

Free? State LIBERTARIAN

February 2007

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

Petition Drive Completed – Jubilation!



December 29, State Board of Elections, Annapolis – Heather helps Dad (Dave Sten) turn in the collected petition signatures from the party recertification drive to Jared DeMarinis: all 14,644 of them (photo courtesy Bailee). Mid-January we are told we have a sufficient number to retain ballot access. See story on page 3.



State Convention
Saturday, 3 March

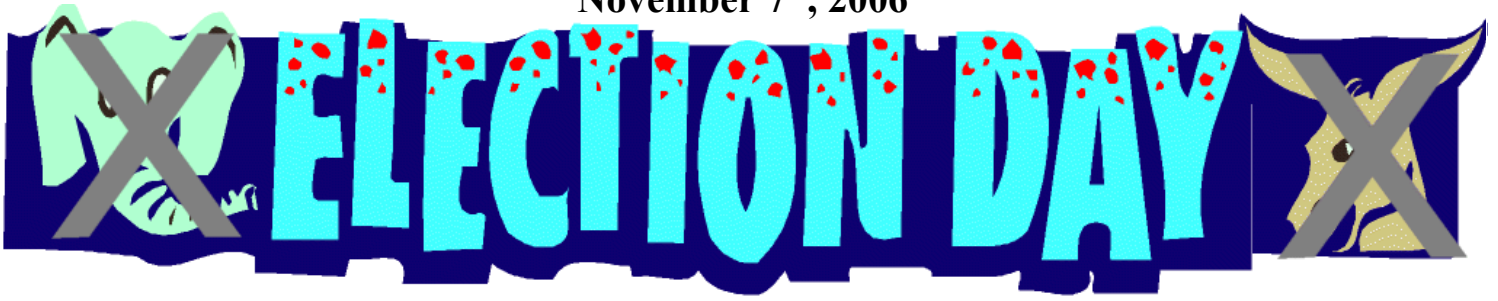
discount deadline February 24!

info on page 4 



General Election Results

November 7th, 2006



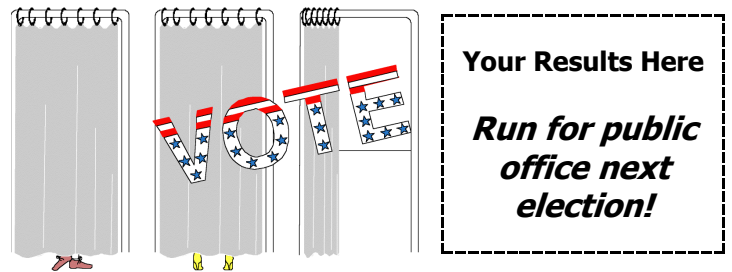
U.S. Senator		
Michael S. Steele Republican	Benjamin Cardin Democratic (won)	Kevin Zeese Green
787,182 (44.2%)	965,477 (54.2%)	27,564 (1.5%)

Dorchester County Council, District 3	
Ricky C. Travers Democratic (Won)	William Steven Brohawn Libertarian
1,719 (76.1%)	531 (23.5%)

Representative in Congress, District 3		
John White Republican	John P. Sarbanes Democratic (won)	Charles McPeck Libertarian
79,174 (33.8%)	150,142 (64.0%)	4,941 (2.1%)

St. Mary's County Board of Education, Commissioner District 3	
Bill Mattingly Non-Partisan (Won)	Timothy P. Twigg Non-Partisan
15,640 (65.2%)	8,321 (34.7%)

Judge of the Circuit Court, Circuit 5		
Louis A. Becker Non-Partisan (Won)	Richard S. Bernhardt Non-Partisan (Won)	David Titman Non-Partisan
53,024 (36.3%)	53,687 (36.7%)	39,146 (26.8%)



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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 176, Abingdon, MD 21009-0176 1-800-MLP-1776

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

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Petition Drive Completed!

The Libertarian Party of Maryland has unofficially been recertified as a political party in Maryland. The Board of Elections contacted state chair Dave Sten on Thursday afternoon, January 11th, to inform him that we had more than the 10,000 signatures required to be recertified.

The LPMD applied for recertification by turning in over 14,000 signatures to the Board of Elections in Annapolis. State chair Dave Sten, accompanied by daughters Heather and Bailee, delivered 14,644 signatures to the BoE on Friday, December 29, the last day for turning in the petitions.

