

Join us at the Libertarian Party of Maryland 2019 Conver

When:	Sunday, April 28th, 2019			
Where:	Laurienzo Brick Oven Cafe 114 South Main Street Mount Airy, MD 21771 301-829-6900 www.lbocpizza.com	Program Committee Meeting – April 9 (Tuesday) Notice emailed to CC members on March 27 8:30 pm or after the conclusion of the Executive Board meeting Location: 9755 Knowledge Dr., Laurel MD 20723		
Schedule:				
11:30 am	Registration	(Stuart Simms' home, check website for any change)		
Noon	Jess Mears, National LP	s, National LP		
12:50 pm	Buffet lunch is served			
1:10 pm	Mark Pennak, Maryland Shall Issue Executive Director			
2:10 pm	Break			
2:30 pm	State Central Committee Meeting – including regular business plus the following:			
<u>e</u>	• Nominations and Elections for the Chairman and Executive Board. All positions are open.			
ebsil es!	 Voting on motions to amend the State Party Program, if any (only motions presented and discussed in the Program Committee meeting on April 9th will be considered for an up/down vote). Check your mailing label to verify that your MdLP dues are paid up and are therefore eligible to vote Minutes of the previous Central Committee meetings are in previous newsletters and on the website Central Committee members may delegate a proxy: Sign and date a statement designating another member of the 			
W6 Bf6				
Check the website for updates!	→ Central Committee members may delegate a proxy: <u>Sign</u> and date a statement designating another member of the Central Committee as agent, granting that agent the power to vote in the Central Committee. Provide the proxy statement to the agent, who should present it to the Credentials Committee upon arrival. A <i>scanned</i> copy (smart-phones take quality photos, too) of the proxy can also be emailed to Secretary*LPmaryland.org prior to the day of the convention.			
4:00 pm	Room must be cleared	Room must be cleared		
Directions:				

- From Baltimore: Take I-695 to I-70 W towards Frederick (23.6 miles). Take exit 68 for MD 27; continue onto S Main St (signs 0 for MD-27 S/Damascus/Mt. Airy). The café is on the left, 1.5 miles.
- From Washington: Take I-495 to I-270 N towards Frederick (13 miles). Take exit 16 toward MD-27 E/Damascus; continue on Ο Ridge Rd. Take MD-27 N to S Main St in Mount Airy (15 miles). The café is on the left.

Alcohol: Cash bar, specialty soft drinks and sparkling water available.

- Lunch menu: Assorted antipasta, sautéed Old Bay shrimp, wood-fired garlic cheese bread, classic Caesar salad, fresh fish of the day with lemon caper sauce and wild rice, grilled chicken Parmesan. Soft drinks, tea, coffee and plain water included. Contact Stuart Simms (StuSimms*LPmaryland.org) in advance for vegetarian option.
- \$50 (click Donate Now at right side of webpage or mail check to Box 176 address). Prior registration by midnight April 25 is Cost: required, space is limited. The Central Committee only meeting has no charge, must arrive after 2:10 pm.

Don't Miss this Annual

Chair's Report



There are several ways members of the Maryland Libertarian Party can work to influence others towards a free society. The best, of course, is running for office. A large majority of people pay attention to politics during the 60 to 90 days preceding a general election, and get most of their information from candidates and the media.

Another way is to work at outreach events, such as a booth on a college campus or a local fair. Another way is to testify at meetings of the General Assembly and your local or county council.

And another way is to work on specific issues with legislators and activists. This is a great way to leverage our limited numbers and resources. Working on promoting a specific issue is valuable for several reasons:

- You are dealing with people who are influential in the political process. They can expand our reach and legitimacy.
- You are showing that we are consistent on individual freedom on all issues, all of the time. Those who disagree with us on many issues will be willing to listen when we show that we're on board with them on the issues important to them.
- Being consistent is a trait people value. Nobody likes to appear as a hypocrite.
- It is a way to find others who may be or may soon become interested in Libertarianism.

