



The State Board of Elections has reported our petition “sufficient,” and now the Libertarian Party of Maryland is again a recognized state party.

Thanks to everyone who sent in a signature (or a stack of them), sent money for petitioners, sent money to pay for legal expenses... *thanks to all of you who helped.*

«Hooray!»

I bet you are tired of me asking you for signatures and money... I sure am tired of asking you – and my feet are tired from *collecting* signatures. So we can all take a little break.

decertified every two general elections and then required to yet again collect 10,000 signatures to be recognized.

You may ask yourself “Where am I going to find 35,000 people willing to register Libertarian?” – the answer is: pretty much anywhere. Fairs, festivals, college campuses, even bars – anywhere you can talk to hundreds of people in the course of a few hours.

We can talk more about registering other people later – but for now – remember to **register yourself** Libertarian at your earliest convenience. You may get a mailing from your local Board of Elections, or you may get one from us... or you can go down to your Board of Elections and do it this week – register Libertarian.

Ok, break’s over. While we needn’t collect signatures again until next year – we must get our Libertarian registrations cranked up to stratospheric levels. If we do this well enough we will never need to collect a signature for the party again.

The Libertarian Party of Maryland is now (again) recognized by the State Board of Elections.

Until the SBE prints the new forms with our check-box, just check *Other* and write- in: *Libertarian*.

We now look forward to the November election and think about how we

The only sure way to solve ballot access problems permanently is to get a critical mass of registrations. The magic number for us is something upward of 1% of the electorate, or with some rounding, at least 30,000 Libertarian registrations. A final goal hasn’t been set, but I think somewhere in the 35-40k range is reasonable.

will support the campaigns of Badnarik for President and Beatty for Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Judge. I have been told we want to have 2-3 million votes for Badnarik across the country – that means Maryland’s quota is 40,000 to 60,000 votes – we have our work cut out for us. Steve Beatty believes he can WIN for Circuit Court Judge – if we come together from all across Maryland and support this, our only local campaign, we may have the first Libertarian Judge in Maryland!

Once we have these registrations, we will no longer be

Please support your Libertarian candidates – get involved in your state and local parties and lend a hand. Join me! Working together we can make the *Free State* Free Again.

Thank you,
— Roy J. Meyers III, Chairman




MLP Picnic //
Central Committee Meeting
Saturday, July 24
see page 4 

Yes, a Libertarian Judge!

The campaign to elect Steve Beatty to the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County was announced at the State Convention this year. To my knowledge, he is the only candidate that we are going to have on the ballot in the whole state of Maryland. This can be a *good* thing. If we, as a state Party, work hard and rally for this campaign, **winning** becomes a possibility. A single county organization alone is not strong enough to do this at this time. A win in this county election would be a boon to all of us – a strong showing in this race can help spring-board us into the 2006 elections by giving us a success story to refer to. With luck, all counties will be able to field a number of candidates in that election, if this one goes well.

There are three things that we need from every one of you to have a strong showing. The first thing is money; this is a pure truism of any campaign for office: an election cannot be won without it. The second thing is more money; a campaign can never have enough to cover all expenses. The third is volunteers; people are needed to spread the message. Volunteers are needed, both before and on Election Day, to perform such important duties as handing out literature, making phone calls, and supporting our fundraisers.

Election Day itself is vital to our success. Literature handed to voters on that day could prove pivotal. So many people go into the polls not even knowing the names of those running for Judge. Since these elections are often unopposed, campaigns are rarely hard to run. Our opponents may be spending a lot of money, but most people still do not know their names. While this tactic alone will not win the race, a flyer given as a person walks up to vote may sway enough people to prove quite significant.

There are 142 polling places in Anne Arundel County. The county only has 22 dues paying members. This is obviously not enough. Any help that you can offer, be it financial help or even just an hour of your time, will be welcome and appreciated.

Emails can be sent to me, and I will be attending the picnic. Contributions to:

Beatty for Judge
8290 Elvaton Road, Millersville, MD 21108

— *Chris Panasuk*

MdLP Dues Change

Effective 1 August 2004, the MdLP-only (Maryland + county) dues is \$25/year; the combined MdLP/national rate is \$35/year. Members may renew up to one year in advance at the appropriate before/after 1 August rate (in other words, you can renew before then at the old rates).



Tawes Crab & Clam Bake

The time has come once again for this event. You will have a chance to see many political types. I would like to put in the order ASAP. Let's not wait till the last day.

www.crisfieldchamber.com/clambake.htm
1:00 - 5:00 pm Wednesday, July 21, 2004
Somers Cove Marina, Crisfield, Maryland
(Nearly in Virginia on the eastern shore)

“All You Can Eat” Menu: Steamed Crabs, Fresh Fried Fish, Clams (Raw Bar, Steamed, & Fried), French Fried Potatoes, Corn on the Cob, Onion Rings, Watermelon, Beverages.

\$30 Donation – includes free mug and mallet!

The initiated know to bring a box to help carry the food. We plan to arrive early and get a nice spot under the pavilion so that we may be seen by all. Wear a shirt with a Libertarian logo. This will be the fifth year in a row for us.

You can order tickets by sending \$30 to Michael Linder, P.O. Box 1261, Edgewood, MD 21040. If paying by check please make it payable to Michael Linder.

“We have a two party system. The Democratic Party, which is a party of *no* ideas. And the Republican Party, which is a party of *bad* ideas.”

— *Lewis Black*

Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

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Email: LPMD.Newsletter*ICengineering.com (preferably)
Mail: LPMD Newsletter, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117
Fax: 509-984-4250. Newsletter submissions are solicited.

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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

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

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

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TowsonTown Spring Festival



The event held on May 1/2 was a success despite dire warnings of thunder showers. At left, Spear Lancaster collects more party rerecognition petition signatures as Bill Buzzell solicits more. Center: Steve Boone, Susan Gaztañaga, and others answer questions at the busy booth. Right: The Quiz draws attention.

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Roy J. Meyers III	410-879-5300	Libertarian*ryjcc.net
Vice Chairman	Chip Spangler	301-346-2361	Chip4Lib*yahoo.com
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-8748	N3IC*ICEngineering.com
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Fundraising	Robert Johnston III	---	rstanley21018*yahoo.com

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open. Contact an officer for date and location.

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Baltimore City/County	Steve Boone	443-386-3977	GoobGrover*netzero.net
Caroline County	Allen Thomas	410-634-1540	gts*crosslink.net
Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*LP-CC.org
Frederick County	Glen Litsinger	301-831-5832	kosmik*adelphia.net
Harford County	Roy J. Meyers III	410-879-5300	Libertarian*ryjcc.net
Montgomery County	Nick Sarwark	301-526-7491	Chair*MontgomeryLP.org
Prince George's County	Jim McLaughlin		JimMc1*hotmail.com
Washington County	Connie Stillwell	301-739-9427	mcrabcakes2000*yahoo.com
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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



What: Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

Date: Saturday, July 24 (rain or shine)

Location: Hallowing Point Park (not far from Prince Frederick in Calvert County)

Schedule:

1:00 - 2:30 pm: picnicking

2:30 - 3:30 pm: Central Committee meeting (no charge)

 Ratification of "New Political Party" Constitution per Board of Election requirements

3:30 - 5:00 pm: refreshments

Cost: \$5.00 if you notify Chip Spangler (chip41ib@yahoo.com or 301-346-2361) by July 20 of your attendance

\$7.00 without advance notice

Early payment is preferred, but you may pay "at the door" if you wish.

