

Free? State LIBERTARIAN

August 2019

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

William A. Buzzell (Bill) March 11, 1940 – May 25, 2019 (approx.)

Our good friend and stalwart Libertarian Bill Buzzell is gone. When his family could not reach him by phone, one of them went to check on him and found him dead in the small house in Dundalk where he lived alone with his two cats. A medical examiner estimated the date of death as approximately two days before Memorial Day. He had willed his body to science, for use in the training of medical students, so no death certificate has been issued yet. As a result, I could find no death notice in the Baltimore Sun or the Dundalk Eagle. Even Truthfinder has not yet recorded his death.

His generous donation of his very body is in keeping with how Bill lived his life. Active in his local home owners' association for many years and a foster parent for Lucky Cat Rescue, Bill epitomized the Libertarian as good neighbor. He organized the Baltimore area Libertarians' participation in the State Highway Administration's Adopt a Highway program, earning us a certificate of appreciation for 15 years of continuous service.



Maryland Libertarians who knew Bill will remember him best as a master of the fair booth. An Air Force veteran, he packed his vehicle and set up the tent and tables with military precision. Packed just right, everything fit in his car: cement blocks, sand bags, a tent, two tables, three or four chairs, large signs (including the Nolan chart with a stand), banners, the American flag on a pole, literature, and a cooler with cups and plenty of cold water. Thanks to him, we had a continuous presence for roughly two decades at the Fells Point Fun Festival, Essex Day, the Baltimore Gay Pride Festival and the Dundalk Fourth of July Parade. He also got us into the Towson Spring Festival with somewhat less regularity. He had a quiet way of attracting people to our booth to sign the ballot access petition. He was humble and respectful towards everyone. Below is an excerpt from an article I wrote for the *Free? State Libertarian* in July 2011.

The Famous Are Not the Ones Who Really Make History

Look at this picture. What do you see? The obvious answer is, "Bill Buzzell connecting the pole for the American flag at a Libertarian outreach booth." Look again. I have seen Bill perform this operation scores of times over the years and never thought to take a picture of it until the morning of April 30, 2011 at the Towson Spring Festival. What caused me to see what he did in a new light was the fact that I had recently attended a presentation by a former leader of the 1987 revolution in the Philippines that brought down the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. [...] The Filipino speaker, now my colleague at work, was involved in a nonpartisan organization dedicated to ensuring fair and honest elections. Although the movement leaders were brilliant strategists and tacticians, my colleague insisted that the real heroes of this "regime change" were the volunteers – the Bill Buzzells – who watched the polls



election after election and helped disseminate vital information in a period before cell phones, e-mail, the internet, or any of today's social media. [...] We need a lot more Bill Buzzells. Bill and I had to scramble to line up minimal coverage for the Towson Spring Festival. What will happen when Bill just can't do it anymore? I got a preview of that this weekend. As I write this, the Gay Pride Festival in Baltimore is taking place tomorrow, June 19, and we will not be there for the first time in several years. Why? Bill works on Sundays now. It was hard enough to put together the Towson booth with him on board; I wasn't going to try it without him.

At some point, the MDLP purchased a shed and installed it in Bill's tiny back yard to hold all the equipment and supplies for boothing.

It's still there.

— Susan Gaztanaga

Bill Buzzell received the Samuel Chase Freedom Award for 1992.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR PICNIC AND CC MEETING INFORMATION



Chair's Report



As you may be aware by now, the Maryland Libertarian Party's lawsuit to regain ballot access was thrown out by the US District Court on July 11. Which means the Maryland LP will have to petition to get back on the ballot for the 2020 election.

Apparently, the judge felt that having over 22,000 Maryland voters register with the Libertarian Party and forfeit their right to participate in primary elections isn't enough to show that we have the support of over 10,000 people in the state – thus we will have to collect that many valid signatures by early August, 2020.

Politics is a tough game. It is an exponentially tougher game when working in a non-establishment party (other than the Democrats and Republicans).

As state chair, this will be the third time I have had to organize a petition drive to regain party status. As frustrating as it is, ballot access isn't as difficult as it is in neighboring states, particularly Pennsylvania and Virginia. But it is a significant use of money and time, neither of which we have in abundance.

Further, the Democrats and Republicans are ramping up their efforts to keep any and all competitors off of the ballot:

- In 2016, the Arizona GOP was able to raise the petition requirement enough that it is now 100 times harder for Libertarian candidates to get on the ballot. The LPAZ had no partisan candidates on the ballot in 2018.
- In Texas, the Republican-dominated legislature has made it easier for a political party to stay on the ballot, but all candidates must now pay the same filing fee, which can cost as much as \$5,000 for running for the US Senate, and over \$3,000 for all other statewide offices.

- In Maine, the Democrat Secretary of State has refused to deal with a contradiction in the election law. To become recognized, a party must have at least 5,000 registered voters. The Maine LP has over 6,000. However, to retain party status, a party must have at least 10,000 registered voters participate in a general election. The LPME did not meet this requirement last November, and were thus removed from the ballot. Even though they still have the more-than-5,000 registered voters to become a party.
- In Ohio, the Republicans have been fighting to keep the Libertarian Party off of the ballot for over a decade. After the LP spent \$250,000 to regain party status in 2018 (for four years), the Secretary of State's office decided that the four-year rule doesn't apply to us, and that we will have to petition again for 2020.
- In Arkansas, after the LPAR candidate for Governor came within 1/10 of a percent of garnering party status, the legislature decided to almost triple the requirements to get back on the ballot. A federal court threw this out a few weeks ago.

