



# FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN LETTER

Volume 15 No 6

November/December 1992

## MARYLAND LP 1992 STATE CONVENTION

On October 25, 1992, the members Maryland LP met for our annual convention.

This years convention, held at the Colony South Hotel in Clinton, was a great success.

The State of the State address, by then-chair Dean Ahmad, showed how far the party has come in the past year without losing sight of the fact that we still have a long way to go. (A summary of this report appears inside.)

The main event of the business meeting was the election of officers to the Executive Committee. This year saw no less than 11 candidates standing for the 7 slots on the EC.

The new members of the Executive Committee are: Lorenzo Gaztanaga (Chair), Amy Rule (Vice Chair), I. Dean Ahmad (Parliamentarian), Jesse Markowitz (Treasurer), Bill Buzzell (Asst. Treasurer), Susan Gaztanaga

(Secretary), Doug McNeil (Asst. Sect). Congratulations to all involved.

Immediately following the business meeting, we were treated to a mini concert by our own Dean Ahmad. Dean performed several original pieces as well as many popular songs with a Libertarian flavor.

After dinner, the Samuel Chase Freedom Award was presented to Bill Buzzell. Although Bill has never run for office, no one can deny the time and effort he has put into the Party over the years. Congratulations, Bill!

Our dinner speaker was Brian Wilson, Talk Show host on WRC, AM 980 and outspoken Libertarian. Brian is a very articulate and funny speaker who presents a great image to the public. (Since the convention, I've switched to Brians show. It's Great.)

## ELECTION REPORT

Have you ever heard the joke about the operation that was a success, but the patient died?

Well that's what happened this year.

The Marrou/Lord in Maryland received 4,611. This was in spite of the continuing problems with the media and election officials. (See the letter inside to SABEL.)

---

## YEAR END PARTY

The 1992 Libertarian Year-End Party will be held at the home of Doris Gordon on December 12, 1992, starting at 6:30. The address is 13424 Hathaway Dr. in Wheaton.

Contact Delores Blum at (301) 670-9660 to coordinate the Pot Luck dinner.

MD LP Central Committee members will be voting on a change to the Constitution.

**FROM THE CHAIR**  
**Lorenzo Gaztanaga**

On behalf of the Maryland LP heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to André Marrou and Nancy Lord for running a thorough, competent presidential campaign without the benefit of deep pockets, tax money, fair media coverage or a well-informed long-time-involved electorate. At the state level, the same goes to Tomás Estrada-Palma, our US Senate candidate, Jim McLaughlin, our 5th District congressional candidate and to Wayne Dougherty our congressional candidate for the 6th district. With similar circumstances faced by André and Nancy, our three candidates put out their names and a good part of their lives so that we Maryland Libertarians and the malnourished Maryland electorate could have a choice for state officers. Thanks to Tom for a candidacy that is a continuation of long time Libertarian activism. Thanks to Jim for furthering his horizons in Libertarian activism, and thanks to Wayne for what seemed to me relentless one man campaigning. I have heard Wayne say that he probably made many mistakes in his campaign. Well Wayne, we want to know what they are so we can avoid them.

The election results at the national level and at the state level, if anything, reveal the utter confusion of the American voter in general and the Maryland voter in particular. How can a people who claim to seek peace, a sound economy and personal liberty continue to vote for individuals with a proven track record for debt creation, regulation of personal activities and war mongering as a matter of course? (Let's not forget--every major US conflict was begun with or by a

Democratic administration). Enough about the past. What's our task at hand?

As I see it, we need ideas and organization for funds. Run winnable campaigns and still maintain the educational aspect of our movement, because more and more people know about Libertarians but very few are able to identify what being a Libertarian is even if it is at the very tip of their nose or right within their heart. Petitioning to be on the ballot will continue to be part of the Maryland LP's reality as long as Maryland's byzantine ballot access laws continue and/or our numbers are not strong enough. No whining--just facts. Petitioning in fact can be an effective tool to educate our fellow citizens.

Governor Weicher, Independent of Connecticut, expressed on CNN Crossfire the 5th of November that in 1996 there will be a new centrist party because the American people were tired of the failing two party system. He also said this may be the last election won by either a Republican or a Democrat. We're definitely poised to be sure this third party is not Perotistas. We need ideas and communication probably more than ever. My phone number is 410-325-2813. PS--Thanks, Dean, and every previous Executive Committee member and Central Committee Member as well as every Libertarian and fellow traveler.

In liberty,

Lorenzo Gaztañaga

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE THE RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

On October 26, 1992, a committee consisting of Lorenzo Gaztanaga, De an Ahmad, Amy Rule, Susan Gaztanaga, and Norman Rule met to consider the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Maryland Libertarian Party.

Proposed: To amend Article VII of the Maryland LP Constitution by replacing Sections 2 and 3 with the following:

**Section 2:** Except for the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States, Libertarian candidates for public office shall be nominated in primary elections in which all registered Libertarians may vote. In the event that the State Administrative Board of Election Laws for any reason declines to place qualified Libertarians contesting for the Libertarian nomination races on its primary ballots, the Party shall conduct its own primary on the same day as the Maryland primaries.