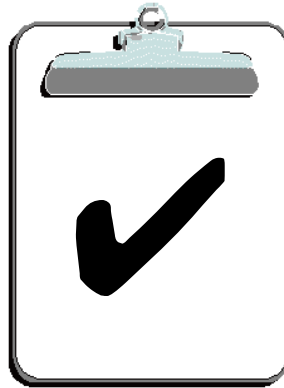
A minimum of 10,000 verified signatures are needed to be recertified as a party.

Things were not looking good for maintaining party status. As late as October, the LPMD had only 3,000 signatures on hand. Events started to change as the Executive Board, acting on a suggestion from vice-chair Steve Boone, decided to spend the remaining available treasury funds to purchase 2,000 sigs from a

professional petitioner, in the hopes that taking action would spur more donations and activity. Within a week the party received a \$500 donation from George Phillies of Massachusetts, and also help from LNC Chair Bill Redpath. Soon Scott Kohlhaas, a long-time LP activist and fundraiser from Alaska, offered to raise money to finish the job.

Mr. Kohlhaas proceeded to raise over \$30,000 from Thanksgiving to Christmas to pay for petitioners to collect the remaining necessary signatures. As many as seven paid petitioners were working during December gathering sigs.

Thanks to the volunteers who collected signatures for the ballot access drive (listed alphabetically): Meg Anderson, Steve Boone, Bill Buzzzell, Susan and Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Robert Glaser, Nancy Lewman, Mike Linder, Jack Mitcham, Brett Peterson, Bill Redpath, Tony Spezio, Dave Sten, and Buzz Tavik.



— Bob Johnston

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	David Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*md.lp.org
Vice Chairman	Steve Boone	443-386-3977	Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-8748	Secretary*md.lp.org
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Treasurer*md.lp.org
Membership/Campaigns	Robert S. Johnston III	---	Campaign*md.lp.org
At Large	Tony Spezio	---	TheSpeez*yahoo.com
At Large	David Johnston	---	Howard*md.lp.org

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open. Check the website or contact an officer for date and location.

County Affiliates

	Baltimore City/County	Jack Mitcham, Jr.	410-491-4111	Baltimore*md.lp.org
www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*LP-CC.org
	Frederick County	Glen Litsinger	301-831-5832	Frederick*md.lp.org
www.HC-LP.org	Harford County	Derek Mancinno		Harford*md.lp.org
	Howard County	David Johnston		Howard*md.lp.org
www.MontgomeryLP.org	Montgomery County	Hadassah Aaronson		Montgomery*md.lp.org
	Prince George's County	Jim McLaughlin		PrinceGeorges*md.lp.org
	Talbot County	Dic Gleason	410-364-9847	Talbot*md.lp.org

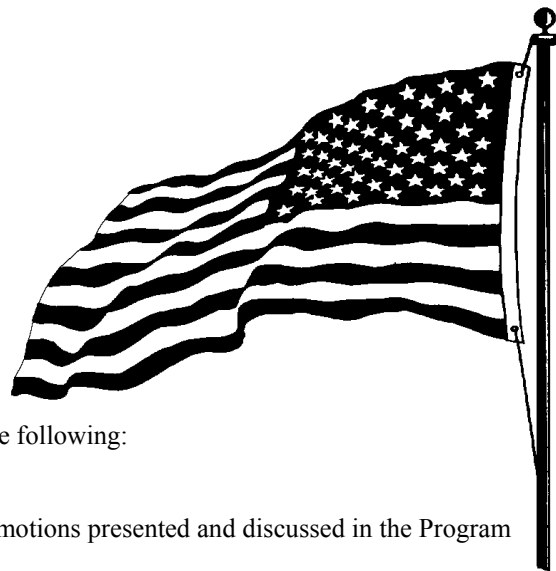
College Affiliates

	Campus Coordinator	Katrina Groth	Campus*md.lp.org
	Anne Arundel Com. College	Aaron Jones	AACC*md.lp.org
	Johns Hopkins University	Ashley Dorn	JHU*md.lp.org
	McDaniel College	Andy Ewing	McDaniel*md.lp.org
	Salisbury State University	Mike Wilson	Salisbury*md.lp.org
wwwnew.towson.edu/clt	Towson University	Paul Kelly	Towson*md.lp.org
	University of Baltimore	Troy Zinderman	UB*md.lp.org
	U. of Md./Balto. County	Stephanie Klein	UMBC*md.lp.org
www.UMdLibertarians.org	U. of Md./College Park	Adam Bargar	UMCP*md.lp.org

Join us at the Libertarian Party of Maryland 2007 Convention!

