

# Free? State LIBERTARIAN

July 2012

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

## Court of Appeals

We lost the ballot access appeal; see the main [www.MD.LP.org](http://www.MD.LP.org) front page *News* section for various articles about it. **It is important for everybody to go to our automated petition generation webpage** (click the *Petition* link at the top left of the front page, or go directly to [www.MD.LP.org/petition](http://www.MD.LP.org/petition)). We have a short time-frame to collect sufficient signatures to get our candidates back onto the November General Election ballot. You might believe that you already signed; enter your name on the petition webpage and it will tell you if we can still use your signature this time around. It is even more important for all of us to ask our friends and family members to sign the petition as well. Here is a sample email you might modify and send to everybody in your address book:

Friends,

I don't usually send out political emails in case they'd be interpreted as unwanted spam. This is going to everyone in my address book, so I apologize if it is unwanted. But this is an urgent critical case and the window of opportunity is short. IMHO this is an egregious affront to the electoral process. Please take a few minutes and sign our petition at:

<http://www.MD.LP.org/petition>

It would be great if you'd forward either the web link or this email itself to your contacts in Maryland. Some of you have moved away from Maryland, but maybe you still have email contacts in this so-called "Free State."

Thanks,

---Your Name

There are Facebook and Twitter links on the petition page as well. With a concerted effort we *can* overcome this last minute blockage of ballot access for our candidates. Please act immediately, as time is slipping away day-by-day!

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## Very Important!

## Picnic and Central Committee Meeting



**What:** Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

**Date:** Saturday, July 28 (rain or shine)

**Location:** 4626 River Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816  
(Arvin Vohra'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 July 23; \$10.00 on site

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

**Directions:** From the North take I-95 South, then 495 West towards Silver Spring/Bethesda. Take Exit 33 for MD-185 S, Connecticut Avenue, going south toward Chevy Chase. After about 3 miles, there is a traffic circle. Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit, Western Avenue. Then turn right at River Road. The house is on the left. From the South from 495, take exit 39 for River Rd towards Washington DC. Go about 4 miles. The house is on the right.

**Parking:** is essentially infinite on Western Avenue. You can also park on any of the side streets. Some of the neighbors have parking spaces that look like public parking spaces, but don't park in them, since there is 24-hour towing. All the parking is parallel street parking, and as long as you're parallel parked, you will be fine.



# Chair's Report



What will you be doing to advance freedom this election? Never in my 12 years in the Libertarian movement, or even my adult life, has the desire for freedom and the Libertarian message been so prominent as it is now. Thanks in large part to Dr. Ron Paul, the Libertarian philosophy is now a daily fea-

ture of political discussion. Contrast that with how it was even as little as 3 or 4 years ago. People of all types now discuss the Fed, foreign policy, civil liberties, and the deficit. When I would bring up these issues years ago at social functions, my family and friends thought I was a little crazy. No longer. They (grudgingly) admit I was right. Thousands of fans and admirers flock to Dr. Paul's appearances, especially on college campuses. Barack Obama used to have a similar following, but lost it. Mitt Romney wishes he could conjure up such adoration. But, it appears that Dr. Paul won't secure the requisite delegates to obtain the Republican nomination. And the typical result for a Libertarian Presidential candidate is less than 500,000 votes, or 1/2 percent.

So why am I so optimistic? Because the Libertarian Party nominated former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson at the national convention for its Presidential candidate. As Governor, Gary vetoed more spending bills than the other 49 Governors combined. He called for the decriminalizing of marijuana, at a time when doing so could cost you your political career – as it probably did with former Baltimore City Mayor Kurt Schmoke. On civil liberties, the ACLU rates Gary Johnson the highest of all Presidential candidates.

The LP nominated for its Vice-Presidential candidate Judge James P. Gray. Judge Gray was an Orange County, CA Superior Court Judge. He witnessed daily in court the devastation that the War on Drugs has caused, and has unceasingly spoken out against it.

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## Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

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Check [www.MD.LP.org](http://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](mailto:LPMD.Event@ICengineering.com) to get the information online.

## Content Policy

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This ticket has the most executive experience of any Libertarian Party Presidential ticket, and Gary Johnson has more executive experience than Mitt Romney and Barack Obama combined. They have political resumes that cannot be ignored or dismissed. Even better, it appears that Gary Johnson will be the alternative to the establishment party candidates, Romney and Obama. There is no super-rich gadfly like Ross Perot running this November. As of this writing, no well-known political personality such as Ralph Nader or Pat Buchanan will be running as an Independent or third-party candidate. Further, while the group Americans Elect spent over \$14 million to garner ballot access in half of the states, they will not be running a Presidential candidate this November. And the other non-establishment parties, particularly the Green and Constitution Parties, are no match for the LP with ballot access. Gary will be the only alternative to Romney and Obama on many state ballots.

So, how will *you* help the cause of freedom this election? Do you want to get involved with the Gary Johnson campaign here in Maryland? Call the Johnson campaign state coordinator Eric Blitz at (410) 812-7265. Do you want to help out with outreach events for the party? Call Bill Buzzell at (410) 477-9173. Do you want to run for local office next year? Now is the time to start preparing to run in 2013. Call me at (443) 310-5373. Do you want to organize your county for the party? Call me at the number above.

And please donate to the Johnson campaign, as well as the Maryland LP candidates. It takes money to run a Presidential campaign. A lot of money. Typical LP Presidential campaigns have run on \$2 million, give or take \$500,000. That is just enough to have a small staff, travel the country, and stay in cheap motels. It is not enough to run ads on radio or television, especially network television. To get the Libertarian message across, we need to hammer it home over and over again, and this requires a lot of money. Additionally, Gary Johnson's son, Erik, is working for his father's campaign without pay.

