



Free? LIBERTARIAN

State July 2011

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

Libertarian and Green Parties Win Ballot-Access Case

The Maryland Libertarian and Green parties once again won the right to be recognized as ballot-eligible political parties, thanks to a June 21, 2011 ruling from the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. The court's ruling clears the way for both parties to nominate candidates by July 1 for Baltimore's upcoming municipal elections.



The case, *Libertarian Party of Maryland v. Maryland State Board of Elections*, challenged the State Board's invalidation of the thousands of signatures submitted in support of the two parties' recertification petitions in March.

State law required the Libertarian and Green parties to renew their ballot-eligible status this year by submitting petitions signed by at least 10,000 registered Maryland voters. The State Board of Elections found that over 12,000 registered voters signed the Libertarian Party's petition, and that almost 13,000 registered voters signed the Green Party's petition. Nonetheless, the State Board rejected both petitions, citing technical deficiencies in the way voters printed their names.

At the June 21 hearing, Judge Eugene M. Lerner ruled that the State's invalidation of those thousands of signatures "was not correct." Judge Lerner stated that the overriding purpose of the statutory framework for petition signature validation was to identify each signer and make sure the signer is a registered voter. In so ruling, Judge Lerner applied the legal standard announced by the Maryland Court of Appeals in March 2011, the "sufficient cumulative information" standard.

Under the "sufficient cumulative information" standard, the key question in evaluating a petition signature is whether there is "sufficient cumulative information" to determine that the person supporting the petition is a registered Maryland voter. Because each party enjoyed the support of more than 10,000 registered voters, the court declared that the State Board should have recertified them for another four-year election cycle.

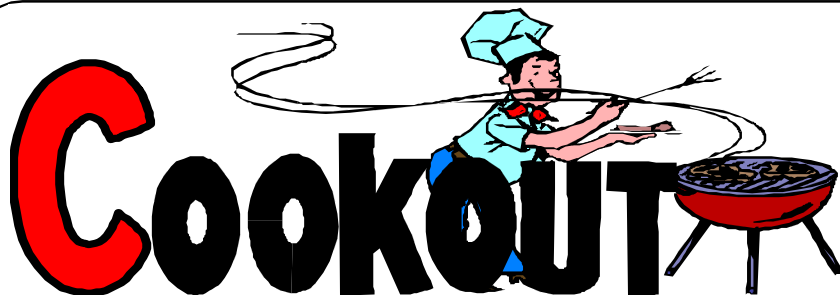
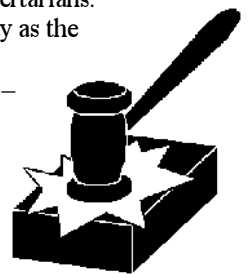
The court also invalidated a State Board policy that prevented voters from signing petitions a second time in order to correct defects in a first signature. The State Board had argued that each voter only had one chance to meet the Board's technical signature

requirements, and that any subsequent attempt would be treated as a "duplicate" even if the first attempt failed.

It was a dark and rainy morning as the first day of summer began. By the court time of 1:30 pm, the sun had pushed aside the dreariness that the state had suffered under two weeks of thunderstorms. The metaphor shortly turned prophetic for the state of third party political rights in Maryland. It appeared to be a good sign when Judge Lerner asked the BoE's attorney: "If a petition were signed 'Mitt Romney' or 'Bill Clinton' it wouldn't count?" (referring to the lack of a middle initial and improper first name).

Longtime ballot-access guru Doug McNeil served as the plaintiff, and Executive Board member and attorney Mark Grannis prepared and argued the case. Doug was the MdLP's nominee for Lieutenant Governor and Mark ran for Congress on our ticket in last year's elections. Mark's strategy amidst the morass of election law and potential issues was brilliant – it clarified the matters in dispute, and in the end, the judge affirmed each of his points. The quantity of exhibits (documents gleaned from the BoE itself) might have contributed to the success of the case. On hand to provide moral support and ultimately to rejoice in the finding were MdLP members Walt Seager, Michael Linder, Spear Lancaster, Brian Mason, and Robert Glaser (in addition to Doug and Mark). Doug commented "This is an important case that will go a long way toward restoring the right to petition in Maryland."

The bulk of the petition drive was funded by the National LP; in the final hours, the Gaztañagas donated a large sum to the effort to ensure we ended up with the minimum count. As a result, we retain the registration status of 9,272 Libertarians. Last year the MdLP surpassed the Green Party as the third largest political party in Maryland. We also retained the registrations four years ago – in previous cycles we lost all registrations and had to rebuild anew. The next step is to get 1% of Md. voters registered Libertarian, which will end the need to collect signatures. Legislative efforts are underway to reduce that requirement to 10,000.