When: Saturday, March 3rd, 2007

Where: *Squire's Italian Restaurant*
6723 Holabird Avenue
Dundalk, MD 21222
www.SquiresCafe.com



Schedule:

- 1:00 pm Commencement¹
- 1:10 pm Bill Redpath
- 2:00 pm Dr. George Phillies
- 3:00 pm Dr. Bill Anderson
- 4:00 pm State Central Committee Meeting – including regular business plus the following:
 - Nominations and Elections for the Executive Board
All positions are open for election
 - Voting on motions to amend the State Party Program, if any (only motions presented and discussed in the Program Committee meeting on January 23rd will be considered)
 - Check your mailing label to verify that you are paid up and eligible to vote
 - Minutes of the previous Central Committee meeting (23 July 2006) are in the last newsletter and on the website
 - ▶ Central Committee members may delegate a 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 (Robert E. Glaser, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117), or the agent should present the proxy to the Credentials Committee upon arrival.)
- 6:00 pm Evening Break
- 6:30 pm Dinner Banquet²
- 7:30 pm Wes Benedict
- 9:00 pm Adjournment

Directions:

- From the north: take 95 south or 83 south to 695 south to Essex/Key Bridge; exit at Merritt Blvd., go 2 miles, make right on Holabird Ave.; restaurant is 2 miles on the left
- From the south: take 95 north to Baltimore; take 895 Harbor Tunnel Thruway; go through the tunnel; take first exit past tunnel (Holabird Ave.); follow for 2 miles; go through intersection at Dundalk Ave.; restaurant is 1/4 mile on the right

Questions or more information: Bob Johnston, Campaign*md.lp.org

¹Afternoon:

Continental breakfast, including sweet rolls, bagels & cream cheese, fresh fruit, coffee, orange juice, soft drinks, tea, water

²Dinner:

Lasagna, Baked chicken, Green beans, Mashed potatoes, Appetizers, Dessert, Coffee, tea, soft drinks

Alcohol:

Cash bar: Budweiser & Miller Lite bottles; Coors Lite on tap; wine; name-brand liquors; top-shelf liquors and other bottled beer

The *Afternoon Only* plan includes daytime speakers and continental breakfast

The *Banquet Only* plan includes Wes Benedict and dinner

Can you imagine working for a company that has a little more than 500 employees and has the following statistics:

- 29 have been accused of spousal abuse
- 7 have been arrested for fraud
- 19 have been accused of writing bad checks
- 117 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses
- 3 have done time for assault
- 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit
- 14 have been arrested on drug-related charges
- 8 have been arrested for shoplifting
- 21 are currently defendants in lawsuits
- 84 have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year

Can you guess which organization this is? Give up yet? It's the 535 members of the United States Congress. The same group of Idiots that crank out hundreds of new laws each year designed to keep the rest of us in line.

— from the internet

MdLP March 3, 2007 Convention Payment Form

	<u>Advance</u> ¹	<u>Youth</u> ²	<u>Late</u> ³
Central Committee Meeting	\$0	\$0	\$0
Entire Convention Package	\$60	\$45	\$70
Afternoon Only	\$30	\$25	\$35
Banquet Only	\$40	\$25	\$45

(Circle all charges above)

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:
(for registration confirmation)

[If you pay by check the party receives more than by credit card]

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

Email:

Note special needs:

Charge to: VISA MC Discover (circle one)

Libertarian Party of Maryland

_____ exp. date: _____

Mail to ➡ PO Box 176

Abingdon, MD 21009-0176

Signature _____

¹postmarked by February 24; will receive a printed name badge

³postmarked after February 24 (or at the door)

²under 21 years of age as of 1/1/07 or older student active in campus/Libertarian organization and postmarked by February 24

Speakers:

The Present and Future of the Libertarian Party

Bill Redpath

Bill Redpath is the LNC Chair.

