

Party Recognition Petitions Turned In



Third parties are required to submit 10,000 valid signatures every four years to be recognized as political parties by the state of Maryland. The Libertarian Party submitted a box of 11,759 on October 24th. Shown in the above photo, from left to right, are Mary Cramer Wagner, State Board of Elections Deputy Director; Roy J. Meyers III, Vice-Chair; Chip Spangler, Chair; and Spear Lancaster.

The petition drive took a tremendous effort from organizer Roy, volunteers, and paid petitioners. Of course, this is not a new process for us, since we must go through this chore every election cycle. However, as it turns out, the petition drive continues. The Board of Elections validated 6,665 signatures, which is a major step forward, but we need the remainder to complete the recertification campaign. **Please continue to collect signatures** using the form on page 8, or download a form from the website's main page. Nothing you can do now for the MdLP is more important! Send them to Roy at PO Box 1128, Bel Air, MD 21014-7128.

Continued on page 6

Program Committee Meeting
 12:00 noon Saturday, 21 February
Rocky Run Tap & Grill
 6480 Dobbin Center Way, Columbia
 RSVP to Chip Spangler

Spring Convention
 Saturday, 3 April
 info on page 4

Chair's Report



Welcome to the New Year! 2004 is underway – and we've got work to do!

Our ballot access drive continues. While the state has attempted to throw up roadblocks to stifle third-party ballot access, they will not stop us. I ask everyone reading this to go out and work to collect petition signatures, or do-

notate money so that we can purchase help from others. Once we have regained our ballot access, you and many other Marylanders will be able to become a registered Libertarian voter again.

The legislature is back in session, which seldom means good news. A Legislative Watch Committee is developing in order to keep an eye on Annapolis, and alert our supporters of upcoming votes on bills. As this group does its work, we will all be better informed of what goes on and what we can do to help. Keep in mind that you do not need to be in – or even near – Annapolis to help out with this effort. Details of many legislative activities and schedules are available online, so with Internet access you can watch the delegates from the comfort of your home. I am especially looking for help from those who might have strong knowledge of a particular subject (whether it is homeschooling, drug issues, gun restrictions, business regulations, etc.). Let me know what you can do to help! Call me at 301-346-2361 (if I'm not available to answer, leave me a message) and together we'll work to steer Annapolis in the right direction.

The Executive Board is working to improve the infrastructure of the party. Already, we are better organized as to what outreach materials are available across the state; as this work continues, we

will be better able to put volunteers to work, make the best use of our contributions, and do what needs to be done. This will help both the state party and all of our county affiliates.

The Election Cycle Planning Meeting that was held at the *Rocky Run* restaurant in December was a great success. Thanks to all of the people who came out and worked to plan for the Libertarian Party's future in Maryland. We continue to refine this plan, and work to achieve our mission of a libertarian government in Maryland.

Coming up on April 3 is the Libertarian Party of Maryland 2004 convention. The convention date has been pushed forward a bit in large part due to the earlier National Convention (this year over Memorial Day weekend and not around Independence Day), at which the delegates will elect both a new national committee, and nominate candidates for President and Vice President. I hope that you will join me at the Maryland convention [see page 4 for details]! Check for updates at the Libertarian Party of Maryland website by clicking on the link for "2004 Convention." Also note that possible changes to the state party program (voted on at our convention) will be discussed at a Program Committee meeting on February 21.

Thank you for your support, and hope that you (as I do) look forward to working for liberty this year!

— Chip Spangler



It is my sad duty to report that Ron Crickenberger, longtime activist and a wonderful person, passed away January 20. Until quite recently he was the political director of the national LP. Ron helped many candidates and affiliates, and ran as a candidate himself. Last year, he spoke at the MdLP convention.

I did not get to work with him as much as I'd like to have, but those times I did I was glad to have had the opportunity. The movement has lost a great friend of liberty – he will be missed.

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Editor: Robert E. Glaser

Check www.MD.LP.org regularly for the current event calendar, news, email listserves, photo album, and more! Be certain to submit all of your current event information to LPMD.Event*ICengineering.com 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 2343, Annapolis, MD 21404-2343 1-800-MLP-1776

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

Other List Serves: www.MD.LP.org/email_lists.html

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: (if you're a National member, it's only \$5 more than National-only for both Md + National if you renew through us!); join the Central Committee; become a newsletter subscriber only (send \$15 to above address); and/or register Libertarian (when we get 1% of the state registered, we can run candidates without petition signatures).

Election Cycle Strategy Planning Meeting



Maryland LP activists met December 13 at the *Rocky Run Tap & Grill* in Columbia.

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Chip Spangler	301-346-2361	Chair*MD.LP.org
Vice Chairman	Roy J. Meyers III	410-879-5300	RMeyers*rjcc.net
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-8748	N3IC*ICengineering.com
Treasurer	Joe Miller	410-789-3899	hatsIwear*aol.com
Membership	Steven Sass	410-602-8401	CrestIn*erols.com
Communications	C. David Eagle	301-371-6218	David*MinGovia.org
Fundraising	Nick Sarwark	301-439-2139	Libertarian*Sarwark.org

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open. Contact Chip Spangler for date and location.

County Affiliates

Anne Arundel County	Chris Panasuk	410-636-6112	ChrisPanasuk*yahoo.com
Baltimore City	Susan Gaztañaga	410-325-2813	DiazVivar*aol.com
Baltimore County	Steve Boone	443-386-3977	GoobGrover*netzero.net
Caroline County	Allen Thomas	410-634-1540	gts*crosslink.net
Carroll/Howard County	Kevin Wolf	410-552-0616	Wolf8495*aol.com
Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*LP-CC.org
Frederick County	Mike Barnes	---	MontyBarnes*yahoo.com
Harford County	Roy J. Meyers III	410-879-5300	RMeyers*rjcc.net
Montgomery County	Nick Sarwark	301-439-2139	Libertarian*Sarwark.org
Prince George's County	Jim McLaughlin		JimMc1*hotmail.com
Wicomico County	Graham Couzens	410-726-1733	Objreason*aol.com
Worcester County	William Wolf		wthwolf*yahoo.com

College Affiliates

Campus Coordinator		Campus*MD.LP.org
Anne Arundel Com. College	Aaron Jones	rraverdude*cs.com
Columbia Union College	Derek Pomery	kyberneticist*yahoo.com
Johns Hopkins University	Aaron Back	Amb18*jhu.edu
Loyola College	Jude Daniel Blanchette	
McDaniel College	Andy Ewing	big54*hotmail.com
Salisbury State University	Mike Wilson	Wilson2882*yahoo.com
Towson University	Amy Triplett	ethereal_clarity*inorbit.com
University of Baltimore	Troy Zinderman	TroyZinderman*comcast.net
U. of Md./Balto. County	Rich Goldman	rich1*umbc.edu
U. of Md./College Park	Katrina Groth	LibertyinmyLife*yahoo.com

Join us at the Libertarian Party of Maryland 2004 Convention!

When: Saturday, April 3rd, 2004 (plus other activities on Sunday, April 4th)

Where: *Vitali's Restaurant & Pub*
1709 Edgewood Road
Edgewood, MD 21040

Schedule:

- 9:30 am Registration and Check-In
- 10:00 am State Central Committee Meeting – including regular business plus the following:
- Nominations and Elections for Delegates to the National Convention
 - Nominations and Elections for the Executive Board
- All positions are open for election. Nick Sarwark plans not to run again in order to make time for law school.
- Voting on motions to amend the State Party Program (only motions presented and discussed in the Program Committee meeting on February 21st will be considered)
 - Constitutional Amendment Proposal (constitution online at www.MD.LP.org/docs/mdlpconstitution.html):
Strike the words “as shown on the records of the Election Board of the County in which she is a voter” from Article V, Section 7, Part A-3 and any other places it appears in the Constitution.
- Central Committee members may vote on the constitutional amendment: in person; by mailing a signed letter specifying a vote to the Secretary (Robert E. Glaser, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117); or (for any issue) by proxy (Sign and date a statement designating another member of the Central Committee as agent, granting that agent the power to vote in the Central Committee. Either mail the proxy statement to the Secretary (as above), or the agent should present the proxy to the Credentials Committee upon arrival.)
- 12:00 noon Lunch¹
- 1:00 pm Speakers and Workshops (TBA – check web site for updates)
- 3:00 pm Afternoon Break²
- 3:15 pm Speakers and Workshops (TBA – check web site for updates)
- 5:00 pm Evening Break
- 6:30 pm Dinner Banquet³
- 7:00 pm Featured Speaker (TBA – check web site for updates)
- 8:00 pm Networking, Drinks, and Discussion

Sunday, April 4th:

- Trip to the Ordnance Museum on Aberdeen Proving Ground (unless the base is closed for security reasons).
- Meeting of volunteers and activists to discuss (or continue from Saturday) upcoming activities, legislation, and political action.