The good news locally is that we can get the message across cheaply here in Maryland, through our state candidates. We can

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## The Libertarian Party of Maryland

P.O. Box 176, Abingdon, MD 21009-0176 1-800-MLP-1776

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[www.MD.LP.org](http://www.MD.LP.org)

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Other List Serves: [www.MD.LP.org/email\\_lists.php](http://www.MD.LP.org/email_lists.php)

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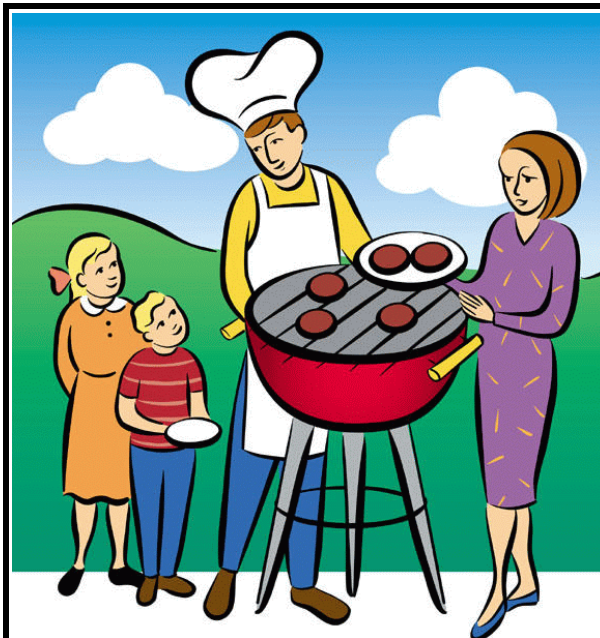
The *Free? State Libertarian* is mailed to all Libertarian Party of Maryland members and paid subscribers. You may have received a gratis copy (mailing label says “Join the MD Libertarian Party”) because you are registered Libertarian, are a member of the National Libertarian Party, or requested information. We appreciate you acting to: join the MdLP with the back page form; join the Central Committee; become a newsletter subscriber only (send \$20 to above address); and/or register Libertarian (when we get 1% of the state registered, we can end collecting petition signatures).



## What will *you do* to advance the Libertarian cause this election?

run ads on the main radio news stations in Baltimore and Washington for a week for \$1,000 per city. We can run them in other parts of the state for less than half of that. Our state candidates are working people, like you and me, and are sacrificing their time and resources to get the Libertarian message out. I have given the Johnson campaign \$500, and the Ahmad for US Senate campaign \$500. This is more than 1% of my annual salary. I am not asking you to give 1%. I am asking you to give at least \$100 to the Johnson campaign, and \$100 to one or more of our candidates running here in Maryland. And if you can and will give more, even better. So, what will *you do* to advance the Libertarian cause this election?

— *Bob Johnston*



Don't forget the annual MdLP picnic on  
July 28! (See page 1)

## Towsontown Spring Festival – May 5/6

Bill Buzzell and Lorenzo Gaztañaga setting up booth; Joe and Kyle Pomykala, and Lorenzo. Susan Gaz. + Mike Fewster behind camera.



Party Spokesperson Lorenzo Gaztañaga 443-414-6539 BaltimoreCity\*md.lp.org

### State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*md.lp.org
Vice Chairman	Tanuja Paruchuri	832-434-4611	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
At Large	Arvin Vohra	301-320-3634	Arvin*ArvinVohra.com
At Large	Mark Grannis	301-841-7530	Grannis*md.lp.org
Membership	Stuart Simms		SSimms*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

Anne Arundel County	Eric Gorr		AnneArundel*md.lp.org
Baltimore City/County	Susan Gaztañaga	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	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Harford*md.lp.org

www.LP-CC.org



## 2012 National Convention (part 1)

Anyone who knows me knows that I go big or go home. I rarely do things halfway, so none of my close friends were surprised that in the span of a few months I had gone from being a 10-year card carrying member of the Republican Party to not only registering as a Libertarian, but becoming an active participant in the party, swallowing my fear of flying, and crossing the country to be a delegate to the Libertarian National Convention. But just like Gary Johnson once put it, leaving the Republican Party was like my coming out. The moment I made that final decision to leave the party that, in my heart, had left me long ago, I knew I had made the right decision and that I could never turn back. However, reflecting on my time as a Republican serves as a reminder of how far I've come.

In the summer of 2004 I packed all my best Bush-Cheney gear, my John Kerry flip-flops, and my Motorola RAZR and headed to New York City for the Republican National Convention. I was a volunteer who would be responsible for standing on a corner for eight hours at a time directing delegates who were staying in all sorts of fancy NYC hotels into their shuttle buses to Madison Square Garden. The event was a week long and the entire city was completely shut down for it. Credentials were required for entering the giant fenced off area and there were at least four police officers on every corner within the convention perimeter. Ordinary people like me were not given passes to enter the convention – we'd have to find a kind delegate to share one of their several guest passes with us if we wanted to get into the stadium and maybe catch a glimpse at one of the star studded speakers from up in the nosebleeds. Our elected and soon-to-be elected officials were treated more like inaccessible celebrities than servants of the people and the city felt more like a police state than a venue for representative democracy. Highlights of the trip included attending a party hosted by Michael Steele at Jay-Z's club, meeting Triumph the Insult Comic Dog, and accidentally insulting Richard Nixon's grandson while waiting in line to go through security.

In the eight years since taking part in this event I've gone down a long road of political evolution. Whether I was apologizing for the bits of the Republican platform that I disagreed with or holding my nose and voting for John McCain, I was convinced for a long time that the only option I had was to hope that Republicans would someday come to their senses. Finally, though, after the 1384<sup>th</sup> time I said, "Republicans aren't [fill in the blank], I'm a Republican and I don't believe [fill in the blank]," I realized "Wait – maybe Republicans ARE all those things I claim they aren't, and I'M just not a Republican anymore." It was a truly liberating moment, and Governor Gary Johnson had a lot to do with my making the final leap.

I immediately identified with Governor Johnson when I first saw him speak at a 2010 Tea Party in Washington, DC. There was a



At the RNC I hung out with cops.

moment when he brought up the idea of legalizing marijuana and as my husband and I cheered, we realized everyone around us was booing. These folks who claimed to be standing up for less government had obviously placed some conditions on the liberty



At the LNC I hung out with candidates.

they craved. From that day on I followed Governor Johnson in the news, read more about his background, and hoped he'd get into the race for president. When he joined the motley crew of Republican nominees I spread the word about him to everyone I knew. Then, we all know what happened. It was the RNC's treatment of Governor Johnson that pushed me to finally change my party affiliation, and when he did the same some months later it seemed like a sign from the political gods that I'd made the right decision. From then on, I've done everything I can to help get him elected.

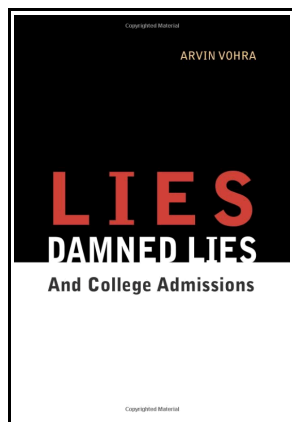
And so, eight years after riding NJTransit to New York laden in Dubya gear, I received my pat down (this time decked out in a 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment t-shirt) and boarded a plane for Las Vegas to attend the Libertarian National Convention. The experiences could not have been more different. Instead of begging delegates to share their passes with me for a glimpse at what was going on, I was a delegate – spending the day surrounded by like-minded people, taking part in substantive activities that would shape the party and the presidential ticket, and feeling like my presence there really meant something. Being part of the nominating process for Gary Johnson and Jim Gray was incredible and overwhelming. Some worried that new people like me would be turned off by the long-winded process that ensued during the LNC Chair nomination and beyond, but for me it was the opposite. The fact that people like me were able to take such an in-depth and active role in the future of the party was something quite unique from my experiences with the Republican Party, and only served to highlight yet another reason for my switch. I cannot conceive of a group of Republicans fighting to elect None Of The Above.

