



FREE STATE **Libertarian** LETTER

Official Newsletter of the MARYLAND LIBERTARIAN PARTY
Volume 17 No. 3 May/June 1994

Central Committee Meeting Report

During the recent MDLP Central Committee meeting, held May 7 in Howard County, the Maryland Party once again took the lead in trying to shape the National LP Party Platform.

A committee was appointed at last fall's MDLP Convention to study the question of dissent from the National Platform on the liability of pregnant women. The committee made the following proposal: "That the MDLP express its dissent from the National Platform's position on the liability of pregnant women and calls for replacing the last paragraph of the plank on "Women's Rights and Abortion" with the following sentence:

"It is the right and obligation of the parents, not the state, to decide the desirability or appropriateness of prenatal testing, Caesarian births, fetal surgery, and/or home births."

After being debated, the motion was carried unanimously.

(Editor's note: The last time the MDLP dissented from the National platform was on the Property Rights plank. Maryland's wording has since been incorporated into the National Platform.)

Kevin Schaefer, State Vice-Chair, was appointed Chair of the newly created fund raising committee. State Chair Lorenzo Gatzanaga will appoint an additional 3-5 members to serve with Kevin on this committee.

(Suggestions for fund-raising were made made at the County Chairs meeting, held March 12. They are reported on page 7.)

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FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN LETTER

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It's finally happening.

I'm beginning to notice a very encouraging trend—perhaps I should have seen it developing sooner. Many of the things I have repeatedly called for in my Notes from the Chair, suggesting that individuals take initiative and act on their ideas, are beginning to happen. In Scott Becker, Steve Ziegler, and now, Terry Atwood, we have serious candidates running to win. Campus groups have been formed, and a new outreach group—Citizens for Liberty—is bringing together Libertarians, Republicans, Democrats, and people from other minority parties based on the Bill of Rights. Individuals have invested large amounts of time researching and developing projects aimed at giving us more public exposure. I am thinking particularly of Bill Buzzell, with his Adopt-A-Highway program and Dan Anderson, with his LP license plates.

It took the formation of the Finance Committee, however, to make me finally notice that something was going on. Time after time, at Central Committee and Executive Committee meetings, we have said, "We need a fund raising chair," or "Somebody needs to take charge of fund raising." Well, "somebody"—Vice Chair Kevin Schaefer—has now stepped forward to fill this vital role. He has put together a committee, including people who have not previously held positions of leadership in the Party, to develop and implement plans to raise the funds

Chair (cont.)

needed to make us a serious political force in our state. As I write this, the first meeting of the Finance Committee will be taking place this week. It's really happening.

The different Marylands

One thing that has struck me as we begin to grow and reach out across the state, is how many different "Marylands" there are in this small territory. For many years, the Maryland Libertarian Party was concentrated in the Washington suburbs of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. In the last two or three years, the Party has expanded into Columbia, a growing metropolis in Howard County, Baltimore City, a traditional American industrial center, and the suburbs of Baltimore County. Yet there is more to Maryland than even that. There is western Maryland, represented in the Libertarian Party by Frederick County—a changing, more rural area, parts of which are

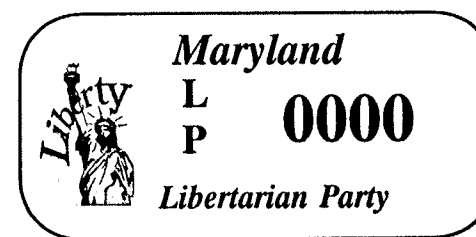
becoming suburbs to Washington, D.C. Harford County is another rural area of small local communities and a still thriving sense of local government.

This issue's feature article and art design by Beverly Lynch Smith focuses our attention on yet another Maryland—the Eastern Shore. No one better exemplifies the rich tradition of this area than the waterman, or commercial fisherman. The waterman's way of life identifies Maryland to the rest of the country and gives it much of its unique flavor.

The point is that, if we are to continue to grow, we will need to recognize that, within this small geographical area, there are many different Marylands that we need to try to understand and appeal to. However different they may be, there are libertarians in each of them.

Yours in Liberty,
Lorenzo Gaztañaga

License Plate Update



The Libertarian License Plates should be on their way to our members. Dan Anderson of Harford county, who has spearheaded this project, reports that the MVA has the 25 applications we collected and should be mailing the plates beginning June 2. Dan also asked us to express special thanks to Bridget Bartlett and the Maryland MVA.

THE PERSECUTION OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

by Mrs. Edward Smith

Commercial fishing, one of the world's oldest professions, came to North America over 500 years ago. In the 1940's, when fish were still very plentiful in the Atlantic, the American fishing fleet was derelict and obsolete. The federal government created incentives for fishermen to borrow money and build bigger, more efficient boats.