Eric Blitz, the Maryland LP Director of Legislative Affairs, has been working with civil liberties groups such as the ACLU of Maryland, MPP (Marijuana Policy Project), and Common Cause for several years now, and has even written potential legislation for bills in the General Assembly.

We live in a state that is heavily Democrat, and we need to appeal to a significant amount of these people to get towards a

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Email: LPMD.Newsletter*ICengineering.com (preferably) Mail: LPMD Newsletter, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117 Fax: 214-889-3668. Newsletter submissions are solicited.

Editor: Robert E. Glaser, PhD

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.

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.

more free state. A strategic error the Libertarian Party made back in the 90's was to focus recruitment mainly through anti-tax and pro-gun groups. While this did bring in money and new members, it tended to make us appear much more aligned with the conservative movement. Further, a lot of Republicans try to use our rhetoric and party label to garner Libertarian credibility, even though they don't vote our way on most issues. Because of this, many voters believe we're a faction of the Republican Party, or a more pure version of what the Republican Party should be.

Dr. Ron Paul did a much better job attracting people from both establishment parties, as his presidential runs in 2008 and 2012 focused on foreign policy, the Federal Reserve Bank and its inflationary policies, civil liberties, such as the War on Drugs and the Patriot Act, and the burgeoning deficit. His two presidential campaigns attracted a significant amount of young people on the left, and helped bring some of them into the Libertarian Party.

And the Republican Party rarely, if ever, promotes any significant cutting of the budget, nor calls for major tax cuts. Not to mention, neither of the Republican Governors elected in this century have helped pro-gun Marylanders. We must continue to demonstrate to those for whom these issues are important that we are the only political party that will work to get them what they want.

The Baltimore City group leader, Jonathan Gress-Wright, reached out to the Baltimore State's Attorney, Marilyn Mosby, regarding our agreement with her on refusing to prosecute marijuana possession without the intent to distribute, and she is going to address the group in May. See Jonathan's article in this issue of the newsletter for details. Another MDLP member is working on getting Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot to address Maryland Libertarians some time later this year.

The Libertarian Party has been solid and consistent on issues such as the War on Drugs, a peaceful foreign policy, immigration, gay rights, ending corporate welfare, and privacy, unlike the Democrats, as well as gun rights, cutting spending, and ending taxation, unlike the Republicans, since the party's inception in 1971. It's time to take advantage of this, especially here in Maryland. — Bob Johnston

The Libertarian Party of Maryland

P.O. Box 176, Abing	don, MD 21009-0176	1-800-MLP-1776
Website:		LPmaryland.org
Official List Serve:	MdLP-A-subscribe	*YahooGroups.com
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If You Are Not a Subscriber

The *Free? State Libertarian* is mailed to all Libertarian Party of Maryland members and paid subscribers. You may have received a gratis copy (mailing label says "Join the MD Libertarian Party") because you are registered Libertarian, are a member of the National Libertarian Party, or requested information. We appreciate you acting to: join the MdLP with the back page form; join the Central Committee; become a newsletter subscriber only (send \$20 to above address); and/or register Libertarian (when we get 1% of the state registered, we can end collecting petition signatures).

Maryland sues the State of Maryland for Ballot Access



On December 27, 2018, the Libertarian Party of Maryland brought suit against the State of Maryland in Federal District Court. The complaint challenges the constitutionality of the application of the State's party recognition law to the Libertarian Party of Maryland, arguing it is constitutionally impermissible to require we petition to re-establish official party status by obtaining 10,000 signatures of Maryland registered voters when the State already has proof of the necessary support for such a party in the 22,338 registered voters who had chosen to affiliate with the Libertarian Party. Party affiliation is a stronger

manifestation of support than obtaining signatures of random Maryland voters, most of whom are not libertarians. In Maryland, candidates of a political party gain ballot access only if the party is officially recognized.

The complaint also brings a constitutional challenge to the statute which requires such stringent signature validation standards when a party seeks to be established (or in our case, re-established) via a petition. This stringent standard and its robotic application is what leads us to have so many of the signatures we collect through petitioning invalidated, notwithstanding that the State knows that the signature belongs to a registered voter.