Picnic and Central Committee Meeting

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Chair's Report

If you are interested in getting involved in local Libertarian political activity, then look no further than the Campaign for Liberty.

The Campaign for Liberty stands for:

1. free markets
2. non-interventionist foreign policy
3. sound money
4. Individual liberty
5. adherence to the U.S. Constitution

There are many local Campaign for Liberty chapters in the state of Maryland. I am a member of the Baltimore group, and other Maryland Libertarians are involved with local chapters.

There are monthly meetings, plus regular political activities. Last month, the C4L was involved in an effort to overturn the Patriot Act, placing thousands of flyers in the districts of the four Maryland U.S. House members that had previously supported the Patriot Act earlier this year.

While the campaign was unsuccessful in getting the Patriot Act overturned, the C4L was instrumental in getting two representatives, Chris Van Hollen and Andy Harris, to flip their votes and go against it.

I want to thank those of you who wrote letters-to-the-editor in the effort.



The next campaign will be to get Congress to audit the Federal Reserve Bank.

If you would like more information, please contact C4L state coordinator Robin Grammer at unbreakable*comcast.net

You can also check out the Campaign for Liberty website here: www.CampaignforLiberty.com

In November 2012 there will be eight seats for the U.S. House of Representatives and one seat for the U.S. Senate up for election in Maryland.

Have you ever thought about running for office? If so, please contact me at 443- 310-5373 or Chair*md.lp.org so we may discuss this.

Be sure to join us for the annual MdLP summer picnic, to be held on Saturday, 13 August, at the home of Dave and Renée Sten on the Elk River in North East, MD.

We haven't yet received a decision on the ballot access case as of this report, but I want to specifically thank Mark Grannis and Doug McNeil for their efforts.

— Bob Johnston



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

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The Famous Are Not the Ones Who Really Make History



Look at this picture. What do you see? The obvious answer is, “Bill Buzzell connecting the pole for the American flag at a Libertarian outreach booth.” Look again. I have seen Bill perform this operation scores of times over the years and never thought to take a picture of it until the morning of April 30, 2011 at the Towsontown Spring Festival. What caused me to see what he did in a new light was the fact that I had recently attended a presentation by a former leader of the

1987 revolution in the Philippines that brought down the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. He held up a copy of a book by the Canadian journalist Bryan Johnson, “The Four Days of Courage: The Untold Story of the People Who Brought Marcos Down,” and observed that, while the events that international reporters found newsworthy all took place in a period of four days, for those working for an honest, representative government in their country, “It was a twenty year effort.”

The Filipino speaker, now my colleague at work, was involved in a nonpartisan organization dedicated to ensuring fair and honest elections. Although the movement leaders were brilliant strategists and tacticians, my colleague insisted that the real heroes of this “regime change” were the volunteers – the Bill Buzzells – who watched the polls election after election and helped disseminate vital information in a period before cell phones, e-mail, the internet, or any of today’s social media. When the “Four days of courage” finally came, they were amazing. Over a million people flooded the streets in peaceful demonstrations.



Within days, the police, the armed forces, the Catholic hierarchy, and most of the government ministers had switched sides, leaving Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos no choice but to leave. However, in the last, blatantly rigged election before the revolution, the corrupt establishment tried to use the nonpartisan, fair elections organization and its good name to validate the electoral results. Does this sound familiar? I asked my colleague if he and the other leaders in the movement had had any intimation that they had reached the tipping point and were at the threshold of such a spectacular triumph. I will never forget his answer: “We had a feeling of doom.”

I took away from his talk two important truths that I hope will help to re-inspire our band of freedom lovers, we who call ourselves the Libertarian Party of Maryland. First, we should expect it to take a lot of time (20 plus years). Second, not only will we not know when we are about to triumph, we may actually feel as if all

is lost – just before everything turns around. In the meantime, we need a lot more Bill Buzzells. Bill and I had to scramble to line up minimal coverage for the Towsontown Spring Festival. What will happen when Bill just can’t do it anymore? I got a preview of that this weekend. As I write this, the Gay Pride Festival in Baltimore is taking place tomorrow, June 19, and we will not be there for the first time in several years. Why? Bill works on Sundays now. It was hard enough to put together the Towsontown booth with him on board; I wasn’t going to try it without him. Now the call to action: You who are reading this, look at the list of upcoming events on the MdLP website and contact Bill or me to volunteer a couple of hours of your time. Put it on your calendar and plan to be there. Even if your name never makes it into the history books, you will be making history.

