

Free? LIBERTARIAN

State

December 2011

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

Baltimore City Elections, 2011



In terms of voter turnout, Baltimore City reached a new low this year: 22% in the primary (which for many is the “real” election) and 12% in the general election. Lee Gardner, Editor of the *City Paper*, was so publicly discouraged that he could barely bring himself to go through the motions of endorsing candidates. He gave his article the title “If this is a general election, then these are endorsements,” and went on to say, “much of the following list of endorsements is just that – a list.

Where there’s a case to be made for a better option than voting for the Democratic incumbent – or staying home – look for a brief attempt at making it.” The only non-Democrat candidates Gardner “endorsed” might almost have wished he didn’t. With Third District incumbent Robert Curran infamously advising his constituents to say that a gun was involved when making a 911 call to get the police to come more quickly, and proud of his role in passing the bar and restaurant smoking ban, the only reason Gardner could find to withdraw his endorsement from such an “estimable politician” (his words) this time around was that Curran had changed his mind about running again after telling the CP that 2007 would be his last election. He gave the nod to Green candidate Bill Barry, although not too keen about his pro-union stance and finding his positions “light on detail,” observing that “if he were to spend four years questioning the sort of sweetheart tax deals commonly doled out to goose development, it most likely wouldn’t be four years wasted.” Wow. So, do we come out for Bill or stay home?

Republican Kent Boles, Jr. (12th District) fared even worse. *City Paper* decided to stop endorsing Carl Stokes because, somewhat like Curran, he committed the unpardonable sin of changing his mind about what office he wanted to run for. So Gardner looked around and found that Boles was not “an utter swine,” even if he is a Republican. As it happened, Lorenzo and I ran into Mr. Boles at a downtown polling site on Election Day, and he happily told Lorenzo that he had voted for him for City Council President. Gardner put incumbent Jack Young on his list without comment.

The Baltimore Libertarian Party had four candidates in the general election: Lorenzo Gaztañaga for City Council President, and Doug McNeil, Scott Spencer and Ronald Owens-Bey for City Council, Districts 11, 12

and 13 respectively. Our results, as of November 29, 2011 are:

Gaztañaga: 2452 (5.3%)

McNeil: 152 (4.6%)

Spencer: 98 (3.5%)

Owens-Bey: 164 (4.8%)

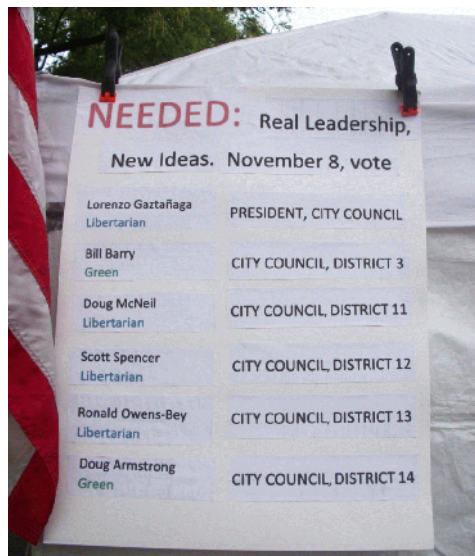
From the beginning, we promoted the idea that we were part of a slate of “Change Candidates” that included the Green candidates Bill Barry in the Third District and Douglas Armstrong in the Fourteenth. I made an all-candidate poster that we displayed prominently during the Fells Point Fun Festival October 1 and 2, and brought it out again for a rally and parade that Barry organized on Harford Road November 5. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by two or three young Barry supporters who had voted for Lorenzo at various times and were excited to finally meet him. You can see and hear Lorenzo on Youtube in a video filmed by longtime activist Maurice Morales during this demonstration (www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMqQVt0iu0c&feature=uploademail).