Send checks to: Libertarian Party of Maryland, P.O. Box 2343, Annapolis, MD 21404-2343

Directions to Hallowing Point Park:

From the **Eastern Shore** –

- Take either US Route 301 S or US Route 50 W to the Bay Bridge (note there is a toll at the bay bridge)
- Merge onto MD-2 S Solomons Island Rd via exit number 23A toward MD-450/Parole/Prince Frederick
- Enter next roundabout and take 3rd exit onto MD-2 S Solomons Island Rd.
- Turn slight right onto Hallowing Point Rd (MD Route 231)
- End at 4755 Hallowing Point Rd, Prince Frederick, MD

From **Harford, Cecil**, and parts of **Baltimore** counties –

- Take I-95 S toward Baltimore
- Merge onto Harbor Tunnel Trwy (I-895 S) via exit number 62 – this is where I-895 and I-95 split – get into one of the two left lanes (note there is a toll at the tunnel)
- Merge onto I-895 Spur S via exit number 6 toward I-97 S / Annapolis / Bay Bridge
- Merge onto I-97 S toward Annapolis / Bay Bridge
- Follow "From I-97" directions

From the **Baltimore beltway** –

- Take I-695 to exit 4; take I-97 S toward Annapolis/Bay Bridge
- Follow "From I-97" directions

From **I-97** –

- Take the MD-32 W/MD-3 exit #7 toward Bowie/Odenton
- Merge onto Crain Hwy
- Crain Hwy becomes US-301 S/Blue Star Memorial Hwy/N Crain Hwy
- Merge onto MD-4 E toward Prince Frederick
- Turn slight right onto Hallowing Point Rd/ MD-231
- End at 4755 Hallowing Point Rd, Prince Frederick, MD

From **Frederick/Montgomery** County –

- Take I-270 S towards Washington
- Take I-495 East (the capital beltway)
- Take exit 11, MD Route 4, south/east toward Upper Marlboro
- Route 4 will merge with Route 2
- Turn slight right onto Hallowing Point Rd/ MD-231
- End at 4755 Hallowing Point Rd, Prince Frederick, MD

If you need assistance or have other questions, contact Chip Spangler at 301-346-2361 or chip41ib@yahoo.com.



Park Rules:

- Boisterous, threatening, or indecent conduct will not be tolerated
- Alcohol is prohibited

Talkers vs. Doers



To the right is a poll that I ran recently on a Libertarian discussion board where everything from anarchy to Carter's foreign policy (yes, Carter's) is dissected and debated passionately. The world's problems could be solved on a daily basis, *if only everyone listened to these guys*. But when I posed the question of what these great thinkers are doing to implement their

amazing ideas, you could hear the crickets chirping. Sadly, this is typical of the party as a whole. It seems that Libertarians are sharply divided between those who do, and those who just talk.

That dichotomy would be fine, were it not for the contingent of Talkers who seem determined to keep the Doers from accomplishing anything. Has anyone heard of the Losertarians? You know, those Libs who would rather lose every election "with a heart that's pure" than run a candidate who could go far, but would be an ideological compromise? Not all Libs are so extreme, of course. But I have on several occasions been stunned by the lack of interest in or support for our Doers, on both the local and national level. That is absolutely inexcusable. No ideology is so important that it trumps the LP's need to make political progress and to assist our activists in achieving their goals.

I'm all for the promotion of our ideals, but let's implement that promotion around one central truth: **We are a political party**. Our purpose is to gain ballot access, run viable candidates, and *win elections*. End of story. You will note that there is no addendum stating the need for litmus tests of ideological purity or for pushing one's pet issues at the expense of retaining new members. In my view, we should wholeheartedly embrace any supporters we can find, regardless of how "big L" or "little l" Libertarian they are. If you are not interested in achieving political goals and growing our ranks, then it is my belief that you belong in a debating society, not a political party. But under no circumstances do you belong in the way of the Libs who are trying to take this party to the next level.

Whether you like it or not, politics is all about compromise. It is time for us to wake up to the truth that there is rarely, if ever, a time when any political party gets exactly what they want. Successful political parties state their case, lobby their allies, and fight for as amenable a deal as they can get for their side. If Libertarians are to make any progress as a party, we need to start following that model rather than clinging to fantasies of taking Washington by storm. But we also need to realize that if we continue to promote our ideals and are open to compromising when necessary, we will get them implemented. It won't happen all at once, and certainly won't happen as fast as some of our Libs would like. But it **will** happen.

Let me be clear that I advocate compromise as not an endpoint, but rather, a beginning. There will be plenty of time for Libertarians to promote the entire platform. But in order to get non-Libs to even want to hear us, we must first ① address the issues that non-Libs care about, and ② promote the issues that we care about in a more reasonable, less extreme manner than we have in the past. That is the only way to gain the members and allies that we will need to give the George Bushes and the John Kerrys of the world a run for their money. And make no mistake; we need the support of those non-Libs if we're ever to realize the dream of a Libertarian Congressman, Senator, or President. No,

"This question is about those who talk, vs. those who do. Since Libertarians love to hear ourselves talk, I'm wondering how many of us here actually back it up with action?"


I vote Libertarian:

 61% (17 Votes)


I am involved in my state's Libertarian organization:

 14% (4 Votes)


I am involved in the national Libertarian organization:

 4% (1 Vote)

I am a Libertarian candidate for office:

 0% (0 Votes)

I just like hearing myself talk:

 21% (6 Votes)

we're not there yet, but we're getting closer. Imagine how much closer we'd be if we got out of each other's way and helped, rather than hindered, each other's efforts.

In a party as diverse as ours, it is hard to address everyone's concerns and pet issues as much as we would like to. But if a Doer's plan doesn't jibe with your ideals, I would urge you to consider another option besides blocking or tearing down their efforts. The LP has room enough for all of us to promote what we want to, and I'm of the strong belief that no activist should be discouraged just because someone disagrees with them. If you want to promote a different cause, then do it! Nothing is stopping you from championing your own causes and being a Doer on your own behalf. If you are just not a Doer, then at the very least, support those who are. Write a check. Sign a petition. Staff an outreach booth. But do not, under any circumstances, confine your activism to merely talking about being a Libertarian. Michael Badnarik's campaign needs your help, and so do your local activists. The time for "solving the world's problems" is over. The time for **working** to solve those problems is now.

This election year is ripe for Libertarians to make huge strides on the national and local levels. With the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal, the aggressive insanity of President Bush's foreign policy, the "backdoor draft," the budget deficit, (and on and on) there is no excuse for us to not have the biggest election year yet. Absolutely none. If the Libertarian Party can't succeed in drawing voters when the Democrats and Republicans are stumbling this badly, then Libs have no right to even pretend to be a viable alternative. The Big Two are handing us an opportunity to shine. Will you take advantage of that opportunity and do the work necessary to show Maryland that the alternative to Bush/Kerry fatigue is Michael Badnarik? Or will you just sit around talking about those who are?

Lead, follow, or get out of the way.

— Shannon McMenamin

National LP Convention



For those of you who didn't know, the national Libertarian Party held its presidential nominating convention over the Memorial Day weekend in Atlanta. The agenda included nominating the Libertarian candidates for President and Vice-President, as well as electing the officers and at-large representatives of the governing body of the Libertarian Party (the Libertarian National Committee), forming an LNC region so we could elect a regional representative, many workshops, a concert, a banquet, lots of

speakers, and other activities.

This is the second convention I have personally attended; the first was two years ago, in Indianapolis. While the convention in Indy was quite good, I think this one was even better. Unfortunately, one cannot possibly attend all events that take place, especially if one is at most of the business meetings. I encourage everyone who can to attend the national convention in 2006, wherever it may be. There's much more than the business meetings to keep you interested.

Friday started out with the platform retention vote. This is when all of the delegates decide whether or not to retain each plank of the platform (a majority vote keeps it, otherwise it is dropped). Generally, all platform planks are retained, and this year was no exception. What was different, however, was that the next item of business was a major format change to the platform. George Squyres of Arizona and other fine members of the 2002 platform committee had worked hard to change the existing platform into a format that makes more sense to people, and fill in the gaps where needed. Each plank was changed so that it had four parts – the Issue, the Principle, the Solution, and the Transition. To make these special platform changes, a two-thirds vote was needed on each part of the process, and in the end all of those votes were successful. While I do not think the platform is perfect (and I doubt I ever will) I do think it is much improved, and it will hopefully help libertarians to communicate our ideas better to the public.

Friday night brought out some great entertainment – several musicians performed onstage in the hotel, including blues great Jimmie Vaughn. Then, and at other times, attendees visited hospitality suites, meeting candidates for both the presidential and vice-presidential nomination and LNC candidates. After a good (or not that good) night's sleep for the delegates, Saturday's business session brought much more debate on the platform. The delegates passed all of the plank changes that the Platform Committee of 2004 recommended for passage, and then discussed other changes proposed by delegates. You can read the LP plat-

form online at www.lp.org/issues/platform/.