— Susan Gaztania

“Politics is the wise exercise, distribution, and maintenance of power.”

— Tom Logan (Robert Redford) in “Legal Eagles”

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*md.lp.org
Vice Chairman	Muir Boda	410-603-3347	Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626	Secretary*md.lp.org
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At Large	Arvin Vohra	301-320-3634	Arvin@ArvinVohra.com
At Large	Mark Grannis	301-841-7530	Grannis*md.lp.org

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

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www.LP-CC.org	Anne Arundel County	Eric Gorr	AnneArundel*md.lp.org
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	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823 Cecil*md.lp.org
	Wicomico County	Muir Boda	410-603-3347 Wicomico*md.lp.org
	Harford County	Derek Mancinho	443-414-6539 Harford@md.lp.org

2011 MdLP Convention

The 2011 MdLP Convention was held on Saturday, March 12 at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk. Former LPPA candidate for Governor and long-time activist Ken Krawchuk was our first speaker: this is the first time he has spoken about his just-completed novel *Atlas Snubbed* in public. He hopes to get it published shortly.

He perceives a "hole" in the Libertarian Platform. Heartless libertarians want to abolish welfare, medicare, public education... The Libertarian answers all indicate that we are going to eliminate something. The Haves will say "how will we feed the poor?" The Have-Nots will say "how am I going to eat?" We don't buy votes, we bury power – and don't get elected. If elected, problems remain. It is a hole in our platform. Other organizations and groups are left to pick up the balance. We have to *solve* people's problems. Half of that is getting government out of the way; the other half is replacing them. There is a problem out there to be solved; the R's and D's are solving it, though unconstitutionally and illegally.

Problem #1: \$3.5 Trillion budget

Problem #2: \$2.3 Trillion revenue

The federal budget is divided into two parts: mandatory + discretionary (military). 65% is mandatory, the same amount as revenue. Nothing left to run the government.



We can sell off government assets to eradicate the debt, but the problem still exists. The problem is the welfare state – it's too big. Suppose we eliminate medicare and social security; the benefit would be \$2000 for every man, woman, and illegal in the country. Some people have \$20k in drug bills, how is \$2k going to help? Will we get that vote? No. They're expecting us to *solve* their problems. Liberty has a long term solution, but there is a hole in expectations from people we want to vote for us.

Pure Ayn Rand: "I do not consider charity a virtue, and not a moral duty. I regard charity as a marginal issue." Government may not provide charity, individuals may, but who *will*? The hole wasn't always there, government didn't do that; religious groups did. The problem was passed along. The first poor law was in 1763; later work houses were created – made it demeaning, hard to stay there – the first time a government welfare program tried to make it as hard as possible for recipients.

Personal charity is in a state of anarchy. How do we make welfare work? Davey Crockett saw the future and warned against it. Mr. Krawchuk proposes we implement Crockett's statement. Coupling taxation with neverending spending for charity is the problem. We should play Solomon; just as we separate church and state, we must separate *society* and *state*. Let's set up a parallel organization to handle charity – call it Society. Let it have a President and Congress, but remove the power of compulsory taxation; it would have to run on benefaction (voluntary contributions). Replace Article I section 8 with "Society's Congress shall have the

power to make voluntary guidelines for contributions. No coercion, maybe pressure. Not the United Way, it is national in scope. May take two years, five years, but it will move charity from government to Society. There's a crash coming, he provides a way. We should do it now, at our leisure – or we can wait for that crash to hit.

There was considerable audience commentary, most in opposition.

Former LNC chair and our LNC representative, Professor Jim Lark spoke next. His topic was *Knee-Jerk Libertarianism: a cure for a Common Disease*.

We've all heard "you don't care about the poor," etc. We don't like when we're presented with knee-jerk responses; we shouldn't do the same. They are ill-considered responses to statist stimuli, somewhat correct, but not appropriate. "The Free market will take care of it." How many Libertarians does it take to change a lightbulb? None, the market will take care of it. Global warming: perhaps markets are not going to work perfectly; is government going to do a better job?

The government employees are evil statist scum: where Dr. Lark grew up the post office workers, his public school teachers, etc., were very good people serving the needs well. Engaging in generalizations is not a good idea. We should treat all with integrity and respect.