Although on paper Lorenzo was in a three way race for City Council President, he was the only candidate of the three who actually campaigned. He appeared on three radio programs: Dan Rodericks and Sheila Kast on WYPR and Anthony McCarthy on Morgan State radio, for which the incumbent, Jack Young, could not be reached. In the case of the Sheila Kast Maryland Morning show, the Republican candidate, Anthony Wiggins, agreed to be on the show by telephone, but technical problems prevented him from being on, so Lorenzo ended up being the only candidate for City Council President who appeared on all three radio shows. In addition to that, he was the only one of the three candidates who appeared in the Hamden / Remington community forum for city wide candidates. He sign waved from 33rd

Street and the Alameda to Edmondson Village, to Fort Avenue, to the Rotunda, Pratt and Calvert, Lombard and Calvert, and Lombard and Market Place. We placed signs at each of the five early voting sites.

Come Election Day, we had signs at the seven polling sites serving three or more precincts, and volunteers at least part of the time at five of them. The volunteers, by and large, did not come from our core group of Libertarians who typically come out for everything, and we wanted them to have a positive experience. It became clear early on, however, that they were in for long stretches of inactivity. At our own polling site, usually a very busy one, Lorenzo’s signs were the only ones there – the whole day!

Continued on page 4



Chair's Report



I want to thank those who ran in the November elections for the Baltimore City Council, namely Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Doug McNeil, Ron Owens-Bey, and Scott Spencer, for participating and for giving up part of their time and money to

get the Libertarian message out.

I also want to thank those of you who contributed to and supported our candidates.

Speaking of elections, we are less than a year away from the November 2012 elections, and there will be 9 positions up for grabs: 1 Senate seat, and 8 House seats.

If you are interested or thinking about running for office, please contact me soon. Several people have already expressed a desire to run next year.

Be sure to make plans to attend the Maryland LP spring convention, being held on Saturday, March 3, at *Squires Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk. We have had excellent speakers, and this upcoming convention should be no different.

We will be nominating candidates for the 2012 elections, delegates to the LP national convention, and officers to the state party Executive Board.

And it's always enjoyable to get together with fellow Libertarians!

The Libertarian Party national convention will be held on the first weekend in May at the *Red Rocks Resort* in Las Vegas, NV. Our Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates will be nominated there, along with Libertarian National Committee officers, including the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Running candidates is how we use the electoral process to get the Libertarian message out. And that message is resonating more and more with Americans, with our being \$15 trillion in debt, bogged down in three unconstitutional wars, endless encroachments to our civil liberties through the Patriot Act and War on Drugs, the TSA, corporate welfare, rapidly expanding public union entitlements, etc.

The success of the Ron Paul campaign has shown there is a significant Libertarian block of support amongst the public. We need to capture that block.

I hope you will support our 2012 candidates. Assuming I am still working at my current job, and barring any unforeseen emergency, I will be donating \$500 to the LP Presidential campaign, and \$500 to one or several of our state candidates.

Money buys ads to run on the radio, bumper stickers, lawn signs, display ads in newspapers and on the Internet – ads which take our message of prosperity and peace, free markets and civil liberties to the voters.

I'm not asking you to donate as much as I am, but I am asking each of you to contribute one day's pay, or \$100, whichever is less, to our Presidential candidate and one of our state candidates.

— Bob Johnston

Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

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

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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 views expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily the views of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, its Executive Board, or the Central Committee. The *Free? State Libertarian* is a first amendment publication, and welcomes diverse participation from many sources.

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Tank Attack!

The most environmentally friendly waste water treatment system in Maryland is under attack by people, including our governor and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, who *claim* to be environmentalists.

They claim that our septic tanks are polluting the Bay, and our governor wants us to pay up. We were already hit with a Septic Tank Tax, but once the demonization plan is complete, the sky's the limit.

The truth of the matter, from my point of view, is that the socialist model is failing on one hand and gearing up on the other.

