

Free? State LIBERTARIAN

July 2014

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

2014 LP National Convention News



MdLP delegates Scott Spencer, Colleen Quinn, Shawn Quinn

From June 26-29, the Libertarian Party's national convention was held in Columbus, Ohio. The big news is that Maryland's Arvin Vohra was elected to Vice Chairman of the Libertarian Party! Congratulations to Arvin. In addition, Maryland's Scott Spencer was re-elected to be the Alternate Regional Representative for our region (MD, PA, WV, DE, VA, DC, and NC).

The convention was a mix of business, informative breakout sessions and entertainment. Some of the notable political figures who spoke at the convention were Lawrence Reed, Governor Gary Johnson, Ben Swann, Alexander McCobin, Vera Kichanova (first elected libertarian in Russia) and Judge James Gray. There were also entertainers, such as Soprano soloist Elizabeth Gentner, Tatiana Moroz, comedian Joe DeVito, and Kmele Foster.

Maryland was represented by eight delegates this year. They were James Harris, Arvin Vohra, Stuart Simms, Shawn Quinn, Colleen Quinn, Scott Spencer, David Sgambellone and Eric Blitz.

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MdLP General Election Candidates

November 4, 2014

Governor/Lt. Governor: **Shawn Quinn/Lorenzo Gaztañaga**
Citizen4Quinn.org

Attorney General: **Leo Dymowski**
Vote4Leo.org

U.S. House, District 4: **Arvin Vohra**
VoteVohra.com

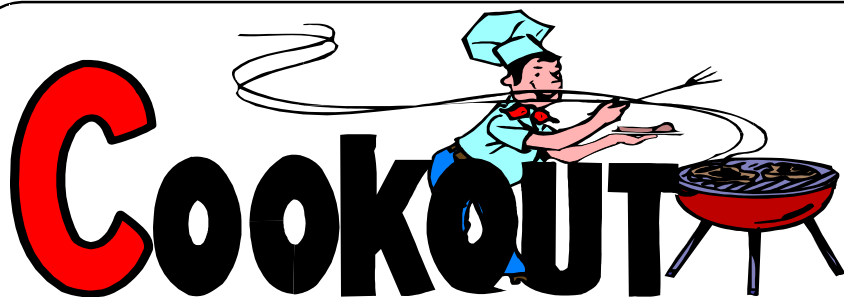
U.S. House, District 7: **Scott Soffen**
WhyVoteLibertarian.com

Anne Arundel County Council: **David Sgambellone**
ElectSgambellone.org

Calvert County Commissioner: **Peggy O'Donnell**

Garrett County Commissioner, District 1: **Hon. Britten L. ("Leo") Martin, Jr.** (currently Mayor of Mountain Lake Park)

Garrett County Commissioner, District 3: **William Welch**



**Picnic and Central
Committee Meeting**

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Chair's Report



The future of the Libertarian Party has never looked better! More and more people are losing their faith in government and the legacy political parties. In a recent national poll, 46% of the respondents refused to identify with either the Democrats or Republicans. In Maryland, 17% of registered voters

– one in six – are registered Independent or Non-Affiliated. In Florida, the number of registered Independents and Non-Affiliated is over 30%. In Alaska, only 42% are registered Democrat or Republican. Less than half of the Alaska voters want to register with the establishment parties!

As more and more voters become disenchanted with the system, they will be looking for an alternative, and the LP is positioned to be that alternative. Here in Maryland, the Green Party did not nominate a candidate for Governor this year. The Constitution Party has until August 4 to submit 10,000 valid signatures of registered voters and nominate a candidate for Governor. If they are unable to petition successfully, the Maryland Libertarian Party will have the only non-establishment candidate for Governor, Shawn Quinn, on the ballot this November for the general election. If Mr. Quinn gets at least 1% of the vote, the Maryland LP will retain its ballot access. And unless the Green or Constitution Parties have at least 1% of the registered voters by the end of this year, around 37,300, the MdLP will be the only recognized non-establishment party in the state. According to the Maryland Board of Elections voter registration report for May, the MdLP has 14,067 registered voters, compared to 8,444 for the Green Party. The Constitution Party is currently not recognized.

In the last 6 months, since December 2013, the MdLP has picked up another 936 registered voters, a rate of 156 per month, or 39 per week. Meanwhile, the number of registered voters for both the Democrats and Republicans has *decreased* in that period.