The often wrong but never in doubt: assertions without any real evidence. Show me the data.

No soft landing: many ways to find what's motivating a question and address; simply saying we would legalize all hard drugs might not be desirable.

Ending the police powers of the FDA: we're thinking more drugs, more choices; others might be thinking botulism, thalidomide... the general public may not be as familiar with some ideas as we are.

If you're trying to scare people, we know how; if we're trying to educate, we need more.

How our fellow citizens view government: we focus on fraud, abuse, lack of authority to do; our friends and neighbors see benefits. What we see as problems they see as benefits.

If we're going to be effective ambassadors of liberty we must note that everybody has the will to win; but the will to work? We need to take the time and trouble to prepare. Some people are never going to be willing to engage libertarian ideas; some will later. Have to be willing NOT to engage in an argument. It is never a bad idea to ask questions, let the other person tell you what his concerns are.

Many of the most important points that open people's eyes are not Libertarian: the minimum wage law is economics; drug laws and FDA prohibitions are matters of science. You don't have to buy the whole farm. Work together on common issues. We need to point out that in a free society the default is freedom; the burden must be on others to show cause why not.





Next up was Len Lazarik, who addressed the point: *How can Libertarians achieve press exposure?* Mr. Lazarik is the editor and publisher of MarylandReporter.com, a news site on state government and politics, and has been an editor at numerous publications. Non-political, he tries to give voice to the voiceless; and who's more voiceless than the LP? He likes the underdog. He's always paid attention to Libertarians because they bring a point of view. Sometimes people assume he's a Re-

publican, but his voter card says "Libertarian." Because of the War on Drugs – what an insanity, half of our prisons are filled on drug convictions. U.S. troops are still in Afghanistan!

The LP needs to be larger than filling six tables in Dundalk. Needs to be a broader movement, has to appeal to mainstream people who are uncomfortable. The LP seems to disappear between elections and has no footprint in Annapolis. There are some issues we could ally ourselves with with Democrats. There is a Libertarian wing in the Republican party. There are evolving coalitions. Maryland is not very friendly to Libertarian points of view. We have really narrow visions of right and left. There are a lot of liberal Democrats who believe the War on Drugs is insanity. The Party has to become part of the discourse.

Our after-dinner speaker was Jim Bovard, author of books, and writer and editor for many magazines and journals. He began by saying that it's good there is an LP in Maryland, the odds are against it. Prince George's county police have the highest rate of killing innocent people of the entire country. The system was entirely corrupt. No matter how cynical one becomes, it's hard to keep up. Radicals and extremists are as bad as the terrorists (George W. Bush). What is the definition of militant? Does one drop of militancy make you a militant? The standards for killing Americans are not published. Being involved with a group that's trying to attack us is justification for targeting for murder. The scope keeps expanding. The entire world is a battlefield for the War on Terror. The ACLU is suing to get the standard for putting Americans on the kill list – are told that it is a national security issue, the feds have to explain nothing before, during, or after the killings. It is considered lawful to authorize killing a cleric in Yemen. The same justification is used for torture.

The list will expand. The FBI expanded its target list in the 60's. Government stretches its definition of extremists and terrorism and has a bad track record of identifying actual terrorists. Most Americans are just not focusing on the fact that the government is killing Americans. In next year's presidential campaign, voters should focus on those who promise not to kill them instead of lavishing more benefits on them.

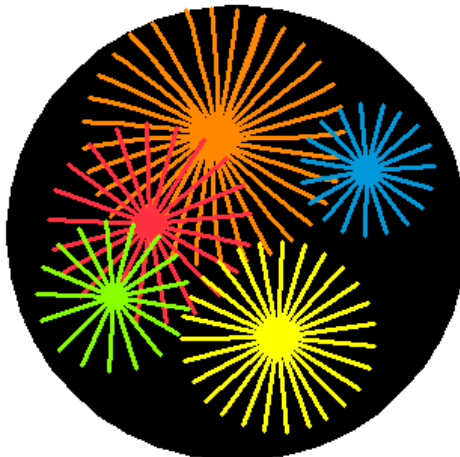
What should we do when the laws are simply an entitlement for the government to intrude on our lives? The soul of the Patriot Act is blind faith in law enforcement. It provides new powers to use against anybody. Made it easier to use national security letters forcing organizations to divulge information. Issuing up to 50,000 such letters a year. Turned the fourth amendment on its head. Based on an FBI agent filling out a form saying information is relevant to an investigation. Then said they would eventually send the national security letters. If a private citizen violates such laws he would go to prison. When agents do the same thing, it is considered a clerical error.

