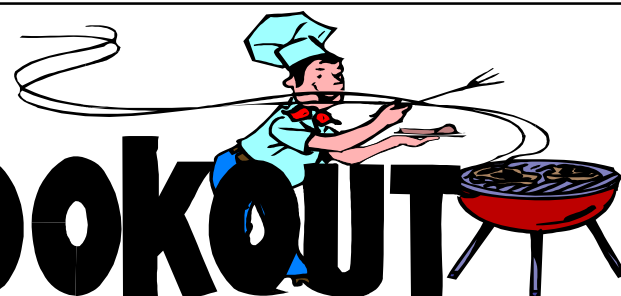



Free? State **LIBERTARIAN** July 2008  
Newsletter of the **LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND**

**The MdLP at the National Convention in Denver** (more on page 5)



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# Chair's Report



For the first time in its history, the Maryland Libertarian Party is running candidates for a majority of seats in a federal election. As of the date of this report, June 19, there are 6 MdLP candidates officially on the ballot for the 8 US House of Representatives' races being contested this November.

The candidates on the ballot are: Dr. Richard Davis (1<sup>st</sup>), Lorenzo Gaztañaga (2<sup>nd</sup>), Thibeaux Lincecum (4<sup>th</sup>), Darlene Nicholas (5<sup>th</sup>), Gary Hoover, (6<sup>th</sup>), and Ronald Owens-Bey (7<sup>th</sup>).

Hopefully our candidate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district, Sebastian Sassi, will have filed by the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

Our candidate for the 8<sup>th</sup> district, Ben Parker, has work demands that will not allow him to participate. While there is an outside shot that another candidate can be placed on the ballot in that district, it is highly doubtful that it can be done in time; therefore we will not have a full slate of candidates for the November elections.

Nonetheless, this provides us with a great opportunity to get our Libertarian message out to the majority of voters in Maryland. We can show how a vote for a Democrat is a vote for war and against civil liberties, and how a vote for a Republican is a vote for spending and welfare.

Further, we will establish our party as *the* "alternative" in Maryland to the establishment Democrat and Republican parties. As of this writing, the Green Party has only one candidate on the ballot – in the 8<sup>th</sup> district – and the Populist Party has none. There are also a smattering of Independents and write-in candidates applying to get onto the ballot.

What actions can we take this campaign season?

**Election Day:** Work at a polling place for at least a part of the day, preferably 4-8 pm. We won't be able to cover every voting precinct, but let's try to appear at as many as possible. Appearances count, and the more turnout we have at polling places, with signs, literature, etc., the more organized we look to the average voter. There will be information later for obtaining campaign signs.

**Phone Bank:** There are over 5,000 registered Libertarians in Maryland. I want to be able to contact as many as possible before the election. We will be organizing a phone bank in September and October to make calls to registered Libertarians. My goal is to have enough people to make 100 calls each. We will need between 50 and 60 volunteers; currently we have over 25 volunteers and candidates to make calls.

If possible, I would also like to contact registered Independents. Over 16%, 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the registered voters in Maryland are Independents and those who have declined to register as an Independent or with a particular party. This provides a tremendous opportunity to increase our vote totals, and let the voters know who we are and what we stand for.

On Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, there was a special election held in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (Montgomery, PG Counties), and MdLP candidate Thibeaux Lincecum wound up with 1% of the vote, 199 votes. On the surface it appears as another third-party/1% outcome. However, there are only 453 registered Libertarians in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Even assuming some non-Libertarians came out to vote for Thibeaux, over 40% of the Libs in the 4<sup>th</sup> came out to vote in a special election where we stood no chance to win, and this was the only voting issue on the ballot! Thibeaux sent out postcards to all registered 4<sup>th</sup> Libertarians prior to the election, and several of us made phone calls in a get-out-the-vote effort. That that many people came out to vote for a Libertarian in a special election shows what a get-out-the-vote effort can do.

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Other List Serves: [www.MD.LP.org/email\\_lists.html](http://www.MD.LP.org/email_lists.html)

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# Towsontowne Spring Festival – May 3/4, 2008



Bill Buzzell and his crew were out once again at the first festival of the season. This year there was no need to solicit petition signatures; instead concentrating on The Quiz and election talk. Darlene Nicholas and Lorenzo Gaztañaga kicked off their campaigns at the event.

