



Free? **LIBERTARIAN**

State February 2014

Newsletter of the **LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND**

Join us at the Libertarian Party of Maryland 2014 Convention!

When: Saturday, April 5th, 2014

Where: *Squire's Italian Restaurant*
6723 Holabird Avenue
Dundalk, MD 21222
www.SquiresCafe.com

Schedule:

12:30 - 1:30 pm Registration

1:30 pm Michael Cloud, Libertarian Promoter

2:30 pm Wes Benedict, LP Executive Director

3:30 pm Arvin Vohra, LP Social Media

4:30 pm State Central Committee Meeting – including regular business plus the following:

- Nominations and Elections for the Executive Board

All positions are open for election

- Nominations for Public Office (U.S. House of Representatives)

- Voting on motions to amend the State Party Program, if any (only motions presented and discussed in the Program Committee meeting on February 15th will be considered for an up/down vote)

- Selection of delegates to the June 26-29 National Convention in Columbus

- Check your mailing label to verify that your MdLP dues are paid up and are therefore eligible to vote

- Minutes of the previous Central Committee meeting (7/27/2013) are on page 4 and on the website

- Central Committee members may delegate a proxy (Sign and date a statement designating another member of the Central Committee as agent, granting that agent the power to vote in the Central Committee. Either mail the proxy statement to the Secretary (Robert E. Glaser, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117), or the agent should present the proxy to the Credentials Committee upon arrival.

7:00 pm Dinner Banquet: Lasagna, Baked chicken, Green beans, Parsley potatoes, Salad, Dessert, Coffee, tea, soft drinks

7:30 pm Featured speaker: Sharon Harris, President *Advocates for Self-Government*

9:00 pm Adjournment

Central and Program Committee Meetings

See the meeting announcement on page 3

Directions:

- From the north: take I-95 south or I-83 south to I-695 east to Essex/Key Bridge; exit at Merritt Blvd., go 2 miles, make right on Holabird Ave.; restaurant is 2 miles on the left
- From the south: take I-95 north to Baltimore; take I-895 Harbor Tunnel Thruway; go through the tunnel; take first exit past tunnel (Holabird Ave.); follow for 2 miles; go through intersection at Dundalk Ave.; restaurant is 1/4 mile on the right

Questions or more information: Bob Johnston, Chair*md.lp.org

Alcohol: Cash bar (Budweiser & Miller Lite bottles; Coors Lite on tap; wine; name-brand liquors; top-shelf liquors and other bottled beer)

Lunch menu: full cold buffet, including roast beef, turkey, salami, and cheeses, as well as vegetables and dip, bread/rolls, and sheetcake

Cost: \$50 by March 31 (click the credit cards at left side of webpage or mail check to Box 176 address); \$55 at the door for full day attendance. Half-day price is \$30, in advance or at the door (before 7:00 pm or after 7:00 pm only). Please notify Bob if you expect to come so that he can provide the restaurant a head count, plus you will receive a pre-printed namebadge. The Central Committee *only* meeting has no charge.

Check the website for convention updates.

Speaker photos on page 3

Chair's Report



More and more people are losing faith in government and the 2-party system. People are coming to realize that Big Government is the *problem*, not the *solution*. 72% in a recent poll said big government is the biggest threat to the U.S.

People are also losing touch with the two establishment parties. A Gallup poll last week showed that 46% of registered voters identify themselves as Independent. That is the highest amount of Independents in their 25 years of telephone polling.

And things are breaking our way more and more. The majority of Americans made it clear they don't want the U.S. getting involved in Syria. Marijuana has been decriminalized in Colorado and Washington. Further, Maryland Democrat gubernatorial candidate Heather Mizeur is calling for treating and taxing marijuana like beer and wine. 40 states now have concealed-carry laws. Unfortunately, Maryland is not one of them. Yet.

Virginia gubernatorial candidate Rob Sarvis received 6.6% of the vote in a 3-way race – 3rd highest ever for a Libertarian candidate – and got 15% of the under-30 vote. There was passionate support for Ron Paul, especially among young people, in his 2008 and 2012 Presidential campaigns. The Libertarian label and message have never had more visibility and legitimacy than now.

There will come a time when a sizeable chunk of the registered voters look for an alternative. It may not be 2014 or even 2016, but that day is coming, and no political party is better positioned to be the alternative than the Libertarian Party. And we need to be ready and organized when that day comes, because if we're not, those disaffected voters looking for an alternative will look elsewhere.

The Maryland LP's 2014 candidate for Governor, Shawn Quinn, is already getting out and talking to people. Please support his candidacy. I am donating \$500 to Shawn's campaign. How much will you donate and support his efforts to spread the Libertarian message?

