

Free? LIBERTARIAN

State July 2016

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

Doug McNeil 1949-2016

See page 3 for 7/30 picnic + CC!



Back in 1992, it turned out that two Libertarians in Baltimore were seeking out how to establish a local Libertarian party. From what I remember, these two guys, Doug McNeil and I, contacted National, which directed us to Dean Ahmad, and eventually we met. Doug and I were perhaps an odd pairing – he, proclaiming to be an atheist, and I a believer, somebody who tries to follow Christ, specifically – both pursuing the goal of liberty for every person, showing perhaps the common sense as well as the divinity of the liberty concept. While I’ve run for office more than Harold Stassen, Doug has run for office as well, and he is still running. I will be proud to pull the lever for him for Mayor of Baltimore City on November 8, 2016.

Doug’s real renown, however, came in his amazing, relentless grasp of ballot access law, which, in the spirit of liberty he used, not just to place Libertarians on the ballot, but Greens and others as well, including Ralph Nader. Yes, Ralph Nader needed Doug’s help to get on the ballot in Maryland. Doug, being the high quality human being that he was, right here on earth, and I think he continues to be, demonstrated his love and care for his fellow human beings in other ways, too. I remember the case of the late Kay Derringer, a political activist who had suffered great financial loss that led her to emotional despair. He helped her get assistance with her energy bill, nurtured her, and took the time to be a brother to her, taking her out regularly to listen to jazz. My wife and I accompanied them one night, at which time I was moved to say, “Doug, you’re doing God’s work.” He humbly smiled.

On another occasion, I was moved by how much he did to keep things rolling in his quiet way. I said to him, “Doug, God bless you,” and hugged him, and again, he looked at me and humbly smiled. Doug was relentless, and took rightful pride in what he did, and he did it with a humble heart.

On October 21, 1961, when I was 12 years old, my father put his hand on my shoulder and said to me, “We’ll see each other soon.” We never saw each other again. On April 29, 2014, I closed the eyes of my brother Pedro, my dear Pete, at York Hospital in Pennsylvania. These things were hard for me. Writing this piece for my good friend and colleague Doug McNeil is right up there on the same plane. I miss you, Doug, but I think we’ll see each other again. God speed, my dear, dear friend, wherever you are.

Your friend, *Lorenzo*

Your editor took the first picture above at the January 9th CC meeting for the last newsletter issue. I didn’t think it was particularly good, and suggested to Doug that he get a professional photographer instead of using this engineer’s shot. But he told me “I like the photo – it really looks like me – and I could use it in the campaign.” The other two are from our 2009 and 2004 conventions, respectively.

Long time state party member and activist Doug McNeil passed away April 2nd, due to cancer.

Doug had run for office as a Maryland Libertarian several times, including for the office of Lt. Governor in 2010 with gubernatorial candidate Susan Gaztañaga, and was running for Mayor of Baltimore City this year.

Doug was instrumental in two significant ballot access improvements in Maryland. In 1998, he and others got the General Assembly to lower the threshold for a party maintaining its ballot access from 3% of the vote for the top-of-the-ticket candidate (Governor, President) to 1%, where it is today.

He also played a major part in the Green Party lawsuit against the state of Maryland in 2003, which determined that minor party candidates no longer had to petition to get on the ballot. Before the lawsuit, a party such as the Maryland LP had to submit 10,000 valid signatures to become a recognized party and run a candidate for President, and any MdLP candidate wishing to run for office other than President had to also collect signatures equal to those required for Independent candidates [as Spear Lancaster did in 2002].

Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News* posted this:
ballot-access.org/2016/04/05/doug-mcneil-dies/

— *Bob Johnston*

Chair's Report



I have been a member of the Libertarian Party and the Maryland LP for over 15 years, since late 2000. I have been the state chair since 2007, and am serving in my tenth year. I know people who have been involved for twice as long as I have.

I have seen Libertarian Party candidates out there, busting their butts, just to

get 1-2% of the vote. I have seen LP activists working tirelessly petitioning, just to get candidates and state affiliates on the ballot.

Like many members, I have had those days where you're wondering if the money and effort is worth it.

Well, the payoff has arrived. The Libertarian Party is now in the national political conversation on a daily basis, and is a player in national politics.

Our Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees, Gary Johnson and Bill Weld, as well as the Libertarian Party, have been receiving tremendous coverage from the media. Coverage we couldn't pay for if we wanted to and had the money. It's been a month since Johnson and Weld were nominated at the party's national convention, and even now they don't have enough time to take on the media appearances they're offered.

