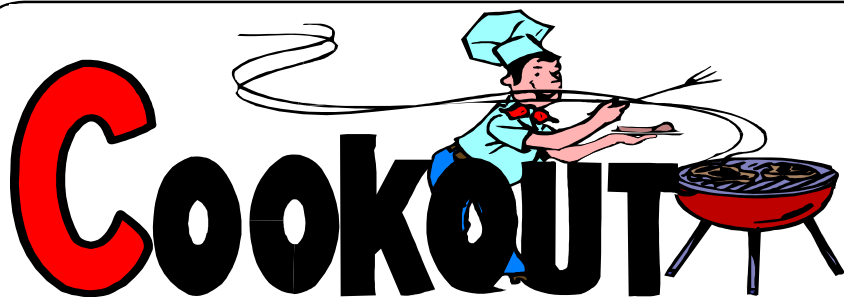


Candidates, Candidates, Candidates!

This is an election year, and we have more candidates than ever before. Every Maryland voter will see the *Libertarian* affiliation listed multiple times at the general election poll.



Picnic and Central
Committee Meeting

page 8



Chair's Report

The Maryland Libertarian Party now has 15 candidates nominated for the November 2010 elections, including candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, 7 of the 8 U.S. House races, 5 for the Maryland House of Delegates, 1 for Wicomico County Council, and 1 for Cecil County Board of Education.

This is the most candidates the party has ever run. And it is nearly the most ever run by any non-establishment party in Maryland in over 30 years.

Running candidates is a great way to get the Libertarian message out, find new members and activists, and build the party. It also forces the Democrats and Republicans to acknowledge our policies.

Further, with only two weeks to the Board of Elections filing deadline, several of our candidates have one-on-one races: Mike Calpino (Wicomico County Council 2nd), Justin Kinsey (MD Delegates 5b), and Shawn Quinn (MD Delegates 29c).

Bryan Walker (MD Delegates 21) is in a race with four candidates for three positions, and no Republicans have currently filed to get on the ballot. Brandon Brooks is also in a 4-way race for 3 seats, with no Republicans on the ballot (MD Delegates 11).

How can you help? Call talk shows and mention our candidates and their positions, and how they differ from the other candidates. Write letters-to-the-editor in your local paper about your local MdLP candidate.



When talking politics to your family, friends, and co-workers, make it a point to show how similar the Democrats and Republicans are to each other, and how Libertarians are the alternative to the 2-party political machine.

Are you willing to save \$10 a week for the next four months and donate the money to our candidates? Perhaps \$50 to our gubernatorial candidate, \$50 to your congressional candidate, and \$50 to a local Libertarian running for office.

Make sure you can work your local voting precinct on Election Day, Tuesday, 2 November, and support our candidates. Bring family and friends with you, if possible.

Let's build on our 2008 results by doubling our federal candidates' vote percentages to 5-6%, and keep increasing them with each election. And while we may be lacking in resources, we also may have several local races in which the MdLP candidate will be the only opposition. What if we could win one or more of those races!

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

Arvin Vohra appointed to replace Justin Kinsey on the Executive Board, who stepped down due to time constraints.

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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.

The Libertarian Party of Maryland

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Other List Serves:

www.MD.LP.org/email_lists.php

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Editor's Corner



For this issue, we are printing and mailing 1000+ newsletter copies – mostly to non-MdLP, but registered Libertarians in the state. The various memberships are often confusing; bear with me and let me elucidate:

National LP: being a sustaining National LP member is great, but is separate from the *Maryland* party. Campaign reform legislation (McCain/Feingold) made it impossible for us to continue combined memberships.

Maryland LP (MdLP): We are the *local state group* which publishes this newsletter, has meetings, events, provides outreach booths, etc. We are in your community. Annual dues is \$20.

Maryland State Central Committee (CC): the CC is the legal entity approved by the Board of Elections. We provide the “Libertarian” party status for candidates on the ballot. CC members must be MdLP members; must be registered Libertarian in Md.; and state their agreement with the non-aggression principle. They are the *voting* members of the state party and put statewide candidates on the ballot at meetings (we don’t have primary elections). There is no additional cost. There are also *county* LP organizations which operate under the auspices of the state CC.