Although I confess to a face-palm or two during the multiple rounds of voting, in reality I was truly proud to be a part of the crowd in that ballroom. As I walked around the halls of the Red Rock I didn't have to worry that I'd turn a corner and see a booth or a t-shirt or a sign that I found offensive. I never once rolled my eyes or turned a deaf ear to statements that ran contrary to my belief system, and I didn't have to fake it to make it through conversations with people trying to explain why it's evil and socialist to nationalize health care, but it's quite American for the federal government to define marriage. Until I joined the Libertarian Party I had been lost in the wilderness of the two party system, searching for a place to call home while dodging bigots and bureaucrats. As the confetti fell from above in a celebration of real liberty, I knew I had finally been found.

— Erin Carrington



## 2012 National Convention (parts 2 and 3)



This May, I had the honor to be part of one of the most unexpected Libertarian National Committee elections in a long time. *None-of-the-above* became a major contender for the position of chair, and almost all incumbent LNC officers and At-Large members lost their seats. As a first time attendee to a Libertarian National Convention, I was more than a little surprised to win the position of At-Large Representative to the LNC.

During the campaign, I got the chance to meet Libertarian freedom fighters from around the country that were increasingly dissatisfied with how the party was being run. Many felt – as I did – that in trying to seem more harmless, our party platform and marketing had become ineffective, both in terms of reflecting Libertarian principles and attracting members. While Ron Paul had been building a huge fan base with uncompromisingly libertarian positions, the LP was having little success with a watered down platform. A truly principled position is far more attractive and inspiring than a *sort-of libertarianish* position.

Many also shared my dissatisfaction with how the LP was being run. It seemed a bit absurd that we were arguing for a transparent federal government, but weren't running our own party with the same transparency. And it seemed just as odd that we wanted a country in which state governments had more power than national governments, but had failed to reflect the same principle in our own party.

In theory, the Libertarian Party can be run by a small, non-transparent group, and still fight for Libertarian government policies. But that would be based on the assumption that the majority of LP members are so inept and foolish that keeping them informed is dangerous. To me, that is remarkably similar to the statist belief that individuals are too stupid to make their own decisions about education.

I believe that the convention showed that most of us are looking for a Libertarian Party that is uncompromisingly Libertarian in two ways: First, we want a party that clearly argues for Libertarian values. We aren't looking for a partial decriminalization of certain strains of marijuana – we are looking for an *end* to a costly and pointless Drug War. We aren't looking to shift control over education from the Federal government to the state government. We want to get the government out of education.

And we want our party to be uncompromisingly Libertarian in how it is run. We aren't looking for a top-down party in which a small group of LNC members secretly control the spending and structure of the entire party. We are looking for a party in which state parties are more powerful than the national party, in which the LNC's decisions are transparent. And we want a party that makes use of the individual creativity, talents, and innovations of our thousands of members.

In that regard, I believe our party has a long way to go and I intend to do everything I can to help it along. I believe we are heading in the right direction. We have a great duo in Gary Johnson and Jim Gray, a motivated LNC, and increasingly active state parties. It's a great time to be involved in the Libertarian Party, and I hope to contribute to its growth and success.

— Arvin Vohra

Libertarians from all 50 states and the District of Columbia met in Las Vegas for our biannual national convention. The Libertarian Party of Maryland was there in force, helping to nominate Governor Gary Johnson and Judge Jim Gray as our candidates for President and Vice-President. In addition, Maryland Libertarian Arvin Vohra was elected to an at-large spot on the Libertarian National Committee, and Scott Spencer was selected as an alternate regional representative to the LNC.

The convention took place May 3-6 at the *Red Rock Casino and Resort*. Attending on behalf of Maryland were Dean Ahmad, Eric Blitz, Christopher Doscher, Mark Grannis, Mike Linder, Bruce Majors, Derek Pomery, George Reynolds, Stuart Simms, Scott Soffen, Scott Spencer, Tim Sutton, Erin Carrington, and Arvin Vohra. In addition, Party Chairman Bob Johnston was in attendance but could not serve on the delegation because of his responsibilities with the national party.

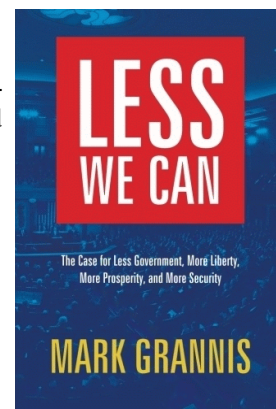
The early days of the convention were dominated by party-building and candidate-training seminars and luncheons. These, together with the many liberty-oriented booths set up in the hallways of the conference center, gave those in attendance an opportunity to get used to an environment in which libertarian views were not just “in the mainstream,” but were the established orthodoxy. These receptions and seminars continued throughout the weekend, with many featuring party heroes like Ed Clark, issue activists like Norma Jean Almodovar, and strategists like Michael Cloud.

On Friday the work became more substantive, with a long morning of work on the national party platform. Future first-time attendees would be well-advised to make this part of the convention a priority, as the debate on platform amendments tends to reveal the many-faceted nature of libertarian thought.

It was on Friday night, however, that the convention turned to what many consider its most important function: nominating a presidential candidate. Only two candidates – Gary Johnson and Texas Libertarian Lee Wrights – qualified for the presidential debate on Friday night. The convention hall was packed, the television cameras were on, and former LP presidential candidate David Bergland discharged his duties as moderator with succinctness and perspicacity. Both candidates delivered impressive performances, treating a national audience to a powerful overview of libertarian policy prescriptions.

The official nominating process followed on Saturday, and the convention gave a first-ballot victory to former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson. Both Governor Johnson and Lee Wrights made gracious and at times quite emotional speeches. Judge Jim Gray was then nominated as Governor Johnson's running mate on the ticket.