¹ **Lunch:** Caesar Salad w/ Herbed Croutons

Your choice of:

- ❶ Chicken Dijonnais (Boneless Breast of Chicken, Glazed with a Dijon Mustard Sauce), or
- ❷ Jumbo Shells, Stuffed w. Cheese, Marinara Sauce

Wild and Brown Rice Pilaff

Garden Vegetable Medley (Broccoli, Cauliflower, and Carrots)

Coffee, Tea, Brewed Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, Assorted Sodas

² **Afternoon Break:** Assorted Cookies and Brownies

³ **Dinner:** Hors D'Oeuvres (Fresh Vegetables, Assorted Cheeses, Crackers, and Mustard Dip)

Garden Fresh Tossed Salad w/ Ranch and Italian Vinaigrette

Your choice of:

- ❶ Sliced Roast Beef (Roasted Top Round of Beef, with Bordelaise Sauce)
- ❷ Vegetable Lasagna w/ Marinara Sauce
- ❸ Flounder Filet in Lemon-Butter Sauce

Herb Roasted New Potatoes

Buttered Broccoli Spears

Apple Pie a la Mode

Convention Plans and Pricing:

Attendees who choose the *Daytime & Lunch* option are entitled to the Lunch at 12:00 noon and all speakers and activities from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. The *Speakers & Banquet* option grants access to the Dinner Banquet and Speaker, and also includes all speakers and activities from 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm. Those who would like to see all speakers (including the banquet speaker), but are not interested in purchasing either lunch or dinner at Vitali's, may choose the *Speakers Only* option. Please note that to meet the early deadline (and the under 21 rate), your reservation must be postmarked by Friday, March 19th.

MdLP April 3, 2004 Convention Payment Form

Discount Deadline: 3/19/2004	<u>Before</u>	<u>Under 21*</u>	<u>After</u>	Name(s):
Central Committee Meeting	\$0	\$0	\$0	Address:
Entire Convention Package	\$60	\$48	\$76
Daytime & Lunch	\$28	\$22	\$36
Speakers & Banquet	\$38	\$32	\$46
Speakers Only	\$34	\$26	\$34

Circle the charges above. Note special needs: Telephone:
(for registration confirmation)

Total Enclosed (payable to the MdLP): \$ _____, or Email:

Charge to: VISA MC AmExp Discover (circle one) Chip Spangler

_____ exp. date: _____ **Mail to** ➡ 11902 Beltsville Dr., Apt. 16
Beltsville, MD 20705

Signature _____ *Under 21 years of age as of 1/1/04 rate available prior to 3/19/04

Hotel Accommodations:

The Best Western hotel is right next to Vitali's restaurant. When you telephone in your reservation, mention that you are registering with the Libertarian Party to receive a room rate of \$59 per night. Call the hotel to reserve your room at 410-679-9700.

Directions:

From Baltimore or Washington: Take I-95 north (you may travel through a toll tunnel) to exit 77A (Route 24). Follow "from the south" directions.

From Annapolis: Take I-97 north to I-895 north (you will travel through a toll tunnel). Continue on I-895 until it merges back with I-95 just north of Baltimore. Take I-95 north to exit 77A (Route 24). Follow "from the south" directions.

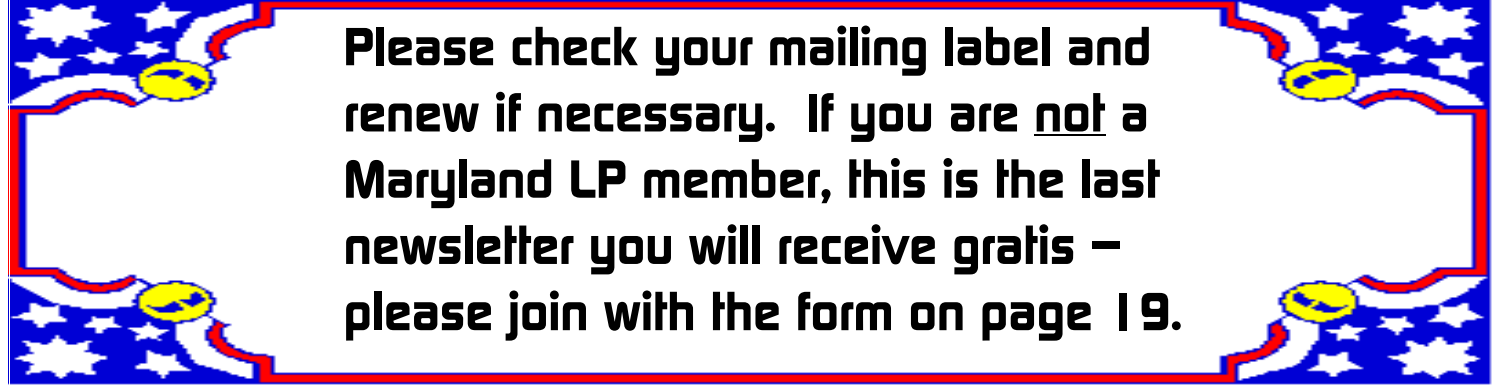
From Frederick: Take I-70 east to I-695 north. Follow I-695 around to I-95 north. Take I-95 north to exit 77A (Route 24). Follow "from the south" directions.

From the south: From I-95, take exit 77A (Route 24) towards Edgewood. The exit will split near the end – stay to the right. The exit lane becomes a right-turn lane from Route 24 onto Edgewood Road. Turn right at the traffic light onto Edgewood Road, and turn left immediately after the gas station on your left. You will go up a small hill and be facing the Best Western. Vitali's is on your left – park anywhere near the restaurant or the hotel.

From Cecil County: Take I-95 south towards Baltimore. Take exit 77A (Route 24). Follow the cloverleaf exit around, and then merge onto southbound Route 24 (after stopping at the stop sign). The second traffic light you will reach is Edgewood Road; turn right, and then turn left immediately after the gas station on your left. You will go up a small hill and be facing the Best Western. Vitali's is on your left – park anywhere near the restaurant or the hotel.

Remember:

Postmark your registration by *Friday, March 19*, to get the lowest rate. We look forward to seeing you in Edgewood on April 3rd! Check the web page for updates.



There are always a percentage of submitted signatures which are invalidated for various reasons, but we were somewhat surprised this time around when the state invalidated 2834 for improper dates. Apparently, many signatures were invalidated because of the failure to include a date with a year next to the signature (e.g., “7/4” instead of “7/4/03”). As a lay person, Roy did the best he could to formulate a lawsuit, and we filed suit against the Board of Elections on December 1. Thankfully, attorney Scott Haiber has picked up the case for us.

As an engineer, your editor is always interested in actual data rather than guesswork – so he spent a couple of days in Annapolis at the Board of Elections office, reviewing the “graded” petition forms (thanks to Spear for assisting). It is always interesting to review results, which are shown at the right.

The *Date* column reflects invalidated signatures for any type of date reason; *NR* indicates the signer is not a registered voter; *WA* that the signer is not in the county claimed; *SI* means bad signature, no or wrong address, or illegible; *DUP* is duplicate; and *CI* reflects something wrong with the petition circulator’s information. Breaking the data down by circulator gives the chart at the bottom of the page. Feedback is often helpful.



Meet our Attorney

As you all know by now, the Maryland State Board of Elections invalidated a large number of our petition signatures for questionable reasons. We decided to challenge their decision in court (filed in the Annapolis courthouse at left), and found a good lawyer to represent us. He is Scott Haiber, who is a principal in Miles & Stockbridge’s Baltimore office. Mr. Haiber also is happy to take our case pro-bono, as long as we pay expenses (which should be minimal). He is a member of the Maryland and Delaware Bar Associations, and graduated with honors from DePaul University in 1991.