Registered Libertarians: any state resident who registers to vote may choose to be registered as a Libertarian. There is no require-

ment to belong to any of the above organizations, and there are no dues.

We are talking to you! We really, really want you to *join the MdLP* (send in the back page form, or click the credit cards on the webpage to join). Become a CC member if so inclined. It would be great if you also join the National LP (www.LP.org). We really, really want you to encourage others to *register Libertarian* (get a form at the Post Office or the website). Those currently registered as *unaffiliated* are prime targets. When we get 1% of the state registered, we can stop collecting petition signatures every four years. Speaking of which, we really, really want you to collect some signatures. *Please* at least send in your own signature; better yet, collect a few more – but don’t procrastinate and forget to even give us yours! Come to our upcoming picnic and meet like-minded neighbors.

This election year we have many candidates, **and they need your help!** We don’t have the millions of dollars that entrenched Democrats and Republicans have to promote their same-old/same-old candidates. Please consider contacting one or more of our citizen candidates to help them campaign. They all could certainly use a contribution, too (except Dr. Davis). These people are not professional politicians, and they have already paid their filing fees to the state of Maryland in addition to incurring printing costs, etc. You can help their voices be heard.

Politicians might act friendly, but you truly get their attention when they see numbers in the ballot box. This is our opportunity.

— Robert E. Glaser

Governor: Susan Gaztañaga/GaztanagaforGov.com
Lt. Governor: Doug McNeil/GaztanagaforGov.com

U.S. Congress, House District:

- 1: Richard Davis/www.Davis4Congress.com
- 2: Lorenzo Gaztañaga/www.MD.LP.org/candidates/2
- 3: Jerry McKinley/www.JerryMcKinley.com
- 4:
- 5: Gavin Shickle/www.hGavinShickle.com
- 6: Dan Massey/www.Massey4Congress.com
- 7: Scott Spencer/www.SpencerforMD7.com
- 8: Mark Grannis/www.GrannisforCongress.org

Maryland House of Delegates, District:

- 5B: M. Justin Kinsey/www.Kinsey5B.com
11: Brandon Brooks/www.BrooksforDelegate.com
15: Arvin Vohra/www.VoteVohra.com
21: K. Bryan Walker/www.WalkerforLiberty.com
29C: Shawn P. Quinn/www.Citizens4Quinn.org

Wicomico County Council, District:

- 2: Mike Calpino/www.ElectMike.webs.com

Cecil County School Board: Dave Sten/Vice-Chair*md.lp.org

www.MD.LP.org/candidates

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	Arvin Vohra	301-320-3634	Arvin*ArvinVohra.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
www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823
	Wicomico County	Muir Boda	410-603-3347
			BaltimoreCity*md.lp.org
			Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
			Wicomico*md.lp.org

2010 MdLP Convention

The 2010 MdLP Convention was held on Saturday, March 13 at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk. National LP Executive Director Wes Benedict was our first speaker, and asked: Why Do Libertarian Candidates Make a Difference? The LP has continued



to grow and do well, particularly in some areas like Texas and Maryland. He was thinking of getting out of politics, but then the Republicans came up with the idea of bailouts. That enraged him, he couldn't believe that they went in that direction. They got us into two wars costing up to a trillion dollars. George Bush expanded Medicare. Obama and the Dem's are doing the same thing as the R's: bailouts plus war, with no apologies. Deficits are going up and the value of the dollar continues to erode. Upset people brought tea parties, we don't know what will come from them. We need to get out there and remind people how bad the R's are/were and what liberty can bring. He emphasized a bumper sticker campaign.

Mr. Benedict first became a Libertarian in 1996; he hadn't heard about them before. A traditional Republican, he stumbled across the Michigan Libertarians at a campus booth. Took the quiz. Read some of Harry Browne's writings. Started thinking more about civil liberties. Read CATO material. Became a *real* libertarian. Learned that arguing didn't change anything. Graduated and moved to Atlanta. Went to a Dekalb County Libertarian meeting; two men showed up, was told attendance was usually just them. Worked at booths and some candidate campaigns. By the time he left, there were about 15 people showing up to meetings. He started calling from the membership list and got attendance and candidacies. Raised a decent amount of money in Texas. Having a ton of candidates is a good selling point. His replacement continued well in Texas and raised a lot of money.