Citizens for Shawn Quinn
PO Box 1154
Lusby, MD 20657

Do you want to help out one of our candidates? Please contact them and let them know. Would you like to help out at an outreach event? Please contact me. Would you like to improve at persuading others to the Libertarian philosophy? Here are some books that will help you become a more persuasive activist:

Libertarianism In One Lesson, by David Bergland:

theadvocates.donorshops.com/product/LIOL/libertarianisminonelesson.php

Healing Our World In An Age Of Aggression, by Dr. Mary Ruwart:

theadvocates.donorshops.com/product/OPP2/healingourworldinanageofaggression.php

The Great Libertarian Offer, by Harry Browne (used):

www.amazon.com/Great-Libertarian-Offer-Harry-Browne/dp/0965603695/?keywords=harry+browne+great+libertarian+offer

Please do what you can to help increase liberty and the Libertarian Party this year!

— Bob Johnston

Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

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

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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

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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).

Central and Program Committee Meetings Announcement

A Central Committee meeting is being held on Saturday, February 15 at 1:00 pm. The special meeting is for nominating candidates for the 2014 election. (If you are thinking about running for office, but are not sure if you wish to be nominated yet, there will be at least one more opportunity to be nominated for office, most likely at the spring convention. But *you must file* a Declaration Of Intent form in person at the state Board of Elections by February 25, even if you haven't yet been nominated for office.) Central Committee members may delegate a proxy (Sign and date a statement designating another member of the Central Committee as agent, granting that agent the power to vote in the Central Committee. Either mail the proxy statement to the Secretary (Robert E. Glaser, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117), or the agent should present the proxy to the Credentials Committee upon arrival.

Following the CC meeting, the **Program Committee meeting** will take place starting at 1:30 pm – or after the conclusion of the CC meeting – whichever is later. Note: any changes to the State Program (www.MD.LP.org/docs/program) will be voted either up or down at the April 5 Convention; proposed modifications must be made at this Program Committee meeting.

Location: 11614 Arden Court, Laurel, MD 20723 (Stuart Simms' home). Neighborhood street parking (please don't block driveways). Be advised there is an Arden Way a couple of miles away that confuses some GPS directions. From the north: head south on 29 and make a LEFT on Old Columbia Pike just past the exit for 216. From the south: get to 29 and make the first right in Howard county (after 198). There is a golf driving range on the northeast corner of Old Columbia and 29. Once on Old Columbia, travel 0.2 miles to first right on Arden Court.

Dundalk Independence Day Parade - July 4, 2013



Susan Gaztañaga, Bill Buzzell, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, and Dave Sgambellone at the starting location after decorating Bill's car

Get your very own MdLP plates!



Promote the MdLP

Contact Robert Glaser

5K Coalition

At the request of Richard Winger, the Editor of *Ballot Access News*, MdLP ballot access guru Doug McNeil is working to organize a multiparty coalition to introduce a bill in the current legislative session to reduce the number of party qualification signatures from 10,000 to 5,000. If you would like to help out on this, please contact Doug at dmcneil1776@aol.com, or at 410-598-0168 (emails are preferred). Even if you don't have any experience in ballot access law, we never have enough people working on this issue, and it's of vital importance to the party. So we could use your help.

Convention Speakers

Wes Benedict



Libertarians Rising

Michael Cloud



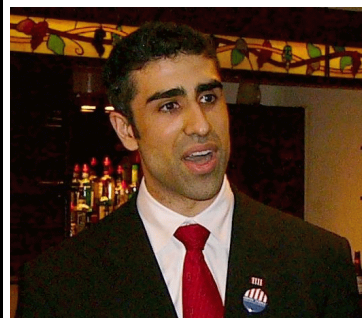
The Impossibility Trap: the Biggest Barrier to Libertarian Party Progress and Success – and how to overcome it

Sharon Harris



Advocates for Self-Government President

Arvin Vohra



Head of the LP's Facebook/ Social Media team and Congressional candidate

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland – Saturday, 27 July 2013



Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Arvin Vohra's home in Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:14 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Eric Blitz; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 14 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Two proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 31 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 6 April 2013 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: the revised report for 7/28/2012–4/5/2013 and the report for 4/6/2013–7/25/2013 were accepted as submitted by Michael Linder.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that we have 85 members to date; we have 12,108 registered voters as of June 30; registrations have gone up 48% in 3 years. We are caught back up on renewals. We will be running a slate of candidates in 2014: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and U.S. House; currently have 3 locks for House, plus 2 other possibilities; the state deadline is 2/25 for the Declaration of Intent filing; all interested in running contact Bob. We thank Arvin for hosting the picnic. Present from the LNC are Jim Lark, Bill Redpath, Arvin Vohra, and Scott Spencer.

Eric Blitz: Volunteer Coordinator Eric has organized 5 working groups: Social Media and Outreach; Fundraising; Social Events; Data, Polling, Research; and Membership. Follow through is going slowly. Planning on holding a physical meeting shortly. Some university outreach.

National Rep. Jim Lark: thanks Scott and other colleagues for work on the LNC. At the LNC meeting in Las Vegas on 7/14, it was determined that Wes Benedict will become Executive Director on 8/1; Carla Howell will become the Political Director. Update on purchasing a new national office.

For Sale: 25 years of *The Freeman* periodicals (1988 through 2013; takes 4 feet of shelf space). Pick up, or can bring to a state meeting. Best offer (don't be afraid of "low-balling"). Gerald Schneider, 3101 Blueford Road, Kensington, MD 20895. Tel: 301-929-8593.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment: 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, Robert

The amendment **passes** on a hand count.

