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# ◆ FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN ◆

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## *LP UNIFIED MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM*

We have a very important decision to make this year--whether to join the National LP's Unified Membership Program (LUMP). This is a "hot" topic among Libertarians across the country; some love it, some hate it. Even though this does not require a change to our constitution and bylaws, I have elected to treat it as if it were. As such, the proposal was introduced at the April 20 Central Committee Meeting, a committee was formed to evaluate the proposal, the information and results are published here, and we will vote on the proposal at our picnic this summer.

In this newsletter, we are printing a summary of the plan by National Director Perry Willis. I encourage you to do your own research, talk among yourselves, hold a county meeting to discuss the program, and form your own opinion as to whether we should join. I will be happy to attend any county meeting to provide further details; however, I will not take any official position on the issue. This is a crucial decision; I leave it to you.

-Amy Rule

### **PROPOSAL FOR A UNIFIED MEMBERSHIP PLAN FOR THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY**

FROM: Perry Willis, National Director

You asked for it--we're delivering it. Many state chairs have expressed an interest in having a unified state and national membership plan. Until now, it had seemed virtually impossible to bring this about because of the perceived need to have all 51 state organizations agree on the price and structure of a unified program. But our national Chair, Steve Dasbach, has devised a proposal that allows us to offer a unified membership program that each affiliate could accept or reject voluntarily, based on that individual state's unique needs. This proposal has received helpful comments from a few state chairs, and we would like to have your input on this as well, and then, hopefully, the participation of your state party.

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### **NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTA- TION**

Baltimore area Libertarians stood side by side with Reform Party members outside the Main Post Office in Baltimore City on April 15, 1997 to protest "taxation without representation"--an allusion to the election laws in Maryland which effectively deny representation to minor parties.. Approximately fifteen Libertarians and six Reform Party members participated in the demonstration, which lasted until nearly midnight. Three Reform Party members and one Libertarian (Baltimore City Chair Susan Gaztanaga) dressed up in eighteenth century colonial costumes to demonstrate the parallel between our lack of

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## PROPOSED CHANGES TO STATE CONSTITUTION

(Proposed 4/20/97)

### Section 4. Officers and Executive Board

A. Executive Board: Seven members of the Central Committee shall be elected to the Executive Board according to the provisions of Section 4-B of Article V. They shall assign among themselves the offices of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chairman. **\*\*delete: Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.\*\*** THE THREE REMAINING MEMBERS SHALL BE KNOWN AS AT-LARGE MEMBERS These assignments may be changed at any time by the Executive Board. The officers of the Executive Board shall be the respective officers of the Central Committee.

B. Election of the Executive Board: The members of the Executive Board shall be elected at the regular fall meeting of the Central Committee. **\*\*add new text; none deleted or replaced\*\*** ELECTION SHALL BE TO A TWO YEAR TERM WITH 3 POSITIONS BEING ELECTED IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS AND 4 IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS. VOTES SHALL BE CAST by the transferable ballot method of proportional representation.

Voters shall list all candidates they are willing to have represent them in order of preference and submit those ballots to the teller. On the first count the teller shall assign one vote to the most preferred candidate on each ballot. Each candidate receiving enough votes for election (more than seven eighths of the number of ballots cast) shall be declared elected. The teller shall repeat the process, assigning one additional vote to the most preferred unelected candidate on each count until all slots are filled or until seven such counts shall have been completed. If an impasse is reached any unelected candidate may withdraw and her votes will be appropriately reassigned. Should no candidate offer to withdraw, the one with the fewest votes must pass her votes on. The elected officers shall assume membership immediately and assign offices among themselves as required by Section 4-A of Article V.

### Section 5. Duties of Officers and the Executive Board

E. Duties of the Other Officers: The duties of **\*\*delete: the Assistant Secretary, Assistant Treasurer,**

and Parliamentarian shall be those implied by their titles\*\* EACH AT-LARGE MEMBER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A FUNCTIONAL AREA SUCH AS (BUT NOT LIMITED TO) MEMBERSHIP, OUTREACH, AND MEDIA RELATIONS, and such other duties as they may be required to perform by the Executive Board or the Central Committee.