Between business sessions and the evening debate (more on that later), state delegations discussed among each other how to form LNC regions so that we could elect our regional representative. The region we have been in for the past two years, known as Region 5, included Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and DC. That was expected to change, however, as another region which included New York and the New England states needed to add one more state in order to continue as a region. It was assumed (and later proven correct) that New Jersey would be leaving our region to join theirs, which would leave us a bit short of the required number of members to form a region. However, we were in luck. A Midwest region which included North & South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois, generously offered to join with us to form a double-region in which each group of clustered states would elect their own representative and alternate. They had more members than were required to form a region, and their extra members joined with us would be enough to give the region two representatives and two alternates. With that in mind, we joined them, and formed "Region 5 East" and "Region 5 West". Region 5 East consisted of all of the states of the old region 5 except for New Jersey. Our "sub-region" selected Jim Lark of Virginia to be our representative, and Chuck Molton of Pennsylvania to be the alternate.

The biggest business of the convention was, of course, to nominate candidates for president and vice president. Conventional wisdom prior to the start of the convention was that the race for the presidential nomination was a two-way contest between former radio talk show host Gary Nolan of Ohio, and former Hollywood producer Aaron Russo of Nevada. Back in 2003, however, the race seemed to be a two-way race between two different candidates – Nolan and computer programmer / constitutional lecturer Michael Badnarik of Texas. Russo did not join the race until early 2004, but quickly became a popular choice in libertarian polls, and along with Nolan looked like he had a strong chance to win the nomination. Badnarik, campaigning on a shoestring budget, became a clear but distant third in the polls. There were several other candidates who were running but had done little campaigning and raised little money – David Hollist of California and Jeffery Diket of Louisiana.

But then came Saturday evening, and with it the presidential debate. A standard was set in order to participate in the debate (regarding money raised and other minor qualifications) and it included Badnarik, Nolan, and Russo. According to many of the delegates, the clear winner was Badnarik. He appeared more composed and relaxed than the others, and gave what the delegates thought were the best answers, giving a clear and concise message, often what would make a great sound bite. It made for a



very interesting vote on Sunday, when the delegates would select the candidate.

On Sunday, the first ballot included Badnarik, Diket, Hollist, Nolan, Russo, Drew Carey (who some delegates had petitioned to have on the ballot), and None Of The Above (which is always on the ballot). Diket, Hollist, and Carey received minimal votes, but the other candidates were dramatically close – Nolan had 246, Badnarik 256, and Russo 258. Badnarik had surged from an assumed third place to a strong second place on the first ballot.

After motions were discussed and passed, the three candidates receiving the fewest votes were dropped from the ballot, leaving Badnarik, Nolan, and Russo to fight it out. On the second ballot, Nolan's total was almost identical, Badnarik had five votes more than Nolan, and Russo had about 30+ votes more than either one. But nobody had a majority, so the candidate with the lowest vote total (Nolan) was dropped. A motion was made and passed to give Nolan a few minutes for a concession speech, at which time he endorsed Badnarik. Nolan and Russo had not gotten along with each other during the campaign, and so Nolan supported Badnarik, who he had met many times along the past year and a half at state Libertarian Party conventions. With that, the third ballot was taken, and Badnarik was clearly the winner, and hence he became the Libertarian Party nominee for President of the United States.

Richard Campagna, who made a round-trip of about 2000 miles from and back to Iowa to visit Maryland at our delegates meeting in early May, was elected as the Vice-Presidential candidate for the Libertarian Party. He had three contenders, most

notably Tamara Millay (who recently won a local election in Missouri). Campagna won the nomination on the first ballot.

In the elections for the Libertarian National Committee, Mike Dixon was elected to be the new chair of the national Libertarian Party, defeating George Phillies and Ernest Hancock. R. Lee Wrights, editor of the web site LibertyForAll.net, was elected to the position of vice-chair. The current secretary, Bob Sullenstrup, who had become the secretary a few months ago when Steve Givot resigned, was re-elected to that position. Mark Nelson was elected as Treasurer. The delegates also selected five persons to be at-large representatives: Mark Rutherford of Indiana, Rick McGinnis of Texas, BetteRose Ryan of South Dakota, Bill Redpath of Virginia, and Admiral Michael Colley of Alabama. Adm. Colley won a random tiebreaker with Sean Haugh of North Carolina, who had both received 185 votes and tied for 5th place on the ballot. The Judicial Committee was also selected at the convention.

I want to thank all of the delegates and alternates from Maryland who attended the convention. We had nearly a full delegation, which is

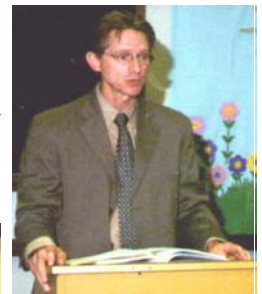
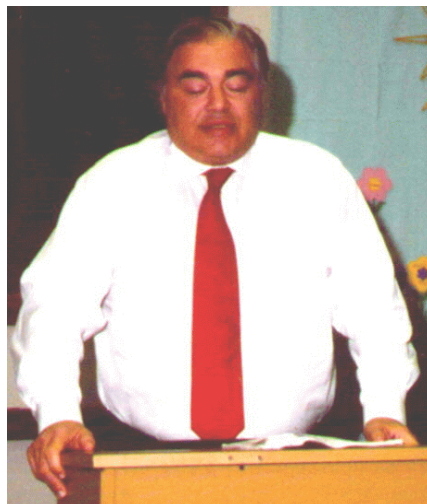
not always an easy task. Despite the fact that many of us may have preferred another candidate in one election or another, or a vote on a particular platform plank to go a different way, I think everyone enjoyed their experience and gained much from it. I hope that you will join me at the next national convention in 2006.

— *Chip Spangler*

Photos courtesy Mike Linder. Video clips of Maryland members at the convention are at www.MD.LP.org/audio/ (from C-SPAN).

Pre-convention Delegates Meeting

In preparation for the National LP convention, Maryland hosted a meeting on May 8th at the Linthicum library. It gave delegates from Maryland, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware a “heads-up” on what to expect in Atlanta. Presidential candidates Aaron Russo and Gary Nolan, and Vice-Presidential candidate Richard Campagna (who won) came to town for the event; they made presentations and fielded questions. Photos: at right Fred Childress; below, left-to-right: Richard Campagna, Aaron Russo, Gary Nolan, Lorenzo Gaztañaga.



2004 MdLP Annual Convention



The Libertarian Party of Maryland's 2004 convention was held on Saturday, April 3rd at *Vitali's Restaurant & Pub* in Edgewood. First up was Gary Nolan, who was seeking the Libertarian Party's nod for presidential candidate. Mr. Nolan said that he is a "rabid" libertarian. "If it were up to me, I'd get rid of the FDA, the IRS, and the War on Drugs, and quit punishing people for saving money." He said that it would happen so fast that it would make the far left and right spin. "But if you tell people that you're going to eliminate Social Security by noon, etc., you'll scare everyone to death." He went on to say that if people were aware of the benefits of liberty, they'd be libertarians now. We have to sell. We know what caused the problems, and we know what the solution is. The solutions have been given to us in the Constitution. When screaming about the cost of health care, we tell them that the FDA is the problem: it costs a billion dollars to produce a new drug. We can use the old model: let the pharmaceutical company send their data to the American Medical Association and

have them decide. It's a solution that works – it's salesmanship. We need to open the doors and let these people in. We have a way to create an environment where more jobs can be created: by getting rid of the IRS, the cost of goods and services will drop at least by 20%. The free market economy can do it. We can quit invading other countries. Every time we get involved with a border dispute that doesn't involve us, we create an enemy. We can't beat people into the party: we need to project a positive image. He said he is a recovering Repub



lican and is familiar with the "wasted vote" syndrome. With Clinton and the Republicans sharing power, the rate of growth was 2.5-3% – grid lock *worked*. He urges all to send a message by dividing the power: vote for him. The only new spending would be for the Department of Firing. 20% of Republican voters don't think we should have gone into Iraq. They are on our side. He was invited to speak at a college forum on the same date and place as the Democrats and Republicans. He is hitting the college campuses and is going to keep cranking. Leftists are concerned about corporate personhood and civil rights: where was the Democratic party when the Patriot Act was passed? it is eviscerating the Constitution, holding classes instructing prosecutors how to turn the act on us. We need to go outside our own party and bring people in. He'll go after small businesses: tell them that if you support the Libertarian Party, either we'll win and protect your property and rights, or the other parties will recognize your constituency and move to increase your rights. He closed by saying that whatever it is in life you want, go out and get it – don't wait for the government to do it for you: seize the day, *carpe diem*.

