving his car that we had decorated for the occasion. Alex showed up in a dress shirt and tie, so we let him lead the way carrying the stars and stripes. So powerful was the effect of simply carrying the flag in a dignified manner that people stood up and saluted as it passed.

The parade began at the Logan Shopping Center on Dundalk Avenue and wound its way through Dundalk Center, passing two reviewing stands, where announcers introduced the public to “the third largest political party in America.” At times such as these, I can see the rewards of our years of public education. People along the route clapped and called out encouragement as we passed by. I could hear teenagers asking “What’s Libertarian?” and their parents or companions answering, “It’s not Republican or Democrat. It’s a third party.”

I hope that next year more Libertarians can arrange to be in this parade. The people watching every year are glad to see us and would miss us if we were not there. We have worked long and hard to get to this point. We could blame the people for sitting back and letting us do all the work to preserve their freedoms, but I’d rather see the glass as half full.

— *Susan Gaztañaga*
Libertarian Party of Baltimore

Sunfest in Rising Sun – June 2, 2007



Dave Sten with special pal – who knew The Bird was a Libertarian? (photo courtesy Brett Peterson)

State Executive Board Officers

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Vice Chairman	Steve Boone	443-386-3977	Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
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At Large	Tony Spezio	---	TheSpeez@yahoo.com
At Large	Nick Sarwark	301-526-7491	Libertarian*Sarwark.org

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

County Affiliates

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www.UMLibertarians.org	U. of Md./College Park	Adam Bargar	UMCP*md.lp.org

Chair's Report



First of all, I wish to thank Dave and Renée Sten for hosting the LPMD summer picnic. It was the third time they have done so, and they did a great job as always. Also, thanks to everyone who attended and made it such an enjoyable time!

My report will be similar to the report I gave during the Central Committee meeting during the picnic.

After a steady decline over the last several years, LPMD membership has stabilized between 65 and 70. By the time this newsletter is mailed, over 100 membership inquiry responses

will have been sent out, which should bring in new members and activists. Further, with the 2008 Presidential and Congressional elections approaching, we should be able to increase our numbers to over 100 next year.

Financially, we are not in bad shape. We used almost all of the non-committed funds from the treasury (monies not including funds committed to county organizations and the legal fund) to jump-start our ballot access drive last year. And despite the low membership numbers, we have been able to rebuild the non-committed portion of the treasury back to over \$2,000, with the most expensive expenditure – insurance – already having been paid through next June.

My goal for the next year is to run a full slate of candidates for the 2008 U.S. House of Representatives election. There are eight races up for grabs. There is no Senate race until 2010.

I don't care if you have no money, experience, or organization. I'm looking for people who are willing to take advantage of the media opportunities that elections bring to get our message out.

Do you have a specific Libertarian issue that you want to bring to the public's attention? Here is your chance! You will get newspaper interviews and other public relations opportunities. It may not be from the bigger media sources, such as *The Baltimore Sun* or the local television stations, but you will still get speaking engagements and interviews.

Will we win any of the races next year? Highly doubtful. But that doesn't mean we can't affect the elections. Most of the Democrats running for re-election have supported the Iraq War and Patriot Act in one way or another. And the Republicans' record on spending, guns, and corporate welfare is abysmal. We can run against the candidates of both parties on their own issues.

I also recall reading an Internet article just after the 2006 elections, which pointed out that only 170,000 votes – spread out over key races nationwide – kept the Republicans from maintaining control of both houses of Congress. 170,000 votes is only 5.5% of the registered voters in Maryland. Even if our candidates only pull a couple of percentage points in their individual races, with control of Congress so close, every vote truly matters and our presence in the elections will put the candidates of both major parties on the defensive because of their hypocrisies.

My goal for the next year is to run a full slate of candidates for the 2008 U.S. House of Representatives election.

In addition, the Republicans in Maryland ran candidates in only six of the eight House of Representatives races in 2006, choosing not to field a candidate in the 5th district (vs. Steny Hoyer) or 7th (vs. Elijah Cummings). There is the possibility that they may not do so again next year, in which case some of our candidates could participate in 2-way races!