County	Valid	Date	NR	WA	SI	DUP	CI
Allegany	19	0	3	0	0	0	0
Anne Arundel	454	246	63	5	2	1	15
Baltimore City	571	115	199	12	17	6	10
Baltimore County	1345	285	383	4	29	15	0
Calvert	133	24	28	2	4	0	1
Caroline	6	1	3	0	0	0	0
Carroll	143	50	28	3	0	3	26
Cecil	608	314	173	18	7	7	41
Charles	38	20	12	0	2	0	3
Dorchester	10	0	1	0	0	0	0
Frederick	109	43	35	2	3	0	0
Garrett	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
Harford	1240	458	165	0	7	4	19
Howard	382	145	78	3	4	10	0
Kent	10	1	2	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	1072	612	414	33	35	15	0
Prince George’s	390	475	224	3	25	7	0
Queen Anne’s	12	3	2	0	0	0	0
Somerset	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
St. Mary’s	46	0	9	1	1	1	0
Talbot	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	25	26	5	1	1	0	6
Wicomico	22	12	4	2	0	0	0
Worcester	9	0	3	1	0	0	4
Entire state totals	6668	2834	1836	90	137	69	125
SBE figures	6665	1526	1841	83	1472	66	103

Valid + Date: 9502
Total submitted: 11,759
Percent valid: 57%
Percent valid + Date: 81%

If you cannot collect petition signatures, please donate cash for paid petitioners!

Circulator	Valid	Date	NR	WA	SI	DUP	CI	Total	Valid +Date	% Valid	% Valid +Date
* Jacob C Witmer	1622	803	567	28	56	13	19	3108	2425	53	79
Spear Lancaster	817	25	197	9	16	3	22	1089	842	76	78
Roy J Meyers III	723	341	106	8	3	2		1183	1064	62	90
* Michael Davis	371	253	109	4	6	3	19	765	624	49	82
Bill Buzzell	359	29	90	1	3	4		486	388	74	80
Tony Spezio	267	5	70	4	6	1		353	272	76	78
* Robert M Ewing	245	818	239	13	11	7		1333	1063	19	80
Russell Kominski	197		23		1	1	10	232	197	85	85
Banner Segraves IV	148	72	30	5				255	220	59	87
Chris Panasuk	129	62	42	1	4		13	251	191	52	77
* Michael Callahan	124	254	113	6	3	9	1	510	378	25	75
Mike Linder	124	30	14		1	1		170	154	73	91
Kevin Wolf	109	11	26	1	2			149	120	74	81

This chart lists all circulator names shown on forms who had over 100 valid signatures accepted. It only includes those which were turned in on October 24. Others assisted at fairs by engaging visitors in conversation and drawing attention to our petition requirement.

Some are paid petitioners (*), but I am flabbergasted at the quantity turned in by some of our volunteers. **Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

The rest of us can take encouragement from these prolific workers, and probably a few tips as well!

— Robert E. Glaser

Thank You for circulating the petition to recertify the Libertarian Party in Maryland! Circulating a petition is a solemn responsibility; please take a few moments to review the *State Board of Elections requirements for valid signatures and petitions*:

1.) County: Signatures must be separated by county. Make sure the signer uses a sheet for the county where he or she is registered to vote:

Allegany	Charles	Prince George's
Anne Arundel	Dorchester	Queen Anne's
Baltimore City*	Frederick	St. Mary's
Baltimore	Garrett	Somerset
Calvert	Harford	Talbot
Caroline	Howard	Washington
Carroll	Kent	Wicomico
Cecil	Montgomery	Worcester

* use checkbox (not the blank) for Baltimore City

2.) Signers Information:

- a. Date - must be a complete date with a year component, preferably in mm/dd/yy format. The Board of Elections will invalidate the signature if the date is incomplete, **MAKE SURE** it is complete.
- b. Print Full Name – Must be at least one given name written out, initials of others, and surname.
Bob Smith, S. Thomas Jones are good,
R. L. Fuchs – BAD.
- c. Address – Street address – no PO Box unless signer insists the Board of Elections has it as their mailing address.
- d. City and Zip – No HDG or G’burg, write it out: Havre de Grace, Gaithersburg. Zip is a no brainer.
- e. Date of Birth – If the signer is hesitant, ask for just the month and day. Sig won’t necessarily be invalidated because of a missing date of birth.
- f. Signature – they must sign as they printed.

The Board of Elections will take a signature if the signer mixes up the printed and signed blocks. But your best bet with that, or any other signer mistake (copied DOB etc.), is to start a new sheet after that signer – so no one else does it.

3.) Circulator’s Information Block: Fill out your name, address, city, state, zip and phone. If you are bulk collecting, feel free to use your return address labels as long as you have your name written out (see guideline 2.b.). Be sure to write your phone number.

4.) Circulator’s Affidavit/Signature and Date

- a. Says you are 18, provided correct info for yourself, witnessed each signer, didn’t make up signatures, only let registered voters sign.
- b. Sign it **AFTER** the last signature is affixed. (Sign as you printed in the circulator’s information block.)
- c. Date - must be a complete date Please use mm/dd/yy format – and be sure to date it on or after the last signature date on the sheet.

If all the above criteria are not met, signatures will be invalidated. So please be conscientious.

Petitioning Technique:

Petition on sidewalks or public and private property where you have permission. **DO NOT** get arrested. Be friendly, courteous and respectful to everyone.

“Excuse me [Sir, Ma’am, Folks]... Are y’all registered to vote in Maryland? – Great! I am circulating a petition to recertify the Libertarian Party in Maryland, I only need about 4,000 more signatures to finish, can you help me out? Great... Registered in X county? ok... just fill this out, today is mm/dd/yy... please print legibly, sign in the last box. . . we won’t send you anything. [When finished] Ok... date, I can read your name... dob, signature. Great. Thank you so much for helping – have a great day!”

If someone doesn’t want to sign, let them go. There are plenty who will sign. About half the people who answer YES to being registered, will sign.

Send your completed petitions here:

Ballot Access Drive
c/o Roy J. Meyers III
PO BOX 1128
BEL AIR, MD 21014-7128

Thanks! Call 410-879-5300 if you have questions or need help finding a good location to go petitioning.

State of Maryland - Petition to Form a New Political Party

We, the undersigned voters of _____ County or (check if Baltimore City), support the organization of a political party to be known as the _____ Libertarian Part:

The State Chairman is: _____ Charles P. Spangler _____, Address: _____ 11902 Beltsville Dr. Apt. 16, Beltsville, MD, 20705 _____.

NOTICE TO SIGNERS: *Please print or type all information other than your signature. Post-Office Box addresses are not generally accepted as valid.* By signing this petition, you agree that the above-named party should be recognized as a political party in Maryland and that, to the best of your knowledge, you are registered to vote in the County or Baltimore City named above and are eligible to have your signature counted for petition purposes.

Please Note: The information you provide on this petition may be used to change your voter registration address.

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	PRINT FULL NAME	VOTER REGISTRATION ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	DATE OF BIRTH	SIGNATURE, SAME AS PRINTED
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

FOR ELECTION BOARD USE ONLY

Total Number of Signatures _____

Number of Invalidated Signatures _____

Number of Valid Signatures _____

Endorsed by: _____

Individual circulator's printed or typed name _____

Residence Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT

Under penalties of perjury, I swear (or affirm) that: (a) I was at least 18 years old when each signature was obtained; (b) the information given to the left identifying me is true and correct; (c) I personally observed each signer as he or she signed this page; and (d) to the best of my knowledge and belief: (i) all signatures on this page are genuine; and (ii) all signers are registered voters of the County or Baltimore City indicated at the top of this page.

Watch out for the escaped Gorilla

In a fashion typical of Americans in the post 9/11 world, we have been so preoccupied with international affairs that we have all but completely ignored our domestic problems. While all of our minds have been consumed by Iraq, Bush's \$87 billion request, the UN, and more, we have forgotten what has been going on in our own country.

The news media has successfully pulled the wool over the eyes of our nation, and I hope to lift it.

You might have guessed by now that I'm talking about one of our most grave national problems: escaped zoo animals.

Yes, you heard right. A 300-pound gorilla escaped from Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, unleashing its bestial fury unto the unsuspecting populace for nearly two hours before being sedated with tranquilizer darts. During the animal's (known as Little Joe) rampage, he apprehended a two-year-old girl, throwing her to the ground and jumping on her, in addition to injuring a teenager.

But did you, the average American, ever hear about this chaos? And if you did, then did you hear that handlers still do not know how Little Joe was able to escape and run amok? Or how this was his second escape in two months? This gorilla was still being exhibited after already violating authority and wreaking havoc. Handlers have now learned their lesson, but not until it was almost too late.