Mr. Benedict can't prove that having candidates brings results, but he believes that every vote for a Libertarian is a plus. Candidates get free radio time. He's working on a flyer to give out at tea party events to garner Libertarian wins. On the National LP: it's half as big as ten years ago, but sees no reason we can't return to those higher levels. Membership and dollars have been going down. There have been ups and downs. He is going to turn it around: membership bottomed out in October, now going up. Pledges have come up. Five fulltime employees at National now. They're producing free websites for candidates.



Our next speaker was Paul Jacob, the president of *Citizens in Charge* and a leading advocate for citizen control of government. "You Have the Right to Shut up and Pay Your Taxes." He began noting that as Libertarians, we're very opinionated. As a very young man, this Party walked the walk.

His Ten Commandments for pro-liberty activists: ① *do something* (if it's worth doing, it's worth doing wrong); ② don't stop somebody else from doing something (don't argue, just invite to join you); ③ embrace defeat (success often follows failure); ④ accept victory (19% of the vote is a tremendous victory, Congress was scared when Perot got that amount); ⑤ stop looking for silver bullets and start planting seeds (the silver bullets never work, and the seeds usually do); ⑥ look for allies; ⑦ put freedom first and your own political goals and organization second (our organizations are vehicles); ⑧ if you can't beat them at their own game, try winning at *your game* (think outside the box, it's tough to elect Libertarian candidates, won't sugar coat issues/philosophies, put an issue on the ballot, there are new ways for us to get our message out); ⑨ admit that you're a *small d* democrat and *small r* republican (point out Democrat and Republican failings, we now have two parties that have walked away from a heritage, we as Libertarians need to push that when government has a legitimate function it ought to be decided democratically); and ⑩ if the process itself prevents you from attacking the problem, the process is itself the problem; attack *it* (respect for the public is a 98% issue; it's part of the essential process to get Libertarian issues advanced).

Upon questioning, he said that while state courts are quite political, Federal courts will go against the grain. The more we take the right actions, the more we win.

Daniel McAndrew, who is running for Congress as a Republican, came to educate us on an important issue: every 20 years a specific question is put on the ballot to get "the sense of the People" to determine whether a Maryland Constitutional Convention should be held. *This is the year!* He has created the MDconcon.wordpress.com website.



Its purpose is to wake up the people of Maryland. Only 18 states have a recall provision for taking someone out of office (i.e. Arnold Schwarzenegger in CA). We don't have that mechanism in MD. If a majority votes Yes, in January 2011 the General Assembly must prepare the convention. Delegates to the convention can be anybody. Mr. McAndrew recommends that if a voter votes FOR the convention, he should become involved and try to become a convention delegate.

Our after dinner featured speaker was Radley Balko, a senior editor for *Reason Magazine*. He began by telling us it would be a "good news" sort of speech, which Libertarians need from time to time. Saying it's always good to start with a joke, he continues: Three gas station managers are sharing a prison cell, and the guard notes it's unusual that all three were in the same profession. The first went to prison for price gouging. The second made sure he was charging less. The third said he was the last station standing, so he verified what the price to match was; they got him for collusion. If you run a small business in the U.S., it's impossible not to violate some law.

Despite the headlines, we *are* getting freer – everything is moving in the right direction. Economist Julian Simon showed how this is true. He visited the Biltmore estate; built in the late



19th century, everything about it that made it so opulent are all things we have access to today relatively easily. Air conditioning, workout facilities... our *poor* live today as the *wealthy* did as little as 50-100 years ago. Every demographic trend is moving in the right direction: longevity; gap between white/black; and cancer, stroke, and heart disease are all in decline (because of human ingenuity and the

health industry). He points out the wonder of capitalism and innovation. For the first time in human history the total number of people living in absolute poverty has declined (in number, not percentage). All thanks to free trade, free exchange of goods, services, and technology across borders. This is what happens when trade barriers are brought down. Kristof found that sweatshops were a plus instead of a minus.

