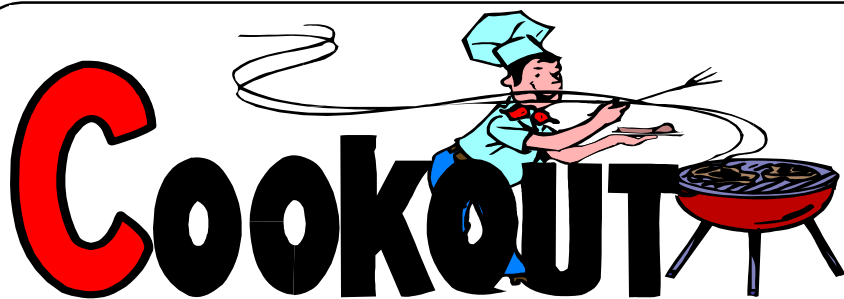


Towsontowne Festival



The first outreach event of the season took place on May 2/3. The weather was cloudy and drizzly with patches of sunlight on Saturday, but rains caused the entire fair to close down on Sunday. No matter, petition signatures were gathered while it was open.



Picnic and Central
Committee Meeting

page 4 

Chair's Report

There are less than sixteen months to the 2010 elections!

Two Maryland Libertarian candidates for the US House of Representatives were nominated at the special Central Committee meeting on Sunday, 28 June: Dr. Richard Davis (1st congressional district), and Lorenzo Gaztañaga (2nd).

We have two candidates running for the state House of Delegates in Baltimore County: Justin Kinsey (5b), and Brandon Brooks (11).

I plan on again running a full slate of candidates for the US House of Representatives, as well as for US Senate, and possibly Governor. I would also like to have at least one candidate running for either local, county, or state office in each county, although that will be a difficult task.

Have you ever thought about running for office? Do you have a burning issue or issues you wish to bring to the attention of the public and the media? Elections are the ultimate outreach tool to promote Libertarian issues and solutions to the public.

What are you going to do this summer and fall to help promote our candidates, party, and ideas? Are you a member of the state party? Then become a member of the national party. Are you a monthly contributor? Then become a monthly contributor to the national party, too.

Start saving money to donate to our 2010 candidates. \$100 buys yard signs, t-shirts, pens, buttons, refrigerator magnets, bumper stickers, etc., and gets our name out in public.



It also takes money to advertise, whether on the radio, television, newspapers, or websites.

To maintain our status as a state political party past 2010, we need to secure at least 10,000 signatures by the end of 2010. I have been informed by the Libertarian National Committee that there is currently no money for ballot access, therefore we are on our own.

Do you know 100 people, whether friends, family, or co-workers, who are registered Maryland voters and will sign our petitions to continue to function as a political party in Maryland?

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a candidate, or volunteering for the MdLP? Please have them contact me at chair*md.lp.org, or 443-310-5373.

We can always use help at outreach booths. Check the calendar on the state party website at www.MD.LP.org for upcoming events.

Be sure to attend the annual summer picnic and central committee meeting on Saturday, 22 August at Dave and Renée Sten's place on the Elk River in North East, MD. Details in this issue of the newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or complaints, feel free to contact me at chair*md.lp.org, or 443-310-5373.

— Bob Johnston

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

Editor: Robert E. Glaser, PhD

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.

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.php

If You Are Not a Subscriber

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Pride Festival



The annual Pride festival took place on June 6th in Baltimore City's Druid Hill Park. Bill Buzzell is shown soliciting petition signatures.

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Robert S. Johnston III	443-310-5373	Chair*md.lp.org
Vice Chairman	David Sten	410-287-2823	Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626	Secretary*md.lp.org
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Treasurer*md.lp.org
Media	Muir Boda	410-603-3347	Wicomico*md.lp.org
At Large	Lorenzo Gaztañaga	443-414-6539	BaltimoreCity*md.lp.org
At Large	M. Justin Kinsey	410-456-3584	mJustinK*me.com

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

County Affiliates

	Anne Arundel County	Eric Gorr	AnneArundel*md.lp.org
	Baltimore City/County	Susan Gaztañaga	443-414-6539
		Dave Sten	410-287-2823
		Muir Boda	410-603-3347
www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County		
	Wicomico County		

PICNIC



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 22 (rain or shine)

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

Schedule: 2:00 pm: picnicking

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

Cost: \$ 8.00 to: MdLP, P.O. Box 176, Abingdon, MD 21009-0176 by Aug. 17
\$10.00 on site

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

Bring: folding chairs

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

Directions:

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



Activities:

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



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

Don't miss it! We had the picnic at Dave's the last two summers. There were good turnouts and they were resounding successes.