We have several candidates on the ballot this November, including candidates for county and federal office. Further, we have another statewide candidate running in addition to Shawn. Leo Dymowski is running for Attorney General. Leo is running on gun rights and ending the War on Drugs in Maryland. The MdLP was involved in getting a bill through the General Assembly earlier this year to decriminalize marijuana, and mostly due to the efforts of MdLP Vice-Chair Eric Blitz, continues to work with the *Marijuana Policy Coalition* to further our efforts on the War on Drugs. The state party is generating legitimacy that we've never had before. Heck, even a writer for the *Baltimore Sun* had a nice thing to say about us after the marijuana decriminalization bill passed.

What will you be doing to help our candidates and advance our message? Please donate to their candidacies:

LPmaryland.org/vote/meet-our-candidates

Attend outreach events and campaign stops when possible. Be sure to check our new website regularly for event listings. And it's not too early to think about and prepare to run for office in the next couple of years! Most of the 157 municipalities in Maryland have seats up for election in 2015, and all eight U.S. House seats and one U.S. Senate seat will be up for election in 2016.

— Bob Johnston

"The LP is positioned to be that alternative"

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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 LPmaryland.org regularly for upcoming events, state and national blog posts, and more! Submit all of your current event information to MarkGrannis@LPmaryland.org 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:

LPmaryland.org

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

Other List Serves: LPmaryland.org/get-involved/connect

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/LPMaryland

Twitter/YouTube+: LPmaryland.org/get-involved/connect

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In the News

On April 5, the *Baltimore Sun* printed **Robert Glaser's** letter "Student should not lose his 2nd Amendment rights" (changed from the "How Far We've Come" title that was submitted). Below. (He received a phone call regarding it.)

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Leo Dymowski's** letter "The libertarian approach to crime" on May 31. At right.

Mark Leonard notes that *The Washington Times* had coverage of the National LP – with quotes from Carla Howell – in its Politics section on June 26.

*Congratulations to our public advocates. Try to get the word **Libertarian** (small or large "L") in the public spotlight to increase our presence, build our awareness, and let people know that there is an alternative to the establishment parties in the state of Maryland. Please send in reports of your successes, too!*

Student should not lose his 2nd Amendment rights

Part of the penalty imposed on Patrick Bryan Mitchell for having an unloaded shotgun in his car on the school parking lot is a year's probation during which he cannot have a firearm ("South River High student avoids conviction for bringing gun to school," April 1).

His friends and attorney are not even complaining about that. So now the price for violating a school rule is denial of one's Second Amendment rights? In the current environment, any excuse is grounds for taking away guns.

In the 1960s, high school boys routinely and openly transported their rifles on Baltimore's public buses for use in after-school extra-curricular activities.

Robert E. Glaser, Owings Mills.

The writer is secretary of the Maryland Libertarian Party.

The libertarian approach to crime

In The Sun article "New views about crime" (May 25) the writers failed to mention the Libertarian approach to the failed war on drugs. As the Libertarian candidate for attorney general, my main campaign theme is to end the drug war. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world. We have more people in prison than Russia and China combined! At the same time we have the highest rate of drug usage in the world.

A definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over and expect a different result. That describes the war on drugs, as we continue to incarcerate nonviolent drug offenders at the cost of nearly \$40,000 a year for each inmate. The human toll must also be considered as these offenders will be branded for life. Future employment, educational opportunity, housing and many other areas will affect these individuals in a negative manner for the rest of their lives.

Career politicians who are concerned mainly with winning elections offer ridiculous solutions like Ban the Box, which would forbid prospective employers from viewing criminal records of applicants early on in the process. Instead of looking at our failed drug policy, they tinker on the edges when real change is needed. Nonviolent drug offenders who hurt no one but themselves belong in treatment facilities and not prisons. We spend so much on incarceration that there is little left over for drug treatment. Nationally about 10 percent of all addicts receive drug treatment in prison!

In 2000, Portugal was faced with a huge drug problem. Violence was out of control, prisons were filled, and the rate of drug usage was rising. Everything was decriminalized. Since then, violence has gone down, the rate of drug usage has declined along with the HIV infection rates and deaths by overdose. More people have sought treatment and the jail population is greatly reduced.

At the same time Singapore, which has the death penalty for drug crimes, has seen the usage rate rise over the same period!

During alcohol prohibition in the U.S., the crime rate went up. It wasn't the alcohol that caused the increase, it was prohibition. The effect of the drug war is the same. To reduce the violence and problems resulting from drug prohibition, we must take the profit incentive away. Only when drug dealers can no longer make a profit will drug dealing come to an end. We will always have our vices. Attempting to outlaw them causes more problems than the vices themselves. The current approach has failed miserably. We must look at why and see what we can do that will work. Check out my website (Vote4Leo.org) for more Libertarian solutions.