On politics: David Boaz has looked at voting information; the percentage of Libertarians voting for Republicans is going down. Politicians must listen to it. *We* are a significant chunk of the electorate. Giuliani's confrontation with Ron Paul over foreign policy led to his demise. On the 2nd amendment: the Heller case was a *help*; politicians have given up using gun control as a campaign issue.

Nationwide support for marijuana is greater than support for either the Democrat or Republican party. In the 70's it was predicted that capitalism and the free market would be the end of humanity due to unfettered activity. Now the argument is that we have too many choices for toothpaste. On the internet, it is much believed that information wants to be free. The Internet generation has a skeptical view of government. Earmarks being posted online lets thousands of people examine them for the first time; it can harness crowd sourcing.

On the criminal justice world: forensics was invented by the police to convince the people to convict. We've learned through science and the private sector that forensic science is not as certain as promoted – DNA evidence is *overturning* convictions. George Orwell said that to envision the future of humankind, think of a boot on a face; but now there will be a cellphone documenting it. We have video, and countless cases where the police reports don't match the video. Technology is subverting the power of the state. Government has always abused the rights of the citizenry, but we're finding ways to get around that with technology. Iran cellphone videos. Streaming video servers. We've hit a tipping point where the desire to be free and technology has outpaced the efforts of government to subvert.

Mr. Balko wrote a CATO paper on SWAT raids: his online incident map has been used by reporters. The *Institute for Justice* has a similar map for eminent domain. Culturally, we are finding more freedom because we are creating more avenues toward freedom. Like minded people are finding each other on the internet. Look at access to music now compared to 150 years ago. The rape rate is at its lowest, divorce rate down, abortion rate down, teen pregnancy rate down; these things have occurred over a time when we have more choices than ever before *despite* the government. We've been given more choices and freedom thanks to our own ingenuity. Force has been in rapid decline, particularly in the 20th century (the proportion killed by others). The reason is prosperity.

People seeing the similarity between Obama and Bush gives a third party an opening. The national debt will force people to see our path. 70% are opposed to the bailouts. Personal freedom and the taste for freedom is already out of the barn. Government cannot reign in what we've already seen.

— Robert E. Glaser

Audio recordings of the presentations and the Central Committee meeting are at www.MD.LP.org/audio (mp3 format)



In the News

Gerald Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on December 16. In "Cluster services to reduce traffic" he responds to Montgomery County Council member Mark Elrich: he suggests grouping shopping centers, schools, libraries, recreation centers, and such in one location.

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on May 19: "Onerous immigration laws encourage violations." He says that current immigration laws discourage rather than welcome immigrants coming here for traditional American freedom and opportunity. Immigration laws should be reformed so that immigrants seek a lawful path to citizenship. He also reminds readers of the results of Prohibition with alcohol, and how that relates to the Drug War. A similar letter was published in the *Community Forum* on May 21.

On June 7, *DelmarvaNow* published **Muir Boda's** letter "Salisbury needs a new, improved reputation." He advised Mayor Jim Ireton to remove the 'Slum Property of the Week' from Salisbury's website as divisive, divergent, and embarrassing calling business people names.

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

When then Mayoral Candidate Jim Ireton announced his candidacy for the Office of Mayor for the City of Salisbury, he quoted the following section of our Declaration of Independence:

"When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them..."

However, recent actions by the Mayor have me reflecting on this particular stanza from that great document:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

In good faith, Karen Marshall purchased a home that included a one bedroom apartment over the garage that from everything she understood was okay for her to rent out and help pay for her mortgage. The American Dream, exercising her Liberty and Pursuing Happiness, has all been crushed by an over zealous Mayor and Zoning Board wishing to make an example of somebody.

Imagine our forefathers' reaction to such a situation. It would range from disgust to contempt to embarrassment that our elected officials have made a mockery of our history, founding documents, and the blood shed over the centuries to prevent this very situation – an oppressive government. If for one would rather err on the side of Liberty than oppression.