At that time, coastal towns and cities, including New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and manufacturers nonchalantly poured sewage, chemicals and garbage into the bays and ocean, polluting breeding grounds. The government even tested bombs at sea. While the habitat was being poisoned, fishermen were using the latest technology to catch small fish for processing into cat food and fertilizer. Today, we have a modern fishing fleet, onerous regulations, and decimated fish stocks.

Commercial fishermen catch fish to sell for public consumption. Recreational and sport fishermen, who catch fish mostly for the fun of it, blame commercial fishermen for the depletion of fish stocks and lobby, often successfully, to limit commercial

fishing. They justify their own activities on the grounds that recreational fishing benefits the economy. In fact, recreational fishing consumes a great deal of fuel and expensive equipment per fish, while contributing to the over fishing of several species.

Some environmental and animal rights groups would like to ban all fishing. These groups seem to think they have a special claim on the ocean which, in fact, belongs to all of us—fishermen and fish eaters.

In the 1980's, Congress realized that fish stocks were declining and decided to do something about it. That "something" was the Magnuson Act. Under this act, fishing management councils, comprised of environmentalists, college professors, career bureaucrats, and sport and commercial fishermen were created. I put commercial fishermen last because that is where they come on these councils. The Mid-Atlantic Council, for example, has three commercial fishermen out of twenty members. One of the three is considered a commercial fisherman because he owns a tackle shop in King of Prussia, PA.

In the 1980's, Congress realized that fish stocks were declining and decided to "do something about it."

The councils and massive state and federal bureaucracies decide when a fishery is in trouble and produce regulations to manage the problem. The following are examples of some of their solutions.

1. *Retroactive control dates.* These are similar to the emissions standards for automobiles which exempt vehicles manufactured before a certain date. For instance, if a fisherman does not have receipts proving that his vessel landed fluke before 1989, he cannot get a fluke fishing permit. The control date is 1989. A permit moratorium and quotas were imposed in 1993. The permits go to vessels, not to fishermen. Thus, a rich man can buy a vessel with a permit attached to it, but a deck hand who works on that vessel cannot get a permit to catch fluke.

2. *Moratoriums, such as that on bluefin tuna.* Tuna migrate from the Mediterranean to the North Atlantic. They are caught primarily with long lines of hooks. The moratorium has had little effect on manufacturers of longlining equipment. Their warehouses are full of crates ready to be shipped to Spain, Italy, and various North African nations which have not regulated their fishermen. The American commercial fisherman is blamed by sport fishing groups for a dubious depletion of tuna.

3. *Privatization through transferable quotas.* When surf clam boats were first issued quotas, boat owners, including wealthy investors and large companies, such as Campbell Soups, acquired them. In 1993, the quotas were made transferable. The clam fleet in the Mid-Atlantic region shrank from 175 boats to 75. The yearly clam harvest has remained the same for ten years. The rich have gotten richer and the poor clam boat crewmen, who lost their jobs, have gotten poorer. Government privatization has meant monopolization.

Yet, fishermen feel more endangered by government regulations than by the nature of their work.

The list of unfair, obtuse and ineffective regulations, which are proliferating faster than fish, is infinite. Little consideration is given to natural fish reproduction cycles. The comeback of the rockfish could be attributed to favorable weather rather than the moratorium. When rockfish populations increase, the species they prey on suffer. Did rockfish, which are raised commercially in ponds, really need drastic preservation measures?

Regulation often disturbs the balance of nature. Fishermen must report all accidental catches of marine mammals, all of which are protected, and most of which eat fish. Protected seals are devastating North Atlantic cod stocks.

Affiliate Parties/ Contacts

Anne Arundel	Milton Palmer (410) 672-5609
Baltimore City	Doug McNeil (410) 685-6979
3rd Sunday of each month location varies	
Baltimore County	Saul Baker (410) 429-4339
3rd Sunday of each month with Baltimore City	
Charles County & Southern MD	Stephen Zeigler (301) 932-6808
Cecil County	William Grimes (410) 885-3240
Frederick County & Western MD	Wayne Dougherty (301) 834-6179
Harford County	Dan Anderson (410) 676-5687
4th Monday of each month Bel Air Public Library	
Howard County	Amy Rule (410) 730-7117
2nd Thursday of each month 5400 White Mane, Columbia MD	
Montgomery County	Terry Atwood (301) 229-4092
3rd Monday of each month location varies	
PG County	Jim McLaughlin (301) 464-8856
Washington County	Marc Giannoni (301) 824-2657

AROUND

Howard

The Howard County LP made its first appearance at the Columbia City Fair, June 17-19. Special thanks to Kevin Schaeffer for making the arrangements with the City Fair planning committee, and to volunteers Steve Wilson, Bill Wise, Bill Buzzell, Lorenzo & Susan Gaztañaga, Jesse Markowitz, Jim McLaughlin, Bill Potter, and Norman Rule.