2009 MdLP Convention

The 2009 MdLP Convention was held on Saturday, March 7 at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk. The featured speaker was Judge John Buttrick, and he started by saying "Wake Up, Libertarians!" Politics is a hardball enterprise the way the Republicans and Democrats play it. He is prohibited from much political activity as a judge; can't endorse candidates, that's forbidden – but he *can* say negative things, *that's* not prohibited. Judge Buttrick has been observing the course of the LP over the past eight years. He cautions that his presentation is not a ray of sunshine; he's depressed. Doesn't see liberty in our lifetimes. His fear is that the National LP is not a factor in promoting fundamental change; it is ineffective. Presidential campaigns have been exercises in futility; the vote totals have been between 0.3-0.5%. We have had all different types of candidates. In 1980 Ed Clark got 1.1%, he had a lot of money (and ran five minute national television ads). No campaign since has had equivalent dollars. If the trend continues, we will have stagnation and the result will be the death knell of the National LP. Judge Buttrick was critical of the Barr campaign; the public thinks the LP is becoming a quirky form of the Republican party. This is not attractive to either side. It is not the path of growth.

This is not a new problem. In 1961 Murray Rothbard heard people saying that Richard Nixon was really a libertarian; he was talking about the future of the libertarian movement before the LP: "the right wing has been transformed into a theocratic state against individualism."

The National LP is in trouble unless the alignment with the conservative movement is altered. We will lose the present core membership and provide little reason for others to join. Goldwater got the Republican party to wake up, Reagan reaped the rewards. Goldwater told Buttrick "I'm a libertarian, too"; he's dead now, guesses it's okay to reveal that.

What to do? Revival of the LP doesn't begin at the top; it starts here at the local level. This is where the real work is done. Thinks the local and state parties are more radical than National. No accusations of corruption. It is very hard work at the national level to break into the media. You can do it at the local level, just need to work at it. If you're a novelty, you're news. Local candidates sometimes get surprisingly good press.

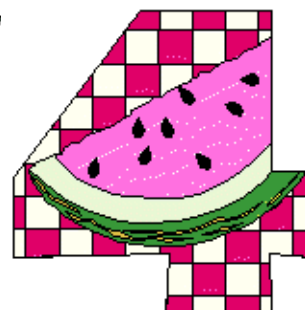
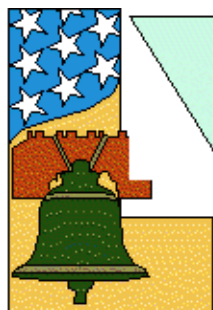
"Honor the activist;" it's the activists who are in the trenches doing the work. We ought not to criticize too much. Libertarians get more vote percentages the more local the office. We need to take advantage of "reverse coattails." National candidates should seek out local candidates. There is no contradiction between upholding libertarian ideals and current issues: social issues, Bill of Rights, the economy.

Judge Buttrick says eliminate the income tax for the rest of the year and end two illegal wars plus the War on Drugs – we could even save Bank of America! Espouse **limited** government and **no** taxes instead of *less* government and *lower* taxes. Make it clear that our goal is freedom in our lifetimes. We shouldn't be hiding. The website should be full of information that will leave no doubt. Endorse and link to other libertarian movements. Don't imitate the tactics of the other parties: what works for a political duopoly won't work for an upstart. We can't play in their ballpark. We need new tactics, like the Ron Paul campaign. We need new ways to come at the entire battle. The internet helps us; we have technology on our side. We have to craft a message to appeal to the left *and* the right. Don't just stress economic issues. What about social issues? The insane War on Drugs, gay marriage, civil rights, the 2nd amendment, torture issues, foreign policy, noninterventionism. These issues must be conveyed to the outside world through our candidates. Our candidates need strong literature. We ought not to hide the fact

that we have *radical* opinions. We ought not be seduced by candidates who are libertarian on only *some* issues, or are a celebrity candidate. We are always wrong in what we think about celebrity/notoriety. We don't have the luxury of sending mixed messages to the public. We must proudly state that **we are libertarians** and our ideas are moral and efficacious. Can we get a million votes? That's 1%. We can if we hit the sweet spot. If we don't start making changes we might see the stagnation, just drop off, and become a complete nonplayer. That's our challenge. The stakes are liberty in our lifetime.

The Judge sounds extremely pessimistic, but at the root he is very optimistic: he's not ready to give up pursuing electoral success with the LP.

— Robert E. Glaser





Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by chairman Bob Johnston. The agenda, Treasurer's report, 9 August 2008 Central Committee meeting Minutes, and 24 February 2009 Program Committee meeting Minutes were distributed.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Dave Sten; and Bill Buzzell. It validated that 15 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 29 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 9 August 2008 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was referred back to the Treasurer to be presented at the next meeting.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that membership is 68; we receive \$115/month from pledgers. We made a 1000-piece newsletter mailing to National and former MdLP members. We are getting results from people who ran in the last election; more involvement in the last few weeks with regard to running for office. Bob would like to run a full slate of candidates in 2010 at the top and fill in from the bottom. We can win municipal elections right now and can win county elections soon. He urges our party to separate itself from the other two parties; he is getting contacted by everyday people fed up with the current system. We need 10,000 valid signatures to renew our ballot access and need to start working on this now with volunteer efforts. Bob wants to use our budget for candidate support, and try not to spend money on the petition until later if needed. SB445 would require petition