Emotions were running high after the nominating process concluded, which helps to explain what happened next with respect to the election of LNC officers. But to explain that controversy fully, it must be said that a surprising amount of overt rivalry surrounded the election of the LNC officers even before





the convention began. Delegates received calls and letters in the days before the convention, and many of these had a decidedly negative tone. Some of the early seminars were dominated by factions of one candidate or another, and people wearing campaign buttons for the “wrong” candidate were sometimes made about as unwelcome as one can be without actually being ejected. Fortunately, the television cameras were no longer in the hall for what happened next. Chairman Mark Hinkle and Vice-Chairman Mark Rutherford were the two main contenders, but the nominating speeches suggested an unusual amount of enthusiasm for NOTA, or None of the Above. When the first round of balloting was over, Rutherford had edged Hinkle by just seven votes, but with NOTA attracting over 18% of the votes no candidate had a majority. Chairman Hinkle was eliminated from contention to pave the way for a second round in which the choice would be Rutherford or NOTA.

That’s where things got really interesting. The votes were counted and recounted several times, but with the votes being cast orally in most cases, the inevitable movement of delegates in and out of the convention hall made it difficult to ensure that any “recount” was in fact a re-count rather than a re-vote. As the convention adjourned for the day, the most recent count showed that Rutherford had beaten NOTA by one vote, but a single write-in vote for someone else meant that Rutherford had received exactly 50% of the votes – not a majority. Former Chair Bill Redpath, having stepped in to run the proceedings while Mark Hinkle stood for re-election, found himself making numerous

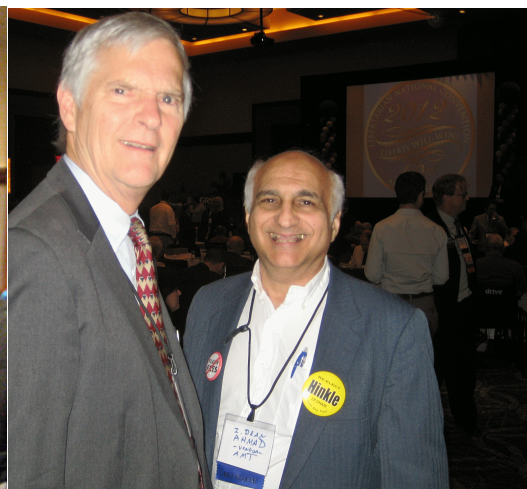
procedural rulings, many of which were vigorously contested and energetically discussed at dinner Saturday night.

Delegates sought compromise solutions throughout the night, and by Sunday morning there was widespread support for reopening nominations for a third round of voting. Five candidates accepted their nominations, and after four more rounds of balloting Geoff Neale became the new LNC Chair. Lee Wrights was elected as Vice Chair, Tim Hagan as Treasurer, and Ruth Bennett as Secretary.

For the LNC at-large elections, Maryland Libertarian Arvin Vohra reached out to candidates affiliated with some of the “factions” that had contested the other leadership races, and tried to form a unity ticket. In the end, however, Arvin was the only member of the ticket to be elected to the LNC. Michael Cloud, Bill Redpath, Wayne Root, and California delegate Starchild were also elected. In addition, Maryland’s own Scott Spencer was elected regionally as the alternate to our current regional LNC representative, Jim Lark.

The convention held many surprises, not just for first-time delegates but for seasoned veterans as well. (As if to emphasize these surprises, Maryland Libertarian Stu Simms was carded when he ordered a drink at the Las Vegas airport.) But in the end, the party emerges with perhaps the strongest presidential ticket it has ever fielded, and with party leadership that certainly has reason to know that the first step in moving forward must be to ensure that we are moving forward together.

— *Mark Grannis*



**Scenes from the National Convention:** above, the Maryland Delegation; upper right, VP nominee Judge Gray and Dean Ahmad; right, Erin Carrington, Mark Grannis, Scott Spencer, Mike Linder, and George Reynolds

*photos courtesy Eric Blitz*

(video clip at [www.MD.LP.org/audio](http://www.MD.LP.org/audio))



## First Steps Towards Freeing the Citizens of the Free State

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

### Education

Encourage variety in education through local control, including:

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

### Open and Responsible Government

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

### Job and Wealth Creation without Corporate Welfare

Reduce government spending and lower the tax burden by:

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

### Secure Property Rights

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

### Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment

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

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

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

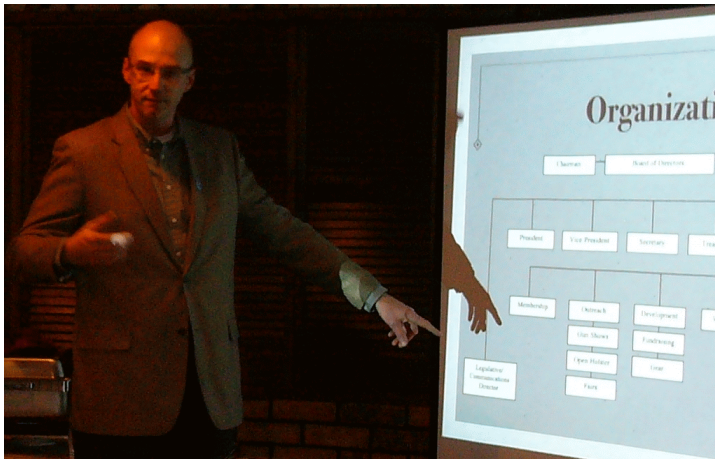
Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for their irresponsibility by facing strict civil liability. Promote free market environmentalism to solve problems.

### Crime and Public Safety

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

## 2011 MdLP Convention

At 1:30 pm on Saturday, March 3, Bob Johnston opened the 2011 MdLP Convention, held again at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk. Attendance was a bit higher than that of recent years.



Our first speaker was Paul Dembowski: he identified himself as a music teacher and lobbyist – **not** a politician. He lives in a good neighborhood in Annapolis. One of his neighbors experienced an incident with a gun-firing escapee – after which Mr. Dembowski decided not to put *his* family into that position; he currently is the Legislative Director of *Maryland Shall Issue*. The grassroots organization MSI was founded in 2004. Nothing is paid but expenses. It was born out of dissatisfaction with the status quo – the NRA. The NRA has abandoned Maryland; it uses Md. as a wedge issue to drive action in other states.

MSI is not just a website ([MarylandShallIssue.org](http://MarylandShallIssue.org)): it is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit organization. Its activities are legislative, outreach, and judicial. On the educational front, no major anti-gun laws have passed since MSI's inception. In Md. we are fighting a defensive battle (there are more anti-gun initiatives than pro-gun). There were assault weapons ban attempts in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2010. Proposed assault weapons tax in 2007; encoded ammunition and ammunitions tax in 2007 and 2008. Campus weapons prohibition in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Ammunition logs in 2009. Firearms Safety Act in 2010. Mandatory theft reporting in 2008. All defeated. Magazine capacity in 2011; dealer record keeping requirements in 2011; mental health disqualifications in 2011.