The Justice Department lied to Congress with no penalties. There are checks and balances, the Congress is supposed to oversee – but Congress shamed itself. The TSA has fouled up anything it's touched. Xray scanners, refusals get patted down, reports that they have been punitive in implementation. Congress has done nothing other than seeking exceptions for Congressmen.

The Homeland Security Department has noticed communications between freedom movements and consider them potential security threats. Currently Muslims are under suspicion, next it will be the freedom movement. In the 60's, the FBI infiltrated the antiwar movement; we recently found out that the Maryland State Police was involved in similar activity. Often people are trying to entrap you. We need a higher level of patriotism: it's not patriotic to give the benefit of the doubt to those who are trying to shackle you.

— Robert E. Glaser

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



Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 12 March 2011

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by chairman Bob Johnston. The Treasurer's report and agenda were distributed.



Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Mark Grannis; and Doug McNeil. It validated that 19 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Two proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 34 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 21 August 2010 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

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

Chair's Report: Membership is at 102 as of 3/1/11. Bob has been aggressive in contacting those who haven't yet renewed in the last two years. Registration is 9,282 as of 2/28/11, growing at a nice clip towards the 1% level. Ballot Access: turned in 13,787 sigs in Jan.; have roughly another 100 on hand, plus a paid petitioner is collecting another 975 sigs; will have submitted around 14,900 as of the final turn-in on March 16. The BoE has until March 27 to finish counting. The Court of Appeals did not get back to the BoE on which sig standard to use, thus must use tougher "Doe" standard — where signature/printed name/voter reg card must all match; difficult to get 10k certified with present sig standard; not sanguine about acceptance rate; in process of setting up a lawsuit with Green Party (& Constitution Party?), just in case. Doug McNeil announced that we're expecting both Lib/Greens will lose status because nobody can meet this new standard. Joint meeting tomorrow on lawsuit strategy at 11:00 am with Greens on this issue; three or four attorneys are working on it; afraid we will lose ballot access and our registered voters. 2012 elections: 8 U.S. House seats, 1 U.S. Senate; hope those who ran previously will run again; already have interest from two others; will be having nominations later this year, at the picnic and next year's convention. Municipal elections: 157 self-governing municipalities in Md.; most have elections in odd-numbered years; Balto. City and Annapolis will also be having elections. Muir Boda running for Salisbury City Council, election on April 5; the top 3 get elected to the Council; this is a winnable race. He is campaigning door-to-door; writing letters to editor; has already raised thousands of dollars; Bob will be helping out on 4/5. LDDS: after convention and ballot access drive, Bob will be starting up a local meet group in the Dundalk area; every 2 or 3 months, nothing fancy, encourages others to start their own. We need to get involved with the *Campaign for Liberty*; they were at CPAC, have numbers, finances, and organization; we can double our numbers by getting them on our side, assuming Ron Paul doesn't get the Rep. nomination; Bob is a member of the Balto. group.



Defender of Liberty Award: Bob Johnston presented Susan Gaztaniaga with a DoL award due to her extensive campaigning at the top of our ticket for the gubernatorial run; we were well represented; she brought new groups into the campaign; she and Lorenzo covered 6,000 miles traveling throughout the state.



Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award: the group of previous recipients presented the SPCFA to Bob Johnston for recruiting candidates and running campaigns for the last seven years; handling memberships for six years; organizing our convention the past six years; and overseeing the ballot access drives in 2006 and 2010. His candidate recruitment was a major factor in securing a large donation from the LNC for our 2010 ballot access drive. The group temporarily suspended the tradition of excluding sitting chairs from consideration in order to select Bob, and emphasized that he is not getting the award *because* he is Chair. Lorenzo Gaztaniaga presented the silver coin.

Officer Elections: The following were nominated as officers: Robert Johnston III, Muir Boda, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Lorenzo Gaztaniaga, Arvin Vohra, and Mark Grannis. 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.

Constitutional Amendment: Append to Article VII Section 1:

At the time of filing, and continuously through the date of the corresponding General Election, all candidates of the Maryland Libertarian Party to public office must be registered Libertarian as defined in the qualification for Central Committee membership stated in Article IV, Section 2. Should any candidate fail to meet this qualification after nomination and if the state has already been notified of that nomination, the Chairman and Secretary are directed to notify the State Board of Elections that the Party's nomination is rescinded.