For years, we have been told that we are wasting our time working with a minor party like the Libertarian Party, that we should be working with the Republican or Democrat Parties.

We've seen movements come and go trying to take over the establishment parties, such as the Republican Revolution of 1994, the Tea Party movement, the Campaign For Liberty, and the Occupy movement. And how has that worked out?

We were told that the Republicans needed to take over Congress to make government smaller, since Congress controls the purse strings. Well, the Republicans took both houses of Congress in 1994. Then we heard that we needed a Republican President to go along with the Republican Congress to shrink government, which they got in 2000. Then it was we needed to

elect Republicans to nominate the right judges to the Supreme Court. Thus, we got a President and Congress that raised spending 60% over Bill Clinton's final year in the White House, gave us the biggest government expansion in health care with Medicare Part D, the largest growth in education spending and oversight with No Child Left Behind, an unconstitutional war in the Middle East which rages on to this day – 13 years later – numerous civil liberties violations, and the \$787 billion TARP bailout.

Barack Obama was elected President in 2008 on a mandate from the voters to stop our foreign wars and entanglements, to roll back the unconstitutional Bush-era violations of civil liberties, to stop the crony capitalism, and the crushing deficits. And what does he have to show for his seven-plus years in office? We're still mired in the Middle East with no end in sight, he has doubled the deficit to \$20 trillion, the Patriot Act, TSA, and government spying continue unabated, and he enacted a health care plan that is getting more expensive and unwieldy by the day, and which was disastrously implemented in Massachusetts by the 2012 Republican Presidential nominee, Mitt Romney.

Even in the Libertarian Party there has been a long-running battle over whether it is worth the cost and effort for 50-state ballot access for our Presidential nominee. It's not too bad to get on in 40 states, but the last 10 cost a significant amount of money.

Well, that question has been answered, because the Libertarian Party is the only non-establishment party being discussed by the mainstream media in this election cycle, and the only minor party whose Presidential nominee will likely appear on all 50 state ballots. The Constitution Party presidential candidate will be on the ballot in 25 to 30 states, and the Green Party around 40 states. A large amount of credit goes to Virginia Libertarian and former national party chair Bill Redpath and Richard Winger, editor and publisher of *Ballot Access News* and the number one expert on ballot access in America.

Will Gary Johnson get elected to the Presidency this November? Highly doubtful. But the question of a Libertarian getting elected to the Presidency is now less doubtful than it was even a year ago. And 2020 should be even more interesting for the Libertarian Party!

The Libertarians' time has come.

— Bob Johnston

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Check LPmaryland.org regularly for the current event calendar, news, blog posts, and more! Be certain to submit all of your current event information to Webmaster@LPmaryland.org to get the information online.

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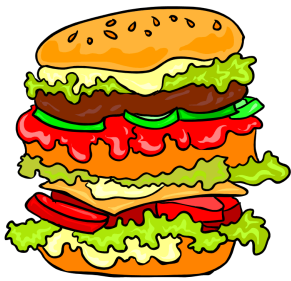
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P I C N I C



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, July 30 (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)

Cost: \$10.00 please mail to Box 176 by July 25, pay by credit card on website, or pay in person upon arrival

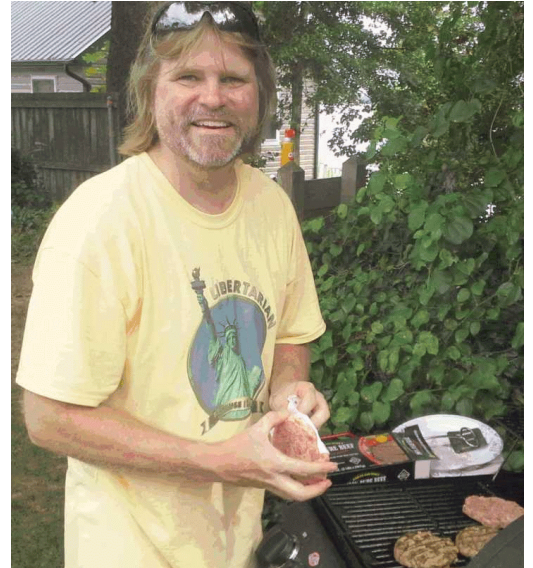
Food: provided (hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, beer, soda, juice, H₂O)

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.