Just what is "my point of view"? Well, I have almost four decades of experience in the Sewer Cleaning industry. I've spent most of that time responding to sewer back-ups and overflows or providing maintenance services to prevent them. Yes, the company that I've owned for many years provides septic services too, but most of our work is in sewers, because sewers need lots of maintenance. They overflow constantly, while septic systems work much more efficiently.

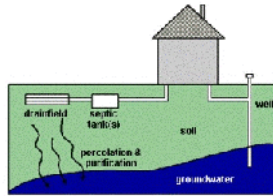
You'd think that a company owner who makes most of his money working on sewers would be just as *pro sewer* as our governor. You would think I would welcome the miles of new sewer infrastructure he's promoting. You'd be right... *if I was a greedy socialist with no real concern for the environment*. But I'm not. I'm a nature lover and one who values truth, honesty, liberty and a good ol' Chesapeake Bay Crab Feast now and then.

I've witnessed sewer spill after sewer spill spewing hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw sewage, fecal matter, syringes, and used condoms into the waters that we fish and crab in. A quick Internet search for "sewer spills and overflows" will shock many. Especially when they read of the cities, like Washington, DC – home of the EPA – that have millions of gallons of raw sewage going directly into the rivers, *untreated*, every year. Keep in mind that on top of that, most of the spills I've witnessed have gone unreported and don't show in statistics. Sometimes I've actually been told: "Keep your mouth shut" by municipal sewer managers.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, our governor, and most of their socialist allies promote the idea that nitrogen from our septic tanks is polluting the Bay. Well, let's explore that theory: Like all creatures great and small, I consume plant matter which eventually

ends up in my septic tank. The liquid phase is absorbed into the ground through the drain-field. It's that liquid that the *so called* environmentalists claim is the source of nitrogen pollution.

But if that's a problem, what of all the other creatures great and small who are *defecating directly onto the ground all around us*? On my little plot of property we have deer, fox, rabbits, squirrels, bats, turtles, lizards, raccoons, opossum, mice, moles and flocks of birds. Let's not forget that even fish poop nitrogen, as any aquarium owner can attest to.



Then what if we calculated the nitrogen load of insects? They eat a lot of plant matter too. And then there's natural bacteria breaking down plant matter. What about the leaves that fall to the ground and decay, and grass that decomposes into nitrogen? Oh my goodness! Think of all the "greenhouse gases" that natural decaying leaves in the forest give off! Run Chicken Little! Run!

Even when a septic system fails, it only seeps. You don't find used syringes, condoms and fecal matter floating by in thousands of gallons of raw sewage. You might get a wet spot in the yard, if that. Usually the toilet simply won't flush.

The way I see it, our governor and his socialist allies see septic tank owners as a vast source of revenue to pay for the failing sewer infrastructure in the cities. They also want to provide *disincentives* for people who want to escape the failing cities.

Much like the Soviets who built walls to keep the productive people from leaving, our so called environmentalists promote "Smart growth" and "Agenda 21" to keep hard working individuals *and their money* in the cities, or penalizing them if they leave. After all, look at all the people in the cities who pay no taxes. No wonder infrastructure is failing.

Then if the governor gets all the miles and miles of new sewers he wants he can expand the number of municipal employees with his big false economy and take credit for creating jobs. It's sort of



like digging a hole to put dirt in, only worse for the environment and worse for tax slaves. I bet union bosses want to give him a big wet kiss on the mouth.

— *Tank Man*

(In honor of the brave little man of Tiananmen Square)

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
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Treasurer*md.lp.org
Party Spokesperson	Lorenzo Gaztaniaga	443-414-6539	BaltimoreCity*md.lp.org
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.