Append to Article VII Section 2: Should the Local Central Committee of the corresponding jurisdiction not exist, or not be recognized by the appropriate County or State Board of Election, or the jurisdiction crosses the boundary of more than one such Local Central Committee, or the duly authorized Chairman of an empowered recognized Local Central Committee so request, the State Central Committee may nominate such candidates in the same manner as described in Section 3 of this Article.

It was noted that an Investigating Committee had not been formed to prepare a recommendation on the amendment, so the matter was tabled until the next meeting. The committee shall consist of Bob Johnston, Dean Ahmad, Stuart Simms, Robert Glaser, and Mike Calpino.

Announcements: Robert Glaser reminded all that MdLP license plates are available to our members, contact him for the authorizing MVA form. Michael Linder prodded for booth assistance at the Towsontowne Festival on 4/30-5/1; and noted that the Chesapeake Pride festival requests our presence on August 20.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

The Investigating Committee unanimously recommends passage of the constitutional amendment on the grounds that the first part strengthens and clarifies our procedures, and the second part formalizes the procedure we have been following and which should have been in the constitution all along.

Balance

Once upon a time in the Kingdom of Heaven, God was missing for six days. Eventually Michael the archangel found him, resting on the seventh day.

He inquired of God, "Where have you been?"

God sighed a deep sigh of satisfaction and proudly pointed downwards through the clouds, "Look, Michael, look what I've made."

Archangel Michael looked puzzled and said, "What is it?"

"It's a planet," replied God, "and I've put Life on it. I'm going to call it Earth, and it's going to be a great place of balance."

"Balance?" inquired Michael, still confused.

God explained, pointing to different parts of earth, "For example, northern Europe will be a place of great opportunity and wealth, while southern Europe is going to be poor; the Middle East over there will be a hot spot. Over there I've placed a continent of white people, and over there is a continent of black people," God continued, pointing to different countries. This one will be extremely hot and arid, while this one will be very cold and covered in ice."

The Archangel, impressed by God's work, then pointed to a large land mass and said, "What's that one?"

"Ah," said God. "That's Maryland, the most glorious place on earth. There are beautiful lakes, green fields, sunsets, and rolling hills. The people from Maryland are going to be modest, intelligent, and humorous, and they are going to be found traveling the world. They will be extremely sociable, hardworking, and high achieving, and they will be known throughout the world as diplomats and carriers of peace."

Michael gasped in wonder and admiration, but then proclaimed, "What about balance? You said there would be balance!"

God replied wisely, "Wait until you see the idiots I'm putting next to them in Washington, DC."

PICNIC



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 13 (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 mailed to Box 176 (or click credit cards on website) by Aug. 8
\$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 four summers. There were good turnouts and they were resounding successes.



Editor's Corner



It was good to see everyone at the Convention in March, and looking forward to meeting again at the picnic at Dave's in August. Try to make it!

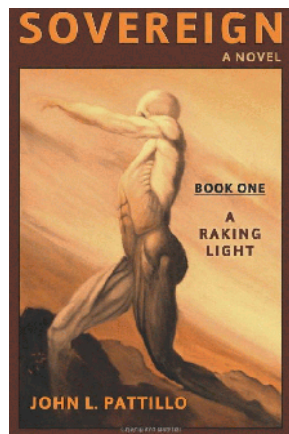
After the very many years that it took to get *Atlas Shrugged* onto the big screen (amid starts and stops for the small screen as well), we had to go see the premiere of the showing in D.C. of *Atlas Shrugged Part I* on April 15 (appropriately). Tickets courtesy of the LNC (thanks!), the traffic jams getting from Baltimore to Washington caused us to miss the beginning of the movie and a failure to connect up with our kind hosts. It has been

many years since I read the book and don't really remember the small picture interactions, so seeing it on film brought back memories of being engrossed in its reading. There are critics who find fault, but since it fairly accurately follows the tome I have no complaints. Just that it left me sorely wanting to see Part II (due out 4/15/2012) and Part III (due out 4/15/2013)! Consult the www.AtlasShruggedPart1.com website, but I think it is too late now to see it in theatres.

Speaking of the Ayn Rand juggernaut, I highly recommend a novel in three parts: *Sovereign* (Book One: A Raking Light; Book Two: Give Me a Child; Book Three: Suitable for Liberty) written by John L. Pattillo. I have known John and his wife Barbara for 25 years (eons ago they were active Libertarians in this area), and my expectations were quite high to see the result of his years-long effort creating this epic. I was not disappointed.