Why George Phillies should be the 2008 LP Presidential candidate

Dr. George Phillies

Dr. Phillies is a physicist and longtime member of the Massachusetts LP.

The Duke Non-Rape Case, the Internet, and the Blogosphere

Dr. Bill Anderson

Dr. Anderson is a professor of economics at Frostburg State University and a regular contributor to www.LewRockwell.com, and has helped expose the lies and fraud in the Duke Non-Rape case in North Carolina.

The Texas Two-Step Turnaround: How organizers reinvigorated a state party with a record number of candidates, volunteers, campaign flyers, and vote percentages

Wes Benedict

Wes Benedict is the Texas LP Executive Director and helped organize and run 166 Libertarian candidates for state office – with five getting over 20% of the vote totals.

Monitor the website for lineup additions and modifications

Chair's Report



Wow! 2006 ended with a fantastic **BANG** for the Maryland Libertarian Party. We recently received the unofficial word that our petition drive was successful. At the time of this writing the final tally is not known. Also, our candidates in the General Election in November did extremely well. We tried several new things and I think that we learned a great deal.

In the General Election Kevin Zeese received 1.5% of the vote for U.S. Senate. This was a very heated race where the media really focused

on Michael Steele and Ben Cardin, but I have to give Kevin credit for being aggressive and making sure that he was included in the debates.

Charles McPeck received 2.1% of the vote for Representative of Congress (Congressional District 3). This was also a difficult race, because of the name recognition of the Democratic candidate John Sarbanes.

David Titman received a remarkable 26.8% of the vote for Judge of the Circuit Court in a three-way race. His campaign was very professional and a well organized challenge.

William Steven Brohawn received 23.5% of the vote in his bid for County Council District 3 of Dorchester County, and Timothy Twigg received 34.7% of the vote for Board of Education in St. Mary's County.

Even though our candidates didn't win, they sure did produce a strong showing and helped shine the light on our party. I really appreciate the efforts of our candidates and their willingness to take time away from their personal lives to help make a difference in our state.

Back in October the prospect of us being recertified before the close of the year looked very bleak. We needed 10,000 signatures to keep our party going and to keep 4,646 registered Libertarians from being reverted to Unaffiliated. (These Libertarians were added after the Summer of 2004 when we completed our last ballot access drive. That drive was finished after the deadline, so our numbers had been reset to zero and the party account was drained.) Our coffers were extremely low in October, and even though our volunteers had collected 3,000 signatures, we were still 7,000+ short.

George Phillies was made aware of our plight and started the ball rolling by donating money and getting us in contact with the ballot access group *Freedom Ballot Access*. Freedom Ballot Access also helped with a monetary donation. We were still low on funding, but there appeared to be hope.

Robert Johnston contacted Bill Redpath, our National Chair, which precipitated a connection with Scott Kohlhaas of Alaska. Scott agreed to help us with our petition drive and help us raise the necessary funds to bring in professional petitioners. In short order, Scott contacted donors from around the nation who helped with our cause. We were all overwhelmed by the generosity of the donors. **THANK YOU DONORS**. The Maryland Libertarian Party is extremely grateful.

Robert Johnston and Mike Linder were kept extremely busy from the middle of November to the end of December. Robert was on the ball in helping coordinate the petitioners, and Mike was instrumental in ensuring that they were paid in a timely manner.

My daughters and I had the honor of turning in the petition signatures to the state board of elections before New Year's. We had a total of over 14,600 signatures. It felt really good knowing that the feat had been accomplished. We now have ballot access in Maryland until December 2010. The next step is to continue building our registered Libertarian numbers, so that we may have permanent ballot access.

I plan on running for reelection to the executive board, but plan on stepping down as Chair at the Spring Convention in March. I want to take this time to thank all of the members who keep the Libertarian Party alive in Maryland. In particular, Robert Glaser needs to be thanked for helping put together this newsletter, maintaining our website, and doing many things "behind the scenes" that keep us organized.

We all need to be vigilant in the years to come in Maryland, particularly now that there is a single party controlling both houses of the State Legislature and the Executive Branch. At least when the power was split between the Democrats and Republicans there was some hope for debate. Also, start thinking about the 2008 and 2010 elections. We are going to need candidates.

I look forward to seeing our Party and Liberty grow in the "Free State" in the years to come.

— *Dave Sten*

To Our Donors:

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!