So why do the D's and the R's go to such lengths to keep us off of the ballot? No Libertarian Party candidate has ever been elected to federal office, none has been elected to partisan state office since 1984 (although once came within 53 votes last November), and the LP's resources are minuscule compared to the establishment operations.

First, while both parties have overwhelming money and resources, they are losing both voters and legitimacy among the public.

In the last two general elections, one third of the US Senate races and a half of the races for Governor were determined by single digits. Libertarian candidate results are coming close to determining who will win these races.

Continued on page 9

Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

The *Free? State Libertarian* is published three times/year by the Libertarian Party of Maryland. All material is copyrighted 2019 and may be reproduced, provided credit is given as follows:

"Reprinted from the *Free? State Libertarian*."

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.

The Libertarian Party of Maryland

P.O. Box 176, Abingdon, MD 21009-0176 1-800-MLP-1776

Website: LPmaryland.org

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

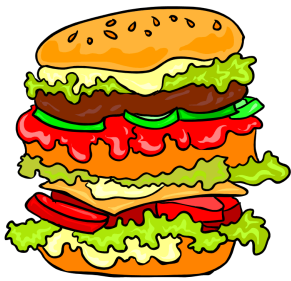
Other List Serves: LPmaryland.org/get-involved/connect

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LPMaryland

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

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).



P I C N I C



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, August 10 (if heavy rain ☹ check website that morning!)

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: \$12.00 please mail to Box 176 or pay by credit card on website by August 4, or pay \$15.00 in person upon arrival. Children free.

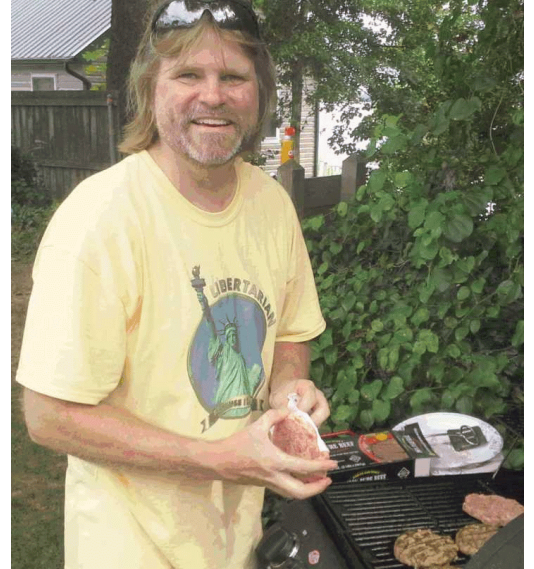
Food: provided (hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, beer, soda, juice, H₂O)

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 -- Five years without rain!!!

Libertarian Party of Maryland 2019 Convention – Saturday April 28

This year's convention was held at the *Laurienzo Brick Oven Cafe* in Mount Airy, Maryland. Organizer Stu Simms introduced Jess Mears from the National LP:

Thank you so much for having me here at the Libertarian Party of Maryland's convention. I'm so pleased to be able to share my thoughts and my opinions with you. My presentation is called "What's going on." We're going to cover the 2016 election, the 2018 election, libertarian issues, as well as getting ready for 2020. I come with a warning label: my opinions are my own. I'm going to say some things that don't reflect the National Party nor any of my previous employers, so please keep that in mind as we are going on.

We're going to take it back a little bit in time and start with the 1700s. George Washington during his farewell address left us some advice: most people thought political parties would ruin America. I definitely concur with that statement; we are trying to deal with it. So with George Washington's advice in mind let's move forward. Over the course of history in America after George Washington left office not long afterwards political parties started to form. If you love history you probably know this already but there have been many political parties that have come and gone over the course of time. It was in the late 1800s that we started seeing the two-party system emerge. 1852 ballot access laws are the reason why, and they started in the late 1800s with racial motivation; they also wanted to stop the Communists. That's why they were started and now we're fighting against ballot access laws so libertarians can appear on the ballot. People are leaving the two-party system, they're coming away from consumers; you can see in 1992 over 80% of the voters had a political party affiliation, and in 2016 the number is down significantly. In nine states there is a plurality of independent voters. In some states people do not register to vote by party affiliation – living in Maryland your whole life you may not have thought about that because in other things you don't register with a political party. Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia Center for Politics says being independent is just a popular cover label for hidden partisans who are quite loyal to their hidden parties. There are over 200 million registered voters in the United States. I think what's always surprising to people is how many more registered Democrats there are than Republicans, but look at the number of Independents: it's almost the same as the number of registered Republicans. Notice the number of registered Libertarians to keep in mind this is just in the states that allow for partisan registration. Does it surprise anyone that less than ½ percent of the voters are registered libertarians? As the generations go by, Millennials are right now registered to vote 44% independent; every successive generation has more independent voters than the previous. You can see the two verdicts: registered Democrats going down, registered Republicans going down, registered Independents going up. But in 2016 voter registration kind of steadied off. I'm sure you all know why in 2016 people wanted to stick with their political party.

