

November 4, 2014 General Election

--- Results for our Libertarian Candidates ---

Governor/Lt. Governor

Shawn Quinn/Lorenzo Gaztañaga
25,382 (1.5%)

Attorney General

Leo Wayne Dymowski 57,069 (3.4%)

U.S. Congress

4th: Arvin Vohra 2,795 (1.5%)

7th: Scott Soffen 6,103 (3.0%)

Md. House of Delegates

45th: Ronald M. Owens-Bey 2,734 (4.4%)
(sixth, vote for three)

Anne Arundel County Council

2nd: David Sgambellone 900 (4.4%)

Calvert County Commissioner

2nd: Peggy J. O'Donnell 2,156 (6.7%)

Garrett County Commissioner

1st: Leo Martin 2,505 (28.6%)

3rd: Bill Welch 920 (10.1%)

**A hearty "Thank-You" to our
hard-working candidates!!!**

It's PARTY Time!

Celebrate the holiday season with our candidates, recap the election campaign, have fun!

December 13 (Saturday): 6:30 - 9:00 pm. MdLP Holiday Party. Pot luck, BYOB. Location: 11614 Arden Court, Laurel, MD 20723 (Stuart Simms' home). Neighborhood street parking (please don't block driveways). Please RSVP to StuSimms*LPmaryland.org so Stuart can get a head count.

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.

Chair's Report



While it's not yet Thanksgiving as I write this column, it has already been a very good year for the Libertarian Party and the Maryland Libertarian Party.

The LP purchased its own building, the first non-establishment party to do so since the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Party. This shows that we are here for the long-run. The Libertarian National Committee elected former Maryland LP chair Nicholas Sarwark as chair, and current MdLP member and three-time candidate Arvin Vohra as the vice-chair.

And the Maryland LP retained ballot access for the first time in its history, and will be on the ballot in 2016 without petitioning.

Thank you to all of you who helped out, whether donating money, volunteering, and most of all, to those of you who have run for office as Libertarians throughout the years. I would particularly like to point out five of our 2014 candidates:

Leo Dymowski. Leo ran a bold, hard-core Libertarian campaign, running for attorney general, and vowing to refuse prosecuting peaceful drug users and gun owners. Further, his job and experience with the Maryland Parole Commission gave him credibility on the War on Drugs, as someone who can speak from everyday experience the waste of time, money, and lives the War on Drugs brings.

Shawn Quinn. As our gubernatorial candidate, no MdLP candidate has worked harder or traveled more than Shawn and his wife Colleen. They made around 100 campaign appearances this year, traveling from southern Calvert County all over the state, and spent a significant amount of their own money. Shawn did a superb job of getting out and meeting people.

Scott Soffen. Scott ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 4th congressional district, Elijah Cummins' district. Living in a prominently Democrat district, Scott ran largely on left-wing issues, particularly the War on Drugs. What I particularly liked is that Scott pushed the Libertarian Party throughout his campaign and worked to build the MdLP brand.

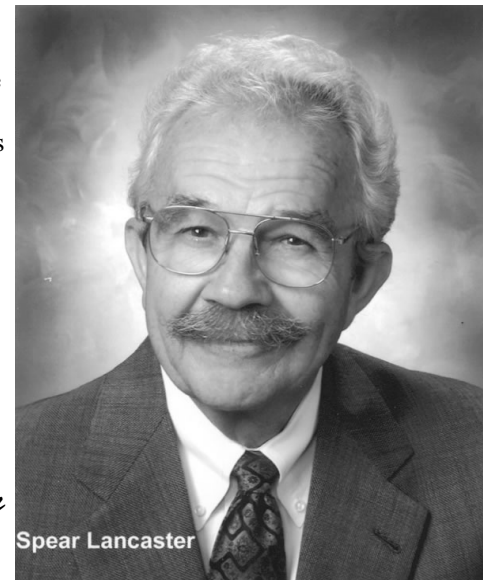
Leo Martin and Bill Welch. Both Leo and Bill ran for the Garrett County Commissioners, and both have an excellent grasp of the economic issues of the county, and how the county government has continually wasted money.

There will be eight U.S. House seats and the U.S. Senate seat open for the 2016 elections, as well as the seats on the Baltimore City Council. Please contact me if you are considering running for office.

Thanks again to all who represented the party and got the Libertarian message out! Particular thanks to 2002 MdLP gubernatorial candidate Spear Lancaster.