"A politician is a man who will double cross that bridge when he comes to it."

— *Oscar Levant*

Ben Cardin poll: "Should Congress require stricter security measures for passenger rail transportation, such as requiring selected bags and passengers to go through metal detectors and scanners?"

Response: 73.26% Yes, 26.74% No

Challenge to the LP



Nationally-syndicated columnist Bruce Bartlett, in a December 20, 2006 *Washington Times* column, “Libertarian or libertarian,” said things about the LP worth a discussion at our next state convention (I would volunteer to moderate such a discussion if desired). Highlights of the column are as follows:

“The LP is worse than a waste of time. I believe it has done more to hamper the advancement of libertarian ideas and policies than to advance them. In my view, it is essential for the LP to completely disappear before libertarian ideas will again have public currency.”

He goes on to say: “The basic problem with the LP is the same basic problem faced by all third parties. They cannot win. The reason is that under the Constitution, a candidate must win an absolute majority in the all-important Electoral College. It won’t do just to have the most votes in a three- or four-way race... if a party cannot win at the presidential level, it is very unlikely to achieve success at lower levels of government. In short, the Electoral College imposes a two-party system on the country that makes it prohibitively difficult for third parties to compete.”

He adds: “Furthermore, to the extent third parties exist, they invariably hurt the party closest to them ideologically... Over the

years, I have known a great many people who have flirted with the LP, but were ultimately turned off by its political impotence and immaturity... the LP is essentially a high-school-level debating club where only one question is debated – who is the purest libertarian and what is the purest libertarian position.”

He continues: “My conclusion is that for libertarian ideas to advance, the LP must go completely out of business... In place of the LP, there should arise a new libertarian interest group organized like the National Rifle Association, or the various pro- and anti-abortion groups. This new group, whatever it is called, would hire lobbyists, run advertisements, and make political contributions to candidates supporting libertarian ideas. It will work with both major parties. It can magnify its influence by creating temporary coalitions on particular issues and being willing to work with elected officials who may hold libertarian positions on one or a handful of issues. They need not hold libertarian views on every single issue as the LP now demands of those it supports.”

Finally, he says: “As long as the LP continues, unfortunately, it will be an albatross around the necks of small-L libertarians, destroying any political effectiveness they might have. It must die for libertarian ideas to succeed.”

Strong words! Provocative ideas touched on partially by the LP in past discussions. Is it ready to be fully hashed out at a state convention?

— *Gerald Schneider*

NIST reaches unavoidable conclusion: paperless DREs not acceptable

by David Dill, Founder, *Verified Voting Foundation*

In January, 2003, after a month of development, I released a document called the “Resolution on Electronic Voting.” I felt that most computer scientists would feel as I did about electronic voting, and I wanted them to speak out. I assumed that when leading computer scientists in the U.S. expressed a nearly unanimous opinion about the proper use of computers, their words would be heeded.

I asked everyone who seemed to know what they were talking about, and incorporated their ideas and sometimes their wording. Near the end of this process, some of the people I approached said it was too long, so I boiled it down to a one-paragraph summary:

Computerized voting equipment is inherently subject to programming error, equipment malfunction, and malicious tampering. It is therefore crucial that voting equipment provide a voter-verifiable audit trail, by which we mean a permanent record of each vote that can be checked for accuracy by the voter before the vote is submitted, and is difficult or impossible to alter after it has been checked. Many of the electronic voting machines being purchased do not satisfy this requirement. Voting machines should not be purchased or used unless they provide a voter-verifiable audit trail; when such machines are already in use, they should be replaced or modified to provide a voter-verifiable audit trail. Providing a voter-verifiable audit trail should be one of the essential requirements for certification of new voting systems.

(The full resolution is at VerifiedVoting.org. Over 2000 technologists, including some of the nation’s most prestigious individuals in the fields of computer science and computer security, endorsed the Resolution.)