The next speaker was Joe Seehusen, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party. He said that he is receiving encouragement at college presentations. Bob Barr has called libertarians "mainstream" and published that sentiment. The question for all of us is: "as individuals and state organizations, are we ready to step up and lead?" He asked: Is there a formula for success in business? Yes, there is. On his office wall is the mantra "The function of external marketing divided by internal marketing equals success." Internal marketing is divisive with backstabbing – bashing other libertarians instead of Democrats and Republicans. It forges no new alliances. We have more internal marketing than is useful for us, and not enough external marketing. Our world is in attracting new members, performing outreach, reaching electable candidates, winning elections, and gaining power. As individuals we only have so much energy; where we put that energy impacts where we

will be in the future. He had the fortune of meeting Martin Blackwell – an important man that most Americans are not familiar with. With his help, disillusioned young people decided to learn how to win in politics. They came up with the Communist party, and gave the 20th century a run for its money. They had the world's *worst* idea and went far with it. We have the world's *best* idea and need to do a good job of influencing media and academia. The method is philosophically neutral. They learned that in politics winning is a *choice*. Simply having the best philosophy will not win. The Sir Galahad policy will not win (we'll win because we are right). We have yet to fully embrace what it takes to engage the media and do what it takes to succeed. "You can't save the world if you can't pay the rent." He spoke of Maryland and Oregon. He grew up in Catonsville, Towson, and College Park. He visited the Oregon LP and called it a neat group. They used to run candidates and get their 1%, 2% of the vote. The Oregon LP drew in other associations to work on ballot initiatives. They gave answers to *real* questions on voters' minds and received many inquiries from the press. Mr. Seehusen is happy to work with us. He urges us to pick some issues: the Baltimore City budget – who's calling them on it? Hammer away at waste, fraud, and abuse. What if we took a leadership position and got together college kids and church groups to put up a net to stop the wind-blown trash from the garbage center in southern Baltimore from blowing into the bay? We have to be strong in order to have something to offer. We only need to win one or two elections to flip Democrats and Republicans to Libertarians. He thinks that we're not all that far from accomplishing it. He ended by inviting us to come visit the national LP office in DC.



Our next speaker was Steve Beatty, candidate for Circuit Court Judge in Anne Arundel County. He says that he is a recovering Republican and a professor of Constitutional Law at Anne Arundel Community College. He believes that he is one of the viable candidates that Joe Seehusen just spoke about. There is something rotten in Anne Arundel county. A murderer with 18 prior convictions got ten years and will serve six. Drug users routinely

get more time. Another confessed murderer was placed on probation after an initial assault before the actual murder occurred. Claims were made that "It was one of those terrible tragedies that could not be averted." A confessed child sexual abuser served 18 months on work release. People convicted on simple drug possession for their own use routinely get worse sentences than confessed murderers. He is the newest member of our party (joined at the convention) and has been working with Anne Arundel chair Chris Panasuk. He says that libertarians have always been able to make a point – no one is better at it. However, *this election* we have an opportunity to do more than make a point. Typically, judicial elections are retention elections: the previously appointed positions are usually unopposed. No lawyer in his right mind wants to run in opposition to a sitting judge, because he has to appear in front of that judge. This time there are three candidates trying to unseat three sitting circuit court judges. The sitting judges are all Glendenning appointees. There are six Democrats,

two Republicans, and now one Libertarian running. He says that this time it's going to be different, because on November 3rd a Libertarian will hold one of those seats. Why so confident? Judicial candidates are listed alphabetically without a political affiliation; so the brainwashed voters will vote for a third party without even knowing it. He is here to talk about winning. Two lackluster Republicans and three tragically flawed Democrats are fighting it out. Those at the top of the ballot historically do well in elections without name recognition. The majority of the constituency believes in what we stand for; we can ask them to vote for us without having to change sides. He believes in the law as originally set down in writing. If the framers had wanted us to edit it, they would have written the Constitution *in pencil*. He will not fill the prisons up with drug offenders; he believes in restitution. His campaign will not accept donations from lawyers. Judges have direct influence over individuals and he thinks that lawyers should not be funding judicial elections. Donating lawyers are giving to all sides. For himself, he won't have that problem. There will be no doubt where his loyalty lies – with the people of the county. The next election in Anne Arundel county will be in eight years at the earliest. Mr. Beatty believes that speed trap cameras are unconstitutional because you cannot cross examine a camera; but as a sworn judge, he will uphold the law. However, judges have discretion with regard to sentencing. Chris says that he'll need about 35,000 votes and will need to talk to about 100,000 voters.

MdLP activist George Reynolds and Master of Ceremonies for the day gave a tongue-in-cheek lecture. He calls himself a Libertarian occasionally, an overweight white male that smokes. He is *personally* responsible for all of society's ills. Lamenting that Maryland libertarians know frustration, Mr. Reynolds has nine suggestions for us to take our outreach efforts to fantastic levels:



- ❶ Self-education and Improvement: it's a waste of time; reading tomes on Hayek, etc. take time away from real effort.
- ❷ Don't do things that you're good at – instead, play to your *weaknesses*. Go out and meet strangers at fairs; people will see your frustrations and offer help.
- ❸ Avoid the routine boring stuff.
- ❹ At Outreach Booths, wait for people to come to you. At least three or four will come to you all day.
- ❺ When approached, change the subject and be confrontational.
- ❻ Never miss an opportunity to debate the arcane.
- ❼ Use libertarian jargon with nonlibertarians (statists, republicrats, global economics).
- ❽ Do not even *consider* running for public office. After all, this is Maryland! What are the odds? What have future generations ever done for us?
- ❾ From time to time, people have left this party due to minor disagreements. That is a good idea!

Mr. Reynolds guarantees that if you follow his suggestions, we can turn the LP back into a debating society.



Lorenzo Gaztañaga spoke on behalf of Aaron Russo, who is pursuing the LP's presidential nomination. For at least the last two presidential elections, we have "run to be the president of the libertarians." He didn't see any outside the box thinking from the LP candidates prior to Russo entering the race. He is seriously running for president of the United States. He is talking in the

American vernacular. "I am not bringing the troops home to place them around the border. I'm bringing the troops home because that's where they belong." As to immigration, he'd "end the welfare system before opening the borders." In Mr. Gaztañaga's opinion, Aaron Russo has the ability and the resources to put his name out there. He promises to put half of what he raises into media advertising.

Chip Spangler presented a hilarious video on how *not* to run an outreach booth. He created a list with Katie Marshall, Bill Walker, and Steve Wilson called "Outreach 101":

1. Welcome the prospect and thank the prospect for coming to the event or booth.
2. Be nice and polite.
3. Make yourself presentable. First impressions are important.
4. If the prospect is talking, you are *listening*.
5. Talk about the *prospect's* interests, not your own. Find out what *their* issue is.
6. Keep it simple – if you overload them, you'll drive them away.
7. Do not insult persons or groups. Insulting government employees alienates many.
8. Always assume someone else is listening (not referring to the government). Other prospects are within earshot.
9. Do not argue with the prospect. Focus on areas of agreement, not concentrating on differences.
10. Promote positive goals and solutions. Instead of abolishing X, focus on how to solve the problem. Most people don't care about politics, they care about the issues.
11. Never create enemies. We have enough as it is.
12. Be patient. Libertarian ideas are quite different from what people hear about on a regular basis. They're used to hearing about government programs to solve problems.
13. Do not initiate discussion about political philosophy.
14. Do not initiate discussion about the constitution.
15. Do not initiate discussion about dead white guys.
16. If the prospect is suspect, move on. Some inquirers are there to cause trouble – don't waste time.
17. When finished, thank the prospect for stopping by (it leaves a good impression).