Let's talk about the history of libertarianism and the Libertar-

ian Party. A lot fewer countries have a two-party system than I would expect; there are more multi-party systems than I initially anticipated when I first looked this up. The first time the word *libertarian* is documented was in 1913 in a book by Charles Sprawling, "Liberty and the Great Libertarian." He wrote on John Locke, Thomas Paine, and then in 1923 H. L. Mencken. He describes himself as a libertarian but the word libertarian wasn't actually widely used until the fifties. The word "libertarian" has not been around really that long, and the record shows that the word libertarian started to replace the word "liberal." I'm sure you all know about classical liberalism.

Let's move on to the Libertarian Party founding. What does Richard Nixon have to do with the founding of the Libertarian Party? He instituted wage and price controls which basically removed the gold standard and allowed the government to impose inflation easier. This pissed off people that considered themselves libertarian, so a group of individuals decided to create a new political party in America devoted to defending liberty and restricting government to protect the rights of its citizens. The

Libertarian Party as we know it was founded in 1971 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. That brought all of us here today in this room.

What do we here in this room have in common? I'll cut to the chase – primarily this room is composed of white males. Why aren't there more women and minorities in the Libertarian Party – and you know I've thought about this a lot over the years, and I think I came to the conclusion of why we have fewer women and minorities in our political party.

Let's take a little bit more of a trip down history. The women's suffrage movement started in the 1910s; women wanted the right to vote, so they took to the streets, they marched, and they demanded the right to vote. Back then the Libertarian Party did not exist. In 1955 Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to sit in the back of a bus in Montgomery Alabama. The Libertarian Party was not around yet. Martin Luther King gave the *I Have a Dream* speech on the March on Washington for Jobs in 1953. The Libertarian Party wasn't around yet. Vietnam War protests started in 1965. The Libertarian Party wasn't around yet. On May 4th, 1974 students were killed by the Ohio National Guard. The Libertarian Party was not around yet.

We can't change history, but I would assert that had a Libertarian Party existed 20, 40, 50 years earlier, this room would look a lot different than it does today. You wouldn't be able to fit in this room, nor would white males predominantly be the majority of this political party.

We want to win hearts and minds, but our founders were concerned with an economic issue; people that have believed in our economic philosophy are already with us – we struggled to lead people with their hearts. John Hospers was our first presidential candidate in 1972. He received less than 4000 votes and he was a gay male – his family does not want us to promote that he was an openly gay male, but it is the truth and I wanted to share



that with you – his running mate was Tony Nathan. She was the first woman to ever receive an electoral vote in America.

Gary Johnson ran in 2012 for president, in 2016 for president, in 2018 he ran for US Senate. Let's talk about 2016. Gary Johnson who received the nomination didn't even announce until that same year, so I wanted to bring this up because if you are concerned about who is going to be running for president, remember and keep in mind that our process starts later than the two-party system. We are a much later process type of political party – hopefully we'll get to the day where we start announcing earlier and getting our things in motion sooner rather than later. You don't need to necessarily announce like six years in advance to get our nomination. [Description of the 2016 Presidential election.] I recently watched a Michael Moore documentary called *Fahrenheit 11/9*; he talked about how Donald Trump won the presidency. What he suggests is that establishment politicians for many years have been forgetting about America. He had one really good example I think of how a politician completely forgot about average Americans. [Discusses Flint water episode.] This is a prime example of how politicians were neglecting the average American, and Americans were tired of the establishment, and people decided to vote for Donald Trump. So Bill Weld's fears came true. [Discussion of Gary Johnson campaign.] Some active members came to the LP because of the Johnson campaign.

In the 2018 special elections the *blue waves* crushed us with turnout. In 2018 a socialist won her primary in New York; she defeated a ten term incumbent, the fourth most powerful Democrat in Congress. How did she do it? She had worn out shoes, but she also had help from her friends – the people from the Bernie Sanders campaign. The Socialists are evolving and they're learning how to win elections. Libertarians need to do the exact same things. You all know who Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is. You may not know who her chief of staff Saikat Chakrabarti is: he's a Harvard graduate with a degree in computer science and he has experience in Wall Street and Silicon Valley; he knows technology and he knows how to get things done. He worked on the Bernie Sanders campaign.

Larry Sharpe said Libertarians needed to elect one member to Congress and it will change everything. Electing one socialist to Congress changed everything because now she's dominating the news. When I watched her commercial I thought it cost \$100,000; I found it was created by a ragtag group of socialists, the quality is amazing. Up until she says *Medicare for all* this could be a person of any party – this could be a Libertarian up until she said the words Medicare for all.

In the 2020 election, Libertarians can learn from this and we can replicate what it is that the socialists are doing to win elections and we better figure it out pretty fast. We gotta learn a few lessons. The left is completely changing how they're doing elections. If you sign up for their email list you can start studying and seeing what they're putting out and how they are going about and using resources to win their elections.