The lawsuit was necessary because for a political party to maintain its officially recognized status in Maryland, it must either have 1% of the total registered voters by the end of the year following a general election (approximately 40,000 in this cycle) or receive at least 1% of the vote in the highest statewide race in the general election (President or Governor). You may recall that Shawn Quinn broke a significant barrier in 2014 when his 1.5% result in the Governor's race allowed us to re-qualify as a party.

That was the first time that had happened for a third party in Maryland in over 40 years. Unfortunately, with a highly nationalized (and thus hyper-partisan) race in 2018, and because there was a Green running for Governor splitting third-party voters, Shawn Quinn was unable to reach the 1% threshold in 2018. This triggered the petition requirement.

In March, registered Libertarians in Maryland began receiving official notices from their local Board of Elections, notifying them that the party had lost its status and that they could remain registered as Others-Libertarian, could unaffiliate, or affiliate with another party. The LPMD attempted to stop this process by seeking a temporary restraining order from the federal court, arguing that registration affiliations should not be changed until the court resolved the underlying constitutional claims. This is most important to us because we wanted to maintain the Libertarian Party as an option during the registration process at MVA, which accounts for a significant number of new registrations. The party is represented by Libertarian Mark Grannis, Esquire and

Mark D. Davis, Esquire of Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP. On January 31, 2019 the Court

heard arguments in support of the temporary restraining order. Despite a valiant and strong argument by Mark Grannis, the court ruled against the LPMD and denied the temporary restraining order. This allowed the Board of Elections to remove the Party as a registration option, even with the case pending.

The case is proceeding and is currently in the pre-hearing motions phase. The State has made a motion to dismiss the case, the LPMD has filed its answer, and the State has filed its reply. The Court has not yet ruled on the motion to dismiss. If the case is dismissed, or we are unable to win

after the hearing on the merits, we will have to petition to re-establish the party and our ballot access. Planning for that effort is taking place now, so that we are ready if petitioning is required.

I'd like to thank Mark Grannis, Mark Davis, and their assistant Anna Scheibmeir for all their hard work on the case.

— Eric Blitz

... whenever the Legislators endeavour to take away, and destroy the Property of the People, or to reduce them to Slavery under Arbitrary Power, they put themselves into a state of War with the People, who are thereupon absolved from any farther Obedience ... [Power then] devolves to the People, who have a Right to resume their original Liberty, and, by the Establishment of a new Legislative (such as they shall think fit) provide for their own Safety and Security, which is the end for which they are in Society.

John Locke

Baltimore Libertarian News



After a couple years' gap, I'm pleased to say the Baltimore City subcommittee of the LPMD is experiencing a revival. We are holding regular meetings the third Monday of each month at different locations around the city and have started a mailing list where members can keep up to date on news and events every week. Meeting attendance is steadily growing and we have started reaching out to and making connections with other groups that work on issues we care about, such as the Maryland Campaign for Liberty, TV Free Baltimore, the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, the Baltimore Psychedelic Society, and the Baltimore branch of the NAACP. We post on our Facebook page almost daily, where you can go to find out about upcoming meetings and events and follow commentary on local news from a libertarian perspective.

We are also excited to announce that Marilyn Mosby, the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, will be speaking about her office's new marijuana prosecution policy at our meeting on Monday, May 20, in the Auditorium of the Southeast Anchor Enoch Pratt Free Library in Highlandtown. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm and end at 7:45pm and Ms. Mosby is scheduled to speak at 7pm. Ms. Mosby announced in January that her office would no longer prosecute marijuana possession without intent to distribute, and the LPMD came out in support of this decision

soon afterwards. We have asked Ms. Mosby to speak her office's policy and about other ways she can use her office to wind down the war on drugs.

Finally, we have booked a place at this year's Baltimore Pride! Look out for our booth at the Festival in Druid Hill on Sunday, June 16, 11am to 6pm.