Leo Wayne Dymowski

The writer is the Libertarian candidate for attorney general.

Party Spokesperson Lorenzo Gaztañaga

443-414-6539

Lorenzo*LPmaryland.org

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*LPmaryland.org
Vice Chairman	Eric Blitz	410-812-7265	Vice-Chair*LPmaryland.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626	Secretary*LPmaryland.org
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Treasurer*LPmaryland.org
Membership	Stuart Simms		StuSimms*LPmaryland.org
Website	Mark Grannis	301-841-7530	MarkGrannis*LPmaryland.org
Legislation	Tim Sutton		TimSutton*LPmaryland.org

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

County Affiliates

	Anne Arundel County	Eric Gorr		AnneArunde1*LPmaryland.org
	Baltimore City/County	Susan Gaztañaga	443-414-6539	Baltimore*LPmaryland.org
www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Cecil*LPmaryland.org
	Wicomico County			Wicomico*LPmaryland.org
	Harford County	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Harford*LPmaryland.org



Dave Sgambellone, Stuart Simms, Shawn Quinn, Scott Spencer

Also present from Maryland was Micah Kogok, though he served on the Alabama delegation.

The main work of the convention body is to vote on the proposals of the bylaws and platform committees and to elect new officers and members of the Libertarian National Committee. The bylaws and platform can also be amended by motions from the floor and there are plenty of those motions. I will spare you the sausage making details, but it can be a contentious, silly, and amusing spectacle to watch the delegates spar with themselves, the chair, the rules, and grammar (within the bylaw and platform proposals). Notable bylaw change proposals were:

- Make the Statement of Principles a stand-alone document – Failed
- Alternate convention business between conventions, moving bylaws and platform to the non-presidential conventions and 4 year terms for LNC members – Failed
- Approval voting system for At-Large members of the LNC – Approved (more on this below)
- Allow Fusion candidates where state election law permits – Failed
- Reduce the size of the LNC by one At-Large and two Regional representatives – Failed
- Prohibit floor fees for delegates to the convention – Failed

The platform changes were less controversial but a few generated significant debate. One would have put opposition to government employee unions into the Labor Markets section, which failed. A similar one would have announced opposition to government employee defined benefit pensions, which also failed. The perennial battle over the abortion plank was present, but after vigorous debate, the end result was that the current language remained unchanged.



The election of officers and the At-Large members of the Libertarian National Committee (LNC) is the most entertaining portion of the convention. It should be noted that the formation of regions and the election of regional representatives to the LNC occurred prior to the votes from the floor, at regional caucuses meetings held during the convention. Maryland's region re-elected Dr. James Lark (at left) as our regional representative and Maryland's Scott Spencer as the Alternate.



Nicholas Sarwark and Arvin Vohra, new LNC Chair/Vice-Chair

Nicholas Sarwark, former chair of the Libertarian Party of Maryland and currently the Vice-Chair of the Colorado Libertarian Party, was elected to become the Chair of the LNC, on the second ballot, beating out Geoff Neale and Brett Pojunis. Maryland's Arvin Vohra, in a very close election, was elected as the Vice Chair of the LNC, beating out Scott Goldstein. Alicia Mattson was elected Secretary, beating out Chuck Moulton. Tim Hagan, running unopposed, was elected Treasurer.

The At-Large voting was conducted through approval voting (each delegate votes for all those nominated they approve of), which substantially changed the tactics of the delegates and could eventually lead to changes in the amount and character of the nominations themselves. After the experience with approval voting, there was a palpable feeling on the floor of buyer's remorse for having voted for the system, but it was not removed and will likely be addressed in 2016. The At-Large positions were won by Bill Redpath, Sam Goldstein, Gary Johnson (of Texas), Evan McMahon and Guy McLendon.



Micah Kogok, Stuart Simms, and Dave Sgambellone

During the vote-counting, Maryland's candidate for Governor, Shawn Quinn, gave an emotional speech to the convention focusing on outreach. Shawn and his wife Colleen drove to Columbus, then back to Frederick on Saturday for the Frederick Pride event and then drove back to Columbus for the rest of the convention. Dedication! You can also see some pictures of the *Young Libertarians of Maryland* at the convention and other pictures Shawn posted on their respective Facebook pages.