Okay, I've taken this anecdote a little far, but it just struck me a perfect metaphor for what is happening in this country right now.

While our national interest is diverted abroad, a rogue and violent George W. Bush has escaped his handlers in the White House, and is currently running amok with his entire cabinet in tow.

I'm speaking in particular about a recently leaked draft of a document entitled "Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003," dubbed by most, however, as "Patriot Act II." For those who are not familiar with II's predecessor, the original Patriot Act is an enormous, 342-page document that was rushed through Congress in the wake of 9/11.

Taking advantage of general desire for increased national security, this act severely curtails our civil liberties, allowing for drastically increased surveillance of all Americans (especially those not even suspected of committing any crime), often with no connection to terrorism. Since the Patriot Act is still so young and its provisions so expansive, many of its eventual effects remain unknown.

In many respects, PA II is a lot more of the same, but with one important difference. Luckily for America's status as a free country, many of the provisions of the first Patriot Act are temporary and "sunset" after a certain period of time.

USAPA II, however, has no such provisions; all changes are permanent. Changes include (but are hardly limited to) the fol-

lowing: Businesses are encouraged (often pressured) to volunteer information about you without court order or subpoena, police can instantly access your credit report with no limits or oversight, and the government has new authority to exact information from ISPs, friends, relatives, businesses and others without your knowledge.

Using PA II, the government can create and keep dossiers on innocent people, watching and documenting your activities both online and in the real world, often without needing so much as a subpoena.

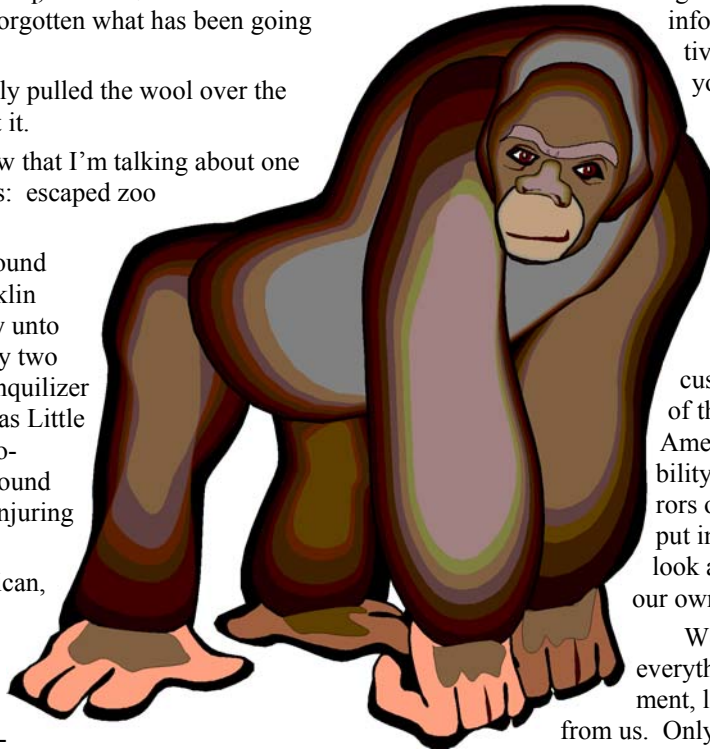
This act has been written and discussed largely without the knowledge of the public. As participants in the American democracy, it is our responsibility to see through the smoke and mirrors of the international problems being put in front of us and manage to take a look at the threats coming from within our own shores.

We must manage to keep abreast of everything proposed within our government, lest more of our liberties be stolen from us. Only the American people can provide the tranquilizer darts for the 300-pound gorilla running through the White House.

— *Zachary Goodman*

ZGoodNJ*jhu.edu

Reprinted from the Johns Hopkins student paper, the News-Letter. The author is a freshman from Warren, N.J.



Grocery Store Customer Cards



Just a reminder that while those "Loyalty" cards might save you a few pennies at the checkout counter, your buying habits could end up in the hands of government agents. According to a recent FoxNews.com story, at least one national grocery chain voluntarily handed over records from its database – and cardholders were never informed that their personal information had been shared with the government.

— *Lauren Hill*

Of course, if the wrong name, address, and phone number is listed, one wouldn't receive mailed coupons, but then again...

Saul Baker (1952-2003)

On Sunday morning, August 2, 2003, Saul Baker died of leukemia. He was 51 years old. Those who knew him know that he was very active in the Maryland LP for the past fifteen years or so, first in Montgomery County, and in more recent years, in Baltimore County. However, not many people knew that for many of those years he was afflicted with a progressive blood disease which at first did not affect his activity at all. The symptoms were only blood counts that appeared to be a little below normal and only needed monitoring. The diagnoses in those first years had various names but not leukemia. Life proceeded pretty much as before. Later, however – as the disease progressed – he began to need medications, and then transfusions, in order to keep the blood counts near normal. Finally, early in 2002 Saul had worsened to the point that the transfusions became too frequent; he was too weak to continue working, and had to stop his active participation in the MdLP. Even at that point he didn't really look or act particularly sick. He was just lacking in energy, which of course is what happens when your blood just isn't doing its job of getting nutrients to the body.

At that point, we all had to face the fact that his condition was likely to progress into leukemia: the only possible remedy was a bone marrow transplant, and so the search for a donor began. His siblings were tested first, but ironically none of us were a close enough match to be used. The search then expanded to the national bone marrow donor list, where a 90% match was found – which was good enough to proceed – but even then, the odds of success were only 50:50. Meanwhile Saul and his wife Wendy had been researching the various treatment centers that specialized in such transplants. They settled on the Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and went out there in June of 2002. Saul first had a series of chemotherapy treatments to kill his diseased bone marrow, and then the transplant that September. By January 2003 everything was still looking good, and he returned home. However, by February the blood counts were once again not good, and it was clear that the transplant had failed. We all knew that if the transplant failed, there was no alternative treatment. There was no “plan B”. All that could be done at that point was more chemotherapy treatments in the hope of driving the leukemia into remission. By July it was clear that that wasn't working either. Saul had only months to live, but we (or at least I) clung to the hope that months meant at least into December, or maybe even into 2004. So even though I was visiting him as often as I could, when I saw him in the latter part of July I didn't realize that the end was so near, or that I had seen him for the last time.

When Saul was born I was 14 years old, so Saul was truly my “baby” brother. It might seem that such a relatively great difference in age, and therefore stage of life, might have kept us somewhat apart. Actually quite the opposite happened, it led to our being quite close. By the time Saul was a cognizant and preco-

cious toddler, I was in the midst of the “know-it-all” teenage stage, and so I decided to be his mentor, stimulating his intellectual growth and giving him the benefit of my “wisdom.” Of course, by the time I married and he was entering his teenage years, the mentoring was pretty much over with – but the closeness between us remained. And that, of course, included our commitment to libertarianism and the Libertarian Party. It's always tough to lose a family member. It has been especially hard for me to lose my “baby” brother with whom I had such a lifelong rapport.

Saul, like the rest of us, had a life beyond the MdLP which I think also deserves some mention. His professional life was spent as a computer programmer (a typical LP member!). He started with the federal government at the Bureau of Standards (now

NIST) and then moved on to various private companies, most recently at T. Rowe Price where he helped to develop software used for customer relations applications. He and Wendy had a love for horses, which was the reason they moved from Rockville to Baltimore county – where they bought a five acre spread with a horse barn, and cared for three horses. They both were also cat people, with two outside cats and three inside cats. One of the inside cats was particularly devoted to Saul, and Wendy tells me that that cat has shown very visible signs of missing him. Saul and Wendy were both avid skiers (Wendy was the instigator for that) and Saul very much enjoyed swimming (that new spread included a very nice pool). He also got a great deal of pleasure out of reading, and he particularly recommended the Harry Potter series to me.

Saul is survived by his wife, Wendy Liebman Baker (they had no children), his father Albert Baker of Hollywood, FL, his two brothers Jay Baker of Rockville, MD and Howard Baker of Silver Spring, MD, and his sister Regina Baker of Chapin, SC.

Contributions in Saul's memory may be made to either the Brian Zikmud-Fisher Foundation HLA Registry Foundation, 70 Grand Ave. Suite 103, River Edge, NJ 07661-1900, which assisted Saul financially in seeking treatment, or to The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, 1100 Fairview Ave. NJ 5-200, P.O. Box 19024 Seattle, WA 98109-1024, which performed the transplant and provided the associated medical care.