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

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www.UMdLibertarians.org	U. of Md./College Park	Adam Bargar	UMCP*md.lp.org

# PICNIC



**What:** Libertarian Party of Maryland Annual Picnic

**Date:** Saturday, August 9 (rain or shine)

**Location:** 16 Partridge Lane, North East, MD 21901 (Dave Sten's home)

**Schedule:** 2:00 pm: picnicking

4:00 pm: Central Committee meeting (no charge)

**Cost:** \$ 8.00 to: MdLP, P.O. Box 176, Abingdon, MD 21009-0176 by Aug. 4  
\$10.00 on site

**Food:** will be provided (hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, beer, soda, juice, water)

**Bring:** folding chairs

**Camping:** feel free to camp out on the grounds Friday and/or Saturday night

**Directions:**

Take North I-95 to exit 100 (North East). Merge onto Route 272 South toward North East and U.S. 40. Continue south on 272 about 2.4 miles to the U.S. 40 intersection, and continue south on 272 (Main Street) through the town of North East. On the other side of town Main Street becomes 272 South and is a two-way road. Continue south for another 5.5 miles. Turn left onto Elk River Lane. (Note: You will notice that Elk River Lane is near when the shoulder of the road disappears and the speed limit changes from 50 mph to 40 mph.) Travel 0.6 miles and then turn right onto Elk River Lane (Elk River Lane is a dirt lane. Dave will make sure that signs directing people to the picnic will be visible.) Follow Elk River Lane for 0.4 miles, and turn right onto Partridge Lane. (There is a row of about 20 mailboxes at the turn for Partridge Lane.) Travel a few hundred feet to Dave's house (small blue cottage on the left). Turn into his driveway, and continue through the grass along the line of trees – the location is at the bottom of the hill.



**Activities:**

- Beach Volleyball
- Tetherball
- Horseshoe Pits
- Paddleboat
- Canoe
- Powered Boat
- Swimming



Note: \$5.00 toll on I-95 and Route 40 northbound, but free southbound on both. No toll on Route 1.

**Don't miss it! We had the picnic at Dave's last summer. There was a good turnout and it was a resounding success.**



# The MdLP at the National Convention in Denver



The front cover photo shows the MdLP Delegation: Spear Lancaster, Nick Sarwark, Michael Linder, Darlene Nicholas, Susan Gaztañaga, Stuart Simms, Dean Ahmad, Derek Pomery, and Lorenzo Gaztañaga – Steve Boone not in picture. View video clips at [www.MD.LP.org/audio](http://www.MD.LP.org/audio). Photos courtesy Susan Gaztañaga.

**Indeed, Milton Friedman came to the conclusion about the futility of drug prohibition early. When President Nixon started the modern war on drugs he wrote a column in *Newsweek* criticizing the policy. He warned that it would not reduce addiction but instead would promote crime and corruption repeating the mistake of alcohol prohibition. He concluded: “So long as large sums of money are involved – and they are bound to be if drugs are illegal – it is literally hopeless to expect to end the traffic or even to reduce seriously its scope. In drugs, as in other areas, persuasion and example are likely to be far more effective than the use of force to shape others in our image.”**

– See *Prohibition and Drugs* at [www.druglibrary.org/special/friedman/prohibition\\_and\\_drugs.htm](http://www.druglibrary.org/special/friedman/prohibition_and_drugs.htm)

# Finally Awake: My transformation from sheep to shepherd

Like most other people my age, I have always been pretty apathetic towards the world around me. Maybe there is something to be said about the stereotype of the Generation X slacker. (Though I wouldn't go so far as to group myself in that category, I did have enough sense of duty and personal fortitude to serve honorably in the Marine Corps.) I coasted along through life the same as ninety percent of Americans do, oblivious to the goings on of the world around me.

Recently however, I have started noticing flaws in so many things that wouldn't cause me to look twice before. The first of which is the lack of respect and self pride in my community. I felt that I was turning into a crotchety old man at the ripe age of 30. "These darn kids today... no respect!" However, it was not that, I was noticing it with people my own age and older. Secondly, I was losing faith in the government. I have always been a free thinker, and sometimes I feel I do too much of it. Nevertheless, things began to dawn on me that did not seem to correlate with my understanding of our nation and its history (to which I have always thought myself to be an aficionado).