— Muir Boda



Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 5:19 pm by chairman Bob Johnston. The Treasurer's report and agenda were distributed.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Dave Sten; and Bill Buzzell. It validated that 17 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. One proxy was represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 34 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 22 August 2009 and 21 November 2009 Central Committee meetings were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was accepted as modified (noting monies due BLP affiliate).



Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports on membership: 91 as of 2/28/10, was 61 at this time last year; one of his goals has been to get membership back to triple digits; has been aggressive in getting people to join; contacted all 2009 non-renewees; working on 2008 non-renewees. Registered MD Libs: Ex. Board has been discussing mailing out next newsletter to selected groups of registered MD Libs; almost 8000 (nearly caught up with the Green Party), can send in bulk @56 cents per person; mail in

groups of 500 or 1000; perhaps start with Balto. City, since Doug and Susan live there, and keep sending out, depending on response. Speaking Engagements: local C4L in December; *Fans Of Ron Smith Show* in February; prefer candidates to speak to groups, but happy to do so himself if requested. Candidates: wants to run a full slate of candidates for U.S. House; currently have candidates in 1st and 2nd Cong. Dist., as well as two for state House; also in communication with two potential candidates for U.S. Senate; running candidates gets message out; gives us legitimacy as a party; gets the name "Libertarian" out; people complain why we don't win elections; need to run again and again; marketing rule of 7 (people need to see something 7 times to realize its benefits); MD couldn't run candidates until recently due to ballot access laws. David Nolan's article on why have a Lib. Party handed out. Win Or Change Minds: do we want to win elections now, or do we want to change hearts and minds; we'll win when

significant # understand what we're about and want it. Problems: lack of money and resources; first past the post election system; we're radical to most, but becoming less every day. Can Make Noise: Susan and Doug – sales tax and bring Nat. Guard home left and right issue; both hardcore; clear, tangible (unlike flat or fair tax). Example: Ctr Small Govt. - war of attrition; will help any candidate with their methodology. Our Time Will Come: country can't keep going on this path, people will look for alternative; only party with issues on both left and right; neither party has legitimacy on spending, war, civil liberties. Republicans Biggest Threat: steal our message and rhetoric, never come through; populist small-gov movement every 15 years, +/- year. Goldwater to Nixon: wage & price, escalation of war, fiat currency. Reagan: tripled deficit, spending 2/3 > Carter, 4x prison pop.; "just say no." Rep. Rev.: eliminate ed., energy, CPB; \$10T debt, \$2.9T budget, fed. drug, fed. school (no child), highest per-cap prison pop (>China, Russia); both Houses of Congress, White House, governors, state legs., SCOTUS. Ron Paul '08 – how R's treated him. Maintain Legitimacy: R's need our legitimacy; they have none on small gov.; other issues besides taxes and guns; go after D's on war and civil liberties (esp. MD); maintain our identity; we're the alternative to D's and R's.

Jim Lark, LNC Region 5 Rep: delegates at the national convention will not be kept off the floor for any unpaid fee, should be called a donation.

Speare Lancaster: General Assembly bill SB710 on ballot access; only other person testifying was from the Green Party. We should have more participation. It would reduce the 10,000 signature requirement to 5,000 to get the party recognized.

Muir Boda: wrote a letter to the editor to Salisbury newspaper criticizing the Mayor, who is doing code enforcement on landlords; a lady bought a home with a room above the garage; the zoning board said the tenant had to vacate; the Mayor emails Muir, threatening code enforcement in his neighborhood; nice back-and-forth between the two. Muir happy to receive a personal email from the mayor!

Officer Elections: The following were nominated as officers: Robert Johnston III, David Sten, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder,



Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Muir Boda, and Justin Kinsey. 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.

Program Committee's Report: the Program Committee recommended no changes to the State Program; therefore there was no vote to be made.

Delegates to the National Convention: Derek Pomery, Michael Linder, Susan Gaztañaga, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Darlene Nicholas, Leo Dymowski, Robert Johnston, Spear Lancaster, Stuart Simms, Jerry McKinley, Steve Boone, Allen Nicholas, Wayne Daugherty, Arlo Pignotti, and Dave Sten were nominated and approved. The Secretary is directed to fill out the delegate and alternate lists with remaining Central Committee members. Any designated alternate can notify the Secretary to become a delegate prior to the submission deadline.