### Section 7. Standing Committees

A. Finance Committee: The Treasurer, **\*\*delete: the Assistant Treasurer\*\*** ONE AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, and one other member of the Central Committee (not an officer) whom the Chairman may appoint (subject to the disapproval of the Central Committee) shall constitute the Finance Committee. All officers shall submit their budgetary requests to the Finance Committee. Should the Finance Committee disapprove any such request, a vote of two-thirds of the Executive Board shall be required for its authorization. The occurrence of

(Continued on page 3)

## CONSTITUTION CHANGES

*(Continued from page 2)*

such a vote in contravention of the opinion of the Finance Committee shall be communicated to the Chairmen of the Local Central Committees within ten business days.

B.

**Credentials Committee:** The Secretary, ~~the Assistant Secretary~~ **ONE AT-LARGE MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**, and one member of the Central Committee (not an officer) appointed by the Chairman shall comprise the Credentials Committee. The committee shall certify all recall petitions and report the number of Central Committee members present and the number of proxies present at all meetings of the Central Committee, and perform such other duties as directed by the Central Committee.

Article X AMENDMENTS AND ADOP-

TION

Section 1. Amendments: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of a meeting of the Central Committee. Each such proposal shall be investigated by a committee consisting of the Chairman, ~~the Parliamentarian~~ **ONE OTHER MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**, and at least three volunteers from the Central Committee which shall issue a recommendation for or against it within eight days (if the committee is evenly divided then the recommendation shall be against). The proposal, together with the provisions of the Constitution affected by it, and the recommendation shall then be published to the membership of the whole Central Committee. Each member of the Central Committee shall have the right to cast her vote on ratification by a letter over her signature

directed to the Secretary, or another specified officer, and delivered before the Central Committee acts on the question of ratification; members shall be reminded of this right in the proposal. The Central Committee shall not act on ratification until at least fourteen days after the publication. Ratification shall be by an affirmative vote of at least three-quarters of the votes cast whether by letter, in person, or by proxy; if such affirmative votes number at least twenty percent of the entire membership of the Central Committee. Any amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws of the Party shall be filed with the State Administrative Board of Election Laws within thirty days after adoption.



## NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

(Continued from page 1)

representation today and the taxation without representation which led to the protest known in history as the Boston Tea Party. Loud rock music blared from a van across the street, courtesy of a local radio station. Libertarians who had attended previous Tax Day demonstrations noted that the number of people coming to the post office was much smaller than in past years. Although none of the protesters was interviewed at the scene of the demonstration, a Metro Networks interview with Baltimore County Chair Steve Boone was aired on radio stations WQSR and WITH. We also made sure that our signs and costumes were visible in the background

during televised woman-on-the-street interviews. This was the second year the two parties had joined forces with others seeking to change the discriminatory election laws in Maryland. The power of coalition brought the fair ballot access bill within one vote of passing in the General Assembly. Frustrated by this defeat, Reform Party State Treasurer Rachel Mann came up with the idea of linking the annual Tax Day protest to the ballot access issue (which, by the way, she prefers to refer to as an issue of "fair elections," pointing out that these words convey more meaning to the general public). She contacted Susan Gaztanaga of the Baltimore City Libertarian Party,

and the two collaborated on a joint press release, which was faxed to all of the area print and electronic media. The communiqué explained the differences between the two parties, and their area of agreement, as follows:

(Continued on page 7)



## COORDINATORS NEEDED

Scott Becker of *Marylanders For Democracy* is in need of district coordinators to assist with the ongoing effort to change the election laws in Maryland. Scott predicts,

"If this law is not changed, there will not be any third-party candidates on the ballot in 1998. All the coordinators have to do is manage and track the letter writing and telephoning of the volunteers, which will mean managing about 30 to 50 people."

To become a district coordinator, call Scott at (301)589-2177.

# LP UNIFIED MEMBERSHIP PLAN

*(Continued from page 1)*

**The plan, as it stands now, has the following features:**

1. It is completely voluntary. State parties can choose to participate, or not, as they prefer.
2. The existing national dues structure would apply to the unified membership.

3. State parties would not have to pay the cost of doing membership renewals. The national party, which is very good at this (70 percent renew) would bear the cost and organizational burden of renewing members.

4. All expenses for membership cards and new member packages would be paid by National.

5. Checks would come from National to the participating state parties on a monthly basis.
6. Participating parties would get a cut of National's monthly pledge program and of premium membership dues payments.