County Affiliates

www.LP-CC.org	Anne Arundel County	Eric Gorr	AnneArundel*md.lp.org
	Baltimore City/County	John Olson	443-414-6539 Baltimore*md.lp.org
	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 Mancinno	443-414-6539 Harford*md.lp.org

Update on our ballot access lawsuit

In June, the Anne Arundel Circuit Court ruled in our favor in our ballot access lawsuit *Libertarian Party of Maryland and Maryland Green Party v. Maryland State Board of Elections*, and ruled that both of the co-plaintiffs had submitted enough petition signatures to be again qualified as recognized political parties. This ruling was just in time to meet the filing deadline for the Baltimore City elections, and four Libertarian and two Green Party candidates ran for local office. One of the Green candidates for City Council beat the Republican in his race by a substantial margin, which makes a persuasive case that voters should not be denied the choices that small parties offer them.

The loser in a lawsuit has one appeal by right, and after our victory at the trial court level the state had 30 days to decide whether to exercise its option and appeal to the Court of Special Appeals, Maryland's second highest state court. Although we tried to persuade them that it was not in their interest to appeal the decision, they chose to do so and filed Notice of Appeal, and the COSA set the dates for the filings by both parties.

Then the SBE filed a motion with the Court of Appeals (Maryland's highest state court) asking it to bypass the COSA and agree to hear the case directly. We filed a reply opposing this change, arguing that this important case will decide the future of the right to petition in Maryland, and therefore would benefit from hearings by as many levels of the judicial system as possible. But the Court of Appeals decided to grant *certiorari*, and agreed to hear the case directly.

The case was then delayed for a month due to scheduling issues of the State Board's attorney. Legal briefs will be filed by both sides this winter, and oral arguments are expected to be held

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this spring, perhaps in March.

The case involves the legal issue of what is the correct standard for validating signatures on political petitions in Maryland, a subject that the Court of Appeals has already addressed twice in the last three years. However, the previous cases reached different results and are widely perceived as difficult to reconcile with each other.

In addition, the current case involves the ability of political parties to get ballot access, which both state and federal courts have protected as part of the right to vote. By contrast, earlier cases involved referendum petitions, which have received much less constitutional protection than the right to vote. The State Board of Elections has argued that it must decide ballot access cases according to the standards developed in referendum cases. The political parties have countered that the hypertechnical rules from referendum cases are inappropriate where fundamental constitutional rights are involved, because the State may not suppress the voting rights of someone whom the State agrees is a registered voter simply because he has, for example, failed to write his middle initial.

Neither side has sought expedited review in this appeal, so the case will proceed more slowly than our initial lawsuit did. And the Circuit Court's order has not been stayed, so both the Libertarian and Green Parties remain officially recognized political parties, at least for now. This case is extremely important to the future of small political parties in Maryland, and we are continuing to work to secure our legal right to run candidates for public office.

— Mark Grannis and Doug McNeil



This experience has made us even more determined to work for a free and politically vital Baltimore. The responses we received to the notes of thanks we sent to campaign donors and volunteers were encouraging, while at the same time reflecting the tragic state of representative democracy in the city.

- "I voted for you, even though I knew there wasn't much chance, to say the least. This voter apathy really is tragic, people taking liberty for granted, more like lost in everything else."
- "Lorenzo, you certainly put your heart and soul into this campaign. I admire your tenacity and hope... The system, sad to say, is corrupt but getting on the ballot and showing the flag is still better than just walking off the field."



- "At Woodhome Elementary they turned off the lights to the main building. And uncharacteristically shut off the minimal 'security' lighting scheme they use. Were I more conspiratorial minded, I'd suggest that was done deliberately to shoo away potential voters. You're a class act, Sir. I hope you continue to be part of the political landscape."
- "I'm less interested in what percent of the vote you receive or how many banners you have up than the fact that you got on the radio three times and had a chance to get people thinking differently than the traditional 'liberal vs. conservative' or 'Democrat vs. Republican' mode."

— Susan Gaztañaga

Minutes of the Initial Governing Body of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 13 August 2011

The Initial Governing Body of the Libertarian Party of Maryland met on the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 3:54 pm by chairman Bob Johnston. Of the 25 members, 15 were present plus 8 proxies were presented. Robert S. Johnston III, Muir Boda, Robert E. Glaser, Michael Linder, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Mark Grannis, and Arvin Vohra were nominated as officers; all were subsequently elected by a voice vote. The Libertarian Party of Maryland's Constitution as submitted to the Board of Elections (revision date 11 August 2007) was approved by a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.



Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 13 August 2011

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met on the rainy grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 3:57 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser, Arvin Vohra, and Doug McNeil. It validated that 13 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 32 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 12 March 2011 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted by Michael Linder.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that we have 89 members as of 7/31/11; 9,343 registered voters as of June 30. Ballot Access: AA court ruled in our favor 6/21, and had us put back on the ballot. The BoE filed an appeal; Mark Grannis is trying to get a "prospective relief" ruling, where the court will instruct the BoE on what to do in the future, while maintaining the lower court's ruling; the case won't be heard for several months. The important thing is we have retained all of our registrations and are strengthening our status as Md.'s *numerical* third party. We are running four candidates for Balto. City Council (Lorenzo Gaztañaga/President, Doug McNeil/11, Scott Spencer/12, Ronald M. Owens-Bey/13). For the Nov. elections congressional maps should be ready before Thanksgiving; will call a CC meeting to nominate candidates to federal office – have commitments for four House and one Senate race now.

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.

The Investigating Committee of Bob Johnston, Dean Ahmad, Stuart Simms, Robert Glaser, and Mike Calpino unanimously recommends passage 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. The amendment **PASSES** on a voice vote.

MdLP Pens: Bill Buzzell suggested we purchase customized pens for fair give-aways, as they will be kept and not immediately tossed. The CC authorized \$250 to have 500 pens manufactured.

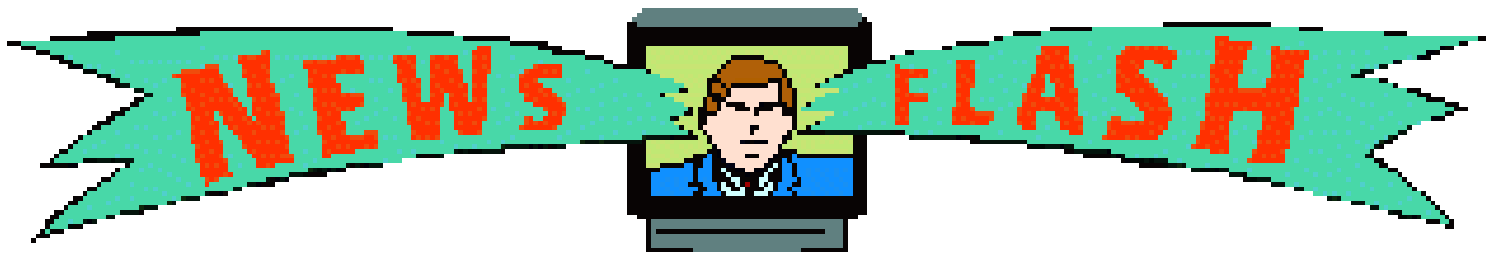
Announcements: Susan Gaztañaga asked for booth help at upcoming events: Chesapeake Pride Festival, Essex Day, Fells Point, and Reisterstown. Robert Glaser has forms with him for MdLP license plates, and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property – until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

— Thomas Jefferson (1802)



In the News

Bill Buzzell reported to the Adopt-A-Highway Program that the Libertarian Club of Baltimore performed a cleanup on June 25. Five people out from 9:00 to 11:00 am collected three bags of refuse and a 12 foot metal pole at Ruxton Ridge Road.

On July 15, the *Baltimore Sun* published **Muir Boda's** letter: "A libertarian view: Neither party is serious about debt reduction." He decries the lack of will by both Democrats and Republicans on the debt problem, and provides several history lessons.

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Susan Gaztañaga's** letter "Baltimore voters will (hopefully) have some choice" on July 17. She points out that the number of "one party" Baltimore City districts would have been much higher if it were not for the Libertarian and Green parties.