signers to show ID; Spear Lancaster spoke on our behalf in Annapolis against the issue; no one asked him any questions; he testified that 1/3 don't register and 1/3 don't vote due to lack of choice; he didn't see any strong support for the bill. SB947 would cut the signature requirement down from 10,000 to 5,000; the hearing is on 3/12. Bob wants to start up more regular MdLP affiliate meetings; to be more aggressive with the local media; and would like to have a separate media director. He wants to get 100 activists ready for next year. He challenges each of us to get 100 signatures or pay to get 100 signatures. He asks members to step up their membership levels: become a monthly donor, join national, become a national monthly donor; donate to candidates. We can double our vote totals from the last election. Bob thanks our candidates again, they are the ones making things happen.

Program Committee's Report: Susan Gaztañaga presented the Program Committee report, which recommended approval of the following proposed changes to the State Program:

1. Replace the first *Education* bullet with: "Allowing for increased parental choice within the government public school system (e.g. tax credits, vouchers, school district selection, etc.)." Vote: motion PASSES unanimously on a voice vote.
2. Replace the first *Job and Wealth Creation without Corporate Welfare* bullet with: "Ending public funding for stadiums, hotels, concert halls, etc., and stopping unfunded mandates." Vote: motion PASSES unanimously on a voice vote.

Officer Elections: The following were nominated as officers: Robert Johnston III, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, David Sten, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Tony Spezio, and Muir Boda. As there were no more than seven nominations and there were no objections, the nominations were voted upon as a slate; a voice vote approved the slate.

Nominations of 2010 Candidates for State and Local Office:



Justin Kinsey (above left) was nominated for the Md. House of Delegates, district 5B; Brandon Brooks (above right) was nominated for the Md. House of Delegates, district 11; both were approved by a voice vote.



Joe Seehusen (former LP Executive Director): served as Ron Paul's deputy in his campaign; there are many groups working for liberty which are impressed with the LP; we should reach out to them.

Muir Boda (candidate for Salisbury City Council): was raised to respect others' liberties; considered himself a Republican but struggled with their views; in 2000 voted for Harry Browne, and since voted Libertarian every time possible. He was enlivened by Dr. Davis' campaign. Running for city council has

garnered good support; most not affected by his Libertarian registration. Learned: to attend council meetings, approach leaders, be respectful, be specific, and offer solutions. Urges candidates to get educated about day-to-day operations of government; find four hot button issues, stay away from national issues if running for local election; use public access TV; ask for small donations; organize meet-and-greets; give a consistent message. He is using voting registration lists to meet voters. The LP has the opportunity to make strides in the coming years. His General Election is April 7.



Denise Minter (prospective MdLP candidate for governor, 2010): was introduced by Lorenzo Gaztañaga; she currently is registered Democrat, would change to Libertarian. She is running for the individual; says "it's not a crime to be poor." She is opposing bureaucracy which hinders small entrepreneurs. Ms. Minter has been an activist for 20 years and scored 100/100 on the Nolan chart. She is still investigating libertarian views; when queried, said she was against the drug war.



Announcements: the Central Committee thanked Bob Johnston for arranging the Convention. Michael Linder tells us to pick up "Inclined to Liberty" books; other books and newsletters are here to be taken. Bill Buzzell announces the first weekend in May is the Towsontowne Festival.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.
— *Robert E. Glaser*

Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award



The Samuel P. Chase Freedom award is a one ounce pure silver coin; the honoree is selected by the prior recipients. Samuel Chase was one of the four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence. In addition to asking around, your editor searched issues of the *Free? State Libertarian* back through 1992, and finds mention of these winners:

First:	Erwin Vogel (year unknown)
1992:	Bill Buzzell
19??:	Jesse Markowitz
1997:	Lorenzo & Susan Gaztañaga
1998:	Earle Pearce
????:	Spear Lancaster
2001:	Wayne Dougherty
2003:	Tony Spezio
2004:	Doug McNeil

If anyone can add to the historical accounting, please advise.

This year, Lorenzo Gaztañaga presented the award to Robert Glaser; Doug McNeil presented the award to Ron Kean (who was not present).



Libertarian Party of Maryland Program

First Steps Towards Freeing the Citizens of the Free State

The purpose of the Libertarian Party of Maryland is to use the political process to promote freedom as the primary value in the organization of a healthy society. To that end, it seeks to elect Libertarians to public office, influence other elected and appointed officials, and move public opinion toward supporting increased liberty in our daily affairs. Our liberties were not curtailed overnight and we do not expect them to be restored overnight. This program represents our first steps toward restoring our freedoms.