The 2012 legislation session is currently in progress: there are four shall-issue bills, a reciprocity bill, a mental health bill, a dealer record keeping bill, and bills regarding crimes committed in other states. Mr. Dembowski informs that Task Forces simply write laws that are rubber stamped by the government.



Legislative wins: civil immunity in 2010 (in home one can defend against the intent of bodily harm); removal of "gotcha" ammunition restrictions in 2011. There was no opposition against them!

Education: MSI is in the community at large, generally not at gun shows (because that is preaching to the choir). It is not about *guns*, it is about *rights*. We have the right to make the choice to own a firearm.

Until 1972 it was permissible to carry a gun on your hip. MSI has information tables at Md. gun shows, Towsontown Fair, Prince George's county fair. There have been *Open Holster* rallies (supporters wear empty gun holsters) in Annapolis Harbor, Lawyer's Mall, and Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

MSI also pursues federal judicial lawsuits and legislation. The *Woollard v. Sheridan* case outcome is presently awaited. Currently, a "Good and substantial" reason is required to get a handgun carry permit. For self-defense only it is very difficult (most issued are to law enforcement officers and judicial workers). [Two days later Maryland federal district judge Benson Everett Legg decided the case *against* the state and the Maryland State Police.] In most states it is easier to get gun permits than in Md. The Md. system is corrupt and unjust: it recently came out that Clerk of Courts Frank Conaway Sr. received an unrestricted permit to carry a concealed handgun; almost no one gets that. Working on national reciprocity.



New National LP Executive Director Carla Howell addressed the convention: it's all about **money**. When cuts are proposed, government officials say they must cut police, the fire department, and schools when those are only minuscule expenditures. When they talk about making cuts in the future, *it is a lie*. The only way is to cut *current* spending. Ms. Howell suggests we avoid talking about total government spending (which stays the same or goes up) instead of particular projects. Almost never does an alleged cut in spending cause spending to go down. Republicans want you to believe they want to cut; the U.S. has \$3.8 trillion in spending, \$2.2 trillion in income. Congress brags about bringing home the bacon as if that's a good thing. High government spending depletes your wealth and restricts your rights.

Big government advocates simply avoid talk about cutting government when they can get away with it. Left vs. Right? The only thing that matters is big vs. small government. They want you to accept *slowing the growth* of government. They want to keep spending high – we will never have Constitutional government or freedom while spending is high. Substantially cutting government spending is the number one goal. *No one* wants high government spending: poll after poll shows most Americans say they want smaller government than we have today, lower taxes and lower government spending. They want what Libertarians



propose. Libertarians can expose their tricks and manipulations. To restore the Constitution we must cut today's spending dramatically at all levels of government – and now. It will lead to more private sector jobs and more prosperity. Let's never miss an opportunity to distinguish between what Republicans and Democrats want and what citizens want: Lower taxes, more money in the family budget, belief in the private sector; the freedom to spend, save, or pay off debts; money to use as you see fit. This is one of the many benefits of the Libertarian solution.



Our delegates to the National Convention in May will be voting for the Presidential nomination. None of the candidates attended our convention in person, but three surrogates spoke on behalf of their preferred choice: Christopher Doscher for Carl Person; Eric Blitz for Gary Johnson; and Lorenzo Gaztañaga for Lee Wrights (below, left-to-right).



Susan Gaztañaga performed fundraising to encourage Dean Ahmad to run for our nomination for U.S. Senate. Bill Redpath spoke briefly: he is seeking the LNC vice-chair office; he warns against "top two" voting; and mentions reason.org's discussion of the political cowardice of Barack Obama.



Joe Seehusen (former National LP Executive Director, COO) was our after-dinner speaker. He ran the Ron Paul 2008 campaign. It started when he was asked to chair the Iowa campaign, but he had to get onto the very next plane. He was met by a volunteer in the Des Moines entertainment district, who handed him a Slim Jim and said, "let's get behind Ron Paul." Talk about the Fed. Fractional banking. He had some good luck along with good people. At the debate in Des Moines, Ron Paul was the only one not invited. So Mr. Seehusen rented a room next door for \$10K.

There were from 800 to 900 people at the debate, 1000 people at their parallel event. It was Ron Paul's first big crowd. Subsequently Ron Paul asked Joe to be his deputy for the campaign. Campaign headquarters was above a dry cleaner in Arlington, VA. He created a war room with televisions on the walls. The goal was to have Ron Paul's face on all channels. He found that this country really wants the libertarian message.

He suggests we look outward to grow; fight the gas tax, people understand that; talk about speed cameras and intrusion of privacy.

## Samuel Chase Award



Before making the award presentation, Doug McNeil reminded us a little about the history of the award's namesake: Samuel Chase was a Marylander, a Revolutionary War figure, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He worked tirelessly on the war. President Washington appointed him as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. But he is mostly remembered for something that was *done to him*: Samuel Chase is the first and only Supreme Court justice ever impeached. Jefferson didn't like how he was ruling. The charges were mostly bogus. He was acquitted in the Senate of all charges. The whole affair left a bad taste in his mouth. Since then all impeachments have been for misconduct, not for disliking rulings. His acquittal established the rule of judicial independence. Chase is not remembered as a great libertarian theorist, it is his actions that he is remembered for. We therefore use the award to recognize real world action. This year's coin is the Silver Eagle dollar, Walking Liberty design; it is 1 oz. fine silver.

The 2012 Samuel Chase Award goes to Mark Grannis (by vote of the previous award winners). In addition to serving on the Executive Board and running for Congress, Mark has spent countless hours preparing litigation and defending the MdLP against the Board of Elections voter-counting rules that invalidated many signers of our party-retention petition. It is through his efforts that we currently are an officially recognized political party, and have retained all of our thousands of registered Libertarian voters. He was assured that should the Maryland Court of Appeals case not go our way (where he appeared for oral arguments the day before the convention to defend against the BoE's appeal of their lower court loss) his award would not be rescinded!



Convention MP3 recordings are at [www.MD.LP.org/audio](http://www.MD.LP.org/audio)



## Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 3 March 2012

**Opening:** The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 5:14 pm by chairman Bob Johnston. The Treasurer's report, Program Committee recommendation, 8/13/2011 CC minutes, National Convention Delegate applicant list, and Agenda were distributed.