Now, almost four years later, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), whose official duties include providing technical advice about elections under the Help America Vote Act, has produced a

document saying essentially the same thing. This report was a complete surprise, and outstandingly good news. (vote.nist.gov/DraftWhitePaperOnSIinVMSG2007-20061120.pdf)

NIST has examined the issue carefully, weighing the arguments on both sides, and come to conclusions that are the unavoidable consequence of such an examination. Here is one of my favorite paragraphs:

One conclusion drawn by NIST is that the lack of an independent audit capability in [direct recording electronic] DRE voting systems is one of the main reasons behind continued questions about voting system security and diminished public confidence in elections. NIST does not know how to write testable requirements to make DREs secure, and NIST’s recommendation to the STS is that the DRE in practical terms cannot be made secure. Consequently, NIST and the STS recommend that [the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines] VVSG 2007 should require voting systems to be of the SI [software-independent] class, whose readily available (albeit not always optimal) examples include op scan and DRE-[with voter-verified paper audit trail] VVPAT.

The white paper leaves the door open to new voting systems, including paperless electronic systems, but seems clear that such systems are not yet ready for “prime time.” NIST recommends more research on better voting systems, including paperless as well as paper-based.

I am very skeptical that paperless electronic voting schemes will be developed that are secure, auditable and usable for a very long time; I am even more skeptical that such systems will be considered transparent by average voters.

Despite political pressure from a variety of sources, NIST has long been regarded as being among the most competent and objective of government agencies. This report confirms that view and I hope that it receives the respect and attention that it deserves.

Editor's Corner



The next issue will likely be June. Thanks to this issue's contributors.

Others might classify me as a pessimist when I point out that the probability of success for a particular venture is low; I prefer to think that I'm just being objective, based on historical fact. Although I was hopeful, you could have made a lot of money off of me if you had bet me that we'd actu-

ally complete the recertification petition drive before 2006 ended. Back in March, Dave Sten was speaking the truth when he said, "Well, our situation looks pretty bleak." Just *two months ago* we had only a few thousand signatures – and we needed 10,000 good ones.

Volunteers continued working the petition drive, but very late in the game it was evident that that alone would not deliver success in time. Enter Scott Kohlhaas. He raised funds and brought in paid petitioners. The tremendous fact is that his group delivered. We primarily owe our success to his effort. *Thank you, Scott!* Not to minimize the travails of Bob Johnston, Mike Linder, and Dave Sten – plus all the volunteer signature gatherers – who without we'd all now be classified *unaffiliated* by the State.

To follow up on my last editorial, *this* newsletter can proudly proclaim that the **MdLP retains ballot access and all registered voters**. I don't recollect us ever before finishing the drive in time to retain registrations (is this correct?). Job well done! I thankfully won't be including any more petition forms in the newsletter. Our next task is to achieve a 1% level of state registrations by the end of 2010 to advance our party to the next tier and thereby avoid more petitioning.

I've been reading *Roll the Bones* by David G. Schwartz. It is a comprehensive history of gambling. The efforts of government to inhibit a basic human urge is laughable in its ineffectiveness.

The Convention is in the wintertime this year; hopefully we won't be impeded by a blizzard. But then again, it's unlikely to interfere with any planned outdoor activities (other than skiing)! Bob Johnston has put a lot of work into the event, and it should prove very worthwhile. I hope to see all of you there.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

Court upholds 55-year sentence

A U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver upheld the draconian 55-year mandatory sentence given to Weldon Angelos.

The court rejected the argument that Angelos' sentence was cruel and unusual punishment and disproportionate to his crime. He was convicted in 2004 of marijuana sales worth several hundred dollars to an informant.

U.S. District Judge Paul Cassell protested the sentence he was forced to give Angelos, calling the sentence "unjust and cruel and even irrational." He called the case the most difficult since he took the bench in 2002.

— *from FAMMGRAM*



In the News

Gerald Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on November 15 promoting the Holiday Park Multiservice Senior Center in Wheaton. He encourages seniors to "Use your mind without being lectured to," and lists some of the programs (including *Movies With Messages* which he hosts).

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on November 17, "Vote by mail: what are we waiting for?" He proposes completely eliminating traditional polls.

Gerald Schneider's letter to the *Gazette* was published on December 20: "New Year wish: Stop promoting car use." He suggests privatizing roads; free bus transport paid for by advertising; and to refrain from building new garages at government expense.

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

"Bold new book from Maryland author"

Please take a minute and check out *Delusional Democracy* on my website; I promise a most provocative and informative read. I am a passionate supporter of third parties and an opponent to the two-party duopoly. Thank you.