All dues checks would be made out to "The Libertarian Party" and sent to LPHQ. Your membership forms would bear the national address.

National will then send monthly checks to participating state parties based on current membership levels in their states. The following chart shows how much the state parties would receive on a monthly basis, depending on the number of members they have in each category. The amount is calculated on the last day

of the month using the giving during the last 365 days for each member. Payment is made the 15th of the following month. Payment is at half the rate below for the first six months.

Basic:	\$1 per month per member \$12 per year
Sustaining:	\$2 per month per member \$24 per year
Sponsor:	\$3 per month per member \$36 per year
Patron:	\$4 per month per member \$48 per year
Life member:	\$1-5 per month per member based on the member's last 12 months of giving (\$12 to \$60)

This program allows states to share in the benefits of the higher membership categories, including monthly pledges and life memberships. This has never been possible before.

## How the plan would be phased in:

1. We would unify state and national membership lists, giving each member the latter of two expiration dates. The maximum expiration date from a state conversion would be one year from the implementation date.
2. First year payments to states would be made only on memberships with expiration dates more than one year beyond the implementation date (i.e., we would phase in members as they join, renew, or make pledge payments).

This plan involves minimal additional work for the LPHQ staff, as there would be no distinction in processing for participating and non-participating states.

This plan saves money for participating states by having national pay for the bulk of the renewal work.

*(Continued on page 6)*

**"WE WILL VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL AT OUR PICNIC THIS SUMMER"**

## LP UNIFIED MEMBERSHIP PLAN

(Continued from page 5)

**QUESTION:** Can a state join this program at any time?

Yes.

**QUESTION:** Can a state quit the program?

Yes, after at least a six month trial period.

**QUESTION:** What about county parties?

Many states share membership dues with county parties, and there might not be enough money under the \$25 plan to cover this. But it would still be possible to unify state and national memberships, while allowing county parties to charge an additional amount for receiving the local newslet-

ter. County parties could receive the checks locally first, and then forward the proper amount to National, which would then send money back to the state parties.

**QUESTION:** Do current national members become state members and current state members become national members?

Yes, just as soon as each state decides to participate and sends its membership lists to National.

**QUESTION:** What about new members?

National is constantly sending out huge membership recruitment mailings. All of the people who join as a result of these efforts will instantly become mem-

bers of your organization, too. You will get their names and be able to raise money from them, and recruit them as activists. You'll also get money from National on a monthly basis, as a result of these new members being recruited by National. This has never been possible before. Of course, the same thing applies in reverse. Plus, both state and national parties will have marginal costs involved in sending newsletters to the members we have recruited for each other, but most of the costs of this plan (renewals, membership cards, new member packages) will borne by National.

## FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN

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## NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

(Continued from page 4)

"Founded 25 years ago in Denver, Colorado, the Libertarian Party focuses on reducing government to the basic functions of protecting individual rights and national sovereignty. The newly created Reform Party seeks to reform political campaigns and lobbying, eliminate budget and trade deficits and tackle other long term problems. Both agree that Maryland laws violate basic human rights by preventing minor parties from participating in the political process on an equal footing."

**LIBERTARIANS  
AND OTHER  
GROUPS HAVE  
BEEN DEMON-  
STRATING ON  
TAX DAY...FOR  
SEVERAL  
YEARS**

April 15 is known to Americans nationwide as "Tax Day"--the deadline for filing federal and state income tax returns. Post offices extend their hours on that day to accommodate late filers, with the Main Post Office remaining open until midnight. Libertarians and other groups have been demonstrating and handing out literature on Tax Day for several years.

### A REPLY TO LAST ISSUE'S LIBERTY SOAP BOX

I am an avid gun collector, target shooter and hunting enthusiast. I am permitted in Maryland and Pennsylvania to hunt with a crossbow and from my handicap lift-equipped van. I still "hunt", but I do not shoot any game. I'm especially interested in deer hunting as they are one of the most elusive creatures in the woods. I get the buck in my sights and yell, "BANG!" just to prove to myself that I can still do what I was taught from age eight through my teens. My belief system has changed since a spinal cord injury left me paralyzed in 1982. However, I will continue to advocate hunting and the shooting sports, and perhaps Mr. Levin should "reel himself in" a bit, so to speak, for a very good reason.