It was not until a few months into the primary election season, that I was given a flashlight in a dark cave (figuratively speaking, of course). In passing conversation with my wife's uncle, I made reference to the ongoing election bonanza, and which candidates I really did *not* want to see in the White House. Following a few chuckles and agreements, he mentioned that the only candidate running who was going to stay true to the Constitution was Ron Paul. I told him I would go online and see what he was all about.

Since doing that I have heard the term "Ron Paul cured my apathy" from quite a few people. But for me, that would be an understatement! I have told friends that it is as if I see the world in a completely new light, as if the sun came up and it shone green. My wife will no longer watch the news with me, because I end up yelling at the TV like a crazed sports fan during the political segments. I think my wife's uncle inadvertently created a monster, for which I cannot thank him enough. The blinders have been removed from my eyes, and if I had my way, they would come off every American.

In the months following my 'awakening' I have been researching, reading what I can, and spreading these views to anyone who will listen. I am sure most people see me as a bit overzealous, but if I can get one other person to go through the transformation I have then it will be worth the effort.

Now I spend most of my time trying to spread the message of limited government and individual liberty to friends, coworkers and anyone who will listen. The strange thing to me is that most people agree with what I say, but are either too busy with the distractions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century world to care about the message for more than five minutes, or too afraid to go against the grain of what the group mentality is – both are equally frustrating.



I suppose that is what brought me to the Libertarian web page. It is reassuring to me that there are other people in Maryland who feel this way as well. Up until my recent research, I wasn't sure what a libertarian was. Sure I had heard of the party, but had no clue what they stood for. Although I have not yet filled out my membership form, I plan to as soon as I finish writing this, now that I know! Unfortunately joining the party will not put an end to my attempts to open the eyes of those around me. I plan to work hard and spread the message until I have removed those blinders or until I have no breath left to carry my voice.

In these past six months I have spoken to many people who are disenfranchised from the two major parties. It seems there are a lot of people out there like me who just need to know they aren't alone in the way they think, and that with enough voices together maybe, just maybe we can fix the problems all Americans face, yet so many ignore.

— Ian Thomas



*We welcome Mr. Thomas as a new member to the MdLP!*



## FAX Lobbying



I spent a lot of time years ago going to and testifying at public hearings. In Montgomery County where I live, hearings were usually held in the evening, and ran two-to-three hours. Citizens were generally allowed one-to-three minutes to testify depending on whether they represented a group or themselves.

Testifying before state legislative committees required a 35-mile drive, paid parking, and even more preparation.

Finally, I tired of doing this. Sitting through county hearings until I could get my testimony in was usually boring. Moreover, I increasingly had the sense that the hearings were merely perfunctory, required by law, but with minds already made up by elected officials. And then there were doubts about whether any of my libertarian ideas had any impact.

As for Annapolis, on several occasions, hearings were canceled at the last minute so that legislators could attend other events. That made my drive a total waste. (Those who live in Annapolis and testify regularly could tell you how often this happens.)

Now, I contact elected officials primarily by my fax machine. I have unlimited long-distance calling domestically, and it saves on copying materials and postage. I make a machine copy of my letters-to-the-editor (that are published about monthly in the main county newspaper – *The Gazette* – which is all their contributor quota normally allows), and fax it to the President, State senators, my 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressman, the Governor, my 18<sup>th</sup> District State legislators, my county's Executive, and County Council members, as well as anyone else I deem appropriate. I will fax the published letter to *you* if you want, and have a fax machine.

I recommend that you do this with any of your writing on political issues whether they have been published or not. It saves a lot of time and money, and allows you to remain active even as you spend your time at more positive activities.