Even if you don't want to run as a candidate, you can still help out. Would you be willing to work an extra Saturday or an overtime shift per month, and donate the money to one of the candidates? \$50 buys pens, t-shirts, fliers, door-hangers, and yard signs with our name on it. Also, we need to donate money to the LP Presidential campaign. The Presidential election is where we get our biggest chance to spread our message to the people, and it takes money to spread the message.

If you are interested in running, or have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at Chair*md.lp.org, or call me at 443-310-5373.

Special thanks to our monthly contributors: Ruth Andrasco, Steve Boone, Bill Buzzell, Michael Fewster, Russell Kominski, Thibaux Lincecum, Donald McCorkle, Joe Miller, Donald Nicholas, Nick Sarwark, and William Shainline.

— Bob Johnston



Nick Sarwark rejoins the Executive Board

What I Did in Summer School

The Atlas Society held its 18th Annual Summer Seminar conference on July 8-15, 2007 at Towson University. The Summer Seminar is a week long conference on the theory and practice of Objectivism. Spear and your editor attended.



Being a Libertarian has been somewhat of an emotional roller coaster. When someone has been a Democrat into their sixties and having had a brief but unfulfilling stint with the GOP, it takes awhile to get used to a major shift in ideology.

I never heard anyone speak of Libertarians, or even what they stood for. When I heard Charles Murray speak about his book *What It Means To Be A Libertarian*, it did not resonate at once. The library took at least a month to get a copy, but it was so well

written that it hit me like a bolt of lightning.

I had been a libertarian all my life. On the one hand, just knowing that others – I had no idea how many – shared my basic political instincts was comforting. I told Dee and anyone who would listen to me that I had finally found a view of politics that I could support.

But it wasn't long before buyer's remorse set in. All my friends did their best to attack anyone foolish enough to think that anything but the "Big D" and "Big R" parties could have any meaning. Like a teenage lover I was all thumbs. My emotions ran well ahead of my knowledge and skill to defend what I felt deep down was the right way.

As has been the case in my life I proceeded to make every mistake in the book. This was okay when I was twenty because I had another fifty or sixty years to correct my errors, but no one had to tell me that the meter was running out. I had better get back to the basics and try to understand the big picture and bear down on the what, who, why, when, and how.

Steve Boone had to just about hog tie me into going to the Leadership Institute for a week. It was not something I looked forward to doing. Staying in a basement dorm with a bunch of youngsters, and sharing a bathroom in the morning was not my idea of a fun week. Also, they started classes at 8 am and went on into the night. Fortunately Steve won. I went and it was the highlight of my campaign experience. It started me looking at the issue in a totally different way. Most of all it made me realize that a vast majority of what I thought I knew about politics was wrong. Also the difference between marketing in the business world and the political world is like the difference between running a jungle tribe of total illiterates and a major nation. Thanks, Steve.

When the Atlas Society offered a week long summer seminar, their 18th, this year to be held at Towson University it brought back thoughts about the Leadership Institute. It would entail staying in the dorms for week, but at least I had the room to myself instead of having a bunk bed with thirty youngsters. Also the thought of eating in the college dining room, wasn't a big deal since I can eat anything I can get my fork into. There were a couple of days when we shared the dining room with a zillion young cheerleaders, but it could have been worse.

The actual seminar was far and away beyond my expecta-

tions. The speakers were as good, on the whole, as any that I have experienced at seminars that cost two to three times as much. Their overall grasp of their topic, as well as Objectivism in general, was impressive. In the Q and A most of the speakers had their material down pat. The topics were not just about Objectivism: in fact, many of the topics were about music, movies, and how to make pro-liberty films. Just to name a few.

Another benefit was that after the last session ended, generally at 10:00 or 10:30 pm, we went to the bar and got to review the day's material with the speakers and other attendees. The speakers also joined us in the dining room; so again, you could ask questions about what they had spoken about or just get their ideas on things in general.

For me it was like mining gold, as some of them had known Ayn Rand, Murray Rothbard, and many other Libertarian pioneers. I assume that next year's seminar will be on the west coast. I am not mad about flying anymore, but I will most likely go. It is gratifying to pick up a nugget now and then that you can incorporate into your idea bank.