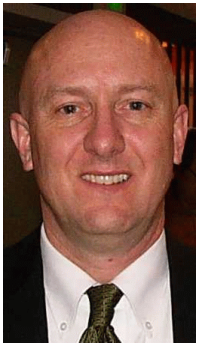
Activities:

- 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 -- Two years without rain!!!

Maryland Delegates Attend National Convention



Eighteen delegates from Maryland (most in above left photo) attended the Libertarian Party's National Convention in Orlando during the Memorial Day weekend in late May. Beyond the obvious task of nominating the next President (Gary Johnson) and Vice President (William Weld), the delegates re-elected Nick Sarwark (former MD Chair) as the Chair of the LNC, Maryland's Arvin Vohra as Vice Chair (above right photo of the Vice Chair debate), Dr. James Lark as the Region 5 representative,

and of course participated in the multiple votes on platform, bylaws, and resolutions throughout the convention. Every day was very busy for most delegates on the convention floor and the party should appreciate the delegates' dedication of time and energy to this process.

A veteran delegate to LP national conventions, Stu Simms (with Dean Ahmad in center photo) served as the Delegation Chair. Eric Blitz was the Vice Chair. In addition, the following libertarians were present in Orlando as delegates: Dean Ahmad, Jackie Cook, Derek Pomery, Colleen Quinn, Shawn Quinn, Angela Reese, Micah Reese, Dave Sgambellone, Kelly Shine, Chelsey Snyder, Scott Soffen, Megan Soffen, Patricia Soffen, Scott Spencer, Jason Summers, and Arvin Vohra. Our Chair Bob Johnston was also present, though not a delegate as he was staffing the convention with the other LP national worker bees (they really do work very hard at the conventions).

We had a few delegates experiencing their first national LP convention, including Chelsey Snyder. When asked to describe her experience at the convention, Chelsey said,

"For a first-timer, the convention was confusing but exciting. An enormous room full of passionate people seemed daunting at first, but after asking about a hundred questions (thanks to all those doing the answering) I felt ready to cast my first vote... and then my second and fifth and tenth. Being a part of a decision-making body with a few hundred people really shows you what it means for your vote to count. I learned a lot about the platform and bylaws, and the diversity of ideas and beliefs within the Libertarian Party and I can't wait for 2018!"

In addition to the typical high drama of nominating candidates and electing party leaders, the convention was filled with memorable events. Because the Maryland delegation was in the front row,

we were the subject for media cameras during almost the entire convention. A film crew was recording a documentary for *Vanity Fair* and in addition to regularly filming the MD delegates, filmed in detail the process of our tabulation of vote totals (with a promise not to broadcast or disclose the results until they had been announced to the convention). A CNN clip used to promote the recent Town Hall event with Johnson and Weld featured many of our Maryland delegates. It was amazing how much press coverage there was throughout the convention – clearly a breakout year for the LP in media attention. Everywhere you turned there was a film crew or photographer, and off the convention floor many delegates and candidates were being interviewed.

The mix of cosplay convention kids using the same hotel and John McAfee's paid circus performers created a very alternative and playful vibe throughout the convention. For once, Starchild wasn't the craziest dressed person in the room. The after hour parties were not as good as previous conventions, though one evening Bob Johnston, Stu Simms and I drank late into the night with Reason's Nick Gillespie, who was quite... ebullient. It seemed like most delegates were happy with the convention's mix of business and entertainment and we set a new fundraising record at the Presidential dinner, raising over \$100,000 for the party's ballot access drives.

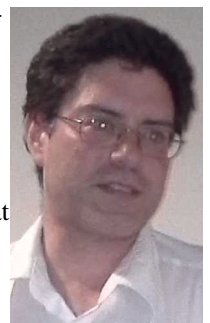
— Eric Blitz

Although I have been a member of the Libertarian Party for over a decade, 2016 was the first time that I have had a chance to attend a convention. At least in person.

I was first introduced to the Libertarian Party through the convention. It was the 1996 campaign and I was in high school. Even at that age I was interested in politics and watched CSPAN every so often. So one weekend I flipped on CSPAN and saw the Libertarian Party (who were they?) holding their convention.

I don't remember the details of what I saw, but it was nice to see the process in action. Live. And unscripted. Even in 1996 my teenage self could tell that this was different.