— *Gerald Schneider*

**“In 2002, Lawrence Lindsey, President Bush’s chief economic adviser, estimated the cost of the Iraq war to be \$100 billion to \$200 billion. Of course, the Bush administration said this was absurd; he was exaggerating. And not long afterward, he left the administration. Current estimates place the cost of the war somewhere between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion. This is a perfect example of the underlying logic that elected officials tend to downplay long-term costs.”**

— *Christopher J. Coyne*  
*CATO Policy Report*

from page 2, *Chair's Report*

**Money:** It takes money to run television, radio, and newspaper advertisements. It takes money to buy signs, pens, door hangers, t-shirts. It takes money to send postcards to get out the vote. I've asked this before, and I'm going to ask this again: Are you willing to work a day or two this summer for the Presidential and local LP campaigns, and donate the money to these campaigns? How many hours, how much effort would it take to be able to give \$50 - \$100 to Bob Barr's campaign? Or \$20 to one of our state candidates?

At our recent spring convention on March 1<sup>st</sup>, I pledged to those attending that I would work one day each month, and donate the funds to the Presidential and local candidates. I've kept my word. I have given \$20 to each of the candidates on the ballot, and have given \$200 to the Barr campaign. And I will continue to donate \$100 each month to the Barr campaign until the election... as long as I'm employed!

I'm not asking everyone to do what I'm doing, but I am asking for at least one full day of your time and earnings.

We have a unique opportunity with the Barr campaign. Like many Libertarians, I have mixed feelings about Bob Barr being our Presidential candidate. However, I am excited at the prospect of having as our Presidential candidate someone who has won before at the federal level, and knows how to play the game. If Barr can consistently poll at 2-5%, we will generate significant media attention, and have to be taken seriously. Look at the difference in media attention Ralph Nader received in 2000, when he was regularly polling around 5%, compared to 2004, when he could barely get 1%, and would up with 0.5% of the vote. All the more reason to donate money to the Barr campaign.

Please help out this campaign season, and do what you can do to support our candidates, both local and national. And when you get a chance, thank our candidates for taking the time and effort to run for office as Maryland Libertarians.

— *Bob Johnston*

- The number of physicians in the U.S. is 700,000.
  - Accidental deaths caused by physicians/year are 120,000.
  - Accidental deaths per physician is 0.171.
- (Statistics courtesy of U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services)

Now think about this . . .

Guns:

- The number of gun owners in the U.S. is 80,000,000.
- The number of accidental gun deaths per year (all age groups) is 1,500.
- The number of accidental deaths per gun owner is 0.0000188.

Statistically, doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners.

Remember, “Guns don't kill people; doctors do.”

**FACT: NOT EVERYONE HAS A GUN, BUT ALMOST EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST ONE DOCTOR.**

Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. We must ban doctors before this gets completely out of hand!!!!

Note: Out of concern for the public at large, I have withheld the statistics on lawyers for fear the shock would cause people to panic and seek medical attention.

— *from the internet*

# MdLP 2008 Convention



The Libertarian Party of Maryland's 2008 annual convention was held at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk (the same spot as in 2006 and 2007) on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The opening speaker was Kevin Zeese: he thinks that Libertarians will become more important than ever – we are heading into an era of increased executive power, and we need to talk about civil liberties. Ron Paul's level of success is a good indicator. It has been a hard year for independent politics with the Obama "rock star" campaign. But

after this election we will see more opportunities, because the electorate will be disappointed in whomever is elected. The growth of independent and third party registrations bodes well for third party politics.

A few rules of political activism: don't be afraid to lose (see slavery, women not voting); losing is *part* of winning. We are in a marathon, not a sprint. We trip up over hurdles placed in our path. We are in this for a lifetime.

Mr. Zeese tells us to find ways to build our base (with tools like the internet we have an advantage). There are big donors and small donors: big donations come with strings. Use the base for activism and funding. Envision contributors as a pyramid: at the bottom is the base with a large number of small contributions; the middle gives more; while at the top are a few giving lots.

We have a manipulative economy: big business and government are controlling things. On the paper ballot issue: lawmakers deleted the requirement for audits; without audits all we have are big expensive recounts. Also, if it is not funded this year, the law expires. He makes the point that optical scan machines save money over Diebold devices. TrueVoteMD has been using its members to contact legislators.