**Attendance:** the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Mark Grannis; and Doug McNeil. It validated that 22 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 35 members.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 13 August 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 reported that membership is 88 as of 2/12; registration is 9,795 as of 1/31. We have spots for nine candidates: 1 U.S. Senate, 8 U.S. House. To run candidates, we must have ballot access; thanks to Mark Grannis, we do — although we await the Court of Appeals decision on yesterday's hearing. Two times Bob was ready to seriously quit the party and movement: first was the death of a college roommate in a car accident; doesn't know why, just lost interest in politics for a month. The second was the day after election day, Nov. 2010. Despondent, he felt like we had taken a step back. Spoke with several: Muir, Lorenzo, Robert G., Bill R., Mark G. Dean called later and cheered him up. 16 months later, more optimistic than ever about rolling back govt. The Ron Paul movement presents a 10-20% voting block with a young and passionate following. We need to harness this Libertarian block. It is enough to effect change. We don't need to win elections (nice, but...); if we can get just a 10% vote for federal office consistently (without money or celebrity), or 5% for President, it will Force D's & R's to alter just to survive (Dems: gun control; Kratovil; Mark Warner, VA). Doubt 2012 is "the year", but something significant will happen within the next three pres. cycles (2020). We need to get organized, when a chunk of voters are ready for an alternative. We are positioned to be that alternative. He has a positive outlook for freedom.

**Jim Lark:** Dean Ahmad asked about the floor fee for national delegates. Dr. Lark is against it, but is not sure about the rest of the LNC. Good report from a recent *Students for Liberty* meeting.

**Delegates to the National Convention:** Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Chris Doscher, Mark Grannis, Scott Soffen, Eric Blitz, Stuart Simms, George Reynolds, Erin Carrington Smith, Tim Sutton, Dean Ahmad, Scott Spencer, Bruce Majors, Mike Linder, Arvin Vohra, Tanuja Paruchuri, Michelle Classe-Friend, and Derek Pomery were nominated and approved as delegates. Steve Boone and Darlene Nicholas were nominated and approved as alternates. The Secretary is directed to fill out the delegate and alternate lists with remaining Central Committee members. We are allotted 20 delegates plus 50 alternates.

**Nominations of Candidates for Statewide Office:** Mike Calpino was nominated for U.S. Congress 1<sup>st</sup> district; the nomination was rejected on a voice vote. Arvin Vohra was nominated for U.S. Congress 5<sup>th</sup> district; the nomination was approved on a voice vote. Mark Grannis was nominated for U.S. Congress 8<sup>th</sup> district; the nomination was approved on a voice vote.

**Officer Elections:** The following were nominated as officers: Robert Johnston III, Stuart Simms, Tanuja Paruchuri, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, 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.

**Resolution:** Dean Ahmad proposed the following resolution: "Whereas the Libertarian Party bylaws do not authorize a floor fee for delegates, whereas in forty years of LP conventions no attempt to impose a floor fee on delegates has ever been sustained, and whereas the imposition of any floor fee constitutes an unjustified interference in the right of the affiliate parties to select their own delegates to the national convention, therefore the Maryland LP hereby rebukes the convention oversight committee's attempt to impose such a fee as a condition of delegates performing their function at the business meeting, urges the LNC to reverse the proposed floor fee, and instructs our delegates to oppose, and if necessary make motions from the floor to invalidate, any such fee as it may be used to prevent any delegate from access to the business of the convention." The resolution was passed on a voice vote.

**Program Committee's Report:** the Program Committee recommended:

Proposed change 1: Add a fourth bullet to the *Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment* section: "Insisting on maintaining local control of zoning decisions." PASSED on a voice vote.

Proposed change 2: Replace "within the government public school system" with "in education" in the first bullet in the *Education* section. PASSED on a voice vote.

**Announcements:** Susan Gaztañaga asked for more time to raise money to nominate Dean Ahmad for U.S. Senate; Michael Linder notes that logic tests are scheduled at various county Boards of Elections; Robert Glaser reminded all that MdLP license plates are available to our members, contact him for the authorizing MVA form; he also has MdLP caps for sale.

**Adjournment:** the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser



Welcome to new Executive Board members Tanuja Paruchuri (Vice-Chair) and Stuart Simms (Membership). Thank-you to outgoing members Muir Boda and Lorenzo Gaztañaga.



## Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 19 May 2012

**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 1:25 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

**Attendance:** 13 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting; two proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 40 members.

**Nominations of Candidates:** The following candidates were nominated: Senate, Dean Ahmad; House, Muir Boda (1<sup>st</sup>), Leo Dymowski (2<sup>nd</sup>), Paul Drgos Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup>), Scott Soffen (4<sup>th</sup>), Nickolaus Mueller (6<sup>th</sup>) on the condition that he register Libertarian by May 29, Ronald Owens-Bey (7<sup>th</sup>). Each was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

**Presidential Electors:** The following were voted as Presidential Electors committed to Gary Johnson: Bob Johnston, Tanuja Paruchuri, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Susan Gaztañaga, Steve Boone, Bill Buzzell, Stuart Simms, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, and Eric Blitz.

**Bill Buzzell:** upcoming fairs: Sunday June 17 Gay Pride in Druid Hill park \$175 for booth; Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of July \$25; both voted Yes. Reisterstown Festival Saturday Sept. 8 (\$250) voted No for fair, Yes for parade. Sunday Sept. 16 Essex Day \$80 voted Yes. Fells Point Oct. 6/7 (Sat./Sun.) \$100-\$150 voted Yes.

**Resolution:** The MdLP opposes the current congressional redistricting plan and encourages all with an interest in this issue to sign the online petition opposing the current plan and to vote in favor of the referendum to repeal it in the Nov. election. Passes on a voice vote.

**Adjournment:** the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.



— Robert E. Glaser

## My New Year's Eve



I haven't celebrated New Year's Eve in the traditional American way for many years.

In my business I am on-call 24/7 and may have to respond to a service call in a truck. In recent years our ever growing oppressive government has seen to it, that in order to do that, I must submit to random alcohol and drug testing.

While that may seem reasonable to some, keep in mind that this also prevents me from some rather normal activities that others take for granted. As an example, *you* may take eating a bagel as a rather innocent thing to do. But *oh, no!* Not if you hold a Commercial Drivers License. Eating a bagel with poppy seeds can cause one to test positive for opiates.

Another example: Being a bit of a germaphobe I used to carry a bottle of rubbing alcohol in my vehicle for after those dreaded stops at public restrooms; *until I realized I could lose my Drivers License!* No, you can't drink the stuff, but apparently Big Brother fears that some hard core, nefarious and underhanded alcoholic will smuggle some vodka in a rubbing alcohol container and with no test to determine the difference, get one over on Big Brother. We all know you don't leave any loophole, however remote, open, because it's not nice to fool Big Brother.

Then there are the facts that every driver should be aware of, *but most aren't*. If you have so much as a teaspoon of alcohol and are involved in an accident, it can go down as an alcohol related accident, even though you were within legal limits and the accident wasn't your fault. Good luck with your insurance rates.