Education

Encourage variety in education through local control, including:

- Allowing for increased parental choice within the government public school system (e.g. tax credits, vouchers, school district selection, etc.);
- Supporting small autonomous schools within the larger school buildings;
- Allowing K-12 neighborhood schools (reducing busing costs);
- Encouraging privately funded K-12 scholarships for non-government educational activities;
- Discouraging government interference and control with home schooling;
- Encourage counties to elect school boards.

Open and Responsible Government

- Create or maintain small, single member legislative districts at the state and local levels. This will encourage politicians to be accountable to their constituents for their actions.
- Take steps to create a nonpartisan redistricting process. Politicians should not be able to choose who votes for them.
- Work to decentralize the governmental bodies in Maryland. Politicians should respect the right of local communities to govern themselves and not micro-manage every aspect of peoples' lives. Political decisions should be made at the lowest feasible level in order to encourage civic participation.

Job and Wealth Creation without Corporate Welfare

Reduce government spending and lower the tax burden by:

- Ending public funding for stadiums, hotels, concert halls, etc., and stopping unfunded mandates;
- Promoting economic growth by restructuring the tax system in order to eliminate subsidies or special tax breaks to businesses;
- Reforming licensing laws that unfairly restrict competition, thus allowing the creation of more jobs and business opportunities.

Secure Property Rights

- Forbid government entities from abusing the power of eminent domain in order to transfer private property to privileged individuals.
- Phase out government entities that compete against the private sector, such as the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO).

Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment

Encourage private redevelopment of vacant and underused urban land and remove developmental pressure on farms and wilderness lands by:

- Removing subsidies to developers, such as publicly funded infrastructure for new developments;
- Encouraging efficient land use by reducing the tax on buildings and property improvements, leaving only assessments on land itself;
- Revising zoning laws to allow the development of self-sufficient communities.

Transportation systems in the compact communities resulting from the above policies would increase pedestrian, rail, and mass transportation relative to automobile traffic.

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.

Crime and Public Safety

- Free up our law enforcement resources by concentrating efforts on crimes against persons and property, rather than non-violent offenders.
- Stop any use of "asset forfeiture" until the property owner has been properly convicted of a crime in the judicial system. Seizure of property before a conviction is an un-American policy of "guilty until proven innocent."
- Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences, for those who abuse alcohol or drugs.
- Stopping the national War on Drugs will reduce profit of the drug trade, resulting in a decrease in crime.
- Permit the carrying of firearms with training and a background check (shall-issue). This will allow law-abiding citizens the constitutional right to arm themselves to protect their homes and liberties. Waiting periods, bans, and registration may actually increase crime.

www.MD.LP.org/docs/program.php Revised 7 March 2009



Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *An Poitin Stil* in Timonium, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 2:32 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: 11 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Potential candidates Chris Lewis, Eric Redd, and Larry King did not show up.

Nominations of 2010 Candidates for State Office: Bob Johnston stated that a 60% favorable vote was needed for candidates to be nominated. Bob Johnston nominated Lorenzo Gaztañaga to be our candidate for the 2nd district U.S. House of Representatives. The vote was cast by a show of hands and was passed unanimously. Bob Johnston nominated Dr. Richard Davis and was seconded by Muir Boda to be our candidate for the 1st district U.S. House of Representatives. The vote was cast by a show of hands and was passed unanimously.

Volunteers: David Amstraugh met Bill Buzzell and Mike Linder at the Pride Festival and wanted to be a volunteer. Bob Johnston

will contact him if he is not contacted by David first. George Reynolds stated that he is willing to be treasurer if anyone from Cecil County wants to run for County Council.

Announcements: Susan Gaztañaga announced that for the Dundalk Heritage July 4th parade, we would like to have a bigger presence. We are part of the Red Group which is the first group to march, and so should be done by 10:30 am. Volunteers will be riding in the back of a pickup truck. Staging is at the Logan Shopping Center at 7 am. Susan Gaztañaga announced that the Baltimore LP is having a picnic on Saturday July 11th [since moved to August 8] at 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Belmont Park. She had a flyer available. Susan Gaztañaga announced that August 1st is the Chesapeake Pride Festival and has been moved to the Mayo Beach Park. The board has agreed to pay the fee, which is estimated to be about \$75 based on previous year's fees.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

— Dave Sten

"The Department of Homeland Security, the lead federal agency charged with protecting U.S. computer networks, has fundamentally failed in its mission and should be relieved of its cybersecurity responsibilities, according to a blue-ribbon panel."

— *eWeek*

Should Online Poker Be Legal?

76% YES

24% NO

— *Parade Magazine*



Get your very own MdLP plates!



Contact Nancy Millionie

410-833-8991

A Ballot Access Crisis



Minor parties in Maryland are facing the most serious ballot access crisis that I have ever seen. In December, in the case *Doe v. Montgomery County Board of Elections*, Maryland's highest court, the Court of Appeals, raised the standard for petition signature verification to an insurmountably high level. Now voters need to sign petitions with their given name, an initial, and their surname – but most voters don't sign their names that way.