The title reveals the overriding viewpoint; the supremacy of the individual over the collective is illustrated by society's predilection on race identity, and government elevation of group rights. I won't say more, but like *Atlas Shrugged*, it promotes the importance of the individual over that of the collective through the telling of a fictional story (of a talented painter) — which keeps the reader's attention in dual mode. A bonus is that it mostly takes place in Maryland, as John lives in Timonium. Go to Amazon.com and search for "John Pattillo" to order the book in paperback or eBook formats. I recommend keeping a dictionary handy — he has a penchant for using words I can't say I knew (but whose meanings are readily apparent from the context).

I acquired a Kindle a few months ago (I wish I had bought *Sovereign* for it instead of in book form, the built-in dictionary is a great plus) and I searched around to see what free eBooks I could find for it. I downloaded *Essays on Political Economy* by Frédéric Bastiat from www.Gutenberg.org. This includes the famous fable *The Broken Window* under *That Which Is Seen, and That Which Is Not Seen* as well as *The Law*. Of course as a libertarian I have been familiar with Bastiat's work, but I had not previously directly read it in its original form. I was constantly exclaiming aloud "Amazing, this was written 150 years ago but applies directly to today's world!" So much to read, so few hours in a lifetime.



"The pretensions of organisers suggest another question, which I have often asked them, and to which I am not aware that I ever received an answer: Since the natural tendencies of mankind are so bad that it is not safe to allow them liberty, how comes it to pass that the tendencies of organisers are always good? Do not the legislators and their agents form a part of the human race? Do they consider that they are composed of different materials from the rest of mankind?"
— Bastiat

Medical Matters and the State

I recently became aware of a medical patient opt-out form for something called CRISP. I went to their Crisphealth.org website to learn more about the program (click on the FAQs link). I was troubled by the statement that "Patients can choose not to make their information searchable" — but how to prevent the information from being stored in the first place?

I emailed questions and eventually reached by phone a technically knowledgeable gentleman. I admit I was expecting a non-responsive conversation, but instead was rather surprised to find him very forthcoming. I had suspected that this program is part of "Obamacare." It is not; it is actually part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. CRISP is Maryland's "Health Information Exchange" (HIE).

It sounded as if there was a centralized database of medical (clinical) data on patients. The potential for misuse alarmed me. What it really is, is a *directory* of existing patient clinical information. The medical information is stored in the provider's internal database. At the moment, the providers are hospitals. This is expected to be expanded to physician offices as well. So if your doctor searches the HIE for data on you, what turns up is a listing of which hospitals have entries on you. The security and safe-keeping of that data are already covered under HIPAA legislation.

Amid the nearly daily reports of data center leaks, I am not easily assured of system security. But even though my initial thought was "here we go again, the government is centralizing data on me, and who knows what will happen to it" I was satisfied that this program is really not so dangerous (you might not agree). The purpose is to have all treating physicians aware of a patient's medical records to prevent medical errors. As a technologist, that makes sense, but as a libertarian, I get qualms.

The gentleman suggested without prompting that while he was discussing what the law was *today*, no one knows for sure what future legislation will bring: it is not unlikely that future participants will include the Veteran's Administration, Social Security disability, and the Department of Defense. Currently the HIE's are administered on a state-by-state basis, but surely there will be an initiative to coordinate among them (say you have an accident and are treated away from home, how is the treating physician to obtain your medical records?).

I did find this amusing: my major concern was the concentration in one place of too much information, and was supposedly reassured that the HIE really was only a pointer to the real data; but then I learned that in practice most of the participating hospitals essentially contract out their databases to CRISP itself! So the clinical records are in fact stored in one facility anyway. Legally they are separate entities. To their credit, however, each database is handled by its own separate "blade" which has its own individual 64-bit encryption. So theoretically if one electronically or physically invaded the HIE building, it would still be necessary to crack the encryption to gain any usable information.

Something to think about.

— Robert E. Glaser

Salisbury City Council Election, 2011



At the heart and soul of political activism is the process with which to make change: that being elections. The battle of ideas and beliefs is an on-going struggle that has existed for hundreds of years in our country. The pinnacle of that is when an individual places his or her name on a ballot to be considered by those casting their votes.

I have done this twice in my life by running for Salisbury City Council in 2009 and 2011. Though both times I did not succeed in getting elected (*Muir got 17% this time – ed.*), I have learned more about the process and myself through both experiences. It is, if anything, a great experience knocking on doors, meeting people, putting campaign signs up and debating other candidates.