In fact I really do believe that one of these days I will be able to convince people that I know what I am talking about. Well, maybe not Dee but then she is prejudiced. Who ever heard of paying attention to a husband? Especially one of such long standing.

If you want to know more of the specific agenda, go to:
www.ObjectivistCenter.org/cth-62-1846-SumSem07.aspx

— *Spear Lancaster*

I have been a member of The Objectivist Center for a number of years (they recently renamed themselves the Atlas Society), and received mailings announcing their summer seminars. Previously out-of-state, I never gave serious consideration to attending. Being held locally this year, I figured that if I didn't go this time I never would.

I found the presentations to be of a high level, and while I felt that I was near the bottom of the class (considering that many were economists and philosophers, and I am a lowly engineer) – even though I have certainly done more reading on Objectivism than the average bear – I found that I definitely learned from the week's experience. Most of the attendees were long-time repeat participants.

I enjoyed the sessions on Business Ethics (William Kline), Judicial Activism (David N. Mayer), a show put on by Fred Seddon on David Kelley's *The Art of Reasoning*, Will Thomas' view of Art (Romantic Realism), and Scott Bullock's (from the Institute for Justice) talk on American Values and Legal Activism.

Many of the Objectivists are also Libertarians, and it felt good to be in a room full of people with a personal philosophy close to that of my own. Much like an MdLP gathering, but more theoretical in nature.

The week culminated in a free-spirited dinner dance which was quite an evening.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

Minutes of the Initial Governing Body of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 3 March 2007

The Initial Governing Body of the Libertarian Party of Maryland met at *Squires Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by chairman David Sten. Of the 25 members, 14 were present plus 8 proxies were presented. David Sten, Steven Boone, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Robert Johnston III, Anthony Spezio, and David Johnston were nominated as officers; all were subsequently elected by a voice vote. The Libertarian Party of Maryland's Constitution as submitted to the Board of Elections (revision date 24 July 2004) was approved by a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 3 March 2007

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squires Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm by chairman Dave Sten.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Robert Johnston III; and Nick Sarwark. It validated that upon opening 15 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. One proxy was represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 35 members. By the end of the meeting, 17 members were in attendance out of 37, with one proxy.

Minutes: The minutes of the 23 July 2006 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

Membership report: Bob Johnston reported that renewal notices for February and March have not yet gone out; we have 71 current members as of today. As of a month ago, there were approximately 100 members.



Chair's Report: The party has been recertified by the Board of Elections. We submitted 14,644 signatures, of which approximately 3000 were from volunteers. The remainder were from paid petitioner Robert Lynch, and petitioners paid for by funds raised through Scott Kohlhaas. 11,083 were declared valid; we are certified through 31 December 2010. Now we are in a registration drive: the goal is to reach a 1% state level by the end of 2010 (approx 32,000). As of 31 January, 4726 (0.15%) were registered Libertarian. We are gaining approximately 100 registrations per month. Paid registrations typically cost \$4 each. In Annapolis, there is legislation in process for multi party nomination (SB545); and to permit petitioning to initiate a state constitutional referendum (SB487); hearings for both are on 8 March. We need to look at how to handle future elections and candidate recruitment.

Officer Elections: The following were nominated as officers: David Sten, Steven Boone, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Robert Johnston III, Anthony Spezio, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Charles Tavik, and Nicholas Sarwark. Election was by written ballot. Just prior to meeting adjournment, the winners as announced by Dean Ahmad and Derek Pomery were: David Sten, Steven Boone, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Robert Johnston III, Charles Tavik, and Nicholas Sarwark. [After adjournment, Dean Ahmad and Derek Pomery found that the stated tally was incorrect and that the proper winners are: David Sten, Steven Boone, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Robert Johnston III, Anthony Spezio, and Nicholas Sarwark.]