— Eric Blitz

PICNIC



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, July 26 (rain or shine)

Location: 16 Partridge Lane, North East, MD 21901 (Dave Sten's home)

Schedule: 2:00 pm: picnicking

4:00 pm: Central Committee meeting (no charge)

Constitutional amendments to be voted up/down

Cost: \$ 8.00 mailed to Box 176 (or pay by credit card on website) by July 21
\$10.00 on site

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

Bring: folding chairs

Camping: feel free to camp out on the grounds Friday and/or Saturday night

Directions:

Take North I-95 to exit 100 (North East). Merge onto Route 272 South toward North East and U.S. 40. Continue south on 272 about 2.4 miles to the U.S. 40 intersection, and continue south on 272 (Main Street) through the town of North East. On the other side of town Main Street becomes 272 South and is a two-way road. Continue south for another 5.5 miles. Turn left onto Elk River Lane. (Note: You will notice that Elk River Lane is near when the shoulder of the road disappears and the speed limit changes from 50 mph to 40 mph.) Travel 0.6 miles and then turn right onto Elk River Lane (Elk River Lane is a dirt lane. Dave will make sure that signs directing people to the picnic will be visible.) Follow Elk River Lane for 0.4 miles, and turn right onto Partridge Lane. (There is a row of about 20 mailboxes at the turn for Partridge Lane.) Travel a few hundred feet to Dave's house (small blue cottage on the left). Turn into his driveway, and continue through the grass along the line of trees – the location is at the bottom of the hill.



Activities:

- Beach Volleyball
- Tetherball
- Horseshoe Pits
- Paddleboat
- Canoe
- Powered Boat
- Swimming



Note: \$8.00 cash toll on I-95 and Route 40 northbound, but free southbound on both. No toll on Route 1.

Don't miss it! We last had the picnic at Dave's in 2011.

2014 MdLP Convention

The 2014 MdLP Convention – arranged by Bob Johnston – was held at *Squire's* in Dundalk on April 5th. Michael Cloud, our first speaker, talked about *The Impossibility Trap*. “I see things that people don’t do.” Why people were not voting Libertarian, why they’re not putting yard signs out, not donating money. Lots of arguments against doing so: the *don’t waste your vote* viewpoint; you can’t win; people will never vote for you; it’ll never happen; courts will strike it down; the legislature will change the law.



Mr. Cloud had conversations with people who think it will never happen: they believe that we’re deluded. The bad news is that they’ve convinced *us* that it’s impossible. Candidates start with “I know I can’t win, but...” If something is impossible, nothing you say will make sense. We have to have the *possibility* conversation.

There are two elements to *impossible*: belief is impossible, and behavior is affected. Romney/Obama not a *choice*, it’s a *dilemma*. The market is telling us something: not to run. We want a “tell me more” response instead of “that’s impossible.” If everybody says no to your widgets, you’ll become reticent to knock on the next door. They tune us out, discount us. It affects us, *we believe* we can’t win either. So we don’t do the work it takes. It is *learned helplessness*: if in scenario where we cannot affect the outcome, we learn to give up. We must *ask* for campaign workers. A trap that creates a self-fulfilling prophecy. Results reinforce behavior, behavior reinforces results. The more we believe in the impossibility trap, others believe it even more. People aren’t *rejecting* us, they *haven’t heard* us. We become a tiny little party. We must acknowledge that the trap is there.

What do we do to get past the trap? First, agree with it. “You’re probably right.” Then ask: if it *were* to happen, would you *like* that? “Yeah, I would want that.” Called the Magic Gift. Sometimes they’ll say, “tell me more.” If they like something about your proposal, ask *what*? It creates a suspension of disbelief. The reasons they come up with are more compelling than any you’d come up with. We need to have *conversations*, not *arguments*. Push the Button: if there were a button in front of you that would make it happen, would you push it? If they all had an equal chance, would you vote for him? Conversation about how it matters to *them* if elected. In conversation with a candidate, voters don’t usually get that opportunity. Leave with the idea that we don’t have to *win* to win, we only need to make *progress*. Each successive candidate gets more votes, on more TV shows, talk radio programs. We have to open the door so that they can see a better world with liberty than without.



Next, National LP Executive Director Wes Benedict spoke to us about *Libertarians Rising*. He recalled being here in 2009? [actually 2010] where he heard Paul Jacob urge all to “do something.” Mr. Benedict is pretty certain that doing *nothing* is not helping. He also recalled Mr. Jacob saying “don’t stop others from doing things.” Bill Redpath got 0.7% or 0.8% for governor in Virginia; has given over \$95K to the LP over a lifetime.