Here is the 2018 turnout; it was the highest turnout ever for a midterm election. 2016 actually wasn't even that high of a turnout for a presidential race. In 2018 Libertarians received unprecedented candidate support from LP HQ, which provided training and materials for candidates who ran. 833 Libertarians ran for office in 2018. 28 libertarians were elected; 28 out of 833 means there were a lot of individuals that did *not* win. When you look at

who won their elections, we find Soil and Water Conservation districts, Township Trustee, City Council, and School Board.

Libertarians elected 55 individuals to public office in 2018 and in 2019 have elected nine people to public office. I've got some bad news: some individuals left their political parties and joined the LP in 2017 and 2018. Our defectors weren't able to retain their offices, which sends a bad message to elected officials considering leaving their party and joining the LP.

In 2018 Gary Johnson ended up breaking our record for US Senator. Even if you've got fifteen percent of the vote in a three-way race, keep in mind he ran for US Senate in New Mexico where he was the former two-term governor. He broke Carla Howell of Massachusetts' previous record of about 12 percent. Carla ran for US Senate in 2008 and came within one percentage point of beating the Republican.

Apollo Pazell was hired by the LP with the goal to elect people to state legislatures. Apollo analyzed every single state legislative race in every state district in all of America – that's over 7,000 districts. He was looking for prime opportunities for Libertarians. He ended up with five people that were running for state legislative races and spent a lot of time analyzing how these performed.

Jeff Hewitt is right now our top person elected to public office in Riverside County, California. He is a County Supervisor – this county has 2.4 million people in it, that's a lot of human beings that have a Libertarian on their county board. Jeff received about 52 percent of the vote. He was out fundraised two to one. How did Jeff do this? He started off by running *local*. He ran for office and was the mayor of a small town called Calimesa. The most libertarian thing he was able to do was pension reform for the fire department. Now that he is on the county board Jeff is a very powerful influencer. The pension board was very upset with him for what he did with the Calimesa fire department. In Riverside County there's 101 fire departments that are under the county and he's going to do it again.

Where are we today? These numbers may have changed a little bit, but we have about 180 people elected to public office. 56 are elected to partisan offices and 124 are elected to nonpartisan offices. Clearly this indicates if you're looking to get elected to public office, nonpartisan races are the most compelling ones to choose.

Let's talk about 2020. Traditional politics as we know it is over and Donald Trump's campaign promise was to build a wall. Now the left is coming out with their own radical campaign plans like medicare-for-all and reparations. Glenn Beck: "if the Republicans don't win in this next election I think we are officially at the end of the country as we know it. We may not survive even if we win but we definitely don't if he loses... I will tell you there is no choice this time around, we must come together." He said the words "there is no choice." This is the same guy who in 2016 had Austin Peterson and Nick Sarwark on his show and he's now telling people you have no choice, America, it will end if we don't re-elect Donald Trump in 2020.

40 percent of Democrats right now say that it is not possible to like or respect someone that supports Donald Trump.

We're 554 days out from the 2020 election. Jeb Bush was in the lead at this point last time around. Things changed quick.

The Libertarian Party in 2020: right now we have the best

ballot access situation any third party has had at this point in the election cycle since 1914. We have 33 states plus DC.

In 2019 we're running 200 local candidates with the hopes to elect at least 70 Libertarians to public office. I already told you we've elected nine people to public office this year, or about like 1/9 of the way to go. We're also looking to have 50 state plus DC ballot access again in 2020 like we had in 2016. We're going to need help with fundraising.

The Overton Window is the way you display an idea going from a fringe idea into social acceptance and policy, and this is where I think we can look and see libertarian ideas – this is where I hope you come with me as we try to get us all to agree on one thing. Things like gay marriage: gay marriage is a libertarian idea that went from a fringe idea to policy, and now it's a thing of the past since the Supreme Court approval in 2015. Marijuana legalization: marijuana used to be a fringe idea. In 1990, 16 percent of Americans supported legalization; now 61 percent and marijuana is winning across the country. Ranked Choice Voting is now starting to win in the eyes of voters. That's moving into the Overton Window. Sex work decriminalization: I didn't think this would be touched by the mainstream media for many, many, years, but now there are Democrats that are running for president that are now saying that sex work should be legalized. This is a libertarian idea that is in our party platform. The free market is winning faster than the government can control or monopolize all of it and regulate it. Occupational license reform; civil asset forfeiture: the Supreme Court just got a unanimous decision 9-0 to decrease the fines and penalties for civil asset forfeiture cases. Surprisingly enough, Democrats and Republicans had bipartisan criminal justice reform and in 2019 Donald Trump signed the first step into law. Now there are Democratic candidates that are running for president proposing the seven-step act.

David Nolan, the founder of the Libertarian Party, died in 2010 and a New York Times article was published about him. I would like to read for you what this says: "Mr. Nolan had no illusions that libertarians would ever become powerful, but hoped the Party's participation in elections would simply expose Americans to libertarian views as a means to effect change." We need to keep participating in elections, because our *ideas* are winning. While Libertarians may not be elected to the federal legislature, we're getting elected to local offices and our ideas are still winning. Another thing I'd like to share is leading up to 2020 we need to vet our candidates seriously.