Program Committee's Report: the Program Committee recommended approval of the following proposed changes to the State Program:

1. Append a new bullet to the *Education* section: "Discouraging government interference and control with home schooling."
Vote: favor=9, oppose=6, motion PASSES.
2. Delete "such things as" in the first bullet under *Job and Wealth Creation without Corporate Welfare*.
Vote: motion PASSES on a unanimous voice vote.
3. Append a new paragraph to the *Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment* section: "Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for their irresponsibility by facing strict civil liability. Promote free market environmentalism to solve problems."
Vote: favor=13, oppose=2, motion PASSES.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: Robert Glaser proposed that in Article V, section 7, A, 3, the second sentence be replaced with the following: "The committee will meet at least 7 days and not more than 90 days before the first day of the annual convention." This refers to the Program Committee; the numbers are presently 40 and 72. The proposal PASSED on a unanimous voice vote.

Announcements: the Central Committee thanked Dave Sten for Chair duties, Bob Johnston for a successful ballot access drive, and Robert Glaser for various duties.

Pause: The Committee recessed at 6:53 pm and resumed at 7:23 pm. The results of the election of officers were announced.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

The latest analysis of the IRS's National Research Program Individual Reporting Compliance Study places the difference between the amount of tax that taxpayers should pay for a given year and the amount that is paid voluntarily and timely at an estimated \$345 billion for tax year 2001, a non-compliance rate of 16.3%. Eight percent is attributed to non-filing, 10 percent to underpayment with timely filed returns, and 82 percent to underreporting.

— from the SSA/IRS Reporter, Fall 2007

Picnic – August 11



Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 11 August 2007

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 5:08 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Robert Johnston III; and Bill Buzzell. It validated that 10 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. The Central Committee rolls consist of 34 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 3 March 2007 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted by Michael Linder. A motion proposed by Lorenzo Gaztañaga passed directing the "heavy hitters" from the ballot access contribution drive be telephoned and thanked.



Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that Scott Kohlhaas is interested in pursuing 1% Maryland Libertarian registrations after the 2008 election. There currently are about 3600 registered Libertarians. Our membership is at 67, but the treasury is healthy. Bob's main goal for next year is to run a full slate of candidates for Congress in the 2008 election. He believes that the War and Civil Liberties will be our main issues. We have several outreach events coming up: Chesapeake Pride Festival, Essex Day, and the Fells Point Festival. The General Assembly opens the second week of January; there are issues to be involved with.

Constitutional Amendment: In Article V, section 7, A, 3, the second sentence be replaced with the following: "The committee will meet at least 7 days and not more than 90 days before the first day of the annual convention." This refers to the Program Committee; the numbers are presently 40 and 72. The amendment PASSED on a unanimous voice vote.

Obituary: Kitty Atwood passed away on August 3. She was a very active MdLP member in the 1990's. Steve Boone requested a moment of silence in memory of her.

Pledge Dues: Bill Buzzell proposed that 20% (after friendly amendment) of pledge dues be paid quarterly to organized county affiliates. Vote: 6 FOR, 3 AGAINST – motion PASSES.

Announcements: Doug McNeil sent in a request for members to assist with TrueVoteMD.org issues. Lorenzo Gaztañaga continues to work with other alternative parties on common issues; he volunteers to run for Congress in 2008. The Baltimore LP is preparing a raffle for gas cards and/or grocery cards. Spear Lancaster is working on getting the Libertarian name, philosophy, and policies known. Robert Glaser requested articles for the upcoming October *Free? State Libertarian*. The Central Committee thanked Dave and Renée Sten for preparing the picnic.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

(these minutes are not yet approved by the Central Committee)



"Politicians do not strive for office year after year because they are desperately eager to provide us with pension checks. Readers who are still of the opinion that politics is driven by an altruistic pursuit of the public good probably also believe in the tooth fairy and the Easter bunny and have total confidence in the claims of telemarketers."

— Benjamin Ginsberg

Professor of Political Science at the Johns Hopkins University and author of *The American Lie: Government by the People and Other Political Fables* (Paradigm Publishers, July 2007)

— from the *Gazette*

Editor's Corner



The next issue will likely be February. Send me submissions whenever an idea hits you, don't wait until then. Occasionally I receive material anonymously – it is my general policy not to print such articles unless the author is known to me (pseudonyms okay).

Thanks to this issue's contributors.