We wanted to recruit a candidate for governor and improve on the 0.8% figure. Hoped Robert Sarvis would get 2% at the polls – never would *dream* that he would achieve the 6% that he got.

The Executive Director thinks the biggest way to promote the Party is to run for office as a Libertarian, or help a candidate who is. The goal is to get people to *do something*. He made signs in Texas for about 60 different people. Some just said *Vote Libertarian*. Our party’s been around for 42 years. Things have been about steady the past four or five years. However, we are getting better percentages at the polls. He thinks the LP has influence in the political arena. If we only get 10% in elections in the next 100 years, he believes that we are still having a positive effect.

Mr. Benedict is interested in our perception of the National HQ. Asked in a Q&A session, he expects HQ to move to Alexandria; closing is April 25. Would like a marketing survey to find the best brochure that gets people to join the LP.

Arvin Vohra took the podium to discuss Libertarian Social Media. For decades the media has done its best to minimize libertarians. Why? Fear? Whatever the reasons, they forgot that we’re libertarians, entrepreneurs, individualists. When we didn’t like the existing political parties, we created our own. National wanted to use its Facebook page as a weapon – get instant feedback. They started with existing images and issues. The design group wanted to make their own images, but didn’t know anything about graphic design. So they put together a design team; and went through many iterations until hundreds of designers around the country were contributing to the process. Since then, have gone through many revisions.



Social media is about *many seats* to meet needs. Not talking about only the people who *coordinate* the page, but a large number of people around the country working voluntarily around the clock. Social media has given the LP a more powerful and pleasing voice. The most important thing is what that voice is saying: so what is its content? Libertarian media’s job is to cut government and advance liberty, to grow the economy. Our challenge is to have concrete actions that cut government and advance liberty. Carla Howell’s *Who’s Driving* training game is a great help.

Social media allows us to go from being a *big* libertarian media to becoming an *effective* libertarian media. Google Hangouts lets multiple parties go through the training. Results are endless. We now have a series of five pledges for candidates about active and specific cuts, including ending the war on drugs, cutting military spending, reducing federal spending to 1992 levels, and abolishing the income tax. It can take a long time to build up government programs, but not that long to *end* them. In short, fire everybody and put the building on the market! A cancerous growth might take a long time to grow, but it doesn’t take long to cut it out. It is time to stop squandering our best on counter productive military pursuits.

The threat is coming from behind, from those who want to

use the rhetoric of liberty and encourage anti-libertarian action. We must clearly define what a libertarian is: not just fiscally conservative and liberal socially. Libertarian media must ask the right questions – to anybody asking for our support. Must ask on our, and their, Facebook pages, on *Washington Post* forums: what will you cut? What cuts will you sponsor as a legislator? What cuts will you put into action as an executive? Not just a quote as a small “I” libertarian, but what will you cut? Rand Paul endorsed Romney, Ron Paul refused to.

To get people to change, sometimes you need a humongous effort to push. To get Libertarian support must require you to be willing to cut government and advance liberty. War used to start at sunrise and end at sunset; politics was confined to particular means. Now it is everywhere: we are well set up to work in that sphere.

[Speaking from his perspective as a candidate] What will I cut (as Congressman)? I will sponsor legislation to cut federal spending to 1992 spending or below, therefore abolishing the federal income tax. Cut military spending by at least 50% and reduce debt or taxes. Sponsor legislation to end the War on Drugs, eliminate the DEA, and release nonviolent offenders from prison. I will work to abolish the Department of Education, including student loans. If elected I will support legislation to end the Patriot Act, end NSA domestic spying, compress 17 spy agencies into one that obeys the Constitution and obeys people.

The LP Social Media operation is in the beginning alpha stage. The above-mentioned pledges are also just the beginning.

Fittingly, later in the evening Mark Grannis presented the Chase Award to Arvin Vohra in part for his significant achievements regarding the LP’s Social Media effort.



From the Johns Hopkins Gazette

Q: Will the new retail sales of marijuana cause an explosion of use, especially among youth?

A: I don’t think the change will be that big because when you look at the number of people already using marijuana while it’s illegal, it’s high, and almost all high schoolers surveyed said that even if they didn’t smoke, it would be easy for them to get [marijuana] if they wanted to. So I don’t think making it legal is going to change access for a lot of people.