— *Joel S. Hirschhorn*
www.DelusionalDemocracy.com

Maryland Libertarian Blog

I've started a Web Log specifically for Maryland Libertarians. It can be found at:

MdLibertarians.LiveJournal.com

Posting to the blog requires a login (100% free) with the blog host, but anyone can read the blog from their computer. With a login, anyone who joins the community can post an update on their libertarian oriented activities (I post about what the Baltimore Libertarians are up to, and would love to see updates from other counties!), a rant about recent legislation, or links to things of general interest to libertarians.

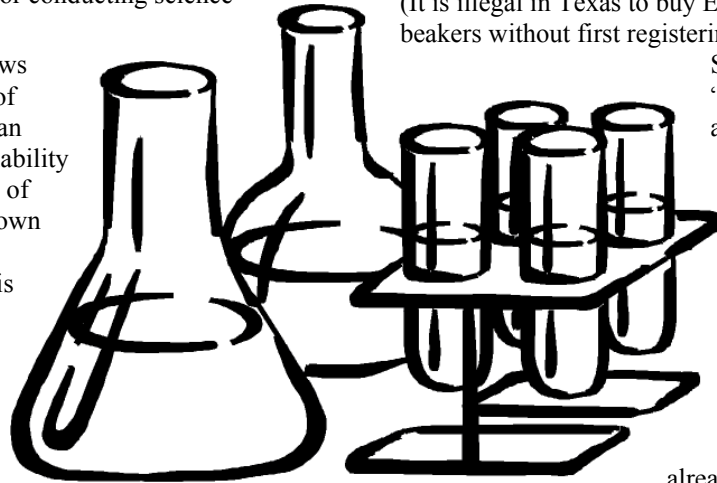
— *Jamie Lynn O'Marr*
Grey maiden@gmail.com
Vice Chair, Baltimore Libertarians

Don't Try This at Home

Wired Magazine reported extensively on the difficulties of obtaining materials to perform time honored chemistry experiments. The home of a retired physicist, who sells chemicals used for classic science fair experiments (like the volcano), was swarmed with M16-armed police officers with a battering ram. The Consumer Product Safety Commission initiated the search, which targeted sulfur, potassium perchlorate, and powdered aluminum because those items can be used to make illegal fireworks. The CPSC has gone after online vendors demanding their customers obtain a license to manufacture explosives before purchasing any chemical associated with making them. Many of these compounds are also highly useful for conducting science experiments.

National security issues and laws aimed at thwarting the production of crystal meth are threatening to put an end to home laboratories. Rising liability concerns are making teachers wary of allowing students to perform their own experiments. Educators speculate that a lack of chem lab experience is contributing to the declining interest in science careers among young people.

Intel cofounder Gordon Moore set off his first boom in Silicon Valley two decades before pioneering the design of the integrated circuit. Vint Cerf (one of the architects of the Internet) spent months blowing up thermite volcanoes and launching backyard rockets. David Packard (co-founder of Hewlett-Packard) concocted new recipes for gunpowder. Neurologist Oliver Sacks wrote about his adolescent love affair with “stinks and bangs.”



Nobel Prize winner (in chemistry) Roald Hoffmann says “There’s no question that stinks and bangs and crystals and colors are what drew kids to science. Now the potential for stinks and bangs has been legislated out.”

The Oklahoma City bombing and 9/11 has caused the Defense Department, the FBI, and other government agencies to strategize ways of tracking even small purchases of potentially dangerous chemicals. The Homeland Security Act mandated background checks and licensing requirements for model-rocket enthusiasts. More than 30 states have passed laws to restrict sales of chemicals and lab equipment associated with meth production. (It is illegal in Texas to buy Erlenmeyer flasks or three-necked beakers without first registering.) Shawn Carlson, founder of the Society for Amateur Scientists, says “To criminalize the necessary materials of discovery is one of the worst things you can do in a free society.” Students experimenting at home have been driven underground, not revealing their accomplishments.

President Bush proposed a \$380 million “competitiveness initiative” to train teachers science and math. By the time students enroll in these courses, many have already absorbed the message that science is best left to trained professionals. Bill Nye, the “Science Guy,” believes that unreasonable fears about chemicals and home experimentation reflect a distrust of scientific expertise taking hold in society at large. “People who want to make meth will find ways to do it that don’t require an Erlenmeyer flask. But raising a generation of people who are technically incompetent is a recipe for disaster.”