The question that many ask is: why run? My answer was always the same – I care about the future of my city and I believe the basic principles of Liberty – economic and personal – are what will move our city forward.

There are those that wrongly believe we can regulate and legislate away all of our problems. My point maintained that over regulation and too much legislation only creates more problems. Many of our issues require more community involvement in addressing our problems with the resources of faith based groups and civic organizations – not the government trying to fix the problems.

I am proud of the campaign we ran. We focused on the issues and presented solutions and ideas based on Libertarian Principles. Many people, especially the business community, responded well to the message.

The fight goes on, and we continue spreading our message and challenging those who believe the government must be everything to everyone. At all levels of government we must watch and defend Liberty, work to keep government intrusion to a minimum, and keep government small. We must also keep a watchful eye on those who use power to their own end and pervert the processes, whether it is a violation of the U.S. Constitution, State Constitution, or Local Charter and Code.

That is our duty. That is why we run. That is our purpose.

— *Muir Boda*



In the News

On December 2, **Gerald Schneider**, by invitation of David Rowland, presented information on “Domestic Terrorism Policy of the U.S.” and, along with David, answered questions from the audience at the Holiday Park Multiservice Senior Center in Wheaton.

Gerald Schneider’s letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on January 5. In “Hikers/bikers should pay their own way” he says that registration fees for hikers and bikers should pay for proposed paths, not the depleted transportation fund derived from gasoline taxes. County Executive Isiah Leggett wrote him and indicated the idea “is in the mix.”

The (Easton) *Star* printed a letter from **Michael Andersen** in its January 16 issue: “Obamacare: Send it back.” He urges the state legislature to nullify Obamacare because there is no Federal authority to enact it.

The *Baltimore Sun* ran the letter on March 7 that **Nickolaus Mueller** submitted retorting a previous letter defending Baltimore’s Medallion towing system in: “Open Baltimore towing to the free market.” He decries the policies that are good for businesses, not consumers, and instead promotes free market solutions.

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider’s** letter on March 16: “Bonds could help protect environment.” He promotes having developers post “assurance bonds” in advance of construction in case of environmental infractions instead of levying fines after the fact.

Spear Lancaster’s letter was printed in *The (Annapolis) Capital* on June 1. He discusses the difficulties in running for office as a third party candidate in Maryland.

The letter written by **Doug McNeil** and the Green Party’s Tim Willard was in the *Baltimore Sun* on June 2: “Maryland is killing participatory democracy.” The two plaintiff’s representatives in our ballot access lawsuit against the Board of Elections discussed how the petition signing requirements affect small political parties as well as the ballot questions most voters are more aware of.

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

TO: SHA Adopt-A-Highway Program
ATTN: Wanda Rumble
4 people out, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, 6 Bags

South Bound

1 bag, 12 foot metal pole @ Ruxton Ridge Rd.
2 bags @ Greenwood Rd. sign south of Ruxton Ridge Rd. About a block before the school (there is a very light white #38 on the road) there is the skeleton of a deer in the drainage ditch.

P.S. (1) Our *Libertarian Club of Baltimore* signs are still not up. They still have the *Cornerstone Advisory Employees* signs up. We are one of your most loyal groups. We have been responsible for cleaning up that stretch of highway for over 15 years. I hope we can get our signs back soon.

P.S. (2) We will need some more bags for the next time out. Can you arrange for me to pick them up from the Rt-40 Golden Ring office? That’s much closer for me than where you are.

— *Bill Buzzell*

The Libertarian Club of Baltimore
Charles Street
Saturday May 21, 2011

North Bound

1 bag @ the Adopt-A-Hwy sign
2 bags @ Greenwood Road across from Ridge Ruxton School

Get your very own MdLP plates!



Promote the MdLP

Contact Robert Glaser

Advertising Rates:

Make checks payable to the Maryland Libertarian Party, and send along with copy to:

PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117

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1/2 Page	60.00
1/4 Page	35.00
Business Card	20.00



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 Bob Johnston 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 4 (Monday): Dundalk 4th of July Parade. Bill Buzzell, 410-477-9173, waBuzzell*juno.com

July 12 (Tuesday): 7:00 pm. MdLP Executive Board meeting in Owings Mills. Robert Glaser

August 13 (Saturday): MdLP picnic (2:00 pm) and Central Committee meeting (4:00 pm). Page 8

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