

Free? State LIBERTARIAN

July 2013

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

2013 MdLP Convention

The MdLP held its annual convention on April 6 at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk. The first session was a candidate's forum with Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Richard Davis, and Mark Grannis.

Richard Davis was asked to run; he figured that he should run if asked, but not if he just wanted to. His opponents raised \$2 million each; he paid for himself. He got attention by just staying on the issues. While the D's and R's sniped at each other, the Libertarian debated *issues*; he answered questions briefly and the audience appreciated that. He attributes dumb luck to getting into the televised debates. He did no advertising; instead he got a list of all the local newspapers and sent a 250-word editorial to each every month. He doesn't think people are ready for the change yet, but believes that the D's and R's will screw up enough eventually for us to pick up the pieces. He exceeded his expectations, answered questions briefly, and the debate audience appreciated that. He received calls from the AP on election night and during the recount. He increased his vote totals the second run over his first time – and his successor Muir Boda got even more votes.

Lorenzo Gaztañaga believes that he wasted money on print advertising, but picked up votes from radio interviews – the Sheilah Kast show on WYPR helped. The Libertarian message can be presented so liberals will listen. Got Greens in Baltimore City voting for him for City Council. Advice: *Be there*; show up. The results were a huge disappointment, but over time we find people who trust. Expectations gradually met the reality.

Jim Lark noted that without print advertising, the print media often won't take a candidate seriously.

continued on page 4



Picnic and Central Committee Meeting



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, July 27 (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 22; \$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 3rd 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: 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



I am occasionally asked, why are you involved with the Libertarian Party? "Why not work through one of the establishment parties? You guys can't get elected."

While the LP has over 140 elected officials at the local and municipal level, it is very difficult getting elected to partisan office as a Libertarian. The Libertarian Party has never elected a candidate to federal or statewide office. The LP has had several candidates elected to state legislatures as fusion candidates (i.e. Democrat-Libertarian), particularly in New Hampshire and Vermont, where candidates on multiple ballot lines are permitted. But the last time the LP elected strictly "Libertarian" party label candidates was in the 80's in Alaska. And being difficult to get elected makes it hard to raise money and garner serious media coverage. (I might add that those Maryland Republicans who insist we should work with them because it's so hard for Libertarians to get elected should heed their own advice and work with the Democrats, since the Democrats control all the statewide offices, 7 of the 8 U.S. House seats, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the state legislature.)

So why be involved with the Libertarian Party? Why put up with the crap we have to just to get on the ballot and run candidates? Well, it's clear we'll never have free markets with Republicans in charge, despite their stealing our rhetoric when running for office. In 1980, when Jimmy Carter was defeated in his bid for reelection as President, the budget was \$687 billion and the deficit was roughly \$1 trillion. 33 years later, the budget is around \$3.8 trillion, and the deficit approximately \$17 trillion. Republican Presidents have been in charge for 20 of those 33 years. And they held both houses of Congress between 1994 and 2006.

George W. Bush increased federal control of education more than any President since the Department of Education was established under Carter, and he, along with the Republican Congress, implemented the Medicare Part "D" Act, the largest increase in Medicare spending since Lyndon Johnson. He doubled the deficit and increased spending 60%.

An argument can be made that Bill Clinton, a Democrat, was the least worst fiscal President in that time period, both with the budget and deficit. Meanwhile, our Nobel Peace Prize-winning, former professor of civil liberties President, Barack Obama, has continued and accelerated all of the Bush-era programs, including the illegal foreign wars, the Patriot Act, TSA, keeping open Guantanamo, using drone strikes, killing an American citizen without due process, and signing the National Defense Authorization Act. He has been worse than Bush on the War on Drugs and immigration. Harder on whistleblowers than all previous Presidents combined. He has out-Bushed Bush on civil liberties, which I never thought I would be saying. And the IRS attacks against the Tea Party came on his watch, as well as the NSA spying on Americans.

So, it's clear we'll never have free markets and civil liberties voting for Democrats and Republicans, and that voting for the lesser of two evils will perpetuate and worsen our conditions. More importantly, a vote for a Libertarian is a clear, unequivocal vote for freedom, for peace and prosperity. A vote for a Libertarian candidate tells everyone this is what I *want*, not the lesser of two evils. Libertarians don't have to explain that "I'm a Libertarian-leaning Democrat, or a Lib-leaning Republican." Or that I am a Libertarian but I vote for the Demopublican because I don't want the other party to win. I am a Libertarian, period. And when enough people decide to stop backing what they *don't want* and voting for what they *do want*, they will support us, and we can have a free society.

— Bob Johnston

Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

The *Free? State Libertarian* is published three times/year by the Libertarian Party of Maryland. All material is copyrighted 2013 and may be reproduced, provided credit is given as follows:

"Reprinted from the *Free? State Libertarian*."