— Jay Baker

JayRBaker00@yahoo.com

Saul was often present at Baltimore County LP meetings, and I believe that he served as county chair for some time. Whenever I put out a call for help with mailing preparation for this newsletter, Saul invariably showed up to work. I will surely miss his gentle soul. – REG



Verifiable Voting

This is a follow up to the article “The New Voting Machines” in the March 2003 *Free? State Libertarian*. That article describes a problem with the new electronic voting machines. They don’t produce hardcopy audit trails. The software in the machines can be manipulated so that votes are not counted in the way that the voters intend. And there is no way to detect the fraud.

There have been articles in the *New York Times* and the *Baltimore Sun*, among others. It’s an issue from Maryland to California.

And the problems are already being documented. The Democrats went to court in Dallas because the votes cast for a Democrat were counted for the Republican in at least 17 of the machines. In other cases, the vote totals for candidates have come up zero. There are people that have said to the media that their vote did not get counted because they voted for one that got none. Without hardcopy audit trails, there is no way to verify it.

People are beginning to demand that printers be installed. But the manufacturers of the voting machines are raising objections. One told Linda Lamone, of the Maryland State Board of Elections, that it would cost \$1,000 to \$1,200 per machine. This is absurd. People buy black and white inkjet printers for less than \$50. And these cheap printers print a whole page. I suspect that

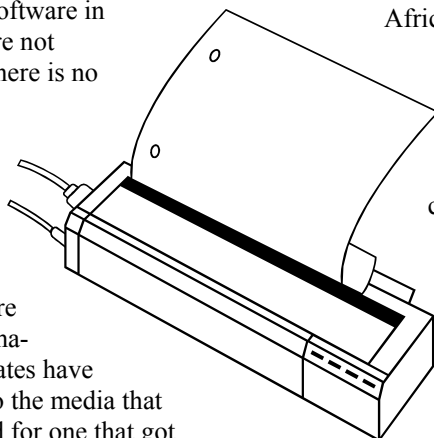
someone could buy receipt printers for less than that. The kind that prints receipts at Walmart or Sears is all that is needed.

Another objection raised is that it would disenfranchise African Americans. The votes are displayed after the voter finishes. A button at the bottom asks the voter if the screen is correct. When the voter pushes “yes,” a paper audit trail of the screen prints. Then a button asks the voter if the paper ballot matches the screen. The voter compares the two, and pushes “yes.” Some say that African Americans can’t handle this. I’m not making this up.

The objections can best be described as a conspiracy to destroy democracy in America. I’ve always believed that when the people get tired of tyranny, they will vote Libertarian. After this, it makes me wonder how many are voting Libertarian, but are not being counted.

Perhaps democracy has already been destroyed. Anyone interested in reading more may go to www.TrueVoteMD.org. There are many articles. Not just about Maryland, but other states as well. I highly recommend the video “True Vote Maryland” that is on the home page.

— Luke Bryan



Corporate Avenger: *Freedom Is a State of Mind* (2001, Suburban Noize)

A hardcore punk band whose message is “primarily personal responsibility and compassion for others.” What more could a Libertarian punk fan ask for? Corporate Avenger is that band, and their latest release, *Freedom Is a State of Mind*, delivers that message.

Their songs rail out at oppression in various forms: from drug laws, to taxes, to religious persecution. Some of their lyrics are explicit, and some of them present very aggressive messages (“The Bible is Bullsh*t” comes to mind), but they are all thought provoking.

In “Taxes Are Stealing” the band puts an aggressive edge on a familiar Libertarian idea. Calling out the IRS as being like the friends of the Little Red Hen, only there when it’s time to eat the bread, they present a powerful case for tax reform to stop the use of our tax money to oppress people or prosecute wars (on drugs or countries). The refrain sums up the message best:

Well taxes are stealing and I get the feeling that we’re
getting f*cked in the ass
They take what they want to whenever they want to
And our needs they always come last

“FBI File” points out the destruction of civil liberties brought on by the War on Drugs:

FBI got a file on me
Too many cages in the land of the free
Join us now as we make our plea
Set all drug offenders free.

Never one to play favorites, the band makes sure that all the three-letter agencies (CIA, FBI, DEA, IRS) get their share of the rage.

Corporate Avenger is not for everyone, but in a world of leftist bands like Rage Against the Machine it’s a nice change of pace to hear a Libertarian message. I’d rate it an 8 out of 10. For more information about the band, or to order the CD, visit the band’s www.CorporateAvenger.info website.

— Nick Sarwark



The IRS May Be On Its Way Out!



I have written earlier about a **realistic** way to abolish the Internal Revenue Code, the IRS, payroll taxes, inheritance taxes, misleading “business taxes,” and FICA taxes. Many Libertarians recognize H.R. 25, the FairTax, as a practical way to end the mess the complicated tax system establishes. One of the leading candidates for the Libertarian Presidential nomination, Michael Badnarik, has officially endorsed it, while Gary Nolan has positive thoughts

about it [photo with Spear Lancaster at Steve Sass’ home below right, courtesy Erica Brown], and may endorse it soon as well. In Maryland, our standard bearer in the governor’s race, Spear Lancaster, is the State Director for FairTax.

Of course, there are those ideological stalwarts who claim “no tax is fair,” and urge reverting to a government small enough that excise taxes will cover the full cost of government. I find that attitude simplistic and irrational – on par with those who will not work for medical marijuana because *all drugs* should be available, **now!**

Go to the www.FairTax.org website to get a full idea of what is involved, but here is a brief summary of the legislation’s main points. The FairTax bill will:

- Repeal the federal income tax in its entirety, including all corporate and individual income taxes, payroll, self-employment, alternative minimum, capital gains, estate and gift taxes. There will be no paycheck withholdings; gross income will be net income.
- Eliminate the IRS and its intrusion into American families and businesses. No one will ever again have to file a federal income tax return. This will eliminate \$250 billion that the American taxpayers spend each year on compliance; \$250 billion is three percent of the gross domestic product.
- Impose a revenue neutral retail sales tax on all new goods and services for personal consumption. All federal benefits and expenditures, including Social Security and Medicare, will be fully funded by a dedicated income stream from the FairTax.
- Zero the sales tax for low and fixed income Americans with a monthly rebate equal to the sales tax on purchases up to

the poverty level. According to the Department of Health & Human Services, the current poverty level would require a rebate of \$172 per month for a single adult, \$465 per month for a family of four. With this, no American pays tax on the purchase of necessities.

- Remove all federal taxes embedded in prices, thereby lowering costs by 20 to 30 percent so that when the FairTax is applied, retail costs will be essentially what they are now.
- Make American goods much more competitive, thereby increasing good jobs in the U.S., and decreasing jobs being moved out of the U.S.
- Allow everyone to receive 100% of their earnings, and control the amount of tax they pay with their purchasing decisions.

Among organizations already endorsing FairTax are: *American Farm Bureau Federation* – in mid January 2004, this 5,000,000+ member group voted to make FairTax a priority issue; *Associated General Contractors*; *Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE)*; *National Taxpayers Union*; *National Small Business United*; *Physicians Who Care*; and *World Taxpayers Alliance*.

If you want to do more than rant on a corner, complain to your friends, and get upset with things that seem to be getting worse, join me and others in working for H.B. 25. Enactment will not only be a wonderful accomplishment in itself, but you will have an opportunity to pass other Libertarian ideas on to those who see FairTax as a great relief to their burdens. There are **over** 10,000 people signed on to FairTax just in Maryland, and I am taking groups to meet with each of the state’s congressional delegation – the reception has been *very good*.

— *Steven Sass*

Regional FairTax Coordinator



Two Reports of the Same Story Offer Disparate Views



The November issue of the *FIIA Newsletter*, in its story “Jury Power in Action,” reports on the tax protest case of Vernice Kuglin. She told her trial jury that she wrote the IRS as early as 1995 requesting they inform her of what law required her to pay income tax, and received no answer; the jury returned not guilty verdicts on all counts. While the report is factual, it presents the case in a positive light. The exact same case is reported in the August 8 *Washington Post*; but it is portrayed as a failure of the justice system.