On the Libertarian Party: the MdLP emphasizes pragmatism. Mr. Zeese recognizes that there is always a conflict between purity and pragmatism, and appreciates that we are trying to be pragmatic by cooperating with other parties and candidates on ballot access. We have clear principles, which makes it easier for people to understand (small government and liberty). We need to find indirect ways to get people involved – most people don't want to attend party meetings; find issues to draw interest.

Mr. Zeese is now using a mainstream lobbyist, and feels strange being on the inside instead of an outsider. We must show that we are important; TrueVoteMD killed several campaigns. He is glad that Ralph Nader is running; issue after issue is off the table and is not being discussed; because Nader is a celebrity, he gets the press, is on TV (which other third party candidates don't). We need multiple third party candidates out there pushing the two parties. It is not about winning, but rather about getting the message out. We have a big business government: we are subsidizing companies which are making the largest profits. This shuts down the smaller competition. All third parties are struggling now, there are many obstacles. The two major parties are not making it easier, they're making it harder. Proposed campaign finance laws would fund Democrats, Republicans, and independents – but not third party candidates. People see us failing, and most people

want to be with someone who can win because they think they can get something done. Even if the elected party *fails* they get re-elected: look at Baltimore City! We're facing a very tough hurdle.

Steve Kubby addressed the convention via speaker-phone. He is being told that the Constitution is dead. There are many good candidates running (for the LP presidential nomination); he has gotten things done. He negotiated with the DEA on behalf of medical marijuana patients. He has a record of being willing to make whatever sacrifice is necessary for freedom, and this sets him apart: he went to jail, fled to Canada, and risks life itself. Mr. Kubby says his health is good except for getting over the flu this week. His motion for early termination of his probation has been accepted; he can now travel to all 50 states without hindrance. He *is* a one-issue candidate: about liberty; the freedom to be left alone; he is here to defend our most basic rights, and wants to get people into the party.



Mr. Kubby is working on an economic package with Joe Cobb. We can't entrust the situation to DC politicians; we must act now, and cannot expect our politicians to address these matters on their own; we must instruct them to do so. We are innovators, we create value, that creates our standard of living. How can we jump start our economy and improve our lives? The end of federal income taxes and withholding would leave more money in your pocket. Government has been demanding that we make do with less so *it* can have revenue; it is time to reverse that policy. 42% of government funds come from income taxes. He would cut discretionary spending and declare a government debt holiday: no more debt. It is time to take back their credit card. Repudiate the debt? At 9 trillion dollars and counting, it is going to have to end. Now it is time to plan. The situation can't wait, we can't wait. There must be an immediate nonviolent economic revolution. With a tax holiday *now*, a debt holiday *now*. Congress must take notice of the damage done to the nation.

He would support Ron Paul if he sought the LP nomination, but Paul says he won't. He does see Bob Barr entering the race. What spending cuts would Kubby make? He would not allow addicts who are addicted to debt to have *one more penny* of public debt. He would seek a return to the gold standard, and wants to see an end of the banking monopoly of the Federal Reserve.

Sebastian Sassi, of *Maryland Shall Issue*, spoke next. He opened with "Freedom is the ability to make a choice." He's not here to tell us to go out and buy a gun; we should have a choice. Arguing gun statistics is going down the wrong road: *civil liberties* is the correct one. *Staying alive* is the most fundamental civil liberty. "No right of self-defense is written in the Constitution!" How stupid. No serious, rational person can argue that you don't have the right to remain alive. Can you be denied the means to do so? Do you still have your first amendment right to free speech if you have ink and a quill, but not email? We must use current tools. We get to choose many things, but we don't really have the





right to defend ourselves. If the corner drug dealer comes after you, he has contemporary weapons – do you? If you can't exercise the choice to protect yourself, it is a right denied. If you don't have the right to protect yourself, you don't have anything.

How did we get here? Mr. Sassi loses a lot of sleep wondering how we got to this point: in order to defend ourselves, we have to go through a lot of rigamarole. There is a devaluation of human life. There used to be high school rifle teams. We're not taking beer and wine away from us because Britney Spears is an idiot. Because of idiots we must take guns away from the rest of us? The KKK and Aryan Nation abuses first amendment rights; we don't take *them* away from the rest of us. We're not going to solve any of these problems by taking defense rights away from law-abiding citizens. It is okay to have reasonable restrictions on certain people, but don't expect them to work. *Maryland Shall Issue* is a non-partisan lobbying group. About 40 states are shall-issue states (the state has to show reason why you *shouldn't* be given a permit). Here in Maryland you must demonstrate a reason why they *should* issue a permit, like carrying lots of money to the bank.