So how are Libertarians going to end up winning? I have three suggestions. The first one is *Libertarians need to love each other*; Libertarians are notorious for *not* loving each other. I put a poll on Twitter this morning that said "Who do you think wants to change America more? Libertarians or Socialists?" Let me read to you the comment that I found a little interesting: "Without a doubt Socialists are more passionate about bringing change to America. Libertarians are extremely passionate about fighting Libertarians." We need to treat each other with respect and understanding, and when we disagree let's peacefully talk about it. We don't need to call each other names or throw out insults, but have honest conversations about where we diverge on our views and come to mutual understanding.

Libertarianism is a new idea to America – it wasn't even a commonly used word until the 50s. So our understanding of libertarianism is actually still developing and I think it always will.

No matter where you are on your libertarian journey, you may be further along. Keep in mind that somebody that isn't as far along as you may just not understand it the same way you do, and you can help them having really honest but also peaceful conversations.

The second way that Libertarians can win is we can *take back our community*. We can run global and show how libertarian ideas can keep peace. The last time libertarianism won we had a violent bloody revolution – like I don't want to see people die for freedom. I want to see freedom come peacefully: so we have to take our opportunities, run local and show how this is about our ideas at the most local level.

The third way we can win is we *keep on keeping on*. Our ideas are winning; our ideas are moving into the Overton Window. Americans are coming along with libertarianism even if they don't know it yet, so we have to keep on keeping on. Let's run local in 2020 and 2019. We'll hopefully have a very amazing top of the ticket that I hope Americans will be inspired to vote for, and that's it!

Thank you guys so much for having me here – I would love to hear from you, if you have suggestions or ideas that you would like to speak further about. Thanks so much, everyone have a wonderful day. Keep doing what you're doing.

This is an abridged version. You can listen to the audio recording on the website at LPmaryland.org/audiovideo-files and there is also a link there to a What's Going On? outline page.

Stu Simms introduced Mark Pennak of Maryland Shall Issue:

I'm glad to be here, because so much of my personal philosophy and now Maryland Shall Issue, is aligned with the ideals of the Libertarian Party. Our principal focus is on personal duty and right to individuals, and that is something that's the core value with Maryland Shall Issue that I think is the core value as well of the Libertarian Party because it focuses attention on personal responsibility of individuals to take care of their own self-defense against offenders, rather than relying on the state to do this for them. We all know if you have any familiarity with what's happening in Baltimore and other parts of Maryland how well the state is actually protecting people, to say not very well at all.

If I sound like a lawyer, let me apologize – I've been a lawyer for 40-some years, I can't help it at this point, so it's kind of ingrained in my DNA. I wanted to speak to you tonight about how important it is for the Libertarian Party to participate in the Maryland General Assembly and local politics in America, because the General Assembly has been hopeless in terms of a house dominated by those simply who do not believe in the slightest iota of the rights of individuals to take care of themselves and the rights of individuals to protect themselves and their families from predations. My sense having testified for years now before the Maryland General Assembly on legislation is that they take the view that armed self-defense is anathema – in fact, gun ownership is an anathema. They simply do not want people to own firearms of any type and they want to create as many legal traction and pitfalls as they possibly can.

The Maryland General Assembly's favorite occupation is to criminalize gun ownership and disarm in ways that are extremely bad. For example, you have a right under the Constitution in the state which doesn't care about the Supreme Court to actually buy



a handgun. Well, do you have a carry permit? Virginia and the District of Columbia are shall-issue jurisdictions which means that you can walk into the state and get a carry permit by satisfying objective criteria. Like are you over 21, do you have the required amount of training, or are you a criminal or otherwise a disqualified person? Okay, if you're not, if you satisfy those criteria, then anyone can get a permit.

If you wanted to travel from Maryland and you want to go to Vermont – where it is constitutional for anybody to carry – if you cross the great state of New York, you're committing a felony unless you carry it nicely the right way under federal law, and who here knows what the precisely right way is? There's only one and there's a good reason for that, because it's obscure, but I'll tell you one thing for sure: the New York state troopers don't know.

Maryland has a whole host of laws that are designed to trap you. What they're doing here is impeding constitutional rights. It's a tough road, so we play defense. I would love to have more members of the Libertarian Party to fight defense with us, because the defense is if you did this here's what's going to happen: we're going to have to sue you in federal court. Now the federal courts in Maryland are very hostile to the idea because its members were appointed by the respective presidents and we don't have a whole lot of influence there. So we have to go to the Fourth Circuit where we are now in some cases and from there some to the Supreme Court. Our only hope in this is the Supreme Court will soon issue a decision.

And of course it's true that they've recently threatened in general and that has to do with New York City. It said if you wanted to have any gun in your home you have to get a license to have it, and to issue that license that you know you're entitled to under the Constitution, so they issue that license very slowly – but eventually you get one. But if you get one in New York City you have to pay the \$340/year fee to keep it, but you also can only carry it to a range, and there are only seven ranges in the area – there are 8½ million people there and seven ranges – almost all of them are private, which means you have to become a member of the range and pay their dues, but you may not transport anywhere else in the City or outside the City. The case is of the New York State Rifle Association versus NYC. The challenge there is that by restraining you from carrying your lawfully possessed handgun across the river to New Jersey to go to a range, or outside to take it to another home or to a competition, you're basically prohibiting that.