— Ryan Vandrey



Our after-dinner speaker was *Advocates for Self-Government* President Sharon Harris. Her subject was *It’s a Wonderful Liberty*. George Bailey helped others throughout his life. Clarence shows him what would have happened if George had never been born... all the people who would have died but for him. The movie demonstrated that small, unnoticed things can have unforgettable results. Let’s look at some George Bailey’s of the Libertarian movement.

Ayn Rand: her novels did more than just entertain their readers. They influenced many founders of our movement. What if she had never been born, never written *Atlas Shrugged*? Would we even have a Libertarian movement?

In the 1970’s, *Reason* kept people together. It covered John Hospers and Toni Nathan. What if *Reason* had not been born?

David Nolan was a volunteer in the 1964 Goldwater campaign. On August 15, 1971 Richard Nixon established wage and price controls. For months Nolan contacted people and formed the LP. The LP is the most effective party in the last half century because of its introduction of ideas. What if David Nolan had not been born? Maybe the LP would have formed but it would have been much later.

Marshall Fritz was active in the California LP and founded the *Advocates*. He created the World’s Smallest Political Quiz. It has been taken 21 million times online.

There are many George Bailey’s in the Libertarian movement. Sometimes we create unexpected ripples which go out farther than we’d think. Sometimes we’re George Bailey and sometimes we’re Clarence the angel. Every time we decide not to do something because we don’t think it matters, we kill a little piece of ourselves. The *Advocates* has tons of tips on helping out with liberty. Small things produce big results. When you see a disappointed Libertarian, you can be a Clarence. We are involved in the great cause that makes all other causes possible. All advances have been from human, individual *liberty*. Where there is liberty there is innovation, technology, art. Our George Bailey’s need to understand that they are affecting more than their small town.

Ms. Harris concluded by saying that she believes we are the modern equivalent of the anti-slavery movement, and thanks us for doing that.

The evening concluded with Michael Cloud spearheading a fundraiser that raised \$1161 for the MdLP.

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 29 March 2014

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Stuart Simms' home in Laurel, Maryland for a special meeting for the purpose of nominations. The meeting was called to order at 12:22 pm by Chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee validated that 14 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Three proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 33 members.

Nominations of Candidates for Office: David Sgambellone was nominated for Anne Arundel County Council (2nd District). The nomination was by Eric Blitz, seconded by Mark Grannis. David made a brief presentation and took questions from the floor. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination, by voice vote.

Steven Haddox was nominated for the House of Representatives in the 8th Congressional District. The nomination was by Gerald Schneider, seconded by Stuart Simms. Steven made a brief presentation and took questions from the floor. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination, by voice vote.

Peggy O'Donnell was nominated for the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners (2nd District). The nomination was by Gerald Schneider, seconded by Stuart Simms. Peggy made a brief presentation and took questions from the floor. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination, by voice vote.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

— *Eric Blitz* (acting Secretary)

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 5 April 2014

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squires Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Mark Grannis; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 21 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 34 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 27 July 2013, 9 November 2013, and 29 March 2014 Central Committee meetings were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: question about portion of pledge money to go to BLP; will need to do an accounting. Report accepted subject to correction of the double period shown in General Account balance.

New website: Mark Grannis described the new LPmaryland.org website. We have 578 likes on Facebook.

Chair's Report: The MdLP joined the *Marijuana Policy Coalition of Maryland* (MarijuanaPolicyinMd.org) group. The SB1032 ballot access bill in the General Assembly to lower the 1% threshold to 10,000 registered voters for state recognition is dead this year, but will continue with renewed effort next year. Bob Johnston reports that we have 83 members; we have 13,549 registered voters as of 3/31/2014.

Program Committee's report: the Program Committee made 13 recommendations (see attachment). Votes: 1-4, 7-11, 13=passes unanimously on a voice vote; 5=passes on a voice vote; 6=passes 11 to 8; 12=passes 9 to 7.

Candidate Nominations: Leo Dymowski for Attorney General; issues are Drug War and 2nd amendment; approved on a voice vote. Leo Martin for Garret County Commissioner district 1; approved on a voice vote.

Delegates to the National Convention: Arvin Vohra, Colleen Quinn, Shawn Quinn, James Harris, Scott Spencer, Michael Linder, Eric Blitz, Mark Grannis, Stuart Simms, Dave Sgambellone, Janice Dymowski, and Leo Dymowski were nominated and approved as delegates. The Secretary is directed to fill out the delegate and alternate lists with remaining Central Committee members. We are allotted 21 delegates plus 50 alternates.