Like anyone over college age, I grew up in a time when the common belief was that privacy was the norm, not the exception. In modern times, the combination of technology, government expansion, and fear of terrorism has dashed that expectation into nothingness. Loss of privacy appears no matter where we look:

- Governor O'Malley proposes to collect DNA samples from anyone who is *arrested*. Current law requires conviction before adding to a genetic database. (*Baltimore Sun*)
- The Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Reform Act of 2007 expands the Employment Eligibility Verification System (EEVS). Employers would be required to submit identifying information on all 150 million members of the American work force to the Department of Homeland Security. The database includes photographs. Opponents point out that the government consistently has two problems: bad data getting *into* the database; and getting bad data *out* of the database. The error rate is currently 4.1 percent. (*eWeek*)
- In Maryland, E-ZPass details are popping up in trials (*Baltimore Sun*). The 56 million transactions per year can be subpoenaed in criminal and civil cases. Currently a voluntary toll paying mechanism, how long before it becomes mandatory? For some, it is already a practical necessity.
- The answer to this question might surprise you: How many data items does it take to uniquely identify you from among the 6.7 billion people on earth? Gender, zip code, and date of birth alone narrows it down to about 95 people (*CIOinsight*). Add in from 2-12 more data items and you are pinpointed: the kind of car you drive, restaurants you frequent, etc. Seemingly harmless anonymous information requested by websites or marketing polls can be combined with various databases to identify you. What can this information be used for? Private business and government both pose risks in this area. Some of this information is "protected" by law. But hardly a day goes by that a report isn't issued that a company or government datafile has been lost or stolen. Even the highly reputable Johns Hopkins University, my alma mater and employer, has suffered these indignities. In my opinion, once the information exists in a database, it is forever at risk of compromise.

The time is not far off (when we old-timers pass into the night) when *no one* will even have an expectation of privacy. My students welcome surveillance cameras around their dorms, as do mall shoppers. It promotes *safety*.

It's time to admit it: very simply, the era of privacy is gone. Forever. Get over it.

By the way, the government station to get your newborn infant implanted with the RFID chip is in your neighborhood...

— Robert E. Glaser



In the News

Gerald Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on February 9: "A heated issue: Is it or isn't it global warming?"

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on February 28, "Beware erosion of private property rights." He cautions against government action on "mansions." "

Jay Baker buttressed Gerald Schneider's Feb. 9 letter with one of his own, which the *Gazette* printed on March 3: "Perhaps man isn't to blame for global warming."

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Adam Bargar's** letter on March 18: "The money belongs to state taxpayers." He says the belief that tax money inherently belongs to the state is a false premise.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on March 23: "Protecting our rights against 'but-heads'." He rails against those purportedly in favor of unalienable rights who insert exceptions (buts).

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on April 25, "Taxes don't always benefit public." He points out how corrupt and inefficient the government tax system is.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Washington Beacon* was published in the May issue about pulling American troops out of Iraq. He suggests that if we leave, other countries will then request our help in countering any factional infighting. He also discusses the difference between "liberty" and "democracy."

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on June 13, "Do we really need a government 'nanny'?" He concludes with: "Certainly, the 'if one person is saved argument' fails to justify government regulation."

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Washington Beacon* was published in the July issue about pulling American troops out of Iraq. He calls personal attacks over this matter "uncouth" and suggests **Jay Baker's** arguments in his June letter provide a proper example.

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on July 6, "Developers benefit from subsidies." He responds to Blair Lee's June 29 column. On July 20, Blair Lee countered the response. On July 27, **Gerald Schneider** replied to that counter with: "Public does subsidize developers."

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on August 22: "Make English official language – of government."

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on September 14, "Time for 'tough love' if Chesapeake Bay's health is to be restored." He discusses fishing moratoriums and funding through polluter fines and user fees.

Bill Buzzell's "Libertarian Club of Baltimore" continues to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program on northern Charles St. The cleanups promote the Libertarian name.

The Institute for Justice's publication *Liberty & Law*, in its October issue, contains two group photographs including **Nick Sarwark** in an article about law students interning at the organization over the summer.