For the Libertarian Party, the convention means something. It is not a coronation party. Even though everybody kind of had a feeling going into it this year what the result would be, nothing was guaranteed.



And so when I had a chance to attend this year I jumped at the opportunity.

This year was going to be exciting. There was unprecedented buzz and we had several quality choices. The main thing that jumped out at me was how the party stayed true to its process even through the press coverage. Let's face it, a series of motions under Robert's Rules of Order does not make for good television. But that wasn't a concern.

People were approachable. I am the very definition of an introvert, but even I found myself having conversations over sushi with people from other delegations.

A lot of the time politics seems larger than life. I encourage people to go to the conventions so that you can see the candidates

as real people. At the convention I got to stand in the pizza line next to Austin Petersen, watch John McAfee dancing with his wife, and shake the hands of Bill Weld and Larry Sharpe.

All live and not through a screen. You really get to size up a person when you see them up close and in person. You get to see their energy and excitement.

The people who planned the convention did an excellent job. They chose a great hotel in a great location. The hotel provided good service and my only regret is that I didn't get a chance to sample ALL of the food choices.

All told, it was a great experience. I look forward to 2018 in New Orleans.

— Jason Summers

Orlando

It sickened me to hear a commentator speak of the blood of "Americans" being spilled and how the USA has the mightiest military in the world and this "enemy" must be destroyed. How is it that "American" lives are more special than the lives of anyone else? Many of those likely being descendants of the murderous throng that came over here slaughtering 100 million Natives thus creating a nation born from violence.

In 222 of its 240 years, the USA has been at war. Killing all over the world as it spreads its cancerous tentacles. That's being at war during 93% of its sad history of slavery, imperialism and ballooning socialism. This country is enveloped in a miasma of violence. It has its nose in the affairs and within the borders of nations across the globe. The terrorism, as it's called, does not emanate from some over "there." Its birth is here. Does one think these things occur from an innocent vacuum? Is one that plain stupid?

Most of this USA populace has their heads stuck in the ground as they debate which of the human debris will serve them best – garbage like Trump, the flaky, lying beast Clinton and the socialist Sanders. Pathetic that they are looked to for what they lack: leadership, inspiration. Yet look at the masses of asses looking for more government. Bigger programs, a bloated welfare state where we are expected to be responsible for everyone else's everything.

Use your heads. For a change. How about individual freedom? How about minding this country's own business instead of the delusion and illusion of being the best and the greatest? It's not.

How about forget that garbage about money being evil. It's not. About wealthy people being evil. They're not. Wealth creates enterprise when left alone and unburdened. But here it's permitted to create cronyism as the zombies, the brain-washed spew red, white and blue as they look not to what they can do in their lives but look outward to that group of people who know how to get elected and are then called government and are then seen to be suddenly imbued with some kind of divine wisdom.

Instead of what's in it for me, use your money, your energy and resources to boycott industries that don't uphold your principles. Voting for those who support an individual's freedom and inherent right to choose and **Pursue**. *Pursuit* is the key, not guarantees.

And oh, it would be remiss of me not to mention that the only animal species that is over-populated anyway is the human one. AND, that the greater, indeed greatest act of terrorism is the BILLIONS and BILLIONS and BILLIONS of animals that are routinely, needlessly and hideously slaughtered around the clock.

— Louis Eagle Warrior

LouisEagleWarrior*verizon.net

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITY

ANNUAL SUMMARY – 2015

SUMMARY	NEW REGISTRATION BY PARTY							DUPS
	DEM	REP	GRN	LIB	UNAF	OTH	TOTAL	
ABSENTEE BALLOT (FPCA)	37	23	0	0	16	0	76	82
BY MAIL	8,816	3,345	41	86	3,990	250	16,528	4,133
DESIGNATED STATE AGENCIES	278	163	1	5	154	2	603	522
ELDERLY / DISABLED	11	3	0	0	1	0	15	34
FROM ANOTHER BOARD	275	152	1	3	105	16	552	3,115
PROVISIONAL BALLOT	16	4	0	0	14	1	35	103
IN PERSON	500	190	1	6	214	7	918	307
MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION	106,247	47,264	791	2,263	62,721	1,092	220,378	18,139
NVRA BY MAIL	620	369	0	16	398	13	1,416	259
ONLINE REGISTRATION	6,038	2,642	41	124	1,999	77	10,921	288
OTHER MEANS	3,378	1,070	21	38	1,567	59	6,133	4,029
RECRUITING	1	7	0	0	2	0	10	9
SOCIAL SERVICES	334	99	0	3	228	1	665	268
VOLUNTEER	995	352	7	13	546	16	1,929	0
TOTAL	127,546	55,683	904	2,557	71,955	1,534	260,179	31,288