It's not going to work, because right now there's a whole host of cases in the pipeline. Statutes that require microstamping.

There's a case called Rogers which challenges the New Jersey carry forbid, which like Maryland contains “good cause” – you can't get a carry permit in Maryland unless you show “substantial reason” why you have to carry out of the home. Now there are only a few places you *can* carry: to the range, to your business, to the gunsmith for repair, but if you take your handgun and you go across the street to the neighbor to show off your new acquisition, that is prohibited, but who knew that? Most people assume that I can go next door but that's prohibited. In Maryland every place is banned. Carry and transport is completely banned as a default rule, and there are exceptions like between residences, in your rental property and these other little places. And by the way, you better be prepared to prove that you're going to one of these places, because if you go on that trip there's three years in prison. It doesn't matter whether or not they actually sentence you to prison because a mere conviction will disqualify you for life by federal and state law to ever possess again. A collector may travel with handguns to show them off. How do you convince the officer you're a bona fide collector?

They engage you in so many ways because the assumption is that whatever you're doing is banned. If you have a firearm you're suspect, you're a true minority class; and think about that in terms of the exercise of your individual rights as a Libertarian. Do you have the right to touch it? You don't have it for real, because if you make use of the firearm to actually protect yourself, you can expect to be charged. In Hagerstown last summer there's an individual who had a permit restricted to while he is acting as a bail bondsman. So he actually stopped an armed attack at night on the streets of Hagerstown.

Who did they arrest? Not the armed attacker. He asked why they are arresting him? They said he was outside the restrictions on his carry permit because he wasn't acting as a bail bondsman at the time. Think about that for a minute. It's okay to use force to stop a knife attack, he wasn't charged with anything for that. But he used his bail bondsman restricted permit! He couldn't work for three months before they dropped those charges.

I will tell you that if you have to hire counsel, my brother, I'm not cheap. If you get arrested you're going to be out thousands of dollars. I hope you're all insured well or very wealthy. Think about your inherent right of self-defense. Individual rights that everybody has, even Democrats.

I've talked to members of the General Assembly about the realities of the street and how it's not doing any good to call the police and wait. You can't use force to defend yourself. It's illegitimate for you to employ self-defense. We won't even allow armed police officers to be on campus, so a police officer may not go into a school in Baltimore if armed unless there on official duties, but even then they don't want an armed police officer.

We have a huge task before us in the General Assembly. Even if you find individuals who are sympathetic to review who actually listen to sense of law and logical reason, they won't go through with it.

Q&A followed.

This is an abridged version. You can listen to the audio recording on the website at LPmaryland.org/audiovideo-files.

Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.

— Mao Zedong

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Sunday, 28 April 2019

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at the *Laurienzo Brick Oven Cafe* in Mount Airy, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 2:41 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Stuart Simms; and Dean Ahmad. It validated that 19 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 35 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 18 August 2018 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

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

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston welcomes LNC representatives Dr. Lark and Joe Bishop-Henchman. He reports that Michael White passed away this week. We have 88 members. We had 22,483 registered voters at the time of de-certification by the BoE. The MdLP is suing the state of Md. over the petition requirement; Eric Blitz explained. If the lawsuit fails we must collect 10,000 petition signatures. The 2020 election is for President, Congress, and partisan seats in Baltimore City. We have electoral muscle in that in a number of instances Libertarians received more votes than the difference between the winner and second-place finisher.

LNC Representative Dr. Lark: At the national level, the LP is sort of skating along; things are okay, we are recovering from some budgetary problems. We have a new executive director, Dan Fishman. Party membership in 2014 was 14,260; now it is 14,271. Next year is going to be extremely challenging for us election-wise. The great frontier for recruiting young prospects is in the high schools. He invites contact at jwLark@Virginia.edu.



David Dull joins the Executive Board

Program Committee's report: The committee recommended one change to the State Program: Under State Government, change the fifth bullet point from "End exclusionary ballot access laws to foster a strong and vibrant democratic process." to "End exclusionary ballot access laws and encourage ranked choice voting to foster a strong and vibrant democratic process." Approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Officer Elections: Robert S. Johnston III was nominated for Chairman; elected unanimously on a voice vote. The following were nominated as officers: David Dull, Michael Linder, Robert Glaser, Stuart Simms, Krystal Woodworth, and Scott Spencer. It was agreed to vote as a slate, which was elected unanimously on a voice vote.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

#1 (Robert Glaser): replace the word "Program" with "Platform" in all appearances (14 occurrences: V7A, V7A3, V7A3, V7A3, V7A3, V8, V8A, V8A, V8B, V8B, V8C, V8C, V8C, V8C). Approved on a voice vote.

#2 (Robert Glaser): Change the sentence in VII1 "At the time of filing, and continuously through the date of the corresponding General Election, all candidates of the Maryland Libertarian Party to public office must be registered Libertarian as defined in the qualification for Central Committee membership stated in Article IV, Section 2." to "At the time of filing, and continuously through the date of the corresponding General Election, excepting judicial nominations, all candidates of the Maryland Libertarian Party to public office must be registered Libertarian as defined in the qualification for Central Committee membership stated in Article IV, Section 2." Approved on a voice vote.