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

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JANUARY 4 - 6, 2008

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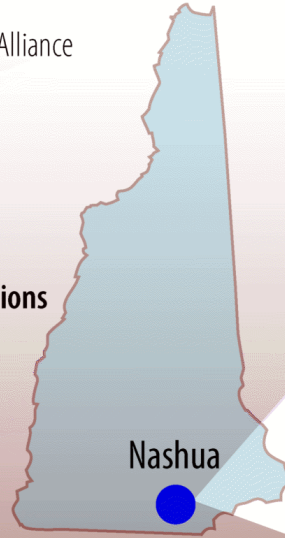
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No Libertarian in the race? Get people to think that maybe it would have been a better race *with* one. Then legislators will be more receptive to ballot access reform. We also must keep a long term perspective: he thinks that there will be Libertarians elected to state legislatures, and eventually to Congress. Mr. Redpath closed by reminding us that Harry Browne said that even if we don't achieve political success, just knowing other libertarians is a reward in itself.



Next up was LP presidential candidate George Phillies: "The Democrats and Republicans are running our country... straight into the ground." Fortunately there is the libertarian choice: peace, liberty, and prosperity. We carry the golden promise of the Declaration of Independence in our party. Futures have been described by

FDR, JFK, and Ronald Reagan. We have the secret: ask not what your government can do *for* you, because you'll find out what your government will be doing *to* you. America has a lovely Statue of Liberty, and we will bring it to you; American liberty is the symbol of freedom – at least until George W. Bush got a hold of it.

We have opportunities in upcoming elections. The American people have already decided to end the war; in 2008, who will they see? Hillary Clinton, Rudolph Giuliani? Plus *us* talking about foreign nonintervention, a future of peace, and friendly international relations. Dr. Phillies is already campaigning now; he started in 2006. If we're going to be successful we need strong professional campaigns. Karl Rove showed that the base is the key; do sound politics on a consistent basis year after year.

① Volunteers matter. They bring more volunteers into the campaign. Volunteers do most of what we need to do. We must mobilize the American people to our support. Dr. Phillies is already building a volunteer organization in every state; he recently helped rebuild the Rhode Island LP. ② Money matters. especially because there's less money around for Libertarian nominees than previously. He is paying technicians, will have student interns with low wages, and has a Chief of Staff for free. ③ The internet matters. He worked on the Badnarik campaign, has facebook, yahoo, and myspace pages. ④ Left issues matter. We haven't said enough about peace, the racist war on drugs, or corporate welfare. ⑤ Ballot access matters. Past LP presidential candidates have not done much in this area; he is pushing his volunteers to contribute to state drives.

On the environment: Dr. Phillies will campaign against the right Republican claim that there is no evidence for global warming. He will offer a concrete carbon reduction scheme. The Federal government should not get involved with researching coal liquidization, etc. He would set a fixed rate for the federal government to purchase electricity from renewable sources – mostly wind and some solar. How much? As much as the federal government uses: that's about 100 times the current windmill capacity.

How to get out of the war in Iraq? As president, he gives an order that all personnel and supplies will be removed in six months. Make the announcement and let the Iraqis adjust. He'd tell the Mayor of Kabul, Hamid Karzai, we'll be leaving in six

months. Grant political asylum to our allies in both countries.

Dr. Phillies will run a uniform campaign in all states. The most heinous tax levied on Americans is the grandchild tax: the national debt. He has laid out a plan to retire the national debt in a reasonable time. On stagnant wages: it's because the federal government pushes for a strong dollar. Where to cut the federal budget? Dept. of Education: repeal No Child Left Behind; fix D.C. schools before meddling in the states. Defense: there are loonies around the world who want to hurt us; but this is a *spy* operation; large reductions in the military budget. He will ask Congress to create a tax credit attached to every child, related or not – \$5000 per year, paying for the education of that child.

Questioned, his top three issues are: end the war; civil liberties; education; and environment. On health care: repeal the transfer tax of requiring hospital emergency rooms to accept any patient; equalize tax deductions for cash or insurance company payments. On the wasted vote syndrome: when one votes for or supports a Libertarian candidate, it counts twice – it helps the campaign and helps the party be more visible. Dr. Phillies closed saying that the Republican Party is attempting to commit suicide by pushing neocon ideas. We can become one of the two major parties. He encourages all to support Libertarians, not Republicans who did not earn our support.