Harford

The Harford County LP continues its regular monthly meetings at the Belair Public Library on the 4th Monday of the month.

The August 22 meeting will include election of officers.

The meetings, as always, are open to the public. Please contact County Chair Dan Anderson for time and directions.

Washington

Although not yet officially organized into a county party, Washington county contact person Marc Giannoni is out there spreading the Libertarian word. On June 5, Mark gave a talk to the Unitarian Church of Hagerstown on "Political Leading Edge," presenting information on the Libertarian Party, FIJA, and the Cato Institute.

THE STATE

Montgomery

The Montgomery County LP is currently gearing up for this year's Montgomery County Fair, which runs from August 19 - 27. Thanks go to Dan Wasser, who did a great job with fund-raising to pay for the booth, insurance, and some literature.

This year's Fair Coordinator is Keith Halderman. We have the same location as we had last year, on the side of one of the buildings near the entrance to the fair. Anyone interested in helping staff the booth, call Keith at (301) 977-9328. The Montgomery County Fair is one of our biggest opportunities for outreach, and volunteers are welcome from all around the state.

Montgomery county candidate Scott Becker will be using the fair to focus attention on his campaign to challenge Leon Billings for the 18th district. By the time of the fair, Scott will hopefully have collected the 3,000 gross signatures he needs to appear on the ballot, and can campaign as an official candidate.

Baltimore City

The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 17. Please contact Doug McNeil (410-685-6979) or Susan Gaztañaga (410-325-2813) for time and location.

Fundraising Ideas



The MDLP County Chairs meeting was held on March 12, 1994. One of the points addressed, as requested at the spring MDLP Central Committee meeting, was a list of fund-raising suggestions.

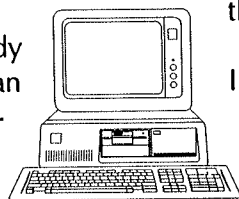
- Solicit more advertising in the newsletter
 - Auction off services at a state meeting or picnic
 - Solicit donations from businesses and commercial organizations
 - Have a fish bowl for business cards in various businesses for a drawing
 - A dunking booth at county fairs. The "dunkees" would be Bill and Hillary, Ross Perot and others
 - Charge a fee for the new MDLP license plates over and above the MVA fee
- These suggestions were forwarded to Kevin Schaefer, chair of the Fund-Raising committee.

Liberty On-Line

The Information Super Highway. The Net. The Info-Bahn.

It doesn't matter what it's called, it's here to stay and Libertarians are already very active.

Members of the MDLP are already familiar with the Imad-ad-Dean bulletin board maintained by long-time MD Libertarian Dean Ahmad. Dean's board offers areas dedicated to Maryland Libertarians (area 5), the National Libertarian Party (LPUS, area 11), and access to Libernet (area 3) for discussions with Libertarians around the country. Dial (301) 656-4714 via modem after 6:00pm and on weekends to connect.



CompuServe, one of the oldest on-line services in the country, has a Libertarian Debate section. To find it **go politics**.

America-on-Line has recently opened a new area dedicated to Libertarian thought. To access it, **go libertarian**.

I have used all three of these boards, and all of them have much to offer the computer-wise Libertarian. If you have information on other services, please let me know.

We will include the information in future on-line reports. Messages can be sent to me on the Imad-ad-Dean board (Norm Rule), CompuServe (76264,363) and America-on-Line (NormanL357). See you on-line!

Central Committee Meeting (from p.1)

Bill Buzzell reported that the Adopt-A-Highway program has run into a snag. Although there are enough people to participate, the MD MVA will not allow the word "Party" on their signs. With the consent of the members in attendance, Bill will set up the program as a "Libertarian Club."

Jesse Markowitz and Amy Rule presented the first draft of the new MDLP flyer. Jesse, who has supplied the text, and Amy, who has done the desk-top publishing, solicited suggestions from the members.

A committee was set up to organize the MDLP fall convention, consisting of volunteers Susan Gaztañaga, Amy Rule, Doris Gordon and Jim McLaughlin.

Editor's Notes . . .

In this issue, you've no doubt noticed a different look. Our new format is intended to give the newsletter a more "finished" look. It also allows a significant cost savings in production. Our new nameplate gives the cover a bolder, more open look.

Please let us know what you think.

Time to Plan a Convention!

Yes, it's time already to start planning for our fall Convention. The convention committee met on June 9 to begin the process.

A number of proposals for location of the convention were brought up. As the MDLP is a statewide organization, it has been the custom to hold the convention in a different location each year. It was suggested that since Frederick is the home of the only elected Libertarian in Maryland, and is relatively easy to get to, this might make a good site. The committee is investigating hotels in both Frederick and the Laurel/Bowie area.