2016 MdLP Convention



The annual convention, arranged at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk by Bob Johnston, began at 1:30 pm on March 12. Our opening speaker was Dee Hodges, President of the *Maryland Taxpayer's Association*. She discussed how the General Assembly budget process works, and how Maryland really spends our money. How the budget compares to how a bill is passed. She went over charts of Primary Government Revenues and Expenses over the last ten fiscal years. She urges that school funding be turned over to local government; today more bureaucracy is in the school system. The Taxpayer's Association would wipe out a lot of regulations and ask the legislature to see what laws they could repeal.



We were lucky to have David Boaz, CATO Vice-President, as our next speaker. He began: "There was a time when nobody knew about libertarians; now it is often heard." A lot started with Ron Paul in 2008 and continued in 2012; he warned about monetary policy and Congress spending too much money. The financial crisis and the Wall Street and automo-

bile bailouts posed a question. The answer was supposed to be libertarianism. President Obama has revived the FDR welfare state. It would be better if the response came *before* the problems rather than after.

In the 1960's 70% trusted the government, now 7%? Smaller government vs. active government: When asked would you prefer smaller government with lower taxes or the opposite, more want *smaller*. Government is trying to do too many things that should be left to business or individuals. Gallup poll: Promote traditional values? Last fall the largest answer was libertarian (27%). Our task as libertarians is to reach that 27% who disagree with Democrats and Republicans over various things.

There was a Tea Party revolt against Obama, at the same time discourse about drug and marriage laws. Right after reelection of Obama we had the Lollapalooza of federal government scandals: IRS; Benghazi; telephone reporter recordings; snooping. Can we broaden the discussion to healthcare, Dodd-Frank, Chrysler creditors, illegal wars? Scandals have pushed people into the libertarian direction. These scandals are so shocking that Michael Gerson wrote in the *Washington Post* that they are "making libertarians of us all."

There are two student libertarian groups now. What's important is to develop the principles of limited government. Decide what it is that we stand for. Natural liberty from leaving others alone. No one has the right to initiate aggression against people or a person who has not initiated aggression first. Utilitarianism is not the goal; it is the result. Capitalism – the simple system of

liberty – that is what has taken us to the world we have today. Bob Novak used to say "love your country but distrust your government." Mistrust of government is in America's DNA.

The *New York Times* observed on July 4, America's birth, that we have too much freedom. Selfish = self reliance, staying out of everyone's wars. Flourish in a world created by freedom. In just two or three hundred years we have a different world not based on status and hierarchy but on merit and science – people with liberal ideas. Libertarians have a record to be proud of. Liberals were in bed with communists, George Bush conservatives have the Iraq war to be proud of. It used to be that the world was divided into the free world and the Iron Curtain. Behind the Iron Curtain there was no freedom; we thought that was just the way the world was. There is no army, government program, or outside entity which is as powerful as an idea whose time has come. The abolition of slavery was the biggest libertarian moment. The process of bringing power under the rule of law is revolutionary, but still incomplete. *We* are part of that struggle: important, but not over.

Former recipients of the Samuel Chase Freedom Award presented Eric Blitz the 2016 honor. It is not necessarily given out every year, only when someone rises to deserving prominence. Eric's efforts are numerous and capped by his detailed work on legislation before the Maryland General Assembly. Congratulations! (All recipients are listed on our webpage LPmaryland.org/service-awards)



We were honored to have as our after-dinner speaker Dr. Mary Ruwart, long-time libertarian and LP activist and 2008 Presidential candidate on *How Libertarians Can Roll Back Big Government*. She urges we shift our focus on what we call *success*. 30 years ago we just wanted to get out there and be heard. Part of the message is that it's going to be difficult to succeed by getting people elected. Some of the things she's done in the Party in an effort to help us. Was associated with the Ron Paul campaign. Currently writing about death by regulation. Her book *Healing Our World: The Compassion of Libertarianism* is nominated for top independent book.