Email: LPMD.Newsletter*ICengineering.com (preferably)
Mail: LPMD Newsletter, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117
Fax: 360-364-8748. Newsletter submissions are solicited.

Editor: Robert E. Glaser, PhD

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

Content Policy

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

The Libertarian Party of Maryland

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

Website: www.MD.LP.org

Official List Serve: MdLP-A-subscribe*YahooGroups.com

Other List Serves: www.MD.LP.org/email_lists.php

If You Are Not a Subscriber

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).



In the News

The *Baltimore Sun* printed Dan Reed's commentary "As we head for the cliff, Congress throws Corzine a lifeline" on November 28. He excoriates Congress for absolving former Democratic governor of New Jersey Jon Corzine of being criminally responsible for actions as chairman and CEO of MF Global. Dan is identified as "a registered Libertarian living in Baltimore."

On January 15, the *Baltimore Sun* printed **Robert Glaser's** letter "Make the petition process easier, not harder." He argues against the Governor's desire to make petitioning more difficult and its effect on third parties. Robert is identified as "secretary of the Maryland Libertarian Party."

Gerald Schneider's letter to *Washington Jewish Week* was published on January 24: "Fresh Approach." He suggests that the Israeli-Palestinian dispute be resolved by analysis of land ownership.

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Doug McNeil's** letter "Gun licensing won't reduce crime" on March 3. He refutes a recent editorial and discusses licensing, fingerprinting, and constitutional rights. Doug is identified as the "Libertarian Party's 2010 nominee for lieutenant governor of Maryland."

U.S. News & World Report solicited **Mark Grannis'** commentary on the question "Should There Be Such a Thing as 'Reporter's Privilege'?" and published it on May 16. Excerpts at right.

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

Reporters Aren't Above the Law (excerpts)

...we all have the same First Amendment rights; reporters don't have freer speech...

Instead of lobbying for a special privilege, reporters should consistently fight for more liberty for all Americans...

But the real problem is not that the government is investigating the AP; it is that the government is investigating speech about government operations...

...so much of what the government does is classified...

A better answer is to tighten the rules for when government can act in secret and provide more protections for whistleblowers...

We need laws that help the press shine a light on government actions, not laws that permit reporters to join government officials in the shadows.

— Mark Grannis



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	Mark Grannis	301-841-7530	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
Membership	Stuart Simms		SSimms*md.lp.org
Volunteers	Eric Blitz	410-812-7265	EricBlitz*md.lp.org
At Large	Tim Sutton		TimSutton*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
www.LP-CC.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

from page 1, 2013 MdLP Convention –

Mark Grannis observed that during elections people will listen to political philosophy talk; why else would you run? At campaign events someone always comes up and thanks him for saying things they have not heard before. *We change the wind.* We need to get people wanting things different from what we have today. It's a problem to sneak up on people who have no interest in politics. But how do we find the politically homeless? There are lots of different faces running for office, with different social networks, and different places of business. The least effective method was print advertising; need a decent website; digital advertising with banner ads targeting magazine sites worked best. He noted that if a candidate spends less than \$5000, disclosure forms aren't needed; but is it possible to run a race for that amount? His expectations were low, but he wouldn't have run unless he thought that he could do a better job in Congress than Chris Van Hollen. He used a Paypal site, and promised to use the money for the same message; he got too much money donated, so he had to file with the FEC.

All candidates filled out numerous questionnaires from various organizations.

Closing out the convention, LNC Representative Jim Lark spoke on *The LP: where we are, where we're going*. To start, the LP is simply one part of the worldwide libertarian movement. The LP is a tool to help build the liberty movement. The battle for liberty proceeds on many battlegrounds. We will see political success after we see success on other battlefields. View the intellectual battlefield: in 1947 much of Europe was in ruins, Soviet Communism was expanding, there were socialist governments in the U.S. and Great Britain. There was much regulation in terms of employment and a large and aggressive state sector. The progress we've made from that point is truly amazing. Instead of explaining ever larger state components, welfare state liberalism proponents are defending their stance. We are in the third round of a 15 round prize fight. Welfare state liberalism is the defending champion, and they are scared. Bright young intellectuals are of the libertarian perspective. *Libertarian* is an adjective. Young people are concerned about expanding the state.

In August 1977 Dr. Lark was putting up fliers at U.Va. He found circulars offering internships to fight libertarian advocates. Fareed Zakaria presented a talk entitled *Are libertarians nuts?* The title was changed to *What's wrong with democracy?* We want limited government, the rule of law – the pursuit of democracy. His point was it was actually the libertarians who have the right vision; they are consistent and want to go all the way. Bright young people are seeing things our way, or at least are not inherently hostile.