Crime is the #1 issue in Maryland for elections. Prince George's county is the car-jacking capital of the world. If we don't deal with crime issues in Baltimore City, it will creep out. He is one of six or seven people in Maryland with an unrestricted gun permit who is not in law enforcement. There are 11,000 total. Mr. Sassi was threatened by drug dealers because he sweeps the streets and boards up empty houses. When he applied for a carry permit, police suggested he "knock it off" so he wouldn't be bothered. He now wears a ballistic vest while he walks his dog.

He has made a nuisance of himself to the politicians, and has been shaming the city a little bit. The message he brings is you can make a nuisance of yourself, but you can effect change that way. When he moved into his house, it was a busy drug corner – no longer. It can be done, but not the way O'Malley, etc. want. Citizens and law enforcement must work together. We need private citizens to help out. Wouldn't there be more citizens helping if they had the right to defend themselves? We can construct an intellectually consistent set of rules for who can carry a gun; it makes no difference. The people you worry about will always have guns. Asks us to join *Maryland Shall Issue*.

Our convention's after-dinner speaker was Jim Lark (2000-2002 LP chair, 2004 Samuel Adams award winner). He offered

us some helpful hints for management: "The Teachings of Chairman Jim." Tips to build the LP locally and nationally; not a rah-rah talk. Being national Chair was like being an ER doctor on call 24 hours a day. He learned why people drink a lot. Most libertarians are not interested in politics. Most libertarians are not willing to come out and help us sell in the libertarian marketplace. There is a "leave me alone" policy in America. We misinterpret this as thinking this is a libertarian philosophy. He admonishes us to treat volunteers as gold: "Thank them. Pat them on the back. If they see that their work is going to have some impact and that their work is appreciated, they will be glad to help. As leaders, we must make sure people know that we appreciate them."

A lot of libertarian organizations operate as if they have a labor theory of value: *working hard* is enough. But are you moving the ball down the field? Evaluating by time instead of results? We're playing in a rigged game: our competitors cheat; we just don't realize how difficult our job is. Good and bad candidates can both end up with 4% of the vote. We have to start measuring effectiveness. Look at our activities individually and collectively. Lots of libertarian organizations are activity driven instead of *goal* driven. Do we do activities because they are helpful, or because that's *what we do*? Subject our activities to careful scrutiny: is it getting the job done? Set goals and achieve them. We have to do a better job of identifying goals, determining how to get there, and evaluating results.

"Problem children" is a common problem. State and local organizations are going to have to learn how to deal with these situations. Think through how to deal with them first. People in positions of leadership don't realize who they report to: they can spend lots of time on peripheral members and inconsequential issues.

Remember to ask for advice. "A man's got to know his limitations" (Dirty Harry); "90% of life is just showing up" (Woody Allen); "Be careful what you wish for, you may get it"; "No good deed ever goes unpunished;" get used to it, it happens when you're in the big chair. "If you want to get something done, pick a busy person"; "You win with people" (Woody Hayes).

Be confident in the importance of what you're doing. Dr. Lark has confidence in our ultimate success, because our ideas are simply *right*. "I'm not only proud about it, I'm smug about it" (Monty Python). Never get discouraged, never quit. The soldier winning a battle doesn't know that it is the big win of the war.

He judges that we're still shooting par: we could be doing better, but we could be doing a lot worse. We're fighting against an ideological revolution. "You are the face of the LP; be a good neighbor. All politics is personal."

Dr. Lark closed the convention day by telling us that it is always an honor to address LP parties like us, because "We are heroes: those people who are fighting for liberty."



## Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 1 March 2008

**Opening:** The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Squire's Italian Restaurant* in Dundalk, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:44 pm by chairman Bob Johnston. The Treasurer's report and 11 August 2007 Central Committee meeting Minutes were distributed.