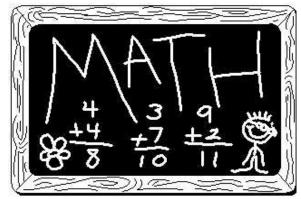
- Jonathan Gress

Jess Mears

National LP Membership & Social Media Manager

Convention Speaker

The LPMD Needs a Budget



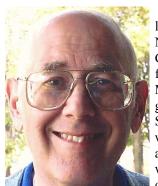
A budget sets the priorities, establishes accountability, and creates the incentives for action that any organization needs to grow and serve its mission. The Libertarian Party of Maryland's finances have a 'come as may' tradition that does not establish or use a budget, but instead spends money with ad hoc decisions of the moment. That is possible if not much changes from year to year and there is no reason for growth or change, but why would we want that?

The scope and complexity of a budget can scale up with the size and needs of an organization. We don't require a particularly intense process to achieve the values of budgeting, but unless we are making predictions about expected income, we aren't focusing on the tasks necessary to raise those funds. If we aren't making predictions about necessary expenditures, we are less likely to challenge the efficacy of expenditures. Without a budget process it is too easy for an organization to run on auto-pilot. One could argue we are too small to need a budget, but that's like saying we are too small to set goals. That's what a budget does for an organization, it focuses everyone on the concrete goals for the next year and then, hopefully, the people operating the organization are motivated to take actions to achieve those goals. Having represented hundreds of organizations over my legal career, both big and small, I've seen that the value of a budget is more about the process of establishing priorities and expectations than the budget outcome itself.

I would recommend we amend our party constitution to require that the Executive Board adopt an annual budget on or before June 1st of each year, covering a period from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. This gives each newly elected Executive Board time to review the anticipated outcomes for the current year's budget and set the budget for the upcoming year. We could stipulate that the Chair submit a budget for consideration, amendment and adoption by the Executive Board or we could let the process be flexible and collaborative. Both systems have virtues depending on the organization, with strong executives favoring the former and consensus building among diverse interests needing the latter. Expenditures would be internally validated by being made in compliance with the budget. We should provide a mechanism for amending the budget during the year to adjust to new circumstances. Even if the budget relies upon broad categories and maintains flexibility in future expenditures, we owe it to our contributors to demonstrate that we value their contributions with planning and accountability that a budget provides.

— Eric Blitz

Letter to the Editor



A response to Gerald Schneider's letter in the December 2018 MDLP Newsletter. First, I need to say that Gerald and I have been, and remain, friends since we both joined the MDLP at the founding of the Montgomery County Central Committee in September, 1980. Nevertheless I am writing to express my profound disagreement with Gerald's position which he states very clearly in his opening sentence saying "Individual

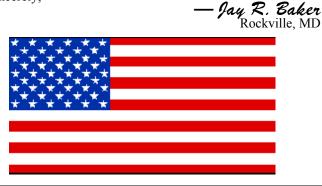
freedom to travel is a basic natural right!" I believe that statement is utter nonsense. There is no such natural right. Foreigners have no more right to unilaterally take up residence in the United States without proper government approval than they would have a right to take up residence in my home without my approval. Both are forms of trespassing and are rightly considered to be illegal.

Gerald is essentially saying that he favors open borders, although he doesn't use that term, and that he would do away with the nation state with its well defined and protected borders if it were up to him. That is his ultimate goal although he devotes the rest of his letter to suggesting, "as a practical matter," a "less than ideal" "positive immigration program" which would do until it becomes feasible, he implies, to replace it with his ultimate goal of an open borders immigration policy.

The terrible truth though, with regard to Gerald's opinion on immigration policy, is that I am forced to face the fact that, within the LP, Gerald is not alone on this issue. In fact, this became clear to me by the action taken in the most recent LP national convention in July which modified the LP platform plank 3.4 "Free Trade and Migration" by deleting subsection 3.4.4 in order to make it unmistakably clear that a majority, and possibly an overwhelming majority, of the LP are in favor of open borders. (See article entitled "LP platform strengthens commitment to open borders", *LP News*, August 2018, p.5.)