Furthermore, if you are pulled over you may find yourself walking the line, pointing your finger to your nose, and reciting the alphabet *backwards!* I can't do that sober. All while being video recorded. One stumble or nervous slip and you have given Big Brother "Probable Cause" to arrest you, *regardless of what you blow!* Remember: You signed your right to refuse these tests *away or else be refused your "privilege" to drive.*

With all these things in mind, the wife and I have made a tradition of riding around New Year's Eve, sober, and viewing Christmas lights.

In recent years there seems to be less Christmas lights on homes but plenty of red and blue flashing lights on the side of the road. It seemed that every few minutes we came upon another police car and another citizen doing coordination tests with bright lights in their face.

We heard there were going to be fireworks in Annapolis, so, we drove down to the city docks. We were early and had to endure the hard gazes and glares of cops who were standing as close to the passing cars as possible to look in them for alcohol.

We became sort of disgusted at the heavy police presence and the mean, tough guy scowls that they probably practice in the mirror at home. We didn't stay. We did see some fireworks: One little sparkler that a bicycle cop took upon himself to confiscate and stub out with his boot on the sidewalk. What a hero of public safety.

— Paul Christian

# Petition Drive Status

## Background

In Maryland, political parties other than Democrats and Republicans must submit a “New Party Petition” every four years to be (re-) recognized by the State Board of Elections (BoE). This permits us to place candidates on the General Election ballot. While this is an onerous task, the Libertarian Party of Maryland (us, the MdLP), the Green, and the Constitution parties have managed to accomplish it in recent memory. For reasons unrelated to those political parties (several referenda), the standards that the BoE uses to recognize or strike out individual names of voters who signed these petitions has evolved – into a more stringent requirement. The BoE identified over 12,000 of the signatures the MdLP turned in in the spring of 2011 as belonging to valid Maryland voters, yet invalidated thousands of them for various technical reasons. The predominant reason was the voter not including a middle initial, using a nickname, or something related to the precise name the BoE has on file as compared to the name submitted on the petition form. As a result, we did not reach the required level of 10,000 signatures to retain state recognition.

## First, Our Lawsuit...

We (actually our long-suffering attorney Mark Grannis) filed a lawsuit to contest the overly stringent signature requirements. On June 21, 2011 the judge agreed with us and filed a summary judgement in our favor in *Libertarian Party of Maryland and Maryland Green Party v. Maryland State Board of Elections*. The MdLP was immediately re-recognized as a political party by the BoE.

## ...and then their Appeal

The BoE filed an appeal to the lower court ruling. On March 2, 2012, oral arguments were presented to the Maryland Court of Appeals. In the mean time, the MdLP was active and nominated candidates for all U.S. Congress positions. On May 21, 2012, the Court of Appeals rendered their unanimous decision: the BoE was correct in every detail and the Libertarian and Green Parties were wrong on every detail of the court case. The court ordered the BoE to immediately de-certify those parties. The only certified parties in the state of Maryland now are the Democrats and Republicans. The BoE requires thousands of additional petition signatures to augment those which it did accept in order to reinstate the MdLP.

## To Summarize

The MdLP submitted over 13,000 signatures of Maryland registered voters to “renew” our political status in the spring of 2011; the BoE invalidated far more than had been usual in the past; the MdLP won a legal case re-recognizing us and putting our candidates on the ballot; the BoE appealed; the highest court in Maryland overturned the lower court ruling, de-certifying us and removing our candidates from the ballot.

## It's a Fine Mess We're in Now

Now, we need to collect thousands of more signatures that the BoE cannot refute to be reinstated (again) and get our candidates back onto the ballot for the November 6, 2012 General Election. **We need your help.** We have little time to collect the petition signatures and we cannot afford to have the BoE invalidate a large percentage of them yet again. The [www.MD.LP.org/petition](http://www.MD.LP.org/petition) webpage lets you create a personalized petition form with your printed information that is extracted from the BoE database. All you need to do is print it out, sign it, and mail it in (sorry, the BoE does not allow for online-only petitions) – it will *have* to be accepted, as a match to their records is guaranteed.

That webpage creates a petition sheet with just one name and signer – yours. And it has been pre-validated. We strongly encourage all to use this method. Print out personalized sheets for each person signing. It is a bit wasteful of paper, but is worth the trouble. If you really, really want to do it manually (discouraged), at right is a blank petition form. Some good advice and instructions are at [www.LibertyontheBallot.org](http://www.LibertyontheBallot.org), including a video. If you have a tablet computer, it helps if you go to the petition page and verify signers' names and BoE information while they are in your presence. If you can't get sigs that way, hand out slips of paper like this:

Please sign our petition!

[www.MD.LP.org/petition](http://www.MD.LP.org/petition)

urging people to go to our webpage. You can go there to download the “sign our petition” pleas, blank petitions like the one included here, and links for background, candidate, and helpful information.

After entering a voter's data on the petition webpage it will let you know if the name was already submitted in our 2011 petition filing. Don't assume it was! Check it anyway. If the name is found, there's no point in submitting it again. Either it was accepted (great) or it was rejected. If it was rejected, too bad the Court of Appeals decided that *voters are not permitted* to submit another signature to correct the problem. Can you believe that???

Contact as many of your email acquaintances as you can, sending them to our webpage. At least the recipients are in front of a computer upon receipt and are in position to immediately follow up if so inclined. Make use of Facebook and Twitter, too.

If you want Marylanders to see our candidates Gary Johnson, Dean Ahmad, Muir Boda, Leo Dymowski, Paul Dragos, Arvin Vohra, Nickolaus Mueller, Ronald Owens-Bey, and Mark Grannis on the ballot November 6, 2012 *help collect signatures* one way or another. It is in our collective (notwithstanding the negative connotation of that word) hands. **Time is very urgent.**

**On April 30, 2012 the MdLP became the first “third” party in Maryland to exceed 10,000 registrations!**



# State of Maryland - New Party Petition

For \_\_\_\_\_ County or

☐ Baltimore City

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

Libertarian Party.

The State Chairman is: Robert S. Johnston III,

Address: 1311-D Sheridan Place

Bel Air, MD 21015

**NOTICE TO SIGNERS:** Sign and print your name (1) as it appears on the voter registration list, OR (2) your surname of registration AND at least one full given name AND the initial of any other names. 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 aforementioned party should be recognized 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 this petition.

SBE 6-201-1C (Rev 11-2011)

**Please Note:** The information you provide on this petition is public information and may be used to change your voter registration address.