I am an NRA Life Member and have been directing other NRA members to visit the LP's web site over the past several months. I have been doing this with some success mainly because of our party's stand on the Second Amendment issue. Many NRA members, when told that there is a party that will always stand behind their Second Amendments rights, they are quite open to contact the National LP and/or their respective states' LP. I should make mention that many of the nearly 4 million NRA members are also avid hunters and outdoorsmen.

I can fully understand Mr. Levin's views on animal rights. As a fellow Libertarian, I am opposed to his view(s), but he certainly has the right to express them. However, he may be doing so at the risk of alienating some of the NRA members here in Maryland that I have, quite possibly, turned into precious votes here in our state.

In short, that was one newsletter I wouldn't dare show to another hunting enthusiast either here or in any other state. The NRA members who do hunt may take enough exception to Mr. Levin's views to be dissuaded from joining our party or even voting for any Libertarians. I am also completely convinced that the NRA remains a fertile area in which our party can grow by leaps and bounds.

I will continue to direct other NRA members to our party as well as respect the fact that Mr. Levin has the right to his opinions. The cost of such opinions, when published in a statewide newsletter, can be quite high, however.

Sincerely,

Barry J. Costello (Baltimore County LP)

.....P.S. - The NRA's web site is <http://www.nra.org>

## A MINORITY VIEW BY WALTER E. WILLIAMS

### PRIVATE VIRTUE PUBLIC VICE

Several years ago, Mrs. Williams and I purchased a condo for my 85-year-old mother because, among other things, we were concerned about her safety going up and down the stairs in her three-story home--not to mention her safety in the neighborhood. For a number of years, we've sponsored several scholarships to enable black students to attend private schools. We've also given financial assistance to various family members who have needed it.

"OK, OK, Williams," you say, "don't think you're the Lone Ranger. I help others out, too--what's the point?" Helping others by digging in one's own pockets is a laudable private virtue. Generosity has always been a key distinguishing feature of American people. We do about 85 percent of all world giving.

Some people say there's not enough generosity to take care of all needs; therefore, we need government. That proposition differs little from saying that if people do not give enough voluntarily, then government intimidation, threats and coercion should be used to take their money. Good people must ask if that proposition should serve as the foundation for a moral society.

Let's go back to my story. Suppose my wife and I couldn't afford to buy a condo for my mom, give scholarships or help family members. And suppose you agreed with me that my mom should have safer surroundings, that black youngsters should have an alternative to rotten government schools and our family members should be helped. Would that consensus justify my private use of intimidation, threats and coercion to take another person's money to finance those worthy goals? "Williams," you say, "that'd be theft, and you should go to jail." I agree.

Here's my question: Would your conclusion change if I managed to get one other person to agree to take someone else's money to finance those worthy goals? What if 10 other people went along with me, or 100, or 1 million, or 269 million other people? From a moral point of view, your conclusion that it would be theft shouldn't change. The only differences would be technique and the number of people involved.

There are many Americans who believe that a majority consensus and legality establish morality. They see private confiscation of property as theft but public confiscation as a virtue, a sign of caring and accepting social responsibilities. Americans who make the pretense of Christian faith act as though God's law to Moses, "Thou shalt not steal," really means "Thou shalt not steal unless you do it legally through a majority vote."

Private efforts to help our fellow man, aside from being moral and praiseworthy, are far more effective. The giver is more likely to become a monitor and part of the solution. Very few of us would, year after year, voluntarily give to people who lay around watching television all day, engaging in self-destructive behavior and making no effort to get a job or educate themselves. We would scold, threaten, help and encourage that person to get his or her act together. That kind of involvement with solutions is virtually impossible through today's government handout system.

I am optimistic. Americans are coming to recognize that a private virtue can easily be a public vice. I'd be even more optimistic if church leaders began to teach their congregations that God did not put any escape clause in his commandment "Thou shalt not steal."

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*"Helping others by digging in one's own pockets is a laudable virtue."*

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**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND**

- \* Automatic membership in our local county chapter ( if one is organized)
- \* Subscription to the *Free State Libertarian*
- \* Full access to the LP BBS, where you can access Libernet, LPUS, and the Maryland LP Sections. Contact Dean Ahmad at (301) 952-0539 for more information.
- \* Maryland DMV-issued organizational license plates for your car. They are available to members for \$16 plus your regular registration fee. Contact Ruth Mayer at (410) 672-5609 for an application.
- \* Discount rate on joint State/National LP membership, which includes subscription to the *LP NEWS*.