The leader of the mid Atlantic Free State Project, Keith Murphy, was the next speaker. He is here with the toughest sell job: asking people to pick up their bags and leave home. Their idea is to concentrate libertarians into one state where they can obtain significant influence. He can give us many good reasons to

move to New Hampshire. No income tax; no sales tax; shall-issue gun permits; you can carry guns into the State House and enter with no bag searching and no id's; and no seatbelt or helmet laws. New Hampshire is what America *was*. New Hampshire has a bedrock distrust of government. He didn't believe it until he was there. He was able to buy fireworks; didn't wear seatbelts, carried a firearm, and purchased beer at a grocery store. Do you want to be able to do these things? Do you want your kids to be able to do these things? New Hampshire was named the most livable state in the U.S. by a publishing company. It has the highest per capita income and the lowest crime rate. Mr. Murphy thinks this is because of *freedom*. There is political accessibility – in Maryland, we spend thousands of dollars and procure thousands of signatures. 100 signatures gets you on the ballot for governor in New Hampshire; 15 for legislature. The LP elected four delegates in 1994 and 1996. There are 3000 citizens per representative and you need about 700 votes to win. As much as it pains him to admit it, he thinks we don't have much chance here. He doesn't see a Libertarian Governor, Congressman, Senator, etc. in Maryland in his lifetime (he's 28 years old). The three most common objections that he hears to moving: ① It's never going to work: we have 300 members living in New Hampshire and have set up a political action committee which encouraged voting against anti-liberty legislation. They're *already* making a difference. ② It's just too cold there: the average January temperature is 34 degrees in Baltimore City; it's 28 degrees in Concord. The lower taxes will pay for that extra six degrees of heat. ③ I have family here, a longtime business, commitments: those who can join, he'd love to have us. He pictures his great great grandfather who left Ireland to emigrate to America knowing he could never return. Every day it gets worse here. Mr. Murphy ended by reminding us that New Hampshire has elected 267 libertarians to public office.



Spear Lancaster presented an overview on the current legislative session in Annapolis. There was a definite shift in attitude with a Republican governor. Last year they were adjusting, and went back and forth between being amused and confused. The Democrats thought that they were going to put the Republicans in their place. This year it was much more combative. The Democrats are faced with an election this fall, and must show the voters what they expect to see. The Republicans also are catering to the election. Avin Thornton was the chair of the Prince George's County school board, hand picked by Glendenning. The Thornton Plan for education has been desanctified. It is designed to give everything the teachers union wants.

Awards

On the gun issue, we have had one of our better years, due in part to the Tripwire group. The assault weapons ban was defeated. Nobody testified against a concealed carry bill. None of these got passed, but at least they go onto the table. On transportation, we are pointed to tollroads.com; there is a war between the automobile owners and the elite urban aristocrats who think that we should put all of our money into Baltimore and Washington. Other new options are becoming available. The Montgomery County school system is the state's twelfth largest bus company but the biggest pollutant. On taxes: this has been a great year. A taxpayer's bill of rights was introduced. In Colorado, taxpayers actually got their unspent money back after passing a similar bill. Some legislators were livid that the taxpayers would suggest that the legislature doesn't have the right to increase taxes as they see fit. On immigration: four to five Baltimore County legislators got together and were very concerned about illegal immigration. New immigrants are coming not to assimilate, but to take over. Question on our influence in Annapolis: What's the most important thing we can do? Answer: **show up**.

Time was short, so we did not conduct the traditional fundraiser auction. In its place, Chip asked for donations in amounts of an important year (i.e. \$17.76).



Closing out the convention evening, MdLP members Gerald Schneider, Susan Gaztañaga, Dean Ahmad, and Doug McNeil (above, left to right) presented a panel discussion on *Faith and Libertarianism* referencing Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Secular Humanism.

Father O'Malley rose from his bed. It was a fine spring day in his new Washington, DC parish. He walked to the window of his bedroom to get a deep breath of the beautiful day outside. He then noticed there was a jackass lying dead in the middle of his front lawn. He promptly called the US Senate for assistance.

The conversation went like this: "Good morning. This is Senator Daschle. How might I help you?"

"And the best of the day te yerself. This is Father O'Malley at St. Brigid's. There's a jackass lying dead in me front lawn. Would ye be so kind as to send a couple o' yer lads to take care of the matter?"

Senator Daschle, considering himself to be quite a wit, replied with a smirk, "Well now father, it was always my impression that you people took care of last rites!"

There was dead silence on the line for a long moment. Father O'Malley then replied: "Aye, that's certainly true, but we are also obliged to notify the next of kin." — *from the internet*



Chairman Chip Spangler presented *Defender of Freedom* awards to: Joseph Miller, Jr.; Roy J. Meyers III; Ruth Andrasco; Zach and Aaron Jones; and Robert Glaser.

Doug McNeil gave an entertaining presentation describing the life of Samuel P. Chase, in whose honor the MdLP bestows a significant award; after which, a surprised Doug turned out to be one of the two *recipients* of the award, along with Tony Spezio!

When asked "What book do you wish had never been written?" John E. McIntyre, the *Baltimore Sun's* assistant managing editor/copy desk, president of the American Copy Editors Society, quondam English major, responded: "...Two choices: on moral grounds, *Mein Kampf*; on aesthetic grounds, *Atlas Shrugged*."

(That explains a lot!)

Proud to Be a MARYLAND Libertarian



Look at this picture. What do you see? Lorenzo Gaztañaga is trying to present the Samuel Chase Award to Doug McNeil. Problem is, they're both so overcome with emotion they can't speak. All they can do is stand there, struggling to hold back the tears and swallow down the lumps in their throats.

Make no mistake about it, to a Maryland Libertarian, winning the Chase award is an emotional experience that has been known to render notoriously loquacious Libertarians such as Earle Pearce speechless. The only awards ceremony I've watched that compares to it is the Oscars. When Dean Ahmad presented Lorenzo and me with our awards in October 1997, all I could do was gush about how proud I was of our Maryland members, and how very happy I was to be associated with each and every one of you dear, dear people. Sally Fields would understand. The official picture of the three of us standing together (Dean, Lorenzo and me) shows three glowing faces and the biggest smiles any of us had probably smiled since our weddings.

Watching Doug McNeil and Tony Spezio receive the Chase Award this convention started me thinking. What is it about this peculiar tradition that makes it so special to us? The first thing that came to my mind was that it's all ours – a Maryland award named after a Maryland patriot, Samuel Chase. This has led me to reflect on what we can be proud of as *Maryland* Libertarians.

1. Since I've been a member, we've always sent our full delegation to National Convention. Each of these delegates took time away from their jobs and traveled, sometimes as far as Salt Lake City or Anaheim, California, at their own expense. Our growth in membership has been reflected in a steadily growing numerical strength at Natcon – from 14 delegates in 1992 to 25 this year.

2. Our efforts to improve ballot access in Maryland for ourselves and other parties and independent candidates never tired

or abated during more than 20 years of struggle, and have finally borne fruit in the last few years – to the benefit of all Marylanders, whether they know it or not.

3. As a state affiliate, we have remained in good standing with the national organization, while maintaining a certain healthy skepticism towards it. For example, we voted repeatedly not to join the Unified Membership Plan, preferring to build our local capacity to cultivate membership, collect dues, and maintain our own database.

Finally, our shared experiences of laboring to restore freedom to one of the more centralized, big government states in the Union have built a real camaraderie among us. We have our personality clashes and differences of opinion, but when we come together in convention, we realize that we also really love and care for each other. So when you learn – surprise! – that your comrades in arms have chosen **YOU** to receive the highest honor they can give... Well, I get teary-eyed just thinking about it.

— *Susan Gaztañaga*

“It's ironic that I'd spent years studying donkeys and elephants, but never ventured into the realm of political chicanery. My interests were strictly confined to the most honest type of trickery, the magician who advertises that he will deceive you and then does.”