Nominations of Candidates for Statewide Office: Jerry McKinley was nominated for U.S. Congress 3rd district (currently registered Independent, is re-registering Libertarian); Arvin Vohra (believes he is registered Libertarian, will verify and change if not) was nominated for the House of Delegates district 15; the body agreed that these nominations are contingent upon the candidates obtaining Libertarian registration forthwith; both were approved by voice vote.

Proposed Constitutional amendment: Append to Article VII Section 1: At the time of filing, all candidates of the Maryland Libertarian Party to public office must be registered Libertarian as defined in the qualification for Central Committee membership. Approved on a voice vote. The investigatory committee shall be Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Dean Ahmad, Bill Buzzell, Steve Boone, and Robert Johnston.

Jack Gordon: is running in 42nd district for House of Delegates as a Republican; argues that the Republican party still stands for a lot of libertarian principles.

Bob Johnston displayed a *Defender of Liberty* award the MdLP honored Gary Hoover, Sr. with for his exceptional 2008 Congressional run.



Spear Lancaster (right) presents Joe Miller (left) with the prized *Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award*.

Susan Gaztañaga: credits Denise Minter for waking her up to the gubernatorial campaign. Observes that voters in far flung regions voted for third party candidates without any campaigning in their areas. Thinks issuing an executive order to return the Md. National Guard, and bringing the state sales tax down from 6% to 0% in 8 years are good campaign issues. Would have a contest to replace the embarrassing state song.



Announcements: the Central Committee thanked Bob Johnston for arranging the Convention. Michael Linder announced that Sheriff Mack will be speaking in Westminster on March 29.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 15 May 2010

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Robert Glaser's home in Owings Mills, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 1:42 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: 9 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting, plus 2 proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 35 members.

Nominations of Candidates: The following candidates were nominated: Gavin Shickle for U.S. House, District 5; Scott Spencer for U.S. House, District 7; Mark Grannis for U.S. House, District 8; and William M. Calpino, Jr. (Mike) for Wicomico County Council, District 2. Each was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 19 June 2010

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Robert Glaser's home in Owings Mills, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 2:11 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: 10 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting, plus 1 proxy was represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 36 members.

Nominations of Candidates: The following candidates were nominated: Shawn Quinn for House of Delegates, 29c; Dan Massey for U.S. House, District 6; Bryan Walker for House of Delegates, 21. Each was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

PICNIC



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 21 (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. 16
\$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 three summers. There were good turnouts and they were resounding successes.

My Day at the Polls – and hopefully, yours too!

Do you like that we have so many candidates on the 2010 ballot? It is all due to a Herculean effort we made at the end of 2006, when we managed to recertify the party with the state. We face that same task once again: December 2010 is the deadline to complete the current petition drive, or we lose ballot access and all registered Libertarians. This article is an updated and abridged reprint from the October 2006 *Free? State Libertarian*.

I hate collecting signatures. But on election day it's not particularly intrusive to ask registered voters at the polls to sign a petition. After all, they've already made the effort to show up to vote. So I'm willing to put aside my reticence from intruding into their lives for a minute or two, and actively petition at the polls.

It's also the very best place to collect signatures: we know that these people are in fact registered voters; and they are registered in the county where the poll is. And they walk right by the entrance and exit! They're inundated with hordes of pestering campaigners, so they are not shocked when approached by a stranger.

I'm probably the very last person you should take advice from. Talk to a real people person for the good stuff. But I did manage to collect 142 petition signatures on primary election day working from 8:00-11:00 am and 4:00-8:30 pm (I was lazy and took a mid-day siesta). I'll describe my method; not making any claims about it being good/bad/indifferent, take it or leave it for your own behavior (you might not agree with my tactics). Really, I'm not that good at this kind of thing, so if I can manage some degree of success you can probably do better.

I set in mind one single goal: **collect as many signatures as possible**. Nothing else. Didn't give out campaign literature, or try to convince citizens to reregister Libertarian. Didn't discuss the minimum wage. Didn't debate Iraq/Afghanistan. Didn't bring up the Gold Standard or the Federal Reserve. Not that those aren't interesting and important issues to consider – they just weren't on my agenda *for that day*. I didn't want to talk about anything at all beyond what I had to say to get a signature. I categorize this as the “minimalist” approach.