Instead of typically three-fourths of the signatures being valid under the old "reasonable certainty" standard, now about three-fourths are INvalid – and three referendum petition drives have already failed because of this new, impossibly high standard. And because all four of Maryland's small political parties will need to requalify after the 2010 elections, we are all going to lose our official political party status, and will no longer be able to run candidates for public office.

There is a lawsuit challenging this decision in federal court (and I'm helping the plaintiffs), but that could take years to succeed. The real cure for this problem is that we MUST get corrective legislation passed into law in the next legislative session (which begins in January), or else we will be out of business as a political party.

There is a major multiparty effort being organized to do this, led by myself and Michael Cornell of the Maryland Green Party. If you would like to get involved in this vitally important effort, please contact me at MDforDemocracy@aol.com or call me at 410-598-0168.

— Doug McNeil

This new standard is supposed to apply only to referendum petitions, not party organization petitions. But the fear is that the local election boards might utilize the stricter standard anyway.

Editor's Corner



Thanks to this issue's contributors. The next issue will probably be for November. Send me reports about the summer outreach season.

I'm preparing this over the July 4th weekend and hope that everyone not only enjoyed themselves, but also took the opportunity to speak to others about the significance of this country's origin. I always re-read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution around this time to remind myself.

It would be great if all of our elected leaders did the same. I know that I grunt and harumph a lot when reviewing those documents – I can't help but keep thinking "that's being violated... well, this says that that current law is null and void... where did anyone ever get the idea that this means *that*? ... etc." (Old Man Syndrome)

Notwithstanding the petition rules enforcement aggravation

Lessons From A Campaign

As I reflect on one of the most interesting and educational experiences of my life, I took away several things from this political experience. I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and insight on running a campaign from top to bottom. I realized the importance of connecting with the constituency and learning from them the true priorities of what is expected from elected officials. Here are some educational details from my experience.

Knocking on doors, shaking hands, and listening to what is on the mind of the people in your community is the heart and soul of retail politics. I learned people are looking for common sense, respectful debate, and a vision for the future. I can truly say the most rewarding part of my campaign was having these conversations with over 1,000 city residents. I knocked on over 3,000 doors, house-by-house, street-by-street, and neighborhood-by-neighborhood. During this process I gained a strong sense of the issues that concerned many of the citizens in Salisbury.

Many of the citizens had this thought process on what they expected from the City: The purpose of local government is for the citizens to collectively "hire" a group of citizens to manage the day-to-day necessities of picking up the trash, properly handling waste water, providing clean tap water, supplying emergency services with the equipment needed, and maintaining the infrastructure of the municipality or county. All the while keeping taxes and fees as low as possible. That is local government 101.

The other part of this process brought me in contact with individuals from the business community. Entering this process unconnected, unknown, and withstanding numerous attacks, garnered much respect from many people. I have made more inroads politically than I anticipated in the beginning. I have been appointed to the Recycling Committee and I have already begun the process for the 2011 election by building up a group of supporters.

Lastly, I learned the importance of having "thick skin" throughout this whole process. Salisbury is a very tough political environment and that is enhanced by the numerous blogs. They are free to throw out any accusation, lie, and half-truth without filter or responsibility. However, most people take it with a grain of salt and I always found it was best to not waste my time worrying about what someone with too much time on their hands was saying about me.

Being a part of the political process and the exchange of ideas is an honor. I am grateful for every individual who donated to my campaign, over \$3,900. I appreciate each and every vote cast for me. I respect everyone who stands up and puts his or her name on the line. I look forward to working with all who choose to do so.

— Muir Boda



(see Doug McNeil's article above), we must move forward with the party's recertification drive. We may have to remind the county boards of election that the court's opinion has not changed regarding our petition. I've enclosed a petition form again in this newsletter, please make an effort to fill it in.

See you at the picnic!

— Robert E. Glaser

It's Your party: and you can Live how you want to

The Libertarian Party, according to www.LP.org, is the third largest political party in the United States. However, most people have only a vague understanding of its principles and philosophy. At best, people consider it to be a party that just wants to be left alone. At worst, people consider it a party of crazy anarchists, and though there was a time when some of its beliefs leaned in that direction, the LP as a whole is not about anarchy, but about freedom: freedom in personal affairs, dealings with others, a free-market, and freedom in finances.

The LP, unlike the two major political parties in this country, does not offer one thing in exchange for another. For example, with the Republicans you can be proud to be an American who believes in God, your country, and decency. The downside is that you have to also be willing to degrade anyone that does not share those beliefs, and it is imperative that you condemn anyone who needs help from their government to make something of their lives.

On the other side you have the Democrats, and/or Liberals, and with them you can enjoy doing what you want as long as it is more along the lines of exhibitionism, and as far from school prayer as possible. The downside is that if you have money, you are risking it because your Democratic leaders believe that spending is the best way to get out of debt caused by spending.