Frostburg State University economics professor Bill Anderson spoke next on the Duke "non-rape" case. A registered Libertarian, he said that this case is the gift that "keeps on taking." On March 14, the case will be a year old. "On a hoax with not one scintilla of truth." How can a district attorney push false charges? The accuser was being put into a detox facility and was asked by a nurse if she had been raped. She first said yes, and then the story changed over and over. A known prostitute, she was not taken seriously. Michael Nifong was running behind in the polls and needed an issue. He took it over as head investigator. On DNA: there was no match to the lacrosse players. As of April 10 investigators had found DNA from others, but agreed not to disclose this information to the defense. They would not look for exculpatory evidence – only that to support the rape conviction. In North Carolina, prosecutors have a lot of power. Dr. Anderson personally declared war on Nifong in May (via LewRockwell.com). Five to ten bloggers starting writing about it being a hoax. It was circulated that Nifong was going after the bloggers, including Bill Anderson.



This is going to be an important case because the press, academia, feminists, and prosecutors all joined together. Two charges remain: kidnaping and sexual assault. Everybody expects them to be dropped, but who knows? This is a situation of reverse jury nullification, with the attempt to convict without evidence of a crime. The legal expenses for all of the families together are \$5 million. He's learned that the court system is subject to hoaxes.

The after dinner speaker was Wes Benedict. He spoke on recruiting candidates and volunteers to build a state party, and brought lessons from the 2006 election in Texas (he is the Texas LP Executive Director). His saga begins in 2003 when he found that they needed to get 45,000 signatures in 75 days. Taking over



as Executive Director, he tried contacting the county chairs via email and telephone. He found many bad numbers. Nobody was checking the Texas LP voicemail, and the alternative numbers provided were in fact disconnected.

Most state parties and candidates don't do much at all, but still get about 2% in elections – no matter how little deserved. It's so easy to answer the phone, correct bad email addresses.

Mr. Benedict recommends that we

recruit candidates and run them for office. Google "libertarian party candidate recruitment manual"; the 2001 LNC published one; *use it*. Texas LP had 168 candidates on the November ballot: over 600 volunteers distributed nearly 225,000 door hangers; 4000 LP yard signs were deployed; there was \$110,227 in state party revenue; \$532,000 in candidate spending (\$429,000 Badnarik alone, \$103,000 others). They got 7,066,118 LP votes (57% of U.S. total). Two people recruited 218 candidates in 30 days.

It is important to have candidates, because each one increases free media coverage. The candidate might become an active volunteer, might spend personal funds on promotion, might raise additional funds from others, and might recruit other volunteers to help with their campaigns. Running candidates regularly permits

comparison from year to year. No libertarian has ever won a contested partisan race in Texas, but there is a slight growth in LP candidate vote percentages. They got lots of free media coverage.

Question: are we trying to win elections, build the party, or affect public policy? Answer: that's largely a moot question. Most good strategies and tactics achieve all three. Win if you can. If you can't win, get as many votes as you can. Wins and higher vote totals affect public policy. Question: do people vote for the party or the person? Mr. Benedict asked ten friends who lived in or near Ron Paul's congressional district who their congressman was and what did they say? They knew they were Republicans but can never name their congressman. He thinks people vote for *people* for President and Governor. Below that, they vote for the *party*... they just *don't care that much*.

Matt Finkel, candidate for Travis County Justice of the Peace in Austin got the highest percentage (34.5%) of any candidate in the U.S. appearing on the ballot as a Libertarian, with the exception of two unopposed candidates in Colorado. He spent \$120 on his campaign, but Travis County does lots of "vote libertarian" activity. Texas candidates got between 2 and 4 percent with expenditures from \$0 to \$400,000. How to recruit candidates? Decide you want *lots* whether they run active or minimal campaigns (paper candidates). Give up convincing everyone that having candidates is a good idea – just need a Central Committee majority for nomination. One person can recruit all of them: he convinced one in every 30 minutes of phoning.

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www.MD.LP.org/join-form.pdf

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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 Jan. 14 through April 7, 2008 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

LNO (Harford Co.): 7:30 pm. The date and location rotates.
Derek Mancinho

Baltimore LP: 7:00 pm Sundays as scheduled at the *Charred Rib*, 12 Ridgely Road, Timonium. Susan Gaztañaga

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

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