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.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments: Robert Glaser and Eric Blitz proposed:

1. Article V, Section 6, sub-paragraph C:

Was: Notice of meetings shall set forth the time and place of the meeting and shall be mailed to members of the State Central Committee at least ten days prior to the meeting, addressed to the residence of each member.

Proposed: Notice of meetings shall set forth the time and place of the meeting and shall be mailed or emailed to members of the State Central Committee at least ten days prior to the meeting, addressed to the postal address or email address of each member on file.

Vote: passes on a voice vote

2. Article V, Section 4, sub-paragraph D:

Was: Vacancies: Vacancies on the Executive Board caused by death, resignation, or any other reason, may be filled by the State Central Committee at the next meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy, or at a meeting called for that purpose. After the vacancy has been filled, the Executive Board may, at its discretion, reassign the offices among themselves. Prior to the next State Central Committee meeting, the Chairman will appoint a new member to the Executive Board to fill any vacancy. The specific appointment is subject to a positive vote of all the Executive Board.

Proposed: Vacancies: Vacancies on the Executive Board caused by death, resignation, or any other reason, shall be temporarily filled by the appointment of a replacement by the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman if the vacancy involves the Chair), which shall be made within 30 days of the vacancy. The appointment shall be subject to confirmation by the Executive Board at its next regular meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose. The temporary appointment shall end at the next regular meeting of the Central Committee, or at a special meeting called for that purpose, wherein the Central Committee shall elect a replacement member who shall serve the balance of the term.

Vote: passes on a voice vote

3. Article V, Section 5, sub-paragraph F:

Was: Duties of the Executive Board: The Executive Board shall oversee and act in respect to all matters pertaining to the Party. The business of the State Central Committee between meetings shall be conducted by the Executive Board. A majority of the total number of votes authorized to be cast by the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. All questions coming before the Executive Board shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held regularly and minutes of the meetings shall be made available as may be required by law. The Secretary shall send written notice of the time and place of the Executive Board meeting at least one week in advance (seventy-two hours for emergency meetings.) Any action of the Executive Board may be overruled by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the State Central Committee. No proxies will be counted in Executive Board meetings.

Proposed: Duties of the Executive Board: The Executive Board shall oversee and act in respect to all matters pertaining to the Party. The business of the State Central Committee between meetings shall be conducted by the Executive Board. A majority of the total number of votes authorized to be cast by the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum. All questions coming before the Executive Board shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held regularly in person, by teleconference, or a combination of both, and minutes of the

meetings shall be made available as may be required by law. The Secretary shall send written notice of the time and place of the Executive Board meeting at least one week in advance (seventy-two hours for emergency meetings.) Any action of the Executive Board may be overruled by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the State Central Committee. No proxies will be counted in Executive Board meetings.

Dean Ahmad proposed this addition to the proposed amendment: "Any member of the Central Committee can notify the Secretary to be notified of such meetings." Vote on the amendment to the proposed amendment: fails on a voice vote.

Vote: passes unanimously on a voice vote

The Investigating Committee for the three proposed amendments is Bob Johnston, Robert Glaser, Dean Ahmad, James Harris, and Eric Blitz.

Announcements: Michael Linder notes that we need to ask for employer info and advises members not to get upset over the request. Eric Blitz is looking for a replacement for a Md director of issue advocacy for *Our America Initiative*. Bill Buzzell requests volunteers for a 4/26 9-10am Adopt-a-Highway outing; plans for us to participate in the July 4 Dundalk parade. Robert Glaser has license plate applications on hand and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the Central Committee thanks Bob Johnston for arranging the convention; the meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Investigating Committee on proposed Constitutional Amendments

The Investigating Committee of Bob Johnston, Robert Glaser, Dean Ahmad, James Harris, and Eric Blitz met at *Squires Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland on April 5, 2014 at 9:30 pm.

Proposal 1: a minority wanted an opt-in requirement but the committee majority was in favor.

Proposal 2: all in favor.

Proposal 3: one member has a reservation about the absence of a clause permitting Central Committee members to request notification but the committee majority was in favor.

The Committee adjourned at 9:40 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Tuesday, 8 July 2014

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Stuart Simms' home in Laurel, Maryland for a special meeting for the purpose of nominations. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee validated that 9 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Two proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 30 members.

Nominations of Candidates for Public Office: William Welch spoke and requested our nomination for Garrett County Commissioner (3rd District). The nomination was by Stuart Simms, seconded by Bob Johnston. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination, by voice vote.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser



The Maryland Libertarian Party at the *Baltimore Pride* festival on June 14 and 15. Gubernatorial candidate Shawn Quinn, Scott Spencer, Ron Kean, and others on the scene.