The time is now. Some bad news first: in 2008 Ron Paul was the only liberty candidate on the ballot in Louisiana. He got 0.5%, the same as our presidential candidate. He should have gotten better considering his polling success. His supporters at the GOP convention were not treated properly. So we can't win in a major party and we can't win in a third party. Seals on voting boxes were broken. Lot of reasons to think there is corruption. There is good reason to suspect that elections are rigged. Three strikes: third party difficulties; sabotage by the major parties; even if we get somebody that *could* be elected, *not* elected. What was Ron Paul able to accomplish in Congress, what not? Majority rules game means we



will have a difficult time changing big government.

There is another way: when she ran herself, it was as a slate of Libertarians; supposed to be nonpartisan, but she was well-known. Known for trying to roll back property taxes. They didn't win! Got message out. Had personal conflict of interest re eminent domain and her employer, but supporter knew she'd be on his side because she was a Libertarian. Success in election wasn't about how many votes they got; was about gaining trust.

The end of the drug war: 1996 in California brought a medical Marijuana act; we have big progress now. This will kill the drug war because about 80% of the arrests are for marijuana, as those people are easy to go after. Do we want to go to extreme ballot access work, campaigning, just to be Republican Lite? Make a distinction. Libertarians have managed to roll back big government without winning elections. Defeated Clintoncare with Libertarians presenting arguments. We have a lot of power and victories, but we don't celebrate.

The most successful level has been local. We have rolled back much; we used to celebrate those, now we concentrate on winning elections instead. Proud we have nearly 1000 L's elected, but that won't be sufficient. We can be the hero or heroine when big government comes knocking on the door. The *Institute for Justice* takes on government regulation that impedes the disfavored; people are poor because government slows them down from forming their own business. The IJ defeated Donald Trump with a lady in NJ when a business wanted to take her house for a parking lot. Lost eminent domain case federally, but winning at many state levels. This is how government gets rolled back without winning elections. Now just the thought of the IJ filing suit

causes a backoff. The IJ has shown that it can be done. Running for office gets our views out so people know who to come to. Then they'll vote for us. We'll win elections because we're doing the right thing.

We know how to do this: we'll be on the ballot in 50 states; we'll be the only ones who will be there; we'll be the Ghostbuster. We've been doing it but we haven't been celebrating it. We'll be working with other groups. Our understanding of liberty must be as big as possible so we can respond when needed.

In the third world poverty is prevalent in part because people don't have property rights. Land might be occupied, but not owned by the homesteaders. ISIL.org promotes property rights.

There is some success in privatizing police and fire departments. Zimbabwe granted property rights and the elephant population zoomed. Ruwart.com has the 1993 edition of *Healing Our World* for free. The case for liberty has been proven. Liberty works. It makes a more abundant life for everybody, especially the poor.

Rolling back big government by getting elected is not the only answer; by rolling back big government without getting elected, we can then get elected.

In the Q&A session, Dr. Ruwart commented that the FDA preventing patients getting access to drugs will be a big issue. To address pollution: end sovereign immunity, enforce restitution and property rights.

Audio recordings of many MdLP conventions are available at LPmaryland.org/audiovideo-files

— Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 12 March 2016

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squire's Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 5:11 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Stuart Simms; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 23 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 36 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 9 January 2016 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: was accepted as submitted by Michael Linder.

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that we have 81 members and \$240 in monthly pledges. We have 16,866 registered voters as of 1/31/2016, have doubled the Green Party registration, and are about halfway to the 1% threshold. We have six candidates on the ballot with two more to be voted on today. The Baltimore City Comptroller race is one-on-one.

Vice-Chair's Report: Eric Blitz reports that a lot of our legislative work comes from working with coalitions, including: the ACLU of Md.; Common Cause; and the Maryland, Delaware and DC Press Association. People in the legislature are giving us credit for wins. Many Marijuana bills, this probably will be a multi-year fight. Corporate tax reduction. Ballot access testimony is tomorrow, probably will not go forward this session. We are getting asked for support on various matters now, when we get Ballot Access legislation up for a vote we will ask for similar assistance.

Scott Spencer, LNC alternate rep. (Jim Lark away): new logo rolled out as in *LP News*, more polished and professional. A new contractor is working on affiliate support, creating templates for state party's websites. An ad hoc committee was formed to take bids on rebuilding the LP website. We had ballot access in the most ever states – over 30 – out of the last election cycle. Oklahoma is looking good as is Illinois; we are likely to have at least 48 states if not 50. Some state chairs are reporting an upswing in membership, National is down.