There is a big difference in reporting this **wonderful** news. There are people within the Libertarian Party who fervently support the institution of a flat tax. Why? I wonder. Could it be that they have been led to believe, as the *Washington Post* article states, “It’s doubtful that many Americans truly believe that taxes are voluntary...”? According to past IRS Commissioner Margaret Millner Richardson, “Constructive IRS oversight is absolutely essential” because the tax system “relies heavily on taxpayers’ confidence.” Confidence in what? That if you don’t do as we

say – even though we can’t justify our actions with any *law* – we’ll make your life a living hell. Read: False Evidence Appearing Real. In a letter dated Feb. 20, 1996, Director of Public Inquiries Vincent Sanudo states, “the Social Security Act does not require an individual to have a Social Security number to live and work in the United States, nor does it require an SSN simply for the purpose of having one. However, if an individual works without an SSN, we cannot properly credit the earnings for the work performed.” If having an SSN were mandatory, one would be issued to you **without** filling out an application! When you know the **law** you can live free. The Save-A-Patriot fellowship (www.Save-A-Patriot.org, 410-876-6342) has been helping people understand and live in accordance with the law as it is written. Please keep an open mind, learn all you can, make sure statements pertaining to taxing **you** can be substantiated by law – not fear and intimidation.

— *Lauren Hill*

Note that not all such tax cases have had similar outcomes. Visit www.GiveMeLiberty.org for information on the recent Dick Simkanin case.



The estimated value of Canada’s marijuana production – up to \$7 billion – exceeds its farm receipts of both cattle (\$5.63 billion) and wheat (\$1.73 billion), or the \$4.3 billion taken in by forestry and logging. Only oil and gas extraction, worth \$15.8 billion, is worth more.

Some police think the battle may well be over. Rollie Woods, head of vice and narcotics enforcement for the Vancouver police department, noticed indoor growers throwing out unwanted leaves and dirt at a site the city uses for refuse collection. He told the staff there to note the license plate numbers of every such farmer but called off his plan a few months later. “There were hundreds [of cars]. No way we could track them all.” At this point he supports legalization, if only so he can concentrate on Vancouver’s growing crack problem.

“If it wasn’t for pressure from the U.S., we’d just regulate this,” says Woods, who has all of six agents pursuing the pot trade. Investing millions more in a crackdown may be of little consequence, he adds. “You could give me a hundred people, and it wouldn’t make a difference.”

— from 10 November *Forbes*



“The record is truly plain. Socialism, wherever it actually had the means to plan a society, to pursue efficaciously its vision of the abolition of private property, economic inequality, and the allocation of capital and goods by free markets, culminated in the crushing of individual, economic, religious, associational, and political liberty. Its collectivization of agriculture alone led to untold suffering, scarcity, and contempt for property as the fruit of labor.”

— *Alan Charles Kors*

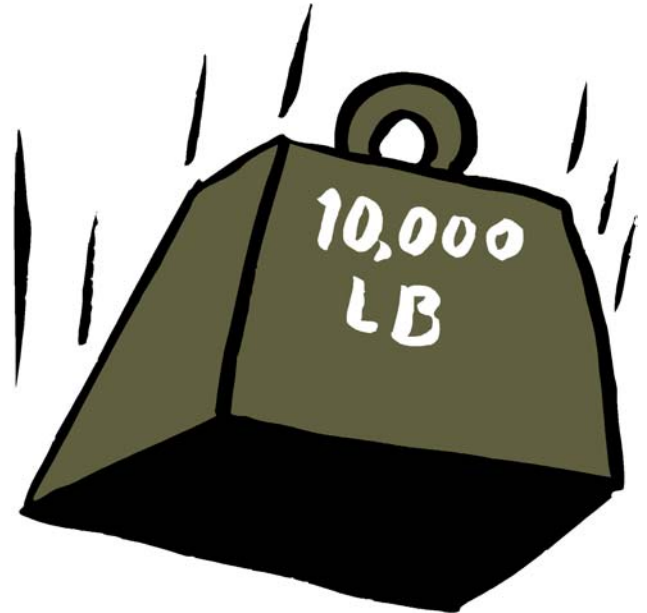
— from September 2003 *Navigator*



Traditionally the champions of small government and states’ rights, President Bush and his allies in Congress have aggressively pursued policies that expand the powers of Washington in the schoolroom, the courthouse, the home, and the doctor’s office.

Sometimes over the objections of states – and often at the behest of business – Republicans have passed or are promoting legislation and regulations that make Washington the final arbiter on environmental standards, class-action lawsuits, medical malpractice cases, and Internet taxes.

— from 3 January *Baltimore Sun*



“If that’s the only way, then I’m all for destroying their machines.”

— Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah on technology to punish people who illegally swap music, videos, and software over the internet

from 7 August *EDN*



Central Committee Meeting — Sunday, 23 November 2003



Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at the *Comfort Inn* in College Park, Prince George's County, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 1:58 pm by chairman Chip Spangler. Prior to the meeting, the following were distributed: the Treasurer's report and an agenda; Constitutional Amendment Proposals 1-10 and the Minutes of the 13 July 2003 Central Committee meeting were mailed in advance.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee validated that 23 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Additionally, four proxies and one proxy vote were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 68 members.

Minutes: The reading of the minutes was waived; the minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: Joe Miller gave a verbal report on the convention, resulting in a net profit of \$688.80. We received \$298 this month in monthly credit card pledges. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Chair's report: Chip Spangler advised potential delegates to the national convention to research the LP presidential candidates; we will try to get them to appear at our state convention to be held in April. He announced a meeting to be held at 1:00 pm on December 13 at the Columbia *Rocky Run Tap & Grill* to bring together activists to prepare for this Maryland election cycle.

Constitutional Amendments: Proposed amendments 1, 5, 6, 7, and 8 passed on a voice vote. Proposed amendments 2, 3, and 9 unanimously passed on a voice vote. In amendment 4, a typographical error was corrected; it then unanimously passed on a voice vote. Proposed amendment 10 failed with 13 for, and 7 against votes. Proposed amendment 10 was then reconsidered: it then passed with 17 for, and 5 against votes.

Petition Drive Update: Doug McNeil reported for Roy J. Meyers III: we turned in 11,756 raw signatures: the Board of Elections found 6,665 valid, and 5,091 invalid. Half of the invalid signatures were rejected for the date being entered without a year. We are trying to get the decision reversed, but we need an attorney, which we don't have. Depending upon that outcome, we are either about 3,300 or 800 short. Chip Spangler asked people to collect more signatures or donate money for petitioning purposes.

Fred Childress, Region 5 Representative to the LNC: acknowledged Lorenzo Gaztañaga as a "person of principle"; Fred said that it was an incredible joy to work with Lorenzo on the LNC. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) has been a thorn in the side for the LNC. David Owens from PA is our new alternate – he moved from AZ where he was a bridgebuilder with regard to the libertarian factional difficulties there. The national office has cut staff, but will be bringing its level back up now that the finances are in order; there are plans to hire an editor for *LP News* shortly. Fred asked those interested in party strategies to pass along comments to him. His email address is FChildress*Fastmail.fm and he noted that members can participate in ongoing listserv discussions by joining the Region5LNC*YahooGroups.com group.



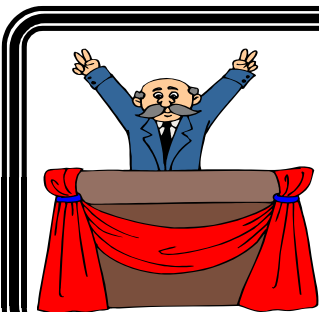
Proposed Constitutional Amendment: Strike the words "as shown on the records of the Election Board of the County in which she is a voter" from Article V, Section 7, Part A-3 and any other places it appears in the Constitution. The proposed amendment passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Announcements: Doug McNeil informed all that the candidate petition signature requirement has been struck down as a result of the Green Party lawsuit; the state submitted a motion for reconsideration of that finding, which was denied except for one minor point. The legislature reconvenes in January, but he is not aware of any adverse proposed legislation yet. He is worried that they will drop the party signature requirement in order to reinstitute the candidate signature requirement. We need people to monitor legislation online, talk to state representatives, and to testify with a cross-party ballot access group. David Eagle reported that Roy J. Meyers III and he have been setting up a telephone tree, and requests participants; he solicited helpers for Executive Board responsibilities which are too great for one officer to handle alone. Chip Spangler said that a manual of Standard Operating Principles is nearly done. Lorenzo Gaztañaga praised Doug McNeil, Roy J. Meyers III, and Fred Childress.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser

This is a condensed version of the official minutes, which have not yet been approved by the Central Committee. Approved minutes can be found at www.MD.LP.org/docs/cc/ and the party constitution at www.MD.LP.org/docs/mdlpconstitution.html



Contemplating Running for Public Office?