#3 (Dean Ahmad): in IV2, after "is registered as a Libertarian" add "or Other-Libertarian". 8 for, 8 against; amendment Fails.

The Investigating Committee for amendments #1 and #2 is Bob Johnston, Robert Glaser, Tom Ashwell, Jonathon Woodworth, and Tony Spezio.

Proposed Bylaw (Eric Blitz): Budget amendment tabled until the next meeting.

Announcements: Bob Johnston says the proposed date for the picnic is Saturday, August 10 at the Sten's. Eric Blitz advises of a June 8 volunteer class in Crofton. AA county meeting May 13 at *Libations*. Baltimore City meeting May 20 at Govans library. Baltimore County meeting May 17 at *Pizza John's*. The AA group will participate in the Annapolis Memorial Day parade May 27. Stu Simms advises of a proposed March 14, 2020 Spring Convention in Frederick. Robert Glaser has license plate applications on hand and MdLP caps for sale.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm.

[More photos on page 10]

— Robert E. Glaser

Minutes of the Investigating Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Sunday, 28 April 2019

Opening: The Investigating Committee met at the *Laurienzo Brick Oven Cafe* in Mount Airy, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Investigating Committee consisted of: Bob Johnston, Robert Glaser, Tom Ashwell, Jonathon Woodworth, and Tony Spezio.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment #1: 4 Yes, 1 No. Committee recommends passage.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment #2: 3 Yes, 1 No. Committee recommends passage.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

LPMD's Ballot Access Lawsuit Dismissed



On July 11, 2019, the Federal District Court for Maryland dismissed our party's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Maryland's ballot access statutes as applied to the party. The LPMD had challenged the 10,000 petition signature threshold as violative of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the US Constitution as applied to a party already having over 22,000 registered voters affiliating with the party. We also challenged the rigid signature standards applicable to the petitioning process. The Court found that the strict scrutiny standard was not applicable because the petition requirement was a "modest burden" and that the State need only show that its interest is non-discriminatory, reasonable, and advances important regulatory interests, which the Court found to be the case. The Libertarian Party of Maryland is now engaged in petitioning to fight back against this outcome so that we can re-qualify for ballot access. Please make sure you sign and return the petition on our Petition page at LPmaryland.org and get those "easy" signatures from family and friends. Follow the instructions carefully so the signatures are not invalidated.

— Eric Blitz

Chair's Column, continued from page 2

In 2016, LP presidential nominee Gary Johnson received over 4.5 million votes for 3.2%. If Hillary Clinton had gotten Johnson's votes in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Florida, she would be President today. And rest assured, both the D's and the R's know the 2020 presidential election will be just as close as the 2016 one.

Second, there are two areas on which politicians will not relent, and that is cutting spending and reeling in our aggressive foreign policy. Spending has more than doubled and the deficit has quintupled since 2000. Look at how the Democrats treat antiwar presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard, just as the Republicans did with Ron Paul in his 2008 and 2012 presidential runs. The Libertarian Party is the only political party that wants to decrease both spending and our involvement in other countries' affairs.

Third, politicians are about control. They don't believe individuals and communities can handle their own issues and affairs, as libertarians believe, nor should they be allowed to. They patronizingly frame their actions as concern for the well-being of others, but it's really about power and control.

I want to thank Mark Grannis, Mark Davis, and Anna Scheibmeir for all of their hard work on the ballot access lawsuit.

— Bob Johnston

Baltimore Libertarian News



On Monday, May 20, at the Govans Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Baltimore City subcommittee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland welcomed a very special guest speaker: State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby. Ms. Mosby spoke to us about her office's new policy concerning marijuana possession. Although possession of marijuana remains illegal under state law (except for holders of medical marijuana licenses), and although the state in 2014 decided to downgrade the possession of less than 10 grams from a criminal to a civil

offense, Ms. Mosby's office decided in January this year to stop prosecuting the possession of any quantity of marijuana, unless there is other evidence for intent to distribute. The LPMD issued a press release expressing the party's support shortly after Ms. Mosby announced the policy, and this event gave us an opportunity to express our support in person.

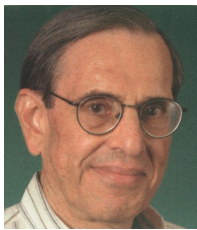
Ms. Mosby explained her motivation behind this policy change in terms of racial justice. Although whites and blacks use marijuana at the same rate, blacks are disproportionately punished by the criminal justice system. As Libertarians, of course, we welcome this decision on natural rights grounds: no one should be punished for possessing a plant or a drug. However, the racial justice angle is important to keep in mind when arguing for reform

of drug policy and the criminal justice system in general. During the question and answer period, Ms. Mosby even expressed support for the idea of decriminalizing heroin and opioid possession, and in more recent news she has announced the opening of drug injection sites where addicts can take illegal drugs under medical supervision without risking police interference. Unfortunately, Ms. Mosby dismissed the idea of decriminalizing psilocybin (magic mushrooms) and other psychedelic drugs, despite extensive research findings by Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University of the medical benefits of psychedelic drugs, particularly in curing opioid addiction and addressing the chronic pain issues that drive many people to opioid abuse. We hope Ms. Mosby will eventually turn around on this. Still, her ending of the prosecution of marijuana possession and her attempts to expunge previous marijuana convictions have set an important precedent for law enforcement across the state and nation.