**Section 3:** To be included in the Libertarian primaries, a candidate must have submitted the endorsement of any two members of the Central Committee submitted to the Secretary no later than the date the certificate of candidacy is due by state law.

The current form of Article VII, Sections 2 and 3:

**Section 2: Local Nominations:** Nominations of persons by the Party for local offices (i.e., non-Federal and non-statewide offices) shall be determined by the local committees of the jurisdictions in which the offices are held, in accordance with the Constitutions and Bylaws of the Local Committees

**Section 3: Federal and Statewide Nominations:** Nominations of persons by the Party for Federal and statewide offices shall be by a 3/5 vote at a meeting of the Central Committee.

The committee's report:

1. **Section 2.** The committee unanimously supports Section 2. It would place the state in the position of either denying us the right to freely select our own method of choosing candidates, in contravention of state law; or else, permitting us to have a primary and therefore, fulfilling the requirement that according to Ahmad v. R aynor and sufficient to justify placing candidates on the general election ballot.

2. **Section 3.** Section 3 theoretically provides a sufficient safe guard against non-libertarians securing the Libertarian nomination. Although the state may object to Section 3 on its own merit, apart from Section 2, there is sufficient precedent to believe we could win a court case on that issue. To avoid taking any chances, we urge that this amendment be passed with a proviso that in the event that either SABEL or the courts would allow LP candidates on the ballot under Section 2 provided Section 3 were repealed, that the Central Committee have the authority to repeal Section 3 for this purpose at a single meeting for which proper notice has been given, rather than the usual process for amendments (i.e., the amendment is proposed at a meeting of the Central Committee, is investigated by a committee which issues a recommendation, and is ratified at a second Central Committee Meeting).

Below is a copy of a letter sent to SABEL regarding Prince Georges county..

Nov. 18, 1992

Mr. Gene Raynor, Administrator  
Maryland State Administrative Board of Election Laws  
P.O. Box 231  
Old Armory, 11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21404-0231

Dear Mr. Raynor:

This letter is to apprise you of our concerns about the harassment of Libertarian voters in Prince Georges county during the November elections. I understand from my discussion with Mr. Mein that you are aware that the names of Libertarian voters were not included in the lists sent to the precincts with the result that Libertarians were forced to wait while the precinct officials contacted the County Board of Elections in Upper Marlboro. In at least one case a voter (Mr. Charles W. Pollard) was required to wait for an hour because of busy signals before being confirmed and then was forced to go to the end of another long line and wait another hour before he could vote. You must realize that such experiences serve to discourage voters from registering Libertarian in the future. In view of the requirement of Maryland election law that 10% of all voters must register Libertarian before we are given parity with the older two parties, such events are unacceptable.

I am especially concerned because this unfortunate incident took place months after I had apprised the attorney general's office of irregularities in Prince Georges' counties reports on the number of newly registered Libertarians. While the other counties in Maryland reported to SABEL that 1-2% of all voters newly registering off-premises (i.e., by mail, absentee ballot, volunteer, high schools, etc.--all categories reported except in person or by another board) were registering Libertarian, Prince Georges county reported NO Libertarians registered by these means in the months of May and June, and only one in July. In August the number rose to 8, but this was still a ridiculously small 0.1%. (A statistical analysis is enclosed.) I know that the attorney general reported this irregularity to SABEL and I had been told an inquiry would be conducted, but the unfortunate events on election day indicate that not enough was done.

Additional information on problems experienced by particular voters are available from our new state chair Lorenzo Gaztanaga.

He may be reached during the day at 410-636-2121.

This disturbing incident comes on top of years of problems that we have encountered. These include registration cards being printed without the Libertarian option, petitioners being arrested or threatened with arrest, candidates' names not included in reports to the press, and votes cast for Libertarians not being counted. I respectfully request to know what action SABEL proposes to take to redress the damage done to the Libertarian Party's efforts to establish itself in Maryland?

Yours truly,

Imad A. Ahmad, Ph.D.

cc.: Robert Antonetti, Prince Georges County Election Board  
Susan Goerring, ACLU

---

### THE STATE OF THE COUNTIES

In Maryland, county activity is climbing.

The six organized parties, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, St. Mary's, Charles and Frederick Counties and Baltimore City are meeting on a regular basis.

Cecil county, under Michael Borland, and Prince Georges county, under Jim McLaughlin, are also meeting on a regular basis and growing at a rapid rate.

In Howard county, under Amy Rule, an organizational meeting is scheduled for early December.

**ABORTION CHOICE:  
In Harmony or in  
Conflict with the Rest  
of the Libertarian  
Party Platform?**

For this new LFL flyer,  
send SASE to:  
Libertarians for Life  
13424 Hathaway Dr  
MD1  
Wheaton, MD 20906  
(301) 460-4141  
Doris Gordon  
National Coordinator

**advertisement**

## **Summary of Dean Ahmad's State of the State Party Address**

This has certainly been an unprecedented year for the Maryland Libertarian Party. Every goal we set for ourselves has been reached. Every peak measure of success in the past has been exceeded:

We have SIX established local groups: Montgomery County, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, St. Mary's County, Charles County, and Frederick County. In addition, we have groups forming in Howard County, Cecil County, and Prince Georges County.

Our voter registration, which previously peaked at 661 in 1988 was at 2604 when the registration window closed on Oct. 5.

The number of PAID members which peaked at 126 just after the Clark Campaign was at 131 on the day of the convention. The number of paid NATIONAL members which was at 141 in Feb. of last year is now at 229.

Our mailing list, which was only 1800 a year ago, was at 3650 on the day of the convention; and the rate of new inquiries shows no sign of letting up.

The ACLU, which (except for helping release petitioners unjustly arrested) previously had expressed no interest in helping us fight the harassment we received from the state, is extremely interested in indignities we have now cumulatively suffered.

They arranged a meeting with the assistant state attorney general and are discussing helping us in a possible court suit.

Citizens groups, including the prestigious Montgomery County Civic Federation, have lined up in support of our ballot access reform proposal.

Finally, and most importantly, we have more new activists and volunteers than ever before. The tip of this iceberg is having three candidates in Maryland in the 1992 elections apart from our Presidential ticket.

[Postscript: The energy of new activists was subsequently demonstrated when FOUR of the seven newly elected executive members were newcomers to the executive committee. Although our Presidential vote totals were disappointing, Maryland did better than some most other states compared to past elections, and new inquiries continue pouring in after the election. The mailing list, as of 11/20/92 was up to 3765!]

**MD LP Executive Committee:**

Chair: Lorenzo Gaztanaga (410) 325-2813  
Vice Chair: Amy Rule (410) 730-7117  
Parliamentarian: I. Dean Ahmad(301) 951-0539  
Treasurer: Jesse Markowitz (301) 990-7512  
Asst. Treasurer: Bill Buzzell (410) 477-9173  
Secretary: Susan Gaztanaga (410) 325-2813  
Asst. Secretary: Doug McNeil (410) 685-6979

Libertarian BBS: (301)656-4714  
after 6:00 PM and on weekends

Newsletter Editor: Norman Rule (410) 730-7117

National LP Headquarters: (202) 543-1988  
1-800-272-1776 or 1-800-682-1776

**Affiliate Parties / Contacts:**

Anne Arundel: Roger White (410) 760-5746  
Baltimore City: Doug McNeil (410) 685-6979  
BaltimoreCounty: Bill Buzzell (410) 477-9173  
Cecil County: Mike Borland (410) 658-3767  
Charles County and Southern Maryland:  
Stephen Zeigler (301) 932-6808  
Frederick County and Western Maryland:  
Wayne Dougherty (301) 834-6179  
Howard County: Amy Rule (410) 730-7117  
Montgomery County: Terry Atwood  
(301) 229-4092  
PG County: Don Monroe (301) 779-8722  
Jim McLaughlin (301) 464-8856  
St Mary's County: Sid Briscoe (301) 737-4287

**Libertarian Party Membership Form**

( ) \$15 State/Local annual dues \*  
Includes subscription to  
the Maryland LP Newsletter

( ) \$30.00 Combined National/State/Local\*\*  
Includes subscription to *L.P News*  
and the Maryland LP Newsletter

( ) Additional donation toward the fight for Liberty in Maryland \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The Federal Election Commission requires the we ask the following information

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer \_\_\_\_\_

\* I  do  do not want to become a voting member of the MD LP Central Committee  
\*\* New National LP Members only: "I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals:"

signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Send To: Dean Ahmad Maryland L.P. 4323 Rosedale Ave, Bethesda MD 20814

## FREE STATE CALENDAR

First Sunday of each  
month 7:00 - 9:00 PM

P.G. County LP meeting

Contact Alan Kleist for  
location at (301) 322-8950.

December 10, 1992  
7:00 PM

Howard County LP  
Organizational Meeting

8995 Lambskin Ln.  
Columbia, MD  
Amy Rule (410) 730-7117

December 12, 1992  
6:30 PM

Maryland LP year-end party  
Montgomery County Business mtg.  
Maryland LP Central Committee mtg.

13424 Hathaway Drive  
Wheaton, MD  
(see notice inside)

Third or Fourth Friday  
of each month:

Cecil County LP meeting

Contact Mike Borland for  
details at (410)-658-3767

Third Monday of each  
month (except Dec.)

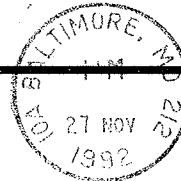
Montgomery County LP social  
meetings

Contact Terry Atwood for  
details at (301) 229-4092

Late December  
Late January

Anne Arundel LP meetings

Contact Roger White for  
deatils at (410) 760-5746



Free State Libertarian Letter  
4323 Rosedale Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814



Terry & Katherine Atwood  
6405 Wilson Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20817