Please contact David Eagle

County Line: Nuts and Bolts of local politics for County Affiliates

Prospecting registered Libertarians in your county:

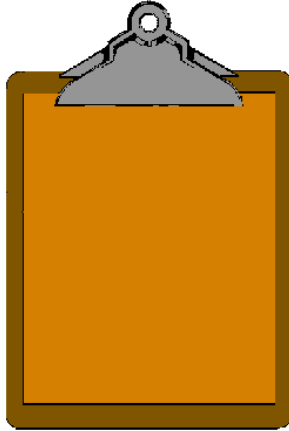
You need a few clipboards – one for a petition, one for a state party membership application, and a sign-up sheet. Might be helpful to have an old copy of *LP News* or the *Free State Libertarian*, or an extra CATO Constitution as an inducement.

Get your list of registered Libertarians, and pick out ten names that are near you. Visit these people, and ask them to:

- ① sign the petition;
- ② join the state party; and
- ③ get involved in the local party.

Of three people I was able to talk to one weekend: one bought a membership and signed the petition, another said come back – and another signed the petition and said to ask him again about joining later. This only took about two hours (sometimes people weren't home, or had moved, and driving to and finding the houses took up most of the time).

You may be thinking "I'll wait 'til spring to get started on this" – however – I have read in a fundraising book that rain, sleet, snow, or extreme heat and cold do not materially affect the results of door-to-door canvassing. So you can get started right now! If you need extra copies of the *Free State Libertarian*, CATO Constitutions, or any of the forms mentioned – just contact me and I'll help you get set up to go prospecting!



Spice up your LNO:

Don't just sit around *talking* about gun laws – go *shoot some guns*... Eat dinner first, then go shooting at your local range. Lots of fun.

Have a speaker – The Free State Project contacted me (and probably many of you) about giving a talk on the project. We had Phil Denish (PDenish*CBIZ.com) out and drew a great crowd; it was a good time and very informative. Phil would be happy to do a presentation at your LNO! I am trying to set up our March and April LNOs in advance so that I have enough time to get an announcement out on the local access cable channel, and in the papers under community events. My goal is to make the LNO not only a fun time to hang out with good folks – but an outreach tool – the place where we tell new prospects to come, the place where prospects show up to see a speaker, and then get involved in the party.



What are you doing?

Let me know what you are doing in *your* county that works.

— Roy J. Meyers III

Top 10 Tips for Successful State and Local Parties

(with apologies to David Letterman)

10. Maintain an accurate, up-to-date database of members and prospects.
9. Send out a prompt, professional information package to interested prospects, and timely membership renewal notices to current members (if the state or national party doesn't handle this for you).
8. Engage in ongoing, constant prospecting to increase the size of the organization.
7. Publish a regular, decent-quality newsletter to keep members and prospects informed. Use the newsletter to publicize activities and successes.
6. Have a bank account, a treasurer, and an ongoing, *implemented* plan to raise money.
5. Run candidates for political office whenever possible. Monitor election results or registration numbers which affect ballot access.
4. Be active in the political system – whether through elections, referendums, lobbying, or whatever.
3. Have regular, publicized, productive, and interesting public meetings. Hold regular meetings of party leadership to plan strategy and projects.
2. Form an organized media outreach plan – which can include press releases, press conferences, and personal contacts to promote the party and earn publicity.
1. Have leadership dedicated to growth, success, and professionalism; be determined to avoid factionalism, arguments, and obstructionism. Party leadership has a solid, realistic vision for success.

Ah, that pesky DATA!

As reported in the Johns Hopkins *Gazette*, the Federal Aviation Administration is contemplating new regulations to require children under age 2 to ride in approved child-restraint seats on airplanes. Right now, these children may fly in a parents' lap, free of charge. David Bishai, associate professor with the Department of Population and Family Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said: "Nobody disputes that airborne infants are safer in child safety seats than in parents' laps. But they are safer in a lap in an airplane than in the safest car seat, in the safest car, on the safest road. Even if we put aside the entire issue of automobile crashes and assume that nobody would switch from flying to driving, mandatory infant safety seats would rank as the most expensive life-saving intervention on record."

In his editorial, Bishai explains that parents who pay \$200 for an airline seat for their infant purchase a reduction in risk of infant death that translates into \$1.3 billion per life saved. He argues that although there are plenty of worse things to spend \$1.3 billion on, there are also plenty of ways to save more than just one life with this amount of money.

Don't Ask, Don't Tell

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft is visiting an Elementary School. After 15 minutes speaking, he says, "I will now answer any questions you have."

Bobby stands up and says: "Mr. Ashcroft, I have 4 questions:"

1. How did Bush win the election with fewer votes than Gore?
2. Why are you using the American Patriot Act to limit civil liberties?
3. Why haven't you caught Osama bin Laden?
4. Where are the weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq?

Just then, the recess bell rang and the kids rushed out to play. Upon returning, Mr. Ashcroft said, "I'm sorry we were interrupted. I will answer any questions you have."

A little girl named Julie stands up and says: "I have 6 questions:"

1. How did Bush win the election with fewer votes than Gore?
2. Why are you invoking the Patriot Act to limit civil liberties?
3. Why haven't you caught Osama bin Laden?
4. Where are the weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq?
5. Why did the recess bell ring 20 minutes early?
6. Where is Bobby?

— from the internet



Bill Buzzell, Steve Boone, and Earle Pearce make picnic arrangements for a combined Baltimore City/County Libertarian Party meeting

Dan Canon, chief executive of Centerville National Bank, said most community bankers support efforts to thwart terrorists. But the volume of recordkeeping is onerous, he said. And the benefits and costs of the new regulations are often debated in the bank's lunchroom.

"At what price do we get security?" he said. "How many civil liberties do we give up, if any? We're really accustomed in this country to being able to come and go and do as we please."

— from 7 September *Baltimore Sun*

Amnesty International first, the good...

In the spring 2003 issue of *Amnesty Now*, it reported: "The USA Patriot Act and post 9/11 executive orders, for instance, allow government officials to bar the release of detainees and to overturn the bail set by immigration judges. The legislation also authorizes the FBI to conduct wiretaps that it need never disclose and to initiate secret searches without having to show probable cause. The FBI can even force librarians to report which books a patron reads and to ban the library from telling patrons about the feds' demand."

...and now, the bad

The winter 2003 issue of *Amnesty Now* reported: "In October, Amnesty International, along with Oxfam and an international coalition of 500 gun control groups, launched an international campaign to control the global arms trade. They are demanding that all governments end arms shipments likely to facilitate human rights abuses. The coalition is also telling governments to take steps necessary to protect their own citizens from gun violence. 'Unregulated or loosely controlled weapons sales within countries permit the internal trafficking of weapons that put guns into the hands of torturers and murderers,' AIUSA executive director William Schulz told a rally at the United Nations in July 2001. 'The fact that such killers can all too readily gain access to guns and destroy lives in this country should be seen as a critical human rights issue.'"

Ruth Andrasco collecting petition signatures at the Libertarian Party booth at the Reister's Towne Festival on September 6/7



Editor's Corner



This edition was a bit delayed because we have been concentrating on finishing up (and paying for) the ballot access drive. The next issue is slated for June. Thanks to this issue's contributors.

We have an excellent opportunity this election cycle for running candidates for public office. The court ruled in favor of the Green Party's ballot access lawsuit. The result is that there now is but a single hurdle for us: the *party* must achieve state

certification by collecting 10,000 valid signatures (which is unchanged), but our *individual candidates* do not additionally need to collect signatures. (Independent candidates still must collect signatures.) An often heard question from the public is, "Who are your candidates?" Let's take advantage of this chance: the state legislature is in session – no ballot access rule is safe for long. Completing the ballot access drive becomes paramount for running local candidates in addition to getting the LP's presidential nominee onto Maryland's new unverifiable touch screen voting machines.

Please Explain this to me

I must have brain lock, I just don't understand how this is possible. As reported in the 7 December *Baltimore Sun*, Medicare beneficiaries will not be allowed to buy insurance to cover their share of prescription drug costs under the new Medicare bill. A little-noticed provision of the bill prohibits the sale of any Medigap policy that would help pay drug costs after Jan. 1, 2006. Free-choice, non-fraudulent insurance policies are now outlawed? (Overheard in a prison cell... So, what're 'ya in for?... "I bought an insurance policy!")