**Attendance:** the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Dave Sten; and Bill Buzzell. It validated that 20 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. No proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 31 members.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 11 August 2007 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's report:** The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

**Montgomery County LP:** as reported by Nick Sarwark, the Chair and Treasurer resigned but the state is under the impression that the Treasurer did not resign, and he is liable for fines due to reports not filed. There will be a Central Committee meeting on March 23 at Nick's house, at which point a new Executive Board will be elected. The county organization will then either become active again or dissolve.

**Chair's Report:** Bob Johnston reports that membership was 61 as of 1 Jan. 2008; we have 12 or 13 monthly pledgers, which covers about half of our annual expenses. Asks for members to become monthly pledgers. The treasury is at about \$2850 in available funds; we are in decent shape. When he took the job as Chair, his reason was to run candidates in the upcoming election. Wes Benedict took a moribund party (Texas) and ran 161 candidates. We have eight seats for Congress here this year; we won't win any of these elections, but we can be viable. By running a full slate of candidates, we become the third party against the duopoly. Has seven of the eight candidates desired so far, we have until July 1 to file. Of the seven people applying for nomination, four are long time MdLP members, another is from another state and received 13,000 votes in a previous election, and another has run before for another party. All may not be 100% Libertarian, but are at least 70% so and would chip away at the size of government. Bob has vetted each candidate. There are some Ron Paul candidates who won. Wants to appeal to the anti-War, anti-Patriot Act voters. Urges us to support our candidates. Four ways to support candidates: get out on election day with signs, have a physical presence at the polls; put out door hangers; man booths; and contribute money (Bob will work one day of overtime per month to donate to candidates).

**Officer Elections:** The following were nominated as officers: Robert Johnston III, Steven Boone, Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, David Sten, Anthony Spezio, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Charles Tavik, and John Krynicki. Election was by written ballot. The

winners after the first ballot announced by Dean Ahmad were: Robert Johnston, Robert Glaser, Steven Boone, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, and Michael Linder. On the second ballot for two positions are: David Sten, John Krynicki, Charles Tavik, and Anthony Spezio. The winners as announced by Dean Ahmad were David Sten and Anthony Spezio.

**Election Rules Opinion:** between the first and second officer election ballots, two MdLP members joined the Central Committee. Dean Ahmad queried the Chair on the validity of this action; the Chair stated that this was valid and no Central Committee member objected.

**Motion:** The Executive Board is directed to take reasonable efforts to send a copy of the letter from the attorneys regarding the Cannabis Cup raffle to the Central Committee. Yes=9, No=7; motion PASSES.

**Motion:** the state will pay for an information booth at the Chesapeake Pride festival. PASSES by voice vote.

**Program Committee's Report:** the Program Committee recommended approval of the following proposed changes to the State Program:

1. Append a new bullet to the *Education* section: Encourage counties to elect school boards

Vote: motion PASSES on a voice vote.

**Delegates to the National Convention:** Bob Johnston, Stuart Simms, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Steve Boone, Nick Sarwark, Spear Lancaster, Michael Linder, Dean Ahmad, Derek Pomery, Hadassah Aaronson, Susan Gaztañaga, and Darlene Nicholas were nominated and approved. The Secretary is directed to fill out the delegate and alternate lists with remaining Central Committee members. Any designated alternate can notify the Chairman to become a delegate prior to the submission deadline.

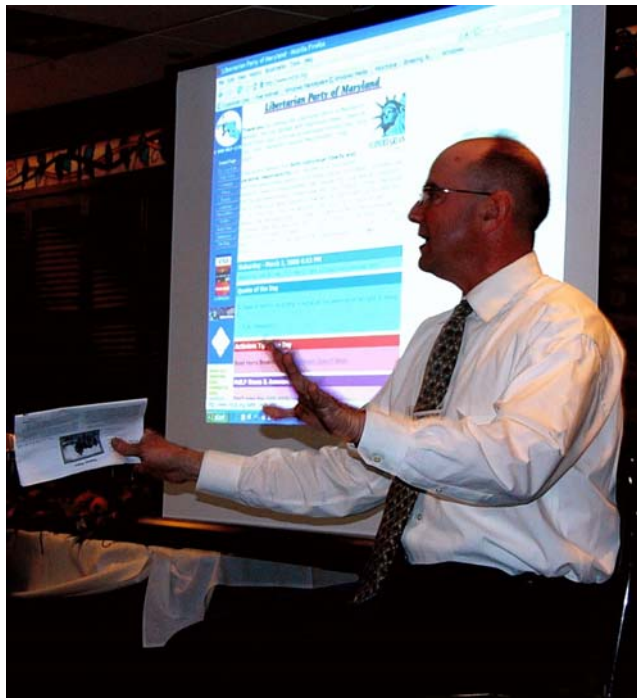
Nick Sarwark moves, amended by Dean Ahmad's motion, that by unanimous consent vote of the delegates present at the National Convention, other people can be used as delegates. The motion was allowed to be debated by unanimous consent initiated by Dean Ahmad despite the fact that Nick was not a member at the time. The motion passed.