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, we seek to elect Libertarians to public office, influence 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 tax burden on Maryland taxpayers.
- Restructure the tax system to encourage economic growth. Eliminate subsidies and special tax breaks. End public funding and financing of stadiums, hotels, and other facilities which are properly private activities.
- Reform licensing laws that unfairly restrict competition and protect special interests.
- Encourage entrepreneurs and small business start-ups by eliminating barriers to economic opportunity.

Education

- Increase parental choice in education.
- Support and encourage smaller, more autonomous neighborhood schools.
- Encourage privately funded K-12 scholarships for non-government educational activities.
- Discourage government interference and control with home schooling.
- School boards should be elected, not appointed.

Health Care

- Promote a free market system that respects the freedom of individuals to control their own health care, health insurance, medicines and treatments. End government mandates and interference.

Crime and Public Safety

- Redirect law enforcement towards crimes against persons and property, rather than victimless crimes.
- End pre-conviction asset forfeiture.
- End the drug war. Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences for substance abuse.
- 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

- Prohibit Maryland officials from funding or participating in domestic espionage and bulk data collection. Prohibit Maryland from using or maintaining such data except in accordance with a constitutionally proper warrant.
- Eliminate preferences for special interests.
- Establish an objective redistricting process to end gerrymandering.
- Decentralize government in Maryland. Politicians should respect the right of local communities to govern themselves 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.

Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment

- Eliminate all subsidies to developers.
- 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.
- Promote free market environmentalism to promote conservation and environmental protection. Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for environmental damage through civil liability.

Letter to the Editor

I need party member thoughts about something. While my basic libertarian philosophy has remained the same over the years, it has not been static. It's been nuanced based on continual learning and experience. My latest idea is to have intellectual party members join me in coming up with libertarian approaches to *Welfare Capitalism* (look at its brief history on Wikipedia).

Here's what's behind my thinking: Conservatives are against government welfare. They are concentrated in the Republican Party. Statist liberals endorse government welfare. They are concentrated in the Democratic Party. Libertarians need to clearly distinguish themselves from Republicans and Democrats, especially when it comes to government welfare. How? By focusing on providing welfare through capitalism.

Capitalism is a better way to provide welfare if libertarians are wise enough to come up with libertarian solutions. Those who support government welfare can generally be divided into two groups: politicians who use government welfare programs to buy votes, and good-hearted persons who genuinely think welfare cannot be provided except through government (they distrust capitalism to do the job).

While libertarians know the weaknesses of government welfare, the idea of helping the poor and innocent needy is humanitarian. We and our world would be better off if the poor and innocent needy were better off. Why not have libertarians identified as supporting welfare capitalism in practical (not theoretical) ways?

If I had the money, I would sponsor a "think tank" to focus on welfare capitalism, publish a periodical on the subject, or endow a university to create a department to do the same. Absent that, I invite you to join with me in coming up with practical ideas for welfare capitalism. Please reach me directly by telephone (301-929-8593) or "snail mail" (3101 Blueford Road, Kensington, MD 20895-2726). I have *no* e-mail. Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

— *Gerald Schneider*

Copy or Clip Form ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

Libertarian Party of Maryland

LPmaryland.org/wp-content/
uploads/2014/01/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 StuSimms@LPmaryland.org.

Get your very own MdLP plates!



Promote the MdLP

Contact Robert Glaser

Maryland Voter Registrations (5/31/2014)

Libertarian Party 14,067

Green Party 8,444

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of Maryland
P.O. Box 176
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COMING EVENTS

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

July 26 (Saturday): Rain or shine. MdLP picnic (2:00 pm) and Central Committee meeting (4:00 pm). See page 5

August 2 (Saturday): 10:30am - 6:00pm. Chesapeake Pride, *Mayo Beach Park* in Edgewater. Citizen4Quinn.org

August 30 (Saturday): 10:30am - 4:00pm. Greenbelt Information Day, *Roosevelt Center* in Greenbelt. Citizen4Quinn.org

September 6 (Saturday): 9:00am. Reisterstown Parade, *Franklin Middle School* in Reisterstown. Citizen4Quinn.org

September 21 (Sunday): 7:00am - 6:00pm. Essex Day, 400-500 Eastern Blvd. Citizen4Quinn.org

November 4 (Tuesday): General Election. Help out at polls.

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