For me, this change in LP policy is such a grievous error that I have no alternative but to sever my relationship with the Libertarian Party. After forty years of supporting the LP, it is with a heavy heart that I have come to this conclusion because this change in policy is too crucial an error for me to overlook it. I still consider myself to be a libertarian (small L) philosophically but I will be changing my voter registration to Independent and I will no longer be supporting LP candidates with my vote. And, of course, I will therefore not be renewing my membership in either the MDLP or the LP in 2019.

Sincerely,





On December 20, **David Griggs**' letter was printed in the *Baltimore Sun*: "Young plan is flawed." He refers to the City Council President's proposal to subsidize water bills based upon income.

The *Baltimore Sun* published **David Griggs**' letter on December 30: "Ending war on drugs will solve Baltimore's crime problem." He responds to an editorial ("Gun buybacks not effective in curbing shootings"), pointing out the annual murder count of 300.

On January 4, **David Griggs**' letter was printed in the *Baltimore Sun*: "Raising age to buy tobacco would be costly – to individual liberty" responding to a recent editorial, "Kids and tobacco." If age 18 is sufficient to vote, why not other life decisions?

The *Baltimore Sun* published **David Griggs**' letter on January 14: "The Sun's agenda for crimefighting is muddled." He opposes the war on drugs and mandatory minimum sentences.

On January 18, **Dan Reed**'s op-ed was printed in the *Balti-more Sun*: "There will be guns and drugs in city." He says "Base assumption No. 1: There will be guns. Base assumption No. 2: There will be drugs." "Accepting that there will always be guns and drugs available means that any solutions must be persuasive enough to disincentivize bad actors from going to the gun in the first place. Accepting that individuals will always have a choice lets us to consider solutions so that they may choose wisely."

The *Baltimore Sun* published **David Griggs**' letter on February 12: "Concealed-carry doesn't increase crime." He questions the "almost nonsensical arguments."

On February 15, **David Griggs**' letter was printed in the *Baltimore Sun*: "The 'war on drugs' has been a complete failure" responding to a recent commentary. He thanks the *Sun* for printing his submissions before writing "Unfortunately, in the last election, you had minuscule coverage of candidates for multiple offices who had strong positions on eliminating this intrusive and racist war."

The *Baltimore Sun* had a news article on page 2 in its March 20 edition: "Green and Libertarian parties are technically no longer recognized in Maryland. Here's why." The author contacted our party spokesperson **Lorenzo Gaztañaga** for comments. Lorenzo told her that "the state's decision to remove the party from ballots is a 'waste of resources' over what is ultimately a technicality... This is an exercise in bureaucratic abuse... Every time you de-label these organizations, the people that have decided to affiliate themselves get these confusing notes in the mail." The article closed with Lorenzo's comment "Anyone who has gotten [the letter] in mail should know it's not a long-term situation."

The *Baltimore Sun* published **David Griggs**' letter on March 23 about the preceding news article: "The state needs to recognize Green and Libertarian parties." He further explains the situation providing some Libertarian election percentages.

Congratulations to our public advocates (David Griggs has the magic touch). Every time a newspaper prints your letter and you note yourself as a **Libertarian**, it tells readers that our party exists! Please send in reports of <u>your</u> success, too!

2014–2018 Balance Sheet Summary

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Assets Total Liabilities	1,131,597 551,629	1,174,064 565,754	1,296,837 413,938	1,241,775 406,572	1,001,873 403,853
Total Net Assets	579,967	608,310	882,899	835,203	598,019