On a second battlefield, progress has been somewhat uneven. Consider cultural institutions. There are some which make libertarian views more or less likely. Regarding manners, we deal with matters as a civil society; we're taught to respect other people, other people's stuff. The "There ought to be a law" syndrome is increasing now. Are there cultural institutions that we can move the ball down the field with?

On the political battlefield, the LP is playing in a rigged game. Our opponents get to write the laws. Most libertarians don't like politics. We are involved in purposeful political activity. Some libertarians believe that being involved in politics is immoral. Until recently, the majority of libertarian college students did not want to be involved in partisan politics, they were

more interested in issues. Many are involved with the Ron Paul movement, but not necessarily the Libertarian Party.

There is a "leave me alone" sentiment in the U.S. But that's *not* a libertarian view. The American people might have libertarian impulses in certain instances, but not as much as LP people believe.

Should we emphasize direction, or destination? It's never been seen how a liberty oriented society might perform. If you grew up in a society where providing bread was a function of the government, the idea that private enterprise could have bakeries supply bread is an astounding thought. The thought of private voluntary handling of various areas is a fantastical thought. We need to help people relearn the voluntary path.

Where are we going? There is reason to support optimism: we are *right*. We have a greater wealth in the larger sense. Now people are beginning to realize the cost of the over extensive state. They're going to realize they got stuck with the check and they're not going to like it. Most thoughtful people are starting to see that the over extensive state breaks down the bonds of community. Zero sum thinking, winner vs. loser. Covered in *In Pursuit: Of Happiness and Good Government* by Charles Murray and Robert B. Hawkins. One of the really horrible things is that the big state comes between people helping each other. People are starting to see that government is a blunt instrument. The biggest problems in the U.S. are ones the government cannot solve. As we come up with better ways to reach out to our friends and neighbors, that less government is better, we can reduce the size and scope of government drastically and improve the lives of all.

Question: Too big to fail problem? Answer: Most arguments that this bank is TBTF are just wrong. Banking failures cause redistribution of assets.

We must help to facilitate conditions so that people can convince themselves of libertarian ideas. If all you do is clear away misconceptions – help clarify what libertarians really believe – you have moved the ball down the field.



Visit the website for more photos and full audio recordings of the sessions



Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squires Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 3:19 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Mark Grannis; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 19 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 25 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 28 July 2012 Central Committee meeting was accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: was remanded for revision until the numbers add up; when the Executive Board approves the revision it will be emailed to Central Committee members.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that we have 67 members, many renewing right now; we have 11,675 registered voters as of 12/31/2012. Two statewide candidates got over 30,000 votes; two got over 11,000. As a party we have run 22/24 of U.S. House candidates in the last three Congressional elections; only two states did better, though some states have much worse ballot access requirements. Plus we had four candidates in the Balto. City 2011 election, and 8 state/local candidates in 2010. Our goal is to run another full slate of candidates again. The Central Committee thanked all candidates present.

Program Committee's report: the Program Committee made eight recommendations (see attachment). Votes: 1=unanimous on a voice vote; 2=unanimous on a voice vote; 3=unanimous on a voice vote; 4=unanimous on a voice vote; 5=unanimous on a voice vote; 6=passes on a voice vote; 7=(heading typo) passes on a voice vote; 8=passes on a voice vote.

Officer Elections: the following were nominated as officers: Robert S. Johnston III, Mark Grannis, Michael Linder, Robert Glaser, Eric Blitz, Stuart Simms, Tim Sutton. As there were no more than seven nominations and there were no objections, the nominations were voted upon as a slate; a unanimous voice vote approved the slate.

Motion: Tim Sutton proposed a motion to instruct the Executive Board to invite the Young Libertarians of Maryland (YLM) Director to Executive Board meetings as an observer. Passed on a voice vote.

Announcements: YLM members are present. Volunteer Coordinator Eric Blitz has organized *Working Groups* in preparation for campaigns, including entertainment fundraisers; see Eric to assist. Mark Grannis was elected to the LNC Platform Committee, Arvin Vohra and Scott Spencer are attending LNC meetings. Robert Glaser has MdLP caps for sale.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: Dean Ahmad proposed that an appropriate section be amended by adding: "Except when meeting in a closed executive session, the Executive Board may not exclude any Central Committee member from attending to observe its deliberations." The Investigating Committee is Bob Johnston, Dean Ahmad, Stuart Simms, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, and Scott Spencer.

Adjournment: the Central Committee thanks Bob Johnston for arranging the convention; the meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

Constitutional Amendment Committee Report

At the April 6, 2013 meeting of the Maryland Libertarian Party, the following amendment was proposed to be added as a new paragraph K to section 6, article V:

"Except when meeting in a closed executive session, the Executive Board may not exclude any Central Committee member from attending to observe its deliberations."