**Nominations of Candidates for Statewide Office:** Sebastian Sassi (3<sup>rd</sup>); Richard Davis (1<sup>st</sup>); Lorenzo Gaztañaga (2<sup>nd</sup>); Thibeaux Lincecum (4<sup>th</sup>); Darlene Nicholas (5<sup>th</sup>); Ronald Owens-Bey (7<sup>th</sup>); and Benjamin Parker (8<sup>th</sup>) were nominated for U.S. Congress; all were approved by voice vote.

**Announcements:** the Central Committee thanked Bob Johnston for arranging the Convention. Bill Buzzell put out signup sheets for fairs and the July 4 parade. On March 15 PA, WV, and NJ will have a tri-state co-convention in Malvern, PA.

**Adjournment:** the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser





# Your Anti-War, Anti-Patriot Act Libertarian Candidates



Candidates for U.S. Congress: (above left-to-right) Richard Davis (1<sup>st</sup>), Lorenzo Gaztañaga (2<sup>nd</sup>), Sebastian Sassi (3<sup>rd</sup>), Thibeaux Lincecum (4<sup>th</sup>); (below left-to-right) Darlene Nicholas (5<sup>th</sup>), Gary Hoover, Sr. (6<sup>th</sup>), Ronald Owens-Bey (7<sup>th</sup>). Bottom right: Bob Barr, LP Presidential candidate. Help them with your time and money. Visit [www.MD.LP.org/candidates](http://www.MD.LP.org/candidates) to stay up-to-date on their campaigns.



## Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Monday, 19 May 2008

**Opening:** The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at Robert Glaser's home in Owings Mills, Maryland. The special meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

**Attendance:** 8 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting; plus 4 proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 31 members.

**Nominations of Candidates for Statewide Office:** Gary Hoover, Sr. was nominated for U.S. Congress, 6<sup>th</sup> district. Mr. Hoover spoke and answered questions. His nomination was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment:** the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

— *Robert E. Glaser*



# Libertarian Party of Maryland Program

(Revised 1 March 2008) [[www.MD.LP.org/docs/program.php](http://www.MD.LP.org/docs/program.php)]

## 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

Encourage variety in education through local control, including:

- Allowing for increased parental choice within the government public school system. Education funds will follow each child accordingly (e.g. tax credits, vouchers, etc.);
- 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;
- Discouraging government interference and control with home schooling;
- Encourage counties to elect school boards.

### 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 stadiums, hotels, concert halls, etc., as such funds tend to be political favors;
- 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.

### 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 mass transportation relative to automobile traffic.

Prevent pollution and increase environmental awareness by making polluters pay for their irresponsibility by facing strict civil liability. Promote free market environmentalism to solve problems.

### Crime and Public Safety

- Free up our law enforcement resources by concentrating efforts on crimes against persons and property, 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."
- Promote medical treatment, rather than prison sentences, for those who abuse alcohol or drugs.
- Stopping the national War on Drugs will reduce profit of the drug trade, resulting in a decrease in crime.
- Permit the carrying of firearms with training and a background check (shall-issue). This will allow law-abiding citizens the constitutional right to arm themselves to protect their homes and liberties. Waiting periods, bans, and registration may actually increase crime.



## Editor's Corner



The next issue will be after the November election. Thanks to this issue's contributors.

I hope that everyone will be able to help out our