2014–2018 Revenue & Expense Summary

Support and Revenue Membership Dues Donations Recurring Gifts Board Solicitation Major Gifts Convention Revenue Project Program Revenue Brand & Promo Materials Rev Ballot Access Donations Publications Materials Other Other Revenue & Offsets Total Support and Revenue	2014 492,324 453,272 342,279 42,475 114,820 72,248 19,380 45,954 7,959 1 1,590,712	2015 368,631 148,383 323,457 73,400 0 24,206 30,360 135,292 13,967 55 1,117,751	2016 805,821 678,854 350,931 0 291,294 16,210 316,269 149,819 15,186 607 2,624,990	2017 554,688 202,439 360,045 53,613 0 89,025 61,902 130,474 6,344 627 1,459,157	2018 583,082 299,027 360,199 58,932 280,892 73,978 67,852 46,453 210 1,372 1,771,997
Cost of Support and Revenue Fundraising Costs Membership Fundraising Costs Direct Costs Convention Ballot Access Other Project Fundraising Total Cost of Support and Revenue	125,461 108,366 120,936 8,831 5,945 369,539	101,756 95,903 0 22,828 81 220,568	200,931 129,798 218,607 5,830 1,175 556,341	182,755 207,658 0 9,732 400,246	155,448 217,133 275,604 9,201 60 657,446
Net Support Available for Programs	1,221,173	897,183	2,068,650	1,058,911	1,114,551
Program Expense Administrative Costs Compensation Affiliate Support Brand & Promo Materials Exp Campus Outreach Candidate, Campaign & Initiatives Ballot Access Petitioning Related Exp Litigation Media Member Communication and Materials Outreach Project Program Other Total Program Expense	276,911 526,069 4,883 12,578 0 289 106,696 11,047 119 60,395 6,098 2,500 1,007,585	250,039 411,146 18,737 40,796 732 6,804 107,502 1,839 145 39,396 4,541 7,261 888,938	361,626 489,582 45,026 368,331 0 36,948 393,092 6,841 5,367 81,340 6,169 0 1,794,323	355,873 507,566 55,356 73,924 750 18,513 130,818 5,153 10,313 61,035 6,027 739 1,226,067	333,519 534,820 83,274 50,663 0 102,022 148,173 4,414 31,078 50,484 8,361 4,927 1,351,735
Net Operating Surplus (or Deficit)	213,588	8,245	274,327	-167,156	-237,183



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State Executive Board Officers

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Vice Chairman	Krystal Woodworth			
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626		
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186		
Membership	Stuart Simms			
At-Large	Scott Spencer			

Chair*LPmaryland.org KrystalaWoodworth*gmail.com Secretary*LPmaryland.org Treasurer*LPmaryland.org StuSimms*LPmaryland.org ScottSpencer*LPmaryland.org

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

Local Groups

Anne Arundel County: Chris Wallace ChrisWallaceSr*LPmaryland.org Baltimore City: Jonathan Gress Gressmeister*gmail.com Baltimore County: Kyle Wagner Kyle.Wagner*LPmaryland.org Carroll County: Matthew Geiger MattGeiger*LPmaryland.org Frederick County: Zach Robinson ZachRobinson*LPmaryland.org Harford County: Martin Cohen Martin.Cohen*LPmaryland.org Howard County: Christopher Stanton LibertarianHoCo*gmail.com Montgomery County: Perla Peralta PPeralta*wau.edu Southern Maryland: Michael White Michael.White*LPmaryland.org Upper Eastern Shore: Krystal Woodworth KrystalaWoodworth*gmail.com Western Maryland: Ken Buckler





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Maryland/county-only dues \$ 20.00

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Total Payment:

Membership Form

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Libertarian Party of Maryland

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:

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 Compaign help Public Relations fy Other: ______ filiate officers or the state

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*LPmary1and.org.

Volume 41 Issue 1

LPmaryland.org

ÇOMING EVENTS

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-ofevents: visit LPmaryland.org/events/ (often!). Check page 7 for contact numbers not listed here.
April 9 (Tuesday). Program Committee meeting. Page 1
April 15 (Monday). Tax Day protests
April 28 (Sunday). Annual MdLP Convention. Page 1
May 20 (Monday) 6:30-7:45pm. Marilyn Mosby. Page 4

- June 16 (Sunday) 11am-6pm. Baltimore Pride Festival. Page 4
- May 21-25, 2020: National LP presidential nominating Convention in Austin, Texas.



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

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