Program Committee's report: The committee recommended by a 6-1 vote to change the State Program bullet under *Health Care* to: "Promote a free market system that respects the freedom of individuals to control their own health care, end of life choices, medicines, treatments, and health insurance." Passes unanimously on a voice vote.



Scott Soffen



Arvin Vohra

Nominations for Public Office: Scott Soffen for U.S. House, 7th district; approved unanimously on a voice vote. Arvin Vohra for U.S. Senate; approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Delegates to the National Convention: Arvin Vohra, Chelsey Snyder, Tim Sutton, Dave Sgambellone, Jackie Cook, Scott Spencer, Tom Olson, Eric Blitz, Kelly Shine, Colleen Quinn, Shawn Quinn, Christopher Gannon, Angela Reese, Micah Reese, Mike Linder, Jason Summers, Scott Soffen, Megan Soffen, Patricia Soffen, Dean Ahmad, Derek Pomery, and Stuart Simms 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 22 delegates plus 50 alternates.

Officer Elections: Robert S. Johnston III was nominated for Chairman; passes unanimously on a voice vote. The following were nominated as officers: Eric Blitz, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Stuart Simms, Shawn Quinn, Chelsey Snyder. As there were no more than six nominations and there were no objections, the nominations were voted upon as a slate; a unanimous voice vote approved the slate.

Shawn Quinn: plans to put a banner on his R.V.: *Quinn for Governor 2018 Libertarian Party of Maryland*; asked for approval, no objections.

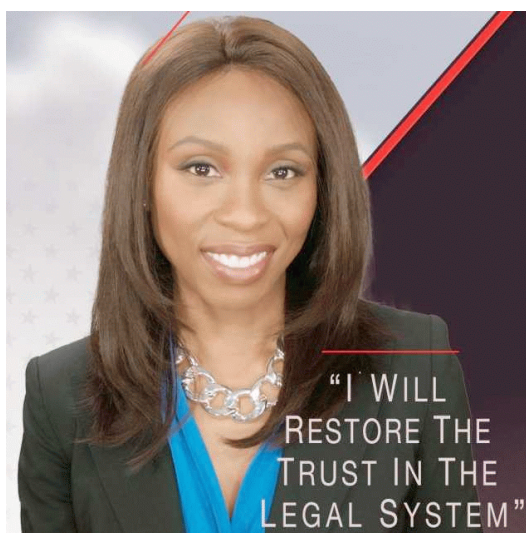
Resolution: The Maryland LP would like to thank Dr. Jim Lark for his service to the Maryland LP as LNC rep.

Announcements: Eric Blitz asked for help with PA petitioning; the Gary Johnson campaign is looking for a Md. Director; a gun bill rally on Tuesday in Annapolis with two bills coming up. Scott Spencer announced that the PA convention is in Philly next weekend. Stuart Simms advises that the John Stossel debate with LP presidential candidates will air on April 1. Robert Glaser has license plate applications on hand and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Wednesday, 29 June 2016



April Ademiluyi



Jason Summers



David Howser

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at the home of Stuart Simms in Laurel, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 7:46 pm by Chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Stuart Simms; and Tony Spezio (not present). It validated that 13 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Two proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 39 members.

Nominations for public office:

April Ademiluyi (ElectAprilAdemiluyi.com) for Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge (non-partisan race): eight years practicing law; stresses integrity and reform. Nomination approved by voice vote.

Jason Summers, U.S. House 5th congressional district: most passionate about educational freedom. Nomination approved unanimously by voice vote.

David Howser, U.S. House 6th congressional district: new to LP; very interested in 2nd amendment issues; problem with HUD. Nomination approved unanimously by voice vote.

Announcements: Robert Glaser has license plate applications and MdLP caps for sale; newsletter submissions are due July 5. Eric Blitz advises that Gary Johnson will be at the National Press Club and The Loft in DC on July 7.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

A new executive order by President Obama is an attempt to close the wage gap for female workers, who earn an average of 78 cents for every dollar made by their male counterparts. The wage gap never seems to fully close no matter how well educated women are or how many hours they work. On 29 January, Obama announced his executive action, which will require companies with 100 or more employees to report to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission what workers are paid, broken down by gender, race, and ethnicity.

TheInstitute.ieee.org/ieee-roundup/members/achievements/us-government-moves-to-close-the-gender-wage-gap

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, end of life choices, medicines, treatments, and health insurance.

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.