It should be obvious, but make yourself presentable. Few are inclined to be persuaded by someone who looks like a bum.

Pick a good poll. Don't waste your time and effort at an unproductive spot. Go to the website elections.state.md.us/about/county_boards.html and click the link for your county; then find their list of polls. Look for spots which host more than one precinct for greater numbers. You also have to scout these locations: try to find a poll which has a single entry/exit pathway to all parking areas. You're attempting an intercept. Forget any poll where the parking area itself is within the 100-foot prohibited campaign zone – you won't have a chance there. If you're not familiar with a good place to work, print out all of the polls in your zipcode and take it along with you. If you don't find success where you're at, relocate somewhere else. (On primary election day, I was getting about 10 sigs/hour at my first poll – so I tried another with greater success.) Look for an intercept spot which has lighting – this is more important in November elections when it gets dark earlier. Bring a couple of flashlights with you if not.

The petition: print out sheets in advance, but take notice of the fact that you expect to complete numerous pages on this one day, and prefill the date column (I have some for you on the website); also write in the county at the top, your (the petitioner) information, and the petitioner's signature date (don't sign it).

I don't use clipboards. Buy a big foam board at an office supply store and cut it into about 10 x 15 inch pieces. Use little pieces of tape at the corners and place the petition itself on the left side of the board. With packaging tape, fasten pen caps to the edge of the board (and make sure that the pens write easily). Compose a simple explanation of what the petition is for in large bold characters. Print it out and attach it to the right of the petition. I like to put this on bright colorful paper. My blurb reads as follows (on the website for you):

Info: This petition will permit the Libertarian Party's presidential (and other) candidate(s) to appear on the Maryland ballot in the November 2012 election. You are not endorsing the Party or its candidates by signing. But you will be helping to provide Maryland voters with another choice in the election. Thank you very much for promoting voter choice in the state of Maryland. (Your information will not be added to any mailing lists – the forms will be submitted to the Board of Elections for verification. The requested information is required by the BoE, not us.) The state form says "Form a New Political Party," but in our case it means "continue for another four years."

Its purpose is to explain enough, but no more – without you uttering a word – to get a signature. I also put a little plastic pouch on the board with small “for further information” contacts (just the website and 800 number). Place petitions and blurbs on *both* sides of the board, in the same orientation so that you can easily present them without confusion. I use five or six of these boards. With six boards you are set up to handle 120 signatures without any paper shuffling.

The Procedure

Don't approach voters as they *enter* the poll; they're being attacked with tons of candidate literature, have voting on their minds, and don't want to stop and

think about a petition. When I see someone *exiting* the poll, I walk directly in front of them and try to make eye contact while they're ten feet away. If you surprise someone they're less likely to be receptive. Sometimes I walk up to them and other times let them walk to me. At this point, the voter is thinking that you are making a mistake and attempting to distribute more campaign literature – they're anticipating telling you that *you're too late, I've already voted*. “Hello [Good morning] [Good afternoon] [Good evening], can you help me with a petition signature?” Some will walk right by and ignore me; some will say “No” and continue walking. *Let them go* – don't chase them down and try to beat a signature out of them! Most will reply “for what” or similar, perhaps while walking past me. In the latter case, I stand my ground and don't follow behind like a lost puppy (a surprising number come back to me when they get the response). “This permits candidates to be on the ballot.” Remember, my approach is *minimalist*. Attempt to give the voter a board (I orient it vertically so that the blurb is readable). If they take it, stop talking. They might read it and sign.

Some say, “No, there's too many on the ballot already.” *Let them go*.

Many won't accept the board yet and continue discussion: “Aren't they already on the ballot,” or “Why,” or similar. My reply: “Third party candidates require signatures before they can get their name listed on the voting machine.” Yes, it is slightly more complicated than this, but I'm trying to keep it as simple as possible. I will continue replying to any questions, but only if asked. The goal is to get them to accept the board, or if holding it and asking more questions before signing, to answer as briefly as possible. Some will say, “What party?” to which I of course reply “The Libertarian Party.” Sometimes a voter will immediately say “No” to that and I *don't argue*. The urge to correct their mistaken views is strong, but I resist – no discussion *today*.

The most detailed the discussion got all day long was when I was asked, “What does the Libertarian Party stand for?” I replied, “We believe that you should be able to do anything you want to as long as it doesn't bother anyone else,” or “We believe in individual liberty and personal responsibility.” Yes, superficial, but today is not for philosophical discussion. The reality is that in most cases a person decides very quickly to sign or not sign; the reason is as likely to be personal as political: if you act pleasant, the nice people out there are predisposed to be kind to you. Perhaps you think that I am being deceptive here, but every answer I give is factually correct (if incomplete), and the board itself provides full disclosure.

Very important: when someone starts writing, **I SHUT UP!** My task has been accomplished. As soon as a voter starts writing, or just accepts the board and begins to read the blurb, I move on to someone else. This is also a golden opportunity: I try to hand another board to a new prospect *directly adjacent* to the signer. Human nature is such that an approached voter will more likely be receptive if he sees someone else has already agreed. I try to get two, three, or four people signing in a cluster. Newcomers are open to joining the “signing club” – so I hope to get a continuous chain of signers. When finished, I say “thank you” and move on; no, I don't decide to chat further about the virtue of libertarianism, etc. If I can, I try to glance at what was written; if the printed name is unclear I ask for the spelling and write it in myself. If the birthday is missing, I ask if they can at least give me the month and day. I had numerous discussions about privacy, etc., but I agree with their concern and reassure all that we only submit the forms to the Board of Elections which already has their personal information.

There are times when several voters exit at exactly the same time, and I know that I won't be able to approach more than one; I opt for the largest group. Usually this is husband/wife, or parent/child, but sometimes friends just come together to vote. Why? Once I convince *one* of them to sign, I simply hand boards to the rest of the group. They might or might not sign, but most will without another word from me. The friend/spouse will do the talking for me, and I can instead approach someone else.

It helps also to keep some signatures on each board. When handed a petition, a voter is more likely to sign if other signatures are already there.

Read any book about sales techniques, and it will tell you that the secret is more prospects. Don't take it personally that someone won't sign; try someone else. *All signatures have equal value*. Sometimes ten people in a row refuse; but the next five agree.

If asked about the LP, give out the contact card; if you want, put your phone number on it. *But today is only to collect signatures*.

At the end of the day, remember to personally sign each sheet as the petitioner.

MdLP Status

We desperately need to collect signatures – if we don't somehow come up with 10,000 good ones by the end of this year, we'll be back to zero Libertarians registered in Maryland. Our best hope to prevent this is the primary election on September 14. If we can get enough of us out there we should be able to collect 5,000 or more in a single day. I implore everyone to take advantage of this golden opportunity.

For help with the forms or data, just ask me. — Robert E. Glaser



State of Maryland - Petition to Form a New Political Party

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 _____ Party.
The State Chairman is: _____, Address: _____, 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					

CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT

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

FOR ELECTION BOARD USE ONLY	
Total Number of Signatures	_____
Number of Invalid Signatures	_____
Number of Valid Signatures	_____
Endorsed by:	_____

Individual circulator's printed or typed name	_____
Residence Address	_____
City	State
Telephone Number	Zip

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 3 (Saturday): Dundalk 4th of July Parade. Bill Buzzell, 410-477-9173, waBuzzle11*juno.com

July 6 (Tuesday): 11:30 am. Candidate Richard Davis speaking at the Salisbury Rotary Club

August 7 (Saturday): noon-6:00 pm. Chesapeake Pride Festival. Rain or shine at Mayo Beach Park. Susan Gaztañaga


August 21 (Saturday): MdLP picnic (2:00 pm) and Central Committee meeting (4:00 pm). Page 8

September 11 (Saturday): Reisterstown Parade. Bill Buzzell

September 14 (Tuesday): Primary election. Page 9

November 2 (Tuesday): General election. Pages 3, 9

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
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