Tony Spezio: on campaign literature; suggests a more unified approach for our candidates; inquiry about status of national buttons, etc.

Announcements: a reminder of upcoming events: Reisterstown parade Sept. 7, Essex Day Sept. 15. Robert Glaser has forms with him for MdLP license plates, and MdLP caps for sale. Michael Linder informs that monthly pledges can now be handled by the user on our website. Jim Lark mentions that Virginia candidates could use help on election day 2013. Ben Parker provided a list of liberty oriented websites.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

Maryland Voter Registrations (12/31/2013)

Libertarian Party 13,131

Green Party 8,397

MdLP Picnic – Saturday, July 27



In his backyard in Bethesda, host Arvin Vohra barbeques hamburgers and hot dogs - both meat and veggie types. After what now seems is becoming a Party tradition, the rain clouds eventually burst forth and let loose a deluge, so the business meeting relocated indoors.





Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Stuart Simms’ home in Laurel, Maryland. The minutes of the 27 July 2013 Central Committee meeting were distributed. The meeting was called to order at 1:24 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Eric Blitz; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 18 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. One proxy was represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 33 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 27 July 2013 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s report: Michael Linder reported that there is little change in the treasury since the picnic meeting; we have about \$600 in the federal and \$3600 in the general accounts. The report was accepted.

Chair’s Report: Bob Johnston thanks the Simms for hosting the meeting; reports that we have 82 members to date and 12,836 registered voters – up 50% in three years. The LPVA gubernatorial candidate got 6.5% and lots of attention. Maryland candidates must file intent papers at the BoE by 2/25/2014 to run next year.

Scott Spencer/Arvin Vohra, LNC/alternate reps: no meeting since our picnic meeting, not a lot of action. Next meeting is first weekend in December in Dallas.

Nominations of Candidates for Statewide Office: Shawn Quinn (left) was nominated for Governor and Lorenzo Gaztañaga was nominated for Lt. Governor. They both spoke. It was agreed to nominate the two offices as a slate. The ticket was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Scott Soffen (center) for U.S. House 7: said this time he would be more than a paper candidate; goal is to promote the LP. Vote: 11 FOR, 6 NAY; nominated.

Arvin Vohra (right) for U.S. House 4: The nomination was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Announcements: Eric Blitz noted that there is an open volunteer working group for campaigns; either the group will work together or send volunteers to the campaigns. He also anticipated a bigger Program Committee meeting next year, contact him to participate. Robert Glaser has forms with him for MdLP license plates, and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.

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



In the News

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Scott Soffen**'s commentary "It's time to end the futile war on drugs" on November 13. Scott is identified as a Libertarian candidate for Congress.

On December 4, the *Wall Street Journal* printed **Scott Soffen**'s letter regarding the FDA's restriction on 23andMe. He concludes with: "Many businesses offer products of dubious value, from fortune tellers to pet rocks. Many businesses offer products that may cause harm, from kitchen knives to cigarettes. But in a free society, individuals, not the government, get to choose the products they want to purchase."

Robert Glaser's letter to the *Baltimore Sun* was published on December 19: "Marijuana prohibition and the folly of subjugation."

Mark Leonard was enthusiastic about the article that *The Washington Times* printed in its Politics section on January 6 about Gary Johnson. It mentions a meetup sponsored by the Republican Libertarian Caucus featuring our most recent presidential candidate, but clearly states that he is not looking to the Republican party but intends to remain a third-party hopeful. Mark also appreciated the *Washington Post* article on Virginia gubernatorial candidate Robert Sarvis on October 27.

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

Copy or Clip Form ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Marijuana prohibition and the folly of subjugation

Gregory Kline answers his own retorts in "The folly of marijuana legalization" (Dec. 13). He thinks it is the business of government to control what citizens do behind closed doors. We better prohibit private wine, beer and spirit consumption in our homes; turn the clock back and reinstate anti-gay laws; and send several of our recent presidents to prison for smoking pot. What century does Mr. Kline live in?

He equates prohibition laws with laws against murder. Does he really not see the difference between so-called offenses which have no victim and actually killing another person? Unbelievable!

— **Robert E. Glaser** Owings Mills

The writer is secretary of the Maryland Libertarian Party.

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!).

Gallery Gang: Mondays while the Maryland General Assembly is in session through April 7, 2014 to lobby legislators before the session, attend, drinks afterward. Meet on the State House steps at *Lawyer's Mall* in Annapolis at 7:45 pm.
Tony Spezio TheSpeez@yahoo.com

February 14 (Friday): Frederick Douglass and Terry Atwood memorial day (MdLP Central Committee resolution 2/20/99)

February 15 (Saturday): 1:00 pm Central Committee and Program Committee meetings. See page 3

April 5 (Saturday): MdLP annual convention. See page 1

April 15 (Tuesday): Tax Day protests

June 26-29 (Thursday-Sunday): 2014 Libertarian Party National Convention in Columbus OH

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
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