TECHNOLOGY vs. Liberty

The process of universally placing black boxes into automobiles marches forward. Presently there are arguments over whether to use standards developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, or those created by the Society of Automotive Engineers. As reported in the 21 July issue of *Electronic Engineering Times*, some claim that tens of thousands of lives could be saved if the vehicle-based data recorders were to be universally implemented. Others, however, warn that the data from such devices could end up in the hands of insurance companies or others that could, for example, use it to gather information on the driving habits of high-risk drivers.

The carmakers say they are squarely behind the idea of using crash data to improve safety, but argue that they must keep control of the data to prevent it from landing in the wrong hands. They are afraid that they will be asked to record more information than is necessary to further the goal of automotive safety.

According to 11 August *Forbes*, a California company, Road Safety, is now selling \$280 consumer "event data recorders" for ambulances, police cars, and – parents – to monitor their teenagers. I'm not saying that there is not value in some of these applications. But we need to tread carefully. We are already tracked in our air flights and E-ZPass toll systems. The day may not be far off when our every mode of transportation is reported to the Feds.

— Robert E. Glaser



In the News

The *Owings Mills Times* printed **Robert Glaser's** letter on December 18, originally titled "Who Owns 'Historic Home'?" and changed by the paper to "Designating site as historic only a ruse by individuals." It concerned the tactic of getting the county to categorize private property as a landmark to prohibit demolition and modification. (The only response received was an invitation to join the Baltimore County Historical Trust!)

Gerry Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on December 17, titled: "Imagine, somehow we survived without government oversight." He pondered how it is that in earlier times we survived absent all the laws since passed to control our safety and behavior.

Washington Jewish Week published **Doris Gordon's** opinion piece on partial-birth abortion legislation on December 4.

Doug McNeil had his letter printed in the *Washington Post* on November 14 regarding federally funded faith based organizations. In part, he wrote: "... President Bush described the role of religion in his own life, saying that 'the best way to help the addict ... is to change their heart.' Maybe so, but not on my dime... If the government funding of religious conversion is not an establishment of religion, then nothing is..."

Gerry Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on November 12; he urged the county to offer free parking at its meters and county-owned garages during the holiday season much like Alexandria, Virginia does.

The *Baltimore Sun* published **Mike Dobak's** letter, "Smuggler offers key lesson on security failures" on October 24 about the incident of Nathaniel Heatwole outwitting the TSA. He wrote in part: "...He obviously was concerned that a lot of the hoops we jump through in order to board an airplane were just facades to give the public a warm, fuzzy feeling of safety..."

The (Montgomery County) *Gazette* published **Gerry Schneider's** letter on October 15 where he urged the county to end subsidies for builders. "...Let developers alone pay for all infrastructure: roads, water supply, sewer drains, power lines, schools and other amenities. This will automatically encourage construction where infrastructure already exists and can be sensibly upgraded if needed."

On August 14 the *Owings Mills Times* printed **Robert Glaser's** letter on the topic of outlawing smoking in bars and restaurants in Baltimore County: "Free State to Disappear with Smoke?"

The *Baltimore Sun* published **John Wyrwas's** letter on August 9, "Ballot competition is antidote to elitism" regarding the Maryland Court of Appeals decision on the Green Party's ballot access lawsuit. He is an incoming student at UMCP and identified himself as a Libertarian Party member.

Nick Sarwark continues to make monthly appearances on the *Metrotalk with Jerry Phillips* radio show on 100.3 FM and 980 AM (first Sunday of the month, 8:10 - 9:00 am). Go to the URL www.MD.LP.org/audio/ to listen to archived show recordings.

Congratulations to our public advocates. Please send in reports of your successes, too!



The LP booth at Essex Day Festival, September 21 (photo courtesy Bill Buzzell)



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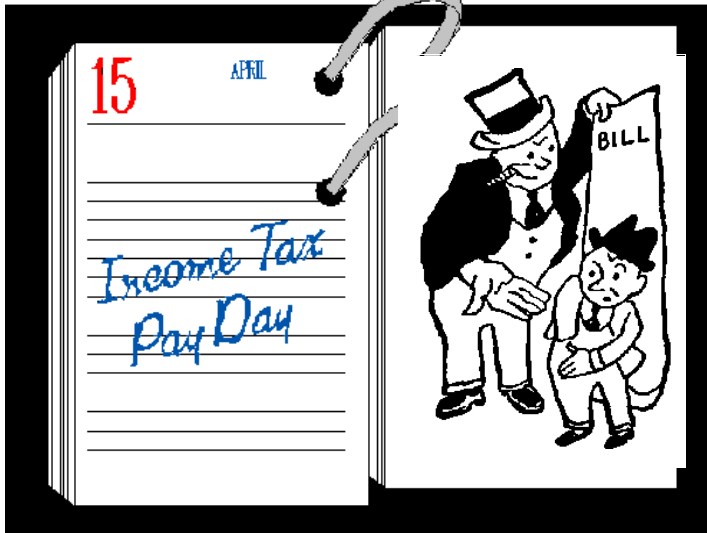
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— *Steven Sass*

COMING EVENTS

Note: consult www.MD.LP.org/events/ for up-to-date info. Contact numbers for persons listed on page 3 are omitted here. Regularly scheduled events are listed separately on the back page. *Please mark your calendars now!*



- February 10 (Tuesday): 7:30 pm. MdLP Executive Board meeting in Takoma Park. Nick Sarwark
- February 14 (Saturday): Frederick Douglass and Terry Atwood memorial day (MdLP Central Committee resolution 2/20/99)
- February 21 (Saturday): 12:00 noon. MdLP Program Committee meeting at the *Rocky Run Tap & Grill*, 6480 Dobbin Center Way, Columbia, MD 21045. RSVP to Chip Spangler
- March 19-21 (Friday-Sunday): Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania convention at the Harrisburg Hilton, with Dr. Walter E. Williams. Ken Krawchuk (Chair*LPPA.org), www.LPPA.org
- April 3 (Saturday): MdLP Convention. See page 4
- April 15 (Thursday): Tax Day protests
- May 1-2 (Sat.-Sun.): Towsontown Spring Festival. Steve Boone
- May 27-31: (Thursday-Monday): National LP convention, Atlanta
- June 5 (Saturday): Sunfest in Rising Sun. Banner Segraves (BSegraves*do1.net)

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Libertarian Party of Maryland www.MD.LP.org/join-form.pdf **Membership Form**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

County: _____ Email: _____

Phone: day _____ evening _____

New National Members Only

The National LP requires all members to sign in agreement with the following statement: "I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals." 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.

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Combined MdLP/National dues \$30

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- County organization
- Campaign help
- Public Relations
- Other: _____

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of Maryland
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Annapolis, MD 21404

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): verbally certify your registration status and your agreement with the non-aggression principle with your local chapter officers or the state Membership Director, Steven Sass. For more information, contact Steven at Crest1n@ero1s.com or 410-602-8401.

www.MD.LP.org

Regularly Scheduled Libertarian Gatherings

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-of-events: visit www.MD.LP.org/events/ (often!). Check page 3 for contact numbers not listed here.

Libertarian Night Out (Rockville): 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm at *Bennigan's*, Rockville Pike in Federal Plaza near Twinbrook Pkwy. (behind Texaco gas station). Nick Sarwark

LNO (College Park): 4th Tuesday, 7:00 pm at the *94th Aero Squadron*, 5240 Paint Branch Parkway. Jim McLaughlin

LNO (Harford Co.): 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Location rotates. Roy J. Meyers III

LNO (Riva): 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 pm at *Mike's Crab House* on 3030 Old Riva Road, Riva. Chris Panasuk


LNO (Glen Burnie): last Thursday, 7:00 pm at *Romanos Restaurant*, 6905 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie. Chris Panasuk

Cecil County Libertarians: 4th Wednesday, 7:00 pm at the *Rising Sun Public Library*. Dave Sten

Gallery Gang (Annapolis): 7:45 pm Mondays through April 12 to lobby legislators. Spear Lancaster (SpearLib@aol.com).

Metro Talk: 1st Sunday, 8:10 - 9:00 am. Nick Sarwark on the radio, stations WBIG 100.3 FM and WTEM 980 AM.

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