While Spear is no longer active with the party, he spent around \$40,000 of his own money and a lot of time to get on the ballot, which then was much more difficult (see article on ballot access in Maryland on the next page). I will always be grateful to Spear for his efforts.

— *Bob Johnston*



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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.

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

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

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Petition Drive Avoided

Maryland Libertarian Party candidate Shawn Quinn received 1.5% of the vote in the general election two weeks ago. This was the first time a non-establishment party had retained ballot access in over 44 years, and the first time a non-establishment gubernatorial candidate received over 1%. Shawn was also the first alternative party gubernatorial candidate to crack the 1% threshold in seven tries by alternative parties in the state since 2002.

Before 1966, an Independent or minor party candidate running for statewide office had to collect 5,000 signatures to get on the ballot. In 1966, Baltimore City Comptroller Hyman Pressman ran as an Independent for Governor against the Democrat George Mahoney and Republican Spiro Agnew. Mahoney was seen as running a campaign promoting segregation, which offended Pressman and caused him to run against Mahoney. Pressman received 9.8% of the vote, and Agnew wound up winning the election and becoming Governor. The next year, the General Assembly raised the signature amount for statewide candidates from 5,000 to 3% of the registered voters, a much higher standard.

In 1968, George Wallace and the American Party received over 10% of the vote in Maryland, and became a recognized party. Two years later, their gubernatorial candidate, Fred Merkle, got 1.9% of the vote. The next year, the General Assembly, in addition to the candidate petition requirements, also required a party to have 1% of the registered voters or collect 10,000 signatures to get on the ballot.

Because of the difficult ballot access laws, no alternative party candidate ran for office from 1970 until 2002, when Spear Lancaster got on the ballot as the Maryland Libertarian Party candidate for Governor. In 2003, Maryland's highest court – the Special Court of Appeals – threw out the petition requirement for

candidates. Thus now when a party is recognized, they can get their candidates on the ballot by filing the appropriate paperwork and filing fee.

To become a recognized party, the group must submit 10,000 signatures from registered voters, and the party remains on the ballot for four years. To retain ballot access, the party must have at least 1% of the registered voters as of the last day of the year, or its top-of-the-ticket candidate (Governor or President) in the most recent general election must have received at least 1%.

To retain ballot access past 2016, the Libertarian Party's Presidential candidate must get 1%, or the party must have 1% of the registered voters. 2012 LP Presidential candidate Gary Johnson received 1.1% in Maryland. The Maryland LP currently has 14,771 registered voters. To achieve 1% of the registered voters, over 37,000 are needed.

While getting 1% for the top-of-the-ticket candidate has been difficult, surrounding states have worse ballot access. In Virginia, a statewide candidate must get 10%, which has never been accomplished by the Virginia LP. 2013 gubernatorial candidate Rob Sarvis came the closest, with 6.6%. In Pennsylvania, a political party must have 15% of the registered voters to be recognized as a major party. If the party isn't a major party, candidates must collect ten times (or more) the amount of signatures the establishment party candidates need to collect. Further, the highest filing fee in Maryland is \$290 for statewide office. In West Virginia, a candidate must pay 1% of the annual salary of the office, amounting to \$1,740 for a candidate for federal office. Delaware has the easiest ballot access, only requiring 1/10 of 1% of the registered voters.

— Bob Johnston

Number of Maryland voters officially registered Libertarian:

14,771

Party Spokesperson Lorenzo Gaztañaga

443-414-6539

Lorenzo*LPmaryland.org

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*LPmaryland.org
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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		AnneArundel*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

Campaign Recap

Wednesday Governor Armchair Quarterback



The 2014 election has ended. I sit here looking at my wife who for the first time in six months looks relaxed and at ease. Like anyone who has run a campaign, I reflect on what we have done. I went to over a hundred events, shaken thousands of hands, did news interviews and radio shows. I was honest and forthcoming. I had a plan for the state and addressed the issues. The results were 1.4% of the vote. We did make some history by maintaining ballot access. For many that was their goal with this election. My goal was to *win the office*. So what could have changed the outcome? Taking a hard look without pointing fingers because of a disappointing outcome is tough to do. Here are my views on the top four points I have contemplated.