Approved by Central Committee, March 12, 2016

Robert Glaser had his letter to the editor published in the *Baltimore Sun* on February 17th. He refutes a previous article indicating that Maryland should not lower its taxes because a portion of those savings end up going into the federal coffers.

The state of Maryland awarded **Gerald Schneider** a Governor's *Volunteer Service Certificate* on April 15th in appreciation of his efforts to ensure the vitality of the community.

On May 6th **Robert Glaser** submitted to the *Baltimore Sun* a brief comment: they had posted a poll question providing three presidential choices (Clinton, Trump, Don't Vote), and he points out that there will be at least one other candidate on the ballot.

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Scott Soffen**'s op-ed on May 26th: Trump and Clinton are not your only options. It was a lengthy piece days before the LP National Convention.

As submitted:

Presidential Campaign Coverage

How many tickets have actually been nominated and will appear on the general election? ONE. No, not Trump. Not Clinton, either. The answer: Gary Johnson/Bill Weld. How many articles has the *Baltimore Sun* published noting this event of last Sunday? ZERO. Absolutely no mention of the results of the Libertarian Party Convention last weekend. Simply shameful!

As printed in the *Baltimore Sun* on June 6th:

Stop ignoring Libertarians

How many tickets for president and vice president of the United States have actually been nominated and will appear on the general election ballot? One, and it doesn't include Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton.

That ticket is former governors Gary Johnson and William Weld. How many articles has *The Baltimore Sun* published noting the Libertarian Party Convention last weekend ("Libertarians pick ex-New Mexico Gov. Johnson for president," May 31)?

Simply shameful!

Robert E. Glaser, Owings Mills. The writer is Secretary of the Maryland Libertarian Party.

Complaint sent to the editor on June 7th:

This is not specifically a request for printing a letter. I am requesting an explanation for your change to my submitted letter as you printed it. My submission clearly stated that the *Baltimore Sun* had printed no articles about Gary Johnson since his nomination. You changed it to make the implication that you had printed one such article.

If I search your website, I indeed find the AP article you inserted into my letter. But that article was never printed in the newspaper itself as far as I can find. In fact, when I use your utility to search for the words "Libertarians pick" in recent editions, the only match it finds is my letter itself where you inserted that website reference.

If I am wrong, please show me how (what page number is the purported article printed on in the May 31 issue?). Otherwise I am simply flabbergasted that the *Sun* is using letters to – I don't know how else to accurately say this – print outright lies. Which is far worse than just omitting worthy news.

As an editor myself, I am aware that many writers do not appreciate editorial changes to submissions. Usually these are for style and grammatical purposes. Those types of alterations are at least acceptable. This goes far beyond that.

No response. As of July 11, the Baltimore Sun has still not printed in the paper edition a single article noting the Johnson/Weld nomination.

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

An economic consulting firm reported on data last week showing that the approximately \$4.5 billion in annual forfeitures now exceeds the \$3.9 billion Americans lose in robberies each year. The clear point: Your local police or sheriff's department is more likely to take your stuff than a robber. The Institute for Justice report found the problem getting worse. "It's exploding, despite the fact that the issue is getting a lot of attention," said Dick Carpenter, one of the study's authors. According to the report, forfeiture revenues have more than doubled between 2002 to 2013. California agencies collected approximately \$280 million over the 11-year study period – and an additional \$696 million by partnering with federal agencies.

from April 2016 Reason Reader

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
Outreach	Shawn Quinn		Citizens4Quinn*outlook.com
Campaigns	Chelsey Snyder		ChelseySnyder*LPmaryland.org

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open to Central Committee members. Contact the Chairman for date, time, and location.

Affiliates

	Baltimore	Susan Gaztañaga	443-414-6539	Baltimore*LPmaryland.org
www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Cecil*LPmaryland.org
	Harford County	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Harford*LPmaryland.org
	Johns Hopkins	Dana Ettinger		detting3*jhu.edu

Maryland voters registered Libertarian:

16,621



Copy or Clip Form ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼

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 11 for contact numbers not listed here.

July 30 (Saturday): 2 pm. Picnic, Central Committee. Page 3

October 27 - November 3: Early 2016 General Election voting

November 8 (Tuesday): 2016 General Election



Go to our candidates webpage:

LPmaryland.org/vote/meet-our-candidates to find the links to the websites of our candidates. Contact them to see how you can assist their campaigns. Please support as many as you can, they are helping us and promoting the MdLP!

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