So exactly what is so special about the Libertarian Party? Firstly, there are no pros and cons. That is because the LP will not tell you that in order to support one cause you must abandon the other. Basically, if you want to smoke, drink, and run around town with someone new every Friday night, go ahead. You won't be judged as long as you can support your own lifestyle while not impeding on anyone else's liberty. That is not to say Libertarians are for that behavior, it means that they are neutral.

The basic foundation of the Libertarian Party is freedom of every individual to pursue whatever it is that makes him or her happy. Within that principle, however, comes the responsibility to respect the happiness of others, and to accept the consequences for your beliefs and your actions.

"Think of us as a group of people with a 'live and let live' mentality and a balanced checkbook." This is a direct quote from www.LP.org, the National Libertarian Party website. The line "live and let live" is a staple of the Libertarian party, basically saying I'll do what makes me happy and let you do what makes you happy.

As a former "young and brainwashed" Democrat turned wiser, but disenfranchised Republican, I have now found exactly what I have been living my whole life. I have always lived my life in such a way as to benefit myself, those around me, while being sure not to lower the quality of life for anyone around me. That mentality, however, didn't really fit the agenda of the parties I had once been associated with.

Neutrality, however, is just a small part of what it means to be a Libertarian today. Libertarians promote individual liberty, keeping government small and only involved when it needs to be, creating a free-market, and lowering taxes. In fact, Libertarians believe that the government should only get involved in the private affairs of citizens to protect property and/or person from fraud and coercion.

A free-market would mean that the only people who have any

say over an exchange are the parties involved, and by civil means. Again, the only reason for government intervention would be to protect against fraud, force, or damage to property and/or person.

Lowering taxes is an obvious benefit for any working man or woman for clear reasons. The working person would be able to keep more of the money he earns and invest it in his own future, negating the relevance of Social Security, which may not be around when those of us paying into it are ready to collect.

Keeping government small has a multitude of benefits for the citizens of a free nation. The citizen would be able to live his life and pursue happiness, as was intended by our founding fathers, keep his own money to invest in his own future and retirement, participate in a free-market with other like-minded, free people, and be secure in the knowledge that the government would only interfere to protect against fraud, violence, and coercion.

If you cannot quite mold your thinking and actions to fit the template created by Democrats and Republicans, consider joining the Libertarian party, a party that is truly by the people, for the people. And to put into perspective the stigma placed upon the LP by those unfamiliar with it, consider this quote by Murray Rothbard: "We are not anarchists, and that those who call us anarchists are not on firm etymological ground, and are being completely unhistorical."

— *Michael L. Hawthorne*

M_Hawthorne@comcast.net

Michael Hawthorne is 26 years of age. He is a criminal justice major at the University of Baltimore. Raised in Sacramento, CA he has lived in Maryland for ten years. His career aspirations include Law, while his hobbies include reading and writing with an emphasis on journalism.

Is Mary Tyler Moore a right-winger?

"Maybe more of a libertarian centrist."

— *Mary Tyler Moore* (Parade Magazine)



Tony Spezio has stepped down from the Executive Board – thanks for his service (the Board has appointed Justin Kinsey as his replacement until the next Central Committee meeting).

Baltimore Libertarian Party



Baltimore Libertarians kicked off the summer outreach season with a highway clean-up on April 25. We have switched our starting time from 10 am to 9 am to beat the heat and allow us to finish earlier and get on with the rest of the day.

We had an outreach booth at the Towsontowne Festival the weekend of May 2/3. Saturday was cloudy and drizzly; Sunday it rained outright and the fair shut down. (Michael Linder and Bill Buzzell at the booth, below.)

We went out on the highway again June 6. Even though it was a Sunday, and Father's Day (whose idea was that?), we still managed to staff a booth at the Baltimore Pride Festival in Druid Hill Park.

Upcoming events: Dundalk Heritage Parade, July 4. Assembly at Loganville Shopping Center, 7 am. Picnic and Central Committee meeting, August 8, 1 - 3 pm, Pavilion 1, Belmont Park, 8701 Walther Boulevard, in the Parkville area of Baltimore.

— Susan Gaztañaga

SHA Adopt-A-Highway Program

Saturday, April 25: 6 people out, 9:00 - 11:45 am. 14 bags.

Saturday, June 6: We completed the second of our four road clean-ups today. We had 7 people out for 2 hours and collected 5 bags of trash. The rains washed most of it away and made for a light load for us. Two down, two to go.

— Bill Buzzell



In the News

Gerald Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on November 19. In "County can live within its means" he asks if: salaries can be reduced; arts made self-sufficient; prevailing wage laws ended; golf courses, recreation centers, etc. be privatized; tuition raised; vacant administrative positions be left unfilled; volunteer fire companies can assume all county services; and if affordable housing development can be allowed on government property?

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on February 20. He refutes a previous letter in "Why rush to combat global warming," pointing out that there are reputable contrarian views.