— Jonathan Gress



Letter to the Editor



Libertarians have to stand apart from conservatives to prosper as well as survive, especially in Maryland! Take this public statement by Log Cabin Republicans (the gay advocate group among Republicans): “We believe in limited government, strong national defense, free markets, low taxes, personal responsibility, and individual liberty.” How would you as a libertarian distinguish your creed from that?

I suggest being more thoughtful about how you describe libertarianism. For example, only anarchists are opposed to government per se. Say instead that libertarians only oppose *oppression* of our natural rights by governments, but recognize the need for governments to regulate the “commons” – land, air, and waters not independently owned – with consent of the governed.

And “smaller” governments are not necessarily more freedom-loving than “bigger” governments. Take a tiny Maryland municipality, Takoma Park, as an example with its myriad of laws and restrictions. Better to say libertarians support government actions that secure our natural rights rather than limit them regardless of the governments’s size.

Instead of saying libertarians are opposed to taxes per se, say libertarians favor fair *user fees* over taxes for government services whenever possible, and prefer that governments only engage in activities that protect our health and safety that cannot be done independently as a practical matter. National defense, and management of the Chesapeake Bay and oceans are examples.

The public should understand that libertarians are “classical liberals,” not contemporary “conservatives” or “liberals” calling themselves “progressives.” Libertarians recognize that to secure our rights “Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed” as quoted from the Declaration of Independence. Libertarians only fear – as freedom-loving persons should – governments needlessly going beyond securing our natural rights.

Incidentally, if you have not heard, the “Bread and Roses Party” founded by Jerome Segal, who ran as a socialist in the 2018 primaries in Maryland (losing to Senator Ben Cardin), has been certified as a political party by the Maryland Board of Elections. Another problem for the Maryland Libertarian Party.

Sincerely,

— **Gerald Schneider**, Ph.D.

Dundalk Independence Day Parade - July 4, 2013



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

NEWS FLASH!

The *Baltimore Sun* had a news article on page 2 in its May 2 edition: “Baltimore County tax hike plan gets a public airing.” The reporter quoted **Doug Stanley** who was at the County Council meeting protesting the proposed tax increases: “The tax increase would further diminish the middle class in our less affluent areas. I believe that there is a lot more waste to be found in the budget, and I think that we need to really hunker down and find it.” He also identified himself as the chair of the Baltimore County committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland.

The *Baltimore Sun* published **David Griggs’** letter on June 14: “Advocates for gun laws need to talk specifics.” He says that none of the previous pieces has contained either a description of the specific form of these laws or how these new laws would have or will have a major effect on the commission of these tragedies.

On June 21, **David Griggs’** letter was printed in the *Baltimore Sun*: “Reparations will not relieve shameful legacy of slavery” responding to a recent editorial “The moral case for reparations is easy; now is the hard part.” He notes that our country is founded on the principle of individual “unalienable” rights for every person, individual rights. We have no group rights.

The *Baltimore Sun* published **David Griggs’** letter on July 3 “Stop voting for lawmakers who back gerrymandering.” He says not to blame the Supreme Court.

*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 your success, too!*



State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*LPmaryland.org
Vice Chairman	Krystal Woodworth		KrystalWoodworth@gmail.com
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
At-Large	Scott Spencer		ScottSpencer*LPmaryland.org
At-Large	David Dull		

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 KrystalWoodworth@gmail.com
Western Maryland: Ken Buckler

Maryland voters registered Libertarian:

22,483 (0.56%)

(before de-certification!)

Copy or Clip Form ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒



Libertarian Party of Maryland

Membership Form

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

County:

Email:

Phone (day):

Phone (evening):

Phone (other):

Payment Information

Maryland/county-only dues \$ 20.00

Additional donation: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Monthly Credit Card Donation: \$ _____

☐ Check ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

Card# _____ **Exp:** _____

Signature _____

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.

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.

August 10 (Saturday) 2-6pm: Picnic/CC meeting. Page 3

August 24 (Saturday) 4-8pm: 2nd Annual Live Free Cornhole Tournament, Fairwinds Farm & Stables, 41 Tailwinds Ln, North East, MD 21901. Krystal Woodworth

December 7 (Saturday): *Tentative* MdLP Holiday Party

March 14, 2020 (Saturday): *Tentative* MdLP Convention

May 21-25, 2020: National LP presidential nominating Convention in Austin, Texas

Party Re-Certification Petition

Go to LPmaryland.org/petition to generate a form to be signed to get our Party recognized again by the state of Maryland. Explicit instructions are on the webpage. The voter information must be quite precise for the Board of Elections to count the signature. There is a link there to print a blank petition, too, along with other useful information. This is very important! Without completing this process we will not have any candidates on the 2020 ballot.

LPmaryland.org/petition

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