— *Jim Steinmeyer,*
Hiding the Elephant, page xxi

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland – Saturday, 3 April 2004

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Vitali's Restaurant & Pub* in Edgewood, Harford County, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by chairman Chip Spangler. Prior to the meeting, the following were distributed: the Treasurer's report, an agenda, the minutes of the 23 November 2003 Central Committee meeting, the existing state Program, and official recommendations by the Program Committee and individual recommendations from Roy J. Meyers III for changes to the Program.



Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Nick Sarwark; and Ron Kean. It validated that 29 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Additionally, two proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 62 members.

Minutes: Robert Glaser read the minutes of the 23 November 2003 Central Committee meeting; they were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: Joe Miller reported that he has received an additional \$600 bill from the law firm which is not yet shown under "Outstanding Debts." We are receiving \$325 in monthly credit card pledges. The report shows this convention's expenses as paid. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Petition Drive Update: Roy J. Meyers III reported that we have reached a settlement with the Board of Elections and introduced our attorney, Scott Haiber. Scott said that he took on our lawsuit after Roy had originally filed it and filed an amended complaint on Constitutional claims: the State Board of Elections was enforcing regulations that were not properly placed into law; our fees were for court reporters' costs (the attorneys worked pro bono). The purpose was to get as many signatures back as quickly as we could. An agreement has been signed and executed: it calls for them to review about 1600 signatures that we have identified for them; we expect that approximately 1000 of those will be validated. They have 20 days to perform the recount, leaving about 10 days from today. The Central Committee voted to thank Scott for his efforts. Roy thanked many MdLP members who assisted with the petition drive and the lawsuit, and deduced that we need about 414 additional valid signatures, depending upon the SBE results. The Central Committee thanked Roy.

Chair's report: Chip Spangler thanked those who attended the December strategy meeting, and said that it proved helpful. The LP national convention is being held over the Memorial Day weekend. Chip announced a delegates meeting on May 8, time and place to be determined.

Delegates to the National Convention: Spear Lancaster, Steve Boone, Nicholas Sarwark, Troy Zinderman, Glenn Howard, Michael Linder, Doris Gordon, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Susan Gaztañaga, C. David Eagle, Colleen Eagle, Keith Murphy, Dean Ahmad, Stuart Simms, Zachary Simms, Aaron Jones, Zach Jones, Steven Sass, Charles Spangler, Hadassah Aaronson, Shannon McMenamin, Derek Pomery, Anthony Spezio, Adam Schadt, and Christopher Panasuk were nominated to represent the MdLP at the upcoming LP National Convention. The slate of 25 was unanimously approved by a voice vote. Alternates shall be the Central

Committee members not elected as delegates; should these exceed the 50 permitted, the Executive Board is granted authority to whittle it down to that number (by unanimous voice vote).

Executive Board Election: Charles Spangler, Roy J. Meyers III, Robert Glaser, Joseph Miller, Jr., Steven Sass, Robert Johnston III, and Christopher Panasuk were nominated. Each was granted one minute to speak. It was moved and approved to vote

by slate; the slate was approved unanimously by voice vote.

State Party Program modification: Proposed changes 3, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17-19, 21, 22, and 24 passed; the others were considered and failed.

Recess: the Central Committee meeting recessed from noon to 1:00 pm.

Constitutional Amendment: the one proposed constitutional amendment was unanimously passed on a voice vote: 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.

Announcements: Doris Gordon plans to resubmit a WR&A amendment to the platform committee. Other announcements were made after the Central Committee meeting adjourned.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

(these minutes are not yet approved by the Central Committee)



New Executive Board members Robert Johnston III (left) and Chris Panasuk (right). Bob's area is fundraising, and Chris' is outreach. At the May Board meeting, Roy J. Meyers III was assigned Chairman, and Chip Spangler Vice-Chairman.

Libertarian Party of Maryland Program

First Steps Towards Freeing the Citizens of the Free State

The purpose of the Libertarian Party of Maryland is to use the political process to promote freedom as the primary value in the organization of a healthy society. To that end, it seeks to elect Libertarians to public office, influence other elected and appointed officials, and move public opinion toward supporting increased liberty in our daily affairs. Our liberties were not curtailed overnight and we do not expect them to be restored overnight. This program represents our first steps toward restoring our freedoms.

Education

Variety in education through local control. Increase family choices by:

- Allowing for increased parental choice within the government public school system. Education funds will follow each child accordingly;
- Supporting small autonomous schools within the larger school buildings;
- Allowing K-12 neighborhood schools (reducing busing costs);
- Encouraging privately funded K-12 scholarships for non-government educational activities.

Open and Responsible Government

- Create or maintain small, single member legislative districts at the state and local levels. This will encourage politicians to be accountable to their constituents for their actions.
- Take steps to create a nonpartisan redistricting process. Politicians should not be able to choose who votes for them.
- Work to decentralize the governmental bodies in Maryland. Politicians should respect the right of local communities to govern themselves and not micro-manage every aspect of peoples' lives. Political decisions should be made at the lowest feasible level in order to encourage civic participation.

Job and Wealth Creation without Corporate Welfare

Reduce government spending and lower the tax burden by:

- Ending public funding for such things as stadiums, hotels, concert halls, etc. (Just say "No");
- Promoting economic growth by restructuring the tax system in order to eliminate subsidies or special tax breaks to businesses;
- Reforming licensing laws that unfairly restrict competition, thus allowing the creation of more jobs and business opportunities;
- Reducing government spending in order to lower the tax burden on individuals and businesses.

Secure Property Rights

- Forbid government entities from abusing the power of eminent domain in order to transfer private property to privileged individuals.
- Phase out government entities that compete against the private sector, such as the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO).

Land Use, Transportation, and the Environment

Encourage private redevelopment of vacant and underused urban land and remove developmental pressure on farms and wilderness lands by:

- Removing subsidies to developers, such as publicly funded infrastructure for new developments;
- Encouraging efficient land use by reducing the tax on buildings and property improvements, leaving only assessments on land itself;
- Revising zoning laws to allow the development of self-sufficient communities.

Transportation systems in the compact communities resulting from the above policies would increase pedestrian, rail, and privately provided public transportation relative to automobile traffic.

Crime and Public Safety

- Free up our law enforcement resources by concentrating efforts on crimes against persons and property, and prosecuting those who sell drugs to minors, rather than non-violent offenders.
- Stop any use of "asset forfeiture" until the property owner has been properly convicted of a crime in the judicial system. Seizure of property before a conviction is an un-American policy of "guilty until proven innocent."
- Drug prohibition, as alcohol prohibition before it, has increased crime. Drive-by shootings, which first occurred during alcohol prohibition, have become far too frequent during the War on Drugs. Criminals should not be excused of their crimes based on impairment from drug or alcohol abuse.
- The Second Amendment means that any attempts to take guns away from criminals must not deprive any law-abiding adults of the right to arm themselves to protect their homes and liberties. Permit the carrying of firearms with training and a background check. Waiting periods, bans, and registration may actually increase crime.

Revised 3 April 2004

Defend Liberty

This is a tough time to be a Libertarian. Annapolis and Washington (especially Washington) seem to be doing the exact opposite of what we would have them do. Incongruent war is raging in Iraq, our tax dollars are being squandered, our sacred constitutional liberties are being trampled, and our only alternative is to elect someone who would repeal the tax cuts and expand the already bloated bureaucracy.

This puts our party in an unforgiving position. We have dedicated ourselves to change the patriarchal aristocracy that lives inside the beltway, but our numbers are small for such a radical task, and our ideas are revolutionary and therefore not always accepted or taken seriously.

Liberty won a major victory with the election of Robert Ehrlich to the Maryland state house. Unfortunately that victory has been short lived because of the obstinance of the current ruling class. At first glance it would seem that all is lost for liberty and the sworn protectors of it. But, before you throw yourself from the nearest window in despair, read on, because I believe that there is still hope for us.

So what can you do? *You can defend liberty.* How can one person defend idealism? Don't worry; this is not a plea for funds. That has its place, just not here.