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**LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Libertarian Party of Maryland  
4323 Rosedale Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814

- Additional donation toward the fight for liberty in Maryland \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please send my friend a complimentary issue of the *Free State Libertarian* newsletter along with an information packet about the Libertarian Party.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I  do not want to become a voting member of the MDLP Central Committee.

*For new members only:* "I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."  
signature \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become more active within the MD LP. My interests are:

- Membership
- Publicity
- Newsletter
- Electoral Campaigns
- Outreach
- Other

**TOTAL DUE**

- \$15 State/Local Annual Dues
- \$30 State/Local and National Dues

**PAYMENT METHOD**

- Check  VISA  MASTERCARD

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_

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Affinity phone service is available at 8 1/2 cents per minute on long distance. Six percent of bill benefits Libertarian Party. For more information contact Amy Rule at (410) 381-8023.

Heads UP! Liberty Counsel sponsors Victory 2000 in Philly on Labor Day Weekend. More information coming soon.

Look for State Party Summer picnic/ shooting event in early August at Marriottsville Gun Club. A specific date to be announced later.

## AFFILIATE PARTIES/CONTACTS

Anne Arundel  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore County  
Charles Co/So. MD  
Cecil County  
Frederick Co/West Md  
Harford County  
Montgomery County  
Howard County  
Washington County  
Prince Georges County

Allen Ascherl  
Susan Gaztanaga  
Steve Boone  
Stephen Zeigler  
William Grimes  
Wayne Dougherty  
Derek Mancinho  
Glen Howard  
Amy Rule  
Marc Giannoni  
Call Tom Fishbeck at

(410) 519-6311 Boomer 73@concentric.net  
(410) 325-2813 DiazVivar@aol.com  
(410) 628-6170 grover54@concentric.net  
(301) 932-6808  
(410) 885-3240  
(410) 834-6179 WDarty@aol.com  
(410) 836-3104 mancinho@aol.com  
(301) 585-1793 Glenn@upx.net  
(410) 730-7117 AmyRule@aol.com  
(301) 824-2657  
(301) 474-1401 for meetings.

### MD LP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair  
Vice Chair/Outreach  
Coordinator  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Parliamentarian  
Treasurer/  
Fundraising Coor.  
Asst.. Secretary/  
Membership Coord.

Amy Rule  
Keith Halderman  
Glen Howard  
Terry Atwood  
Steve Boone  
Jesse Markowitz  
Joe Miller

(410) 381-8023 Chair@md.lp.org  
(301) 926-1594  
(301) 585-1793 Glenn@upx.net  
(301) 229-4095 TAAAtwood@aol.com  
(410) 628-6170 grover54@concentric.net  
(301) 990-7512 Jesse@upx.net  
(410) 789-3899  
76257.2652@compuserve.com

### OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS/CONTACTS

Maryland LP Info  
National LP HQ  
New Member Infor Only-National  
Libertarian BBS - 24 hours  
Libertarian License Plates  
Ballot Access Information  
Petition Drive Coord.  
Campaign '98 Coord.  
Human Values Network  
Separation of School and State  
Web Page  
State email mailing list

1-800-MLP-1776  
(202) 333-0008  
1-800-682-1776  
(301) 656-4714  
Ruth Mayer  
Scott Becker  
Lauren Hill  
Steve Boone  
Mike O'Mara  
Lorenzo Gaztanaga  
Gary Hicken  
LPMD @CJMCGiver.org

One time fee of \$16. (410)672-5609  
(301) 589-2177  
(410) 343-2049  
(410) 628-6170  
(410) 944-0868 romike@seeker.hermes.net  
(410) 325-2813 DiazVivar@aol.com  
http:www.md.lp.org.

## FREE STATE LIBERTARIAN

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### Calendar of Events

1st and 3rd Sunday  
Every Thursday  
4th Sunday  
2nd Monday  
3rd Monday  
2nd Monday  
3rd Wednesday

Washington Area Libertarian Alliance, Tom Fishbeck's  
Baltimore Libertarian Drinking and Debating Society  
Human Values Network, Mike O'Mara  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Montgomery County Meeting  
Harford County Meeting, Joppa Library 6:30 p.m.  
Frederick County Meeting, 8 p.m.