Michael Calpino's letter was printed in the (Eastern Shore) *Daily Times* on August 15: "Government intervention never produces prosperity." He notes that the worldwide financial collapse is due to government intervention; Democrats and Republicans in this country have spent and borrowed us into this mess. We cannot trust the two parties and it is our fault for electing them.

On September 16, the *Baltimore Sun* published Maryland Green Party co-chairman **Brian Bittner's** letter: "Third-party candidates would improve turnout." In response to the *Sun's* bemoaning about dismal Baltimore primary election turnout, he encourages the state of Maryland to show its commitment to voters by dropping its appeal of the ballot access case won by the Maryland Green and Libertarian parties.

On October 16, the *Baltimore Sun* printed **Dan Reed's** letter: "White House hasn't learned from Prohibition." He opens with "In response to Kevin A. Sabet's recent opinion piece ('Drug legalization: Wrong lesson of Prohibition,' Oct. 9), I don't know which is more abhorrent – that a Baltimore newspaper would run an op-ed championing Prohibition as 'not as bad as you remember' or that the piece was penned by a former senior advisor in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy." He expounds on the issue and ends asking "When is enough enough?"

The *Washington Post* published **Jay Baker's** letter on October 18: "The promise of Herman Cain." He refutes the morality of higher tax rates for the wealthy. His letter provoked three responses against his (quoting the Bible), plus two responses to those refutations in support of Jay.

Mark Grannis had an op-ed piece placed on the *Baltimore Sun* website titled "Gerrymandering the news" on October 18. It was in the print edition the following day under the title "Writing off democracy." He presents a viewpoint that the General Assembly's gerrymandering of congressional districts biases news coverage away from challengers and inhibits political discourse.

On October 19, the *Baltimore Sun* printed **Dan Reed's** letter: "Whose Job Is It Anyway?" He states that a Job is a voluntary

transaction between two entities – where does government figure into the Job creation equation? A job is not a right, only the *pursuit* of a job is a right. He encourages legislation to roll back regulations, and simplifying the tax code. As a result of his letter, he appeared on WBAL AM that same day!

Gerald Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on November 16. In "County should focus on basic functions" he suggests that the county (Montgomery) should end government business welfare instead of reducing support for police and fire protection.

The *Cecil County Whig* printed **Joe Tropp's** letter on November 18. In "We need politicians who stick to the U.S. Constitution" he discusses how the Constitution solves problems of overspending, bureaucracies, and regulation.

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

If you are interested or thinking about running for office, please contact Bob Johnston soon.

Bunky Luffman placed third in the election for Delmar Town Commissioner (he placed fourth in the primary, moving up a spot). There were two seats open.



The MdLP booth at the Reisterstown Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 10-11. Susan Gaztañaga takes a break while your editor fills in and and snaps the shot.

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Libertarian Party of Maryland www.MD.LP.org/join-form.pdf **Membership Form**

Name:

Address:

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County:

Email:

Phone (day):

Phone (evening):

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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.

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I'd like to volunteer for:

- ☐ Envelope stuffing
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**Libertarian Party
of Maryland**
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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.

Gallery Gang: Mondays while the Maryland General Assembly is in session January 11 through April 9, 2012 to lobby legislators before the session, attend, drinks afterward. Meet on the State House steps at *Lawyer's Mall* in Annapolis at 7:45 pm. Tony Spezio TheSpeez@yahoo.com


March 3, 2012 (Saturday): 1:00-9:00 pm. MdLP annual convention. Location: *Squire's Italian Restaurant*. Bob Johnston

February 14, 2012 (Tuesday): Frederick Douglass and Terry Atwood memorial day

April 16, 2012 (Monday): Tax Day protests

May 2-6, 2012 (Wednesday-Sunday): National Libertarian Party Convention at *Red Rock Resort* in Las Vegas

1-800-MLP-1776

Please check the first line of
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