I will show you how to make a difference in your community and begin to change the paradigm of third party politics. You can do something as simple as: *talking.* That's right, talking. Not fifteen Libertarians gathering around a pizza and ranting about belief. That too has its place; but it won't change the world. You need to talk to people outside your circle, people who are outside of your comfort zone. Talk to your friends, family, and coworkers. These people probably have differing views from you, but you may be surprised. They may share a large number of common values. They may need some education, though.



Some knucklehead at your job might say: "I don't mind if 'they' implant a microchip in my neck. If that's what it takes to defeat terrorism, then I'm all for it." You have a right – and the responsibility – to challenge such ridiculous notions. *Defend liberty.* When your friend says, "I think they should have castrated Michael Jackson after the first accusation of abuse," it's your *duty* to explain the importance of our right to a fair trial. *Defend liberty.* If a family member says, "Of course we needed to go to war with

Iraq. Saddam was a vicious dictator and he was planning attacks on America," remind him or her of the over five hundred mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, who gave their lives, involuntarily – so that we could save a dime at the gas pump. *Defend liberty.*

Libertarians can make a difference in Maryland and in America by speaking up. Become well versed in current events and the tenets of our party. Challenge those around you to explain why the current policy is the correct policy. If you are not skilled at debate or public oration, then practice; find a kindred spirit and engage in friendly arguments. I emphasize *friendly.* Keep emotion out of your discussion. Your goal isn't to browbeat those around you into submission, but to help them understand the importance for *everyone* to defend liberty.

If you still don't feel comfortable with challenging someone directly, then opt for a one-sided medium like radio and newspapers. Letters to the editor and phone calls to talk radio programs are terrific ways to bring our message to the public.

No registered Libertarian was born with Libertarian Party membership. I doubt that anyone reading this was even raised as a Libertarian. Somewhere during the course of your life, someone introduced you to this party. Now it's time to return the favor.

— Joshua Burgess

Possession Prohibitions Impossible to Defend

Caught with 30 pounds of marijuana inside their SUV, the two printers sat for almost a year in Ensenada's state prison, insisting that the bundles were not theirs. Their only mistake, they said, was buying a seized vehicle from the U.S. Customs Service, which had failed to find all the pot that drug dealers had stuffed inside.

Francisco Rivera, 40, and Alfonso Calderón, 34, walked free, after a federal appeals court in Mexicali believed their story and overturned their convictions. "Definitely, the U.S. Customs Service is responsible for this," Rivera said by telephone shortly after his release. "They could have admitted that they can make mistakes, and saved us a year of misery."

Rivera and Calderón said the marijuana was already inside the 1997 Nissan Pathfinder when Rivera bought it in San Diego at an auction of vehicles that had been seized by U.S. Customs. They are suing Customs.

The Pathfinder was seized at the San Ysidro border crossing after inspectors discovered 60 pounds of marijuana in the gas tank. The driver was sentenced to 39 days in San Diego County jail.

Rivera and a brother-in-law, Gabriel Calderón, Alfonso's brother, bought the vehicle for \$2,600 at an auction conducted by a subcontractor which runs them for the U.S. Treasury Department.

Rivera and Alfonso Calderón were driving back to Tijuana when soldiers stopped them at a checkpoint outside Ensenada. They found bundles of pot stuffed into a wheel well and immediately arrested the pair. Mexican investigators later found the marijuana was old and deteriorating, leading their attorney to conclude that it had been overlooked after U.S. Customs seized the SUV.

The Ensenada trial judge said U.S. Customs officers couldn't have overlooked the packets and sentenced them to five years. A federal judge in Tijuana upheld the conviction, but a three-judge federal appeals panel in Mexicali reversed the lower courts' rulings.

Reunited with their families, Rivera and Calderón headed home to celebrate. "This has helped me value everything that I have," Rivera said. "The hardest part was being away from my wife and daughters."

— from *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, forwarded by Steve Sass

Editor's Corner



The next issue will be after the November election. I encourage county affiliates to make submissions for *From the Trenches* – it is an easy way to keep in touch with your members without incurring the work and expense of producing your own county newsletter. Thanks to all of this issue's contributors.

Do you want your own personal copy of the *Free? State Libertarian* with color photographs? Then go to

www.MD.LP.org/newsletters/ and print one on your printer.

Police State

As I write this, the Supreme Court came out with their decision which upheld a Nevada law that says people must identify themselves to police. (As an aside – does it trouble you, as it does me, that many of our liberties are significantly affected by split Supreme Court decisions? This case, like others, was decided 5-4.) I don't wish to go overboard here, as the ruling stated that people cannot be required to answer other police questions. It does bother me, however, because this is just one more element in a continuing, though gradual, erosion of our civil liberties.

It has been a long standing assumption in this country that we are “innocent until proven guilty.” Huh? That statement now has been reduced to lip service – it no longer has any basis in reality. The most disappointing aspect of this issue is that Americans seem to be complacently accepting this paradigm shift. Try to fly without identification. Okay, you say that we must relinquish anonymous air travel due to terrorism? How about railroads? The federal government is testing rail checkpoint procedures right now! If you agree to those restrictions, what right do you have to drive over a bridge, or through a tunnel, without equivalent ID checks? Do you think that you have the right to drive your car without identification? Tell that to the police officer who pulls you over for a “spot check” or stops you at a “sobriety checkpoint.” Automobiles are considered a “privilege” rather than a “right.” I believe that if cars had been the general mode of transportation rather than horseback when the Constitution was crafted, the Bill of Rights would have included a specific protection for free transport in them. The founders never thought it was necessary to include free travel via horse in the Bill of Rights.

It is still chilling for many of us to hear the phrase, “Your papers, please.” It is reminiscent of the Nazi police state. It is sad to realize that we are not very far away from hearing that command in our everyday lives. It worries me the most wondering if the next generation, with less of a connection to World War II, will even pause when hearing that awful order.

Innocent until proven guilty? Indeed. I conducted two rounds of correspondence with the MVA, requesting that they remove my SSN from my driving record. Their attorney informed me that they would not comply for the following reason: my SSN must remain on file in case at some point in the future I become a deadbeat Dad, in which case it would assist in tracking me down. It matters not that I have no children nor have ever been accused of such. It is the *reasoning* that infuriates me more than the fact. Following this line



In the News

Gerry Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on January 30 refuting Blair Lee's comments in the preceding issue. “What both contemporary liberals and conservatives have in common most often, however, is faith in government rule. They differ on the matters they want government to tax, subsidize, command and control.” He describes Neo-Hobbesian and Lockean logic and how it affects voting choice.

The (Montgomery County) *Gazette* published **Gerry Schneider's** letter on March 17 in response to the quote “Truth is not determined by majority rule” printed the previous week. He added, “I wish municipal, county, state and federal legislatures would take that to heart. They decide matters, including moral issues, by majority rule. That does not necessarily mean that their decisions are correct, good for the people, or wise.”

The *Christian Science Monitor* included **Lorenzo Gaztañaga's** letter in its April 13 issue replying to their April 8 editorial, “Only Bush-Kerry in TV Debates?” Lorenzo wrote, “A better formula for deciding which candidates are allowed in presidential debates is to let them join as long as they're on the ballot in enough key states to give them the Electoral College votes needed to win the election.”

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 election season is an excellent opportunity to get libertarian comments out to the media.

of logic, we would all be implanted with tracking devices at birth – in case we ever become criminals. “If you haven't done anything wrong, you have nothing to be afraid of?” I am afraid of that sentiment becoming commonplace.

Innocent until proven guilty? Ask the high school student who wishes to join the Chess Club, but must submit to a drug test first. Or the Kent County High School students who were strip searched in May, ostensibly because a dog sniffed at a bag. Will children growing up in such an environment come to believe “Innocent until proven guilty,” or “If you haven't done anything wrong, you have nothing to be afraid of?”

To minimize my rambling, here is my point: when each of these individual liberties is threatened or reduced, and the public response is that this specific legal requirement is not that bad, or even reasonable, *it is our duty to speak up*. Follow Joshua Burgess' plea in his article on page 15. Show how each little encroachment adds to the overall attitude that we are subservient to government. I don't think that Thomas Jefferson, et. al., would agree with that viewpoint.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

If you have received email pretending to be from MdLP contacts, be careful! Spammers and virus generators have grabbed our public email addresses and proliferate.