1	Print Name:	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Birth Date:	Month	Date	Year
	Signature:				Date of Signature:	Month	Date	Year
	Maryland Residence Address:	Street Number	Street Name	Apt. No.	City or Town	Zip		
2	Print Name:	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Birth Date:	Month	Date	Year
	Signature:				Date of Signature:	Month	Date	Year
	Maryland Residence Address:	Street Number	Street Name	Apt. No.	City or Town	Zip		
3	Print Name:	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Birth Date:	Month	Date	Year
	Signature:				Date of Signature:	Month	Date	Year
	Maryland Residence Address:	Street Number	Street Name	Apt. No.	City or Town	Zip		
4	Print Name:	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Birth Date:	Month	Date	Year
	Signature:				Date of Signature:	Month	Date	Year
	Maryland Residence Address:	Street Number	Street Name	Apt. No.	City or Town	Zip		
5	Print Name:	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Birth Date:	Month	Date	Year
	Signature:				Date of Signature:	Month	Date	Year
	Maryland Residence Address:	Street Number	Street Name	Apt. No.	City or Town	Zip		

Individual Circulator's printed or typed name

Residence Address

City State Zip

Telephone (including area code)

**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. (Sign and Date when signature collection is completed)

Circulator's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yy)

## In the News

**Gerald Schneider's** letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on December 9. In "Libertarians want laws enforced properly" he replies to a Barry Rascovar column: "Libertarians only oppose government limits on developments that do no harm to innocent others."

**Robert Glaser's** letter to the *Baltimore Sun* was published on December 26: "The iron-clad solution to pension abuse." See below.

The *Baltimore Sun* printed Nickolaus Mueller's letter "Ron Paul is no racist" on January 11. He refutes Robert Birt's claim that Ron Paul harbors racist views.

On February 24, the *Cecil Whig* published **George Reynolds'** letter: "Our judges must live within their means, too." See below.

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

### Our judges must live within their means, too

Court of Appeals Judge Clayton Greene Jr. recently told our legislators in Annapolis that Maryland's judges are in desperate need of a raise.

Hey, me too!

Of course, since I do not work for the state, I don't think there will be money found in the state budget to give me one.

I am not going to belittle the job judges do nor debate what the proper salary should be, although where Maryland ranks compared to other states is a fallacious argument. The fact is that a lot of people are hurting. The judges should do what the rest of us are trying to do: live within our means and wait for things to get better.

A lot of people with equivalent educations and experience in their fields would be happy to get judge's current salaries. The legislature needs to realize that you do not kick the taxpayer when he is already down.

— *George Reynolds*

### The iron-clad solution to pension abuse

No arguments on The Sun's opposition to county pension plans ("A pension windfall," Dec. 18). But isn't the solution quite simple? Eliminate government pensions. All of them. Corporate pensions too.

Pensions are a method to fund current operations with future taxes or earnings – both of which are uncertain. Instead, pay higher employee salaries so that the individual can invest in personalized pension and retirement plans. Instantly, no worries about pension fund malfeasance or ballooning untenable payments. Uncoupling works magic.

Yes, of course, I am a simpleton thinking that our elected officials would ever do this, but small companies can try to lead the way. Now, how about handling health insurance identically?

— *Robert Glaser, Owings Mills*

## Letter to the Editor



My educational efforts often labeled as "libertarian" in recent years have been independent of the Libertarian Party. That may disqualify me from commenting on party educational endeavors. I cannot fault any party member from dismissing my opinions as a consequence. Nevertheless, as above all else an educator and major party activist in past years, my thoughts about party education outreach may be worth consideration.

I have not attended many party meetings in recent years. That is mostly because I see little new to learn or hear about at meetings. There are more than enough party members in attendance to oversee party business without my being there. Little else is of interest (I am not being glib when I say I heard most of it before). The fact that Libertarian Party voter registration in Maryland includes 9,753 voters as contrasted to about two million Democratic Party and one million Republican Party registered voters is not exactly an endorsement of party ideas over time.

Perception is reality is more than a trite slogan. I would prefer recapturing the classical liberal designation we deserve from "modern" liberals (usually calling themselves "progressives" these days) who have stolen and corrupted the term "liberal" and label libertarians as "conservatives." How can that objective be achieved when the state party newsletter (February 2012) boldly includes the words "Tired of BIG GOVERNMENT and High Taxes?" below the return address? Does that concept true as we think of it distinguish us from conservatives in the Democratic Party or the greater concentration of conservatives in the Republican Party?

I would prefer that libertarians be seen as in the forefront of more humane and ethical political policies than alternatives now commonly offered. We should focus up front on better ways to close the gap between the rich and poor, work towards a more pollution-free world, restore the Chesapeake Bay to better health, develop a more just criminal justice system, support peaceful but unpopular lifestyles, solve the immigration problem, reduce the incentive for foreigners and foreign nations to wage terror and war against us, etc., etc., etc. When it comes to individual civil rights, I would like the public to view the ACLU to the politically right of libertarians!

I am tired of top-down lectures preaching to the quire at Libertarian Party meetings. I am tired of political confrontations – having arguments instead of making arguments, emphasizing differences instead of searching for common ground, looking at only our side instead of all sides, failing to recognize that there may be more than one solution to a problem, polarizing instead of unifying, etc. In general, I want a dialogue culture to replace an argument culture. I want conflict resolution to take the place of political dogmatism and pontification.

My question to you: how do you want libertarians to be perceived, and do you reflect that in your personal life and rhetoric?

— *Gerald Schneider*

*Editor: thoughts on the newsletter's BIG GOVERNMENT and High Taxes blurb? Replacement suggestions?*



Get your very own MdLP plates!



Promote the MdLP

Contact Robert Glaser

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## ***Libertarian Party of Maryland*** [www.MD.LP.org/join-form.pdf](http://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 Stuart Simms at [NewMember\\*md.1p.org](mailto:NewMember*md.1p.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

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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/](http://www.MD.LP.org/events/) (often!). Check page 3 for contact numbers not listed here.

June 25 (Monday): 7:00 pm. MdLP Executive Board meeting via teleconference. Robert Glaser

June 27 (Wed.). Muir Boda candidates forum, Stevensonville.

July 4 (Wednesday): 78<sup>th</sup> Dundalk Heritage 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173 waBuzzle11\*juno.com

July 28 (Saturday): MdLP picnic. Page 1

September 8 (Sat.): 9:00am. Reisterstown Parade. Bill Buzzell

September 16 (Sunday): 10:00am - 6:00 pm. Essex Day Festival. Bill Buzzell

October 6/7 (Saturday/Sunday): 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. Fells Point Fun Festival. Bill Buzzell

November 6 (Tuesday): General Election. Assist our candidates at the polls.

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# 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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