The committee finds that the proposal gives strength to the ability of the Executive Board to be open and yet maintain its integrity and that open governance is consistent with our advocacy of open government. The committee notes that concern has been expressed that an observer who doesn't like a hard decision and could make a deal about it before the central committee, but we see this as a virtue not a flaw. As to concerns as to whether the amendment would impose new notice requirements, we do not see that this is the case, but the time and place of EB meetings should be given to Central Committee members who ask.

We unanimously recommend the passage of the amendment.

— Dean, Lorenzo, Scott, Stuart, Bob

Libertarian Party of Maryland Program

First Steps Towards Freeing the Citizens of the Free State

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

Jobs and Wealth Creation

- Reduce government spending and lower the burden on Maryland taxpayers.
- Restructure the tax system to encourage economic growth, eliminate subsidies and special tax breaks to businesses, and end public funding and financing for stadiums, hotels, concert halls, etc.
- Reform licensing laws that unfairly restrict competition and which protect special interests.

Education

- Increase parental choice in education and encourage variety in education.
- Support small autonomous schools within the larger school buildings.
- Allow K-12 neighborhood schools (reducing busing costs).
- Encourage privately funded K-12 scholarships for non-government educational activities.
- Discourage government interference and control with home schooling.
- School boards should be elected and not appointed.

Crime and Public Safety

- Free up our law enforcement resources by concentrating efforts on crimes against persons and property, rather than non-violent offenders.
- End the 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.”
- End the drug war. Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences, for those who abuse alcohol or drugs.
- Law-abiding citizens have the constitutional right to arm themselves to protect their homes and liberties. Permit the carrying of firearms with training and a background check (shall-issue).

State Government

- Initiate comprehensive reform of Maryland’s executive and legislative processes to eliminate the preferences given to special interests.
- Establish a nonpartisan redistricting process that stops politicians from choosing who votes for them. Create and maintain small, single member districts to encourage politicians to be responsive to their constituents.
- Decentralize government in Maryland. Politicians should respect the right of local communities to govern themselves and not micromanage every aspect of peoples’ lives. Political decisions should be made at the lowest feasible level to encourage civic participation and account for regional differences.
- End exclusionary ballot access laws to foster a strong and vibrant democratic process.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates on local jurisdictions.

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

- Eliminate all subsidies to developers.
- Encourage efficient land use by reducing the tax on buildings and property improvements, leaving only assessments on land itself.
- Insist on maintaining local control of zoning decisions and limit state zoning mandates on local jurisdictions.
- End the bipartisan practice of raiding the Transportation Trust Fund for non-transportation projects, which increases traffic gridlock.
- Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for their irresponsibility through civil liability. Promote free market environmentalism to promote conservation and environmental protection.



Tim Sutton (photo) joins the Executive Board. Thanks to outgoing officer Arvin Vohra, who is quite active with the National LP social media program.



Promote the MdLP

Contact Robert Glaser

Maryland Voter Registrations (5/31/2013)

Libertarian Party 11,909

Green Party 8,415

Advertising Rates:

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

PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117

Full Page	\$100.00
1/2 Page	60.00
1/4 Page	35.00
Business Card	20.00

Copy or Clip Form ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

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

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

County:

Email:

Phone (day):

Phone (evening):

Phone (other):

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Anyone may become a member of the MdLP. To become a voting member of the Central Committee, your voter registration must be Libertarian (or request it if the state does not permit Libertarian registration, and not be registered with any other party): verbally certify your registration status and your agreement with the non-aggression principle with your affiliate officers or the state Secretary. For more information, contact Stuart Simms at NewMember*md.lp.org.

Payment Information

Maryland/county-only dues \$ 20.00

Additional donation: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Monthly Credit Card Donation: \$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

Card# _____ **Exp:** _____

Signature _____

I'd like to volunteer for:

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

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

www.MD.LP.org

COMING EVENTS

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-of-events: visit www.MD.LP.org/events/ (often!).

July 4 (Thursday): 79th Dundalk Heritage 4th of July Parade.
Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173 waBuzzle11*juno.com


July 27 (Saturday): Rain or shine. MdLP picnic (2:00 pm) and
Central Committee meeting (4:00 pm). See page 1

August 12 (Monday): 7:30 pm. MdLP Executive Board meeting in
Laurel. Bob Johnston

September 7 (Saturday): 9:00 am. Reisterstown Parade.
Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173 waBuzzle11*juno.com

September 15 (Sunday): 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Essex Day Festival.
Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173 waBuzzle11*juno.com

1-800-MLP-1776

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

"Individual Liberty is Our Top Priority"
Call 1-800-MLP-1776 if you agree

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