Maryland Libertarian Party. This is always a mixed bag. There are always those in the party that work hard for everything the party does, and then there are those who do very little if anything. On a whole I love this party. I feel accepted and wanted. I agree with most of what we stand for. I have met and grown some pretty great friendships. That says a lot for any organization. For those in the party that don't feel this way, please start getting involved. We all need to come together. Each and every one of you affects where this party is going. If there is anything that I can do to make you feel wanted, by all means ask me. So the question is: did the Party do enough? I guess to be fair the answer is always going to be No. There is always more that can be done. Does that mean the party didn't do its best with what it had at its means? Again the answer is no. The Party did a lot with a little. The party was there when I needed help and I don't believe it shorted me on any support it could give me. I think our biggest weakness was the lack of support of the party itself by our own members. We need to bring in more people who believe in our platform and want to change our government.

Media. We did really good with newspapers and a couple of news TV shows. I did some radio but not enough. Some outlets just didn't want to hear from us. Time was a factor since I do work a full time job. To be honest I could have done a few more maybe. Don't know if that would have changed the outcome though.

Debates. This, I think, was a game changer. People were told on TV that there were only two candidates running, and that was taken as a fact by most people in Maryland. I think we need to introduce a bill making it illegal to hold a debate without all candidates being invited. This will not make it illegal to have a debate, just illegal to deceive the people as to who is running for an office.

Myself. Wow, self reflection is tough. I needed a better campaign manager. I needed a campaign headquarters, I needed people in charge of each county, and I needed a press secretary. This all requires money. Money and fundraising hurt and helped us. People we talked to loved that we were the working poor. Being poor hurt us for signs, media advertising, and TV ads. I will try to fix this for 2018 by starting the fundraising now. If I am not able to get the nomination in 2018 I will move the funds to other candidates running in 2018. I am also going to work very hard at getting more people to know who I am in each county. I will be helping to grow the party and pushing whoever runs in 2016 to maintain ballot access for 2018. I will be looking to get a bill introduced for fair debates. I will be all over Hogan on the issues for the next four years. I still feel this is a winnable Office and I have just begun to fight.

In the end I have to thank all those who helped us. You have all touched my heart and have kept me going over the last ten months. You have made me a winner. I can never thank you enough.

— *Shawn Quinn*

Garrett County Commissioner

Garrett County is unlike other Maryland counties. One must be a Republican to win. I ran against a totally unqualified individual and I received about 28% of the vote, he received 70%. We both spent about the same amount, around \$2,500 each. I spent 100% of my own money. About 30% of his money came from energy companies, most of the rest from relatively small contributions.

My qualifications should have been enough to win: a seven term, fourteen year mayor of the largest town in the county. A CPA certificate. A small business owner. A college graduate with a masters degree in management. My opponent's qualifications: a farm owner and high school graduate with zero experience in government.

The lesson learned? The two party system is alive and well. We as Libertarians have a lot of work to do. We need to have a program to educate voters every day. We can't wait for an election year. We in Western Maryland need to organize with strong ties to the state Libertarian organization.



Kindly submitted,

— *Leo Martin*

Mayor, Mountain Lake Park, Maryland

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland – Saturday, 26 July 2014

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met on the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland. The Treasurer's report and proposed Constitutional amendments were distributed. The meeting was called to order at 4:52 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Mark Grannis; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 16 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 5 April 2014 and 8 July 2014 Central Committee meetings were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: was accepted as presented.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston thanked Dave and René for hosting the picnic; he reports that we have 74 members; we have 14,067 registered voters as of 5/31/2014. We need 1% in the governor's race to maintain our state status. We are looking at Facebook ads for candidates. Nick Sarwark is now national chair; Arvin Vohra is Vice-Chair; Scott Spencer is an LNC rep alternate. Bob thanks Mark Grannis for website and Facebook work; Eric Blitz who has been on the road on the marijuana legislation campaign; and Scott Spencer for serving as alternate.

James Lark, LNC regional rep: thanks Scott Spencer for outstanding alternate work; sees some good signs with the younger crowd, has 7 candidates for congress in Virginia.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments: three proposed amendments from the last meeting are to be voted up or down:

1. Article V, Section 6, sub-paragraph C. Vote: passes unanimously on a voice vote.
2. Article V, Section 4, sub-paragraph D. Vote: passes unanimously on a voice vote.
3. Article V, Section 5, sub-paragraph F. Vote: passes unanimously on a voice vote.