The Right to Bear SLR's

Wired Test reports about amateur photographer Thomas Hawk, who roams city streets with his digital SLR camera in hand. Trouble seems to find him, in the form of police officers or private security guards – who accuse him of trespassing while he’s taking shots of buildings and public spaces. “Where I’m different from most photographers,” says Hawk, who catalogs his most dramatic confrontations on his blog at www.ThomasHawk.com, “is that I’m not going to back down.” He is frequently told that he needs a permit, and he replies “No, I don’t need a permit.” Usually he takes a few shots and leaves before the

cavalry arrives. Hawk says that he’s often forced to point out that shooting in public places is perfectly legal – neither private security guards nor police can prevent anyone from taking photos unless a specific local ordinance prohibits it. Legally, no one can seize your memory card without a court order.

Hawk maintains that his obstinacy over public photography is about more than razzing local rent-a-cops:

“I want to educate people – photographers and security guards – about their rights.”



Burying the Competition

Charles Brown, the owner of the Rest Haven cemetery in Hagerstown, thought that he could serve his clients best by building a funeral home on its grounds. This is illegal because Maryland only allows licensed funeral directors to own funeral homes. While Mr. Brown is not licensed, his son is and would operate the facility. Corporate licenses are sold for \$250,000 and there are other legal exceptions permitting people with no experience at all to own funeral homes. Which shows that the government has no reason to keep entrepreneurs out of business. Analysis shows that the average funeral in Maryland costs about \$800 more than it would in an open market. Maryland funeral homes take in about 30 percent more than the average American funeral home, thanks in large part to the government-imposed cartel.



The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene concluded that Maryland's funeral home ownership law harms consumers. The Federal Trade Commission said the same thing.

Mr. Brown has been walking the halls of the Capitol in Annapolis talking to lawmakers about a common sense ownership law. Just about everyone agrees that the law needs to be changed – except the funeral home cartel, which is a significant campaign contributor. Such legislation has consistently been blocked.

A group including Mr. Brown filed suit in federal court seeking to vindicate their constitutional right to earn an honest living without pointless government interference. The *Institute for Justice* (www.IJ.org) reminds Maryland and the courts that economic liberty is a cornerstone of the American Dream.

— from *Liberty & Law*

“The majority never has right on its side. Never I say! That is one of the social lies that a free, thinking man is bound to rebel against. Who makes up the majority in any given country? Is it the wise men or the fools? I think we must agree that the fools are in a terrible overwhelming majority, all the wide world over.”

— *Henrik Ibsen*

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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!*



February 4,11 (Sunday): Baltimore Libertarians moved to Feb. 11
 February 14 (Wednesday): Frederick Douglass and Terry Atwood memorial day (MdLP Central Committee resolution 2/20/99)
 March 3 (Saturday): 1:00-9:00 pm. MdLP Convention. Page 4
 April 16 (Monday): Tax Day protests

May 5/6 (Saturday/Sunday): Towsontown Festival. 10am - 7pm Saturday, 1pm - 7pm Sunday. To help set up, come at least an hour early. If you know anyone who needs some volunteer slavery hours credit for the free state school system, we can give out hours for time spent. Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173, 1-866-576-9651, waBuzze11*juno.com

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

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Payment Information	
Maryland/county-only dues	\$ 25.00
Additional donation:	_____
Total Payment:	\$ _____

Monthly Credit Card Donation:	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	
Card# _____	Exp: _____
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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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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, and not be registered with any other party); verbally certify your registration status and your agreement with the non-aggression principle with your affiliate officers or the state Secretary. For more information, contact Membership Director Bob Johnston at NewMember*md.lp.org.

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**Libertarian Party
 of Maryland
 P.O. Box 176
 Abingdon, MD
 21009-0176**

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.


Gallery Gang: Mondays while the Assembly is in session through April 9 to lobby legislators before the session, attend, drinks afterward. Meet on the State House steps at *Lawyer's Mall* in Annapolis at 7:45 pm. Tony Spezio

LNO (Harford Co.): 7:30 pm. The date and location rotates.
Derek Mancinho

Baltimore LP: 1st Sunday, 7:00 pm at *Tully's Restaurant* (7934 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD 21236 in the Beltway Plaza, just north of the beltway). Jack Mitcham

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

1-800-MLP-1776

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