From the Trenches ... County Chapter Notes

A Vision for Montgomery County



Montgomery County, Maryland is becoming synonymous with unfettered government spending and busybody government regulations. Private property rights have been trampled on in the ill-advised smoking ban championed by my councilman, Tom Perez (D-District 5). The council has voted, for the third year in a row, to ignore the property tax cap. On top of this, they're adding taxes on gas, phones, and even video rentals. What are they doing with this money? Using it to

fund secretly chosen private charities and to prevent the development of affordable housing by providing corporate welfare to farmers.

At the same time, the Montgomery County LP has been relatively stagnant. Since losing ballot status the wind has gone out of the sails of many longtime activists. People are looking for better things to do with their time. Membership is in decline. The bitterness of defeat and the overwhelming tide of bad governance is enough to make one despair for the cause of liberty.

“I get knocked down / But I get up again / You're never gonna / Keep me down” – Chumbawamba

Without question we've been knocked down. It's time for us to get up again.

How do we bring members back into the Party? How do we keep our ballot status? How do we get people to gather signatures for access? All of these questions are being asked at the national, state, and local levels of your party. These are important questions, but should not be our main ones.

The question we should ask is, “How do we most effectively fight for more freedom for our fellow citizens?” When we are fighting for liberty all of those other things will fall into line. When we are fighting a political war to reclaim our freedoms and make our community better people will rally to our cause.

Right now there is a petition being circulated to eliminate At-Large seats on the county council to make for more responsive government and make it easier to challenge incumbents. A Republican activist has sponsored an initiative to remove the council's power to override the property tax cap. These are activities that we should be involved in as a start.

There is a new county website at www.MontgomeryLP.org where you can join with other activists to work on these activities and suggest other ones. Together we can be a strong voice in county politics. I envision the day when the council fears to pass intrusive regulations or excessive taxes. How will this day come to pass? Letters. Rallies. Petitions. Candidates. Political involvement. Hearing testimony. Press releases. **Activism.**

We're looking for a few good activists. All that's required is a dedication to liberty and a willingness to have fun. If you're not ready yet, that's fine. We'll be here when you are. As for me, they're never gonna keep me down.

— *Nick Sarwark*

Baltimore City/County



Elections were held in February for Executive Board. There are 7 positions available under the Constitution; we elected 6. New officers are: Steve Boone, Chair; Louie Passano, Baltimore County Vice-Chair; Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Baltimore City Vice-Chair; Susan Gaztañaga, Secretary; Bill Buzzell, Treasurer; and Doug McNeil, Media Coordinator.

The April 29th *Libertarian Meet-up* was a success! We met at the Cafe Brio, on S. Charles Street, where the staff was welcoming, the service was excellent, and the food was quite

good. Six folks showed up, and we sat around chatting for about 90 minutes or so. A couple of us ordered food and all of us ordered something to drink. As soon as we all had drinks, we brought forward the traditional toast to Liberty, continuing a years-old practice.

If you're interested in signing up for a Libertarian Meet-up at the website, go to libertarian.meetup.com and click on the “sign up” link. There are eight registered Baltimore area members, two of whom I don't recognize, and at last check, we were #44 in the list of cities by the number of members we had. It shouldn't take all that many to put us into the top ten.

Anyway, a good time WAS had by all. It was light, it was social, it was fun. See you next time!

— *Steve Boone*



Check page 19 for the upcoming county fair schedule

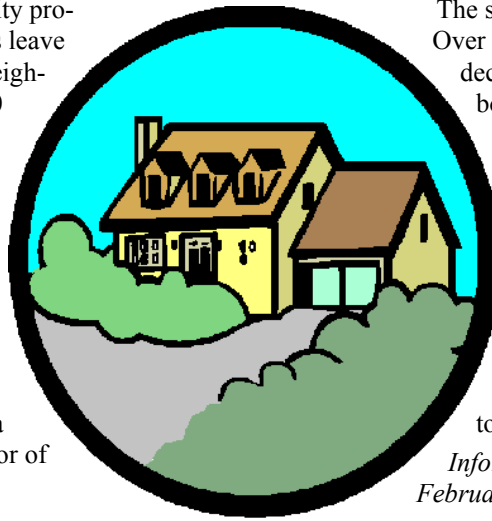
On May 2, 2004 my brother Kurt Germann suffered a major stroke. He was in intensive care at the Washington Hospital Center until May 13. He may be moving to California – it all depends on his level of recovery.

— *Ernst Ghermann*

What? The Government Isn't Always Right?

HUD's 10-year-old Moving to Opportunity program provides vouchers to help some families leave public housing – but only if they move to a neighborhood where the poverty rate is less than 10 percent. Another program provides subsidies to landlords who admit low-income residents, but only in neighborhoods where the poverty rate doesn't exceed 20 percent.

Public officials have long believed that better neighborhoods make better neighbors. A recent study by Johns Hopkins public policy graduate students failed to find the expected payoff; they found that the problem may be with HUD's underlying premise that a neighborhood's poverty rate is a good indicator of its overall quality.



The study examined 25 Baltimore neighborhoods. Over 12 weeks, the students combed through three decades of data covering eight domains of neighborhood quality, including demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, the physical and social environment, economic activity, crime, health, school quality, and the neighborhood's image.

The students were asked how they would revise the current policy. They suggested that decisions about which neighborhoods to invest in are best made at the local level, using a much more varied set of indicators than simple poverty rates.

Information source: The Johns Hopkins Gazette, February 9, 2004

“You're under arrest for the violation of the *America Knows Best Act.*”

— from Fox TV's *The Simpsons*



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— *Steven Sass*

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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!*

July 16-17 (Friday/Sat.): North East Water Festival (Cecil County). In the town park; setup on Friday at 4pm. Festival runs on Fri. 6-9 pm, Sat. 10am-9pm. www.northeastwf.com, Dave Sten

July 17 (Saturday): 10:00 am. Libertarian Club of Baltimore *Adopt-A-Highway* Charles Street cleanup. Ruxton School. Bill Buzzell, 1-866-576-9651, wabuzzell11*juno.com

July 21 (Wednesday): Tawes Crab and Clam Bake. Page 2

July 23-31 (Fri.-Sat.): Cecil County Fair, 10am-10pm except 4-9pm on 7/23; booth in the Buttler building; extra vendor passes available. *Fair Hill Fair Grounds*, near the intersection of 273 & 213. www.cecilcountyfair.org, Dave Sten

July 24 (Saturday): MdLP picnic. Page 4

July 29-Aug. 1 (Thursday-Sunday): Harford County Farm Fair at the *Equestrian Center* (608 N. Tollgate Rd, Bel Air) 10am-10pm except 10am-6pm on Sunday. Passes are available. www.farmfair.org, Roy J. Meyers III

Aug. 13-21 (Fri.-Sat.): 10am-10pm. Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Steve Wilson, 1tsjdad*comcast.net, 301-921-0426h, 301-515-7944w

September 6 (Monday): 1-3pm. City of Gaithersburg Labor Day Parade. Steve Wilson (info above)

September 11 (Saturday): 10:00 am. Libertarian Club of Baltimore *Adopt-A-Highway* Charles Street cleanup. Bill Buzzell (left)

September 12 (Sun.): 11am-6:30pm. Takoma Park Folk Festival, Takoma Park Middle School. Steve Wilson (info above)

September 17-25 (Fri.-Sat.): Frederick County Fair at fairgrounds on East Patrick St. www.thegreatfrederickfair.com, Glen Litsinger

September 19 (Sun.): 11am-7pm. Gaithersburg Olde Towne Days. Steve Wilson (info above)

October 10 (Sun.): noon-4pm. Oktoberfest, Kentland Mansion in Gaithersburg. Steve Wilson (info above)

Copy or Clip Form ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

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 \$35

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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 CrestIn@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.): 7:30 pm. The date and 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

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

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

1-800-MLP-1776

Please check the first line of the mailing label to verify your MdLP status (see page 2) 

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