Nominations of Candidates for Public Office: Lorenzo Gaztañaga nominated and Susan Gaztañaga seconded the nomination of Ronald Owens-Bey for Md. House of Delegates, district 45; the nomination passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Dave Sten: is working on a proposed thesis to find the most cost effective means to market registrations for third parties in Md. He will select targeted areas for analysis; is open to ideas, i.e. mailings, social media, tax delinquency lists; his intent is to have the research done by the end of August and paper by October.

Shawn Quinn: requests volunteers for the gubernatorial campaign.

Announcements: Michael Linder reminds members that it is state law that forces our requests for employer info. Robert Glaser has license plate applications and extra newsletters on hand, and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

MdLP Picnic, July 26



After holding the annual summer picnic at Arvin's in Bethesda the past several years, in 2014 we returned to the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East. Uncharacteristically, the heavens above basked us in sunshine instead of supplying a drenching!

(Do you catch my lie?)

In the News

The *Baltimore Sun* profiled Shawn Quinn in an article on August 9, "Libertarian candidate tackles long-shot bid one voter at a time."

The *Gazette* printed an article on Leo Dymowski in its August 20th article "Dymowski running for attorney general."

On October 18, the *Baltimore Sun* highlighted Leo Dymowski in its article "With little money, two underdogs challenge Frosh for attorney general."

Our candidates appeared at various forums throughout the state during the election season too numerous to detail here. Good job!

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

Letter to the Editor

I believe our party needs to be more aggressive in nature. We need to adopt the tactics of the Republicans and Democrats if we are to move Maryland forward from the Democrat fiefdom that it has always been. Now is the time to strike! A Republican was just elected here!

We need to start re-educating voters that we are a viable alternative party, by using social media, iPhone apps, and open houses, etc. My training is not marketing, but we can all pool our talents together to make this thing happen.

"Extremism in the defense of liberty, is no vice!" God bless Barry Goldwater....

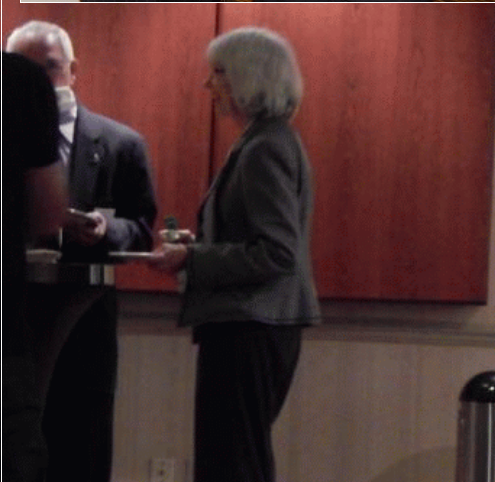
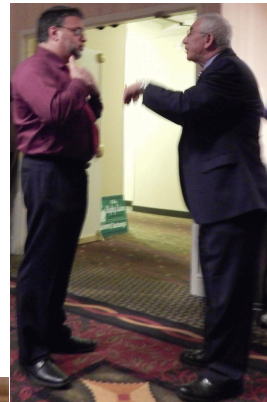
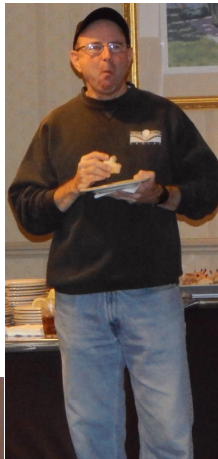
— *Eliot Silverstone*

Greenbelt

The best government is the one that charges you the least blackmail for leaving you alone.

— *Thomas Rudman Brown*

Scenes from the Election Night Party



November 4, *The Hilton Garden Inn BWI*

Get your very own MdLP plates!



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Libertarian Party of Maryland

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.

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

LPmaryland.org

COMING EVENTS

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-of-events: visit LPmaryland.org/events/ (often!). Check page 3 for contact numbers not listed here.

Gallery Gang: Mondays while the Maryland General Assembly is in session January 14 through April 13, 2015 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. Tim Sutton

December 13 (Saturday): 6:30 - 9:00 pm. MdLP Holiday Party. Stuart Simms. See page 1

February 14, 2015 (Saturday): Frederick Douglass and Terry Atwood memorial day

March 2015: MdLP annual convention. Date TBD

April 15, 2015 (Wednesday): Tax Day protests

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