Our conventions have traditionally been an all-day event. It has been proposed that as we have expanded our

membership to the more distant areas of the state, it might be appropriate to schedule the convention for Saturday, and schedule some social events for Sunday for those who would like to stay over. Also, hotels like it when they can sell some "room nights" in association with a convention, and might give us a better rate. Is anyone interested?

Another optional idea is group luncheon included in the cost of the convention. This would increase the cost of a membership, but would save the hassle of foraging for your own lunch.

The convention committee would appreciate member feedback on these ideas. Please contact Amy Rule at (410) 730-7117.



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Lorenzo Gaztañaga
Chairman
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(no fee for the MDLP format)

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Fishermen . . . (cont. from p. 5)

After so much regulation to eliminate commercial fishermen. Congress came up with a law to save them—the Fishing Vessel Safety Act. This act requires a long list of safety equipment, including such necessities as "Report all injuries" signs on all commercial fishing boats. Fishermen appreciate survival suits, life rafts, and EPIRBs, though some wonder where to stow the stuff and how to pay for it with so many moratoriums and closed seasons. Why did Congress not show the same consideration for recreational boaters, who are not required to have such gear?

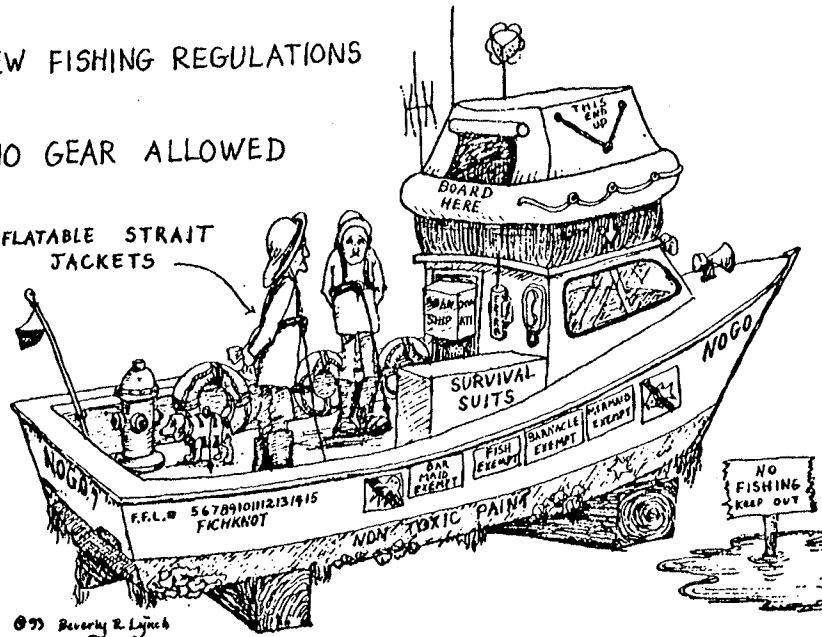
In the future, fishermen will be required to take Coast Guard examinations. Memorizing the answers to a test is supposed to make a man who has spent his life at sea a better seaman.

Fishing is hard, dangerous work, performed in miserable conditions and often violent weather with no guarantee of success. Yet, fishermen feel more endangered by government regulations than by the nature of their work.

NEW FISHING REGULATIONS

NO GEAR ALLOWED

INFLATABLE STRAIT JACKETS



© 77 Beverly R. Lynch

"How Maryland watermen are supposed to follow safety regulations, protect the environment, and try to make a living all at the same time."

Libertarian Party Membership Form

- () \$15 State/Local annual dues* () \$30 Combined National/State Local**
 Includes subscription to the Maryland LP Newsletter includes subscription to *L.P. News* and the Maryland LP Newsletter

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 County _____ Phone _____
 E-Mail _____

The Federal Election Commission requires that we ask the following information:

Occupation _____
 Employer _____

I would like to volunteer to help the MDLP with:

- Mailings/Envelope stuffing
- Staff booths at county fairs and other outreach efforts
- Petition drives
- Other: _____

*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

July 14 7:30 PM	Howard County LP Post-fair plans	5400 White Mane Columbia, MD
July 17	Baltimore City/County	contact Doug McNeil
July 18 7:30 PM	Montgomery County LP Social Meeting	2105 Walsh View Terrace #102 Silver Spring, MD
July 25	Harford County LP	Belair Public Library
August 15 7:30 PM	Montgomery County LP	contact Terry Atwood (301) 229-4092
August 19-27	Montgomery County Fair	contact Keith Halderman (301) 977-9328
August 21	Baltimore City/County	contact Doug McNeil
August 22	Harford County LP elections of officers	Belair Public Library

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