On March 14, the *Baltimore Sun* published **Kevin Zeese's** letter on paper ballots in Maryland. He comments on a previous editorial "Paper ballot cuts" asking why half the country can vote on optical-scan machines but Maryland is unable to make a timely transition. Our state is not alone and others have accomplished the task; quickly changing to paper ballots will both improve voting and save money.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on March 18. In "Historic preservation: Let the courts decide" he urges that the Historic Preservation Commission be abolished and let property owners decide in conjunction with the courts.

Gerald Schneider comments on a former professor's teachings in his March/April *Cornell Alumni Magazine* letter "A taste of life as a 'piscivegan'".

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on April 29: In "Prudent budgeting questions" he asks: can government end business revitalization subsidies; public advertising revenue be boosted; government subscriptions cut back; can the county franchise sell its liquor business; and meeting and travel expenses be reduced by using government buildings and teleconferencing?

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on May 27. In "To the government: Four ways to save money" he urges the county government to balance its budget by charging fees for non-academic school activities; charge library borrowers for services beyond access and book borrowing; having contractors pay for day laborer centers; and freezing hiring for nonessential vacant government job positions. He also proffers that public service be promoted to recruit workers rather than salary incentives (New Hampshire state legislators are paid \$100 a year).

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on June 19. He refutes an editorial linking the poor economy with an increasing crime rate in "Cause of crime in hard times." A tolerance for and making excuses for more crime is a more likely explanation.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on July 1. He writes about the Declaration of Independence in "Something to ponder on July 4." "... the Declaration reminds us that rights belong only to individuals. Government has no rights, it only has limited powers. The role of government is to secure individual rights, not cancel or supercede them... Does government know its place and is it acting accordingly?"

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

CATO Institute Conference on Health Care Reform



One of the advantages I have found to living where the Capitol Beltway seems to go through my living room is that I am able to take advantage of the many events happening in the greater DC area. On June 17, I was fortunate enough to be able to skip work in order to attend a conference on health care reform down at the CATO Institute.

The conference was very well attended and consisted of four panels plus an update from Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) on *Health Care Reform: The Long Perspective*. Rep. Ryan is advocating a better way forward than the status quo or the public policy option. He expressed some of the anxious feelings we as Libertarians have felt about the latter. In particular, he is worried that the U.S. will establish a government-run monopoly where they are the referee and player in the same game! He fears the creation of a new unfunded liability similar to Medicare.

He was followed by an interesting panel moderated by Megan McArdle, Business and Economics Editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*. The panel consisted of Jon Kingsdale, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector; Aaron Yelowitz, Associate Professor of Economics, University of Kentucky and Adjunct Scholar, CATO Institute; and Michael D. Tanner, Senior Fellow, CATO Institute, and Coauthor of *Healthy Competition: What's Holding Back Health Care and How to Free It*. A lively discussion ensued on *Should Congress Mandate Coverage?*

The Second Panel concerned *Where Does Delivery-System Reform Fit?* Susan Dentzer, Editor-in-Chief of Health Affairs moderated the lively panel consisting of Shannon Brownlee, Senior Fellow of the New America Foundation and Author of *"Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine is Making Us Sicker and Poorer;"* Professor Emeritus Alain Enthoven of Stanford University; Regina Herzlinger, Professor of Business Administration and Chair of the Harvard Business School and Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute; and Michael F. Cannon, Director of Health Policy Studies, CATO Institute, and Coauthor with Michael Tanner from Panel 1.

The luncheon address on *Perspectives on Reform from the U.S. Congress* was delivered by Rep. Michael C. Burgess, MD (R-TX) and Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA), kept in line by John Reichard, Editor of CQ Healthbeat.

Panel 3 was entitled, *"Another Government Health Insurance Program?"* and was well moderated by Karen Tumulty, National Political Correspondent for Time Magazine. The panel consisted of Cathy Schoen, Senior VP of the Commonwealth Fund; Gail Wilensky, Senior Fellow at Project Hope; David A. Hyman, Professor of Law and Medicine at the University of Illinois,

Adjunct Scholar, CATO Institute, and Author of *"Medicare Meets Mephistopheles;"* and Karen Davenport, Director of Health Policy, Center for American Progress (clearly a social-

istic organization).

Finally, we reached the panel on *Is There a Free-Market Alternative?* Moderated by Tom G. Donlan, Barron's Editorial Page Editor. We heard from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Former Director, Congressional Budget Office and Director of Domestic and Economic Policy for the McCain presidential campaign; Mark V. Pauly, Bendheim Professor and Professor of Health Care Management at the Wharton School; Stephen T. Parente, Associate Professor and Director of Medical Industry Leadership Institute, Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota; and Richard L. Scott, Chairman of Conservatives for Patients' Rights.

I couldn't possibly summarize all that was discussed throughout the day, but I walked away feeling relieved that if any of these people had any influence at all, President Obama's health care reform plan would not be pushed through Congress without a lot of debate. Several interesting alternatives were put forth including Health Savings Accounts, more integrated health care delivery systems, networked "focused factories" for specific chronic ailments like diabetes or Alzheimer's, and even nonprofit co-ops owned by the insured. Greater transparency within the health insurance industry will give us more informed choices to individualize our own plans. Elimination of barriers to entry should provide greater competition giving us more freedom of choice, portability of individual plans from employer to employer and state to state, and perhaps eliminate the dire scenario where doctors throw up their hands in disgust and quit practicing medicine – of which there was at least one in the audience.

I would highly recommend checking out the CATO Institute's website at www.CATO.org and looking into attending a future seminar. They do a remarkable job at bringing in diverse opinions ensuring lively discussion – and they had media attention (something the LP can always use more of!). Many of their seminars are free. This one was a full day and included coffee breaks, lunch, and a reception for \$50. You can't beat that.

— Darlene Nicholas



CATO
INSTITUTE

For _____ County or _____ (check if Baltimore City)

We, the undersigned voters of Maryland, support the organization of a political party to be known as the _____ Libertarian Party.

The State Chairman is: Robert S. Johnston III Address: 1311-D Sheridan Place Bel Air MD 21015

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 Maryland 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	PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	DATE OF BIRTH	SIGNATURE, SAME AS PRINTED
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

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 Maryland.

Individual circulator's printed or typed name

Residence Address

City	State	Zip
------	-------	-----

Telephone Number

Circulator's Signature

(Sign and date when signature collection is completed)

Date (mm/dd/yy)

FOR ELECTION BOARD USE ONLY

Total Number of Signatures

Number of Invalid Signatures

Number of Valid Signatures

Endorsed by:

Petition Instructions

The page at the left may be torn out and used, you can copy it and use the copies, or you can download it from our website. Only one side per page can be used, however.

Only registered voters' signatures count. Each page must be used *only* for a single county or Baltimore City. The relevant address is the one the Board of Elections shows as the person's residence. PO boxes are generally rejected unless for the rare circumstance where the registration address itself is a PO box. Business addresses are also not valid. Remember, the local county Board of Elections actually matches the submitted petition address with their list of registered voter addresses: no match means the signature does not count.

The information should be written as clearly as possible; block lettering (printing) is desired, except for the signature, of course. Try to get the full name as registered with the Board of Elections, i.e. *John T. Doe* or *J. Thomas Doe*.

The printed name should match the signature as provided.

The date of birth is recommended but not actually required. If the voter balks, ask for the month and day only; or the month and year only. Tell them it is the Board of Elections asking so that they can verify the signature.

Anyone, including the circulator, may write the voter's information on the form; but the signature must be that of the voter.

Voters can sign similar petitions for other political parties, but naturally can only sign once per party. It creates no obligation to support the party or its candidates. You might explain that while the form says "New Political Party" in our case it really means "Renew" our existing political party. Most people do not know that we are required to collect signatures *just to exist* and to be able to place candidates on the ballot.

You can assure signers that the MdLP will not use this information for any other purpose and that they will not be put on any mailing list. Tell them that the form is a Maryland Board of Elections form and that it is the state requesting the information – not us. If they want information on the LP, pass that request along as a separate matter.

The circulator must be 18 years old at the time the voter fills out the form, but does not have to be a registered voter nor a resident of the relevant county (or even the state of Maryland).

Fill out the circulator's block *after* the page has been completed. Address stickers are okay (but add the telephone number). Be certain to fill out the circulator's signature and date. The circulator's date *must* be after the most recent voter's signature date.

Mail the original sheet(s) in to the PO Box 176 address. Please send them in as you collect them.

Thank You!!!

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 Dave Sten at NewMember*md.lp.org.

Payment Information

Maryland/county-only dues \$ 20.00

Additional donation: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Monthly Credit Card Donation: \$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

Card# _____ **Exp:** _____

Signature _____

I'd like to volunteer for:

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

**Libertarian Party
of Maryland
P.O. Box 176
Abingdon, MD
21009-0176**

www.MD.LP.org

COMING EVENTS

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.

July 30 (Thursday): 7:00 pm. MdLP Executive Board meeting via teleconference. Robert Glaser

August 1 (Saturday): noon-6:00 pm. Chesapeake Pride Festival. Rain or shine at Mayo Beach Park. Susan Gaztañaga

August 8 (Saturday): 1:00-3:00 pm. Baltimore LP Picnic and Central Committee meeting at Belmont Park, Pavilion 1, 8701 Walther Boulevard, in the Parkville area of Baltimore. Susan Gaztañaga.

August 22 (Saturday): MdLP picnic and Central Committee meeting. Page 4

1-800-MLP-1776

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

Tired of BIG GOVERNMENT and
High Taxes? Call 1-800-MLP-1776

Libertarian Party of Maryland
P.O. Box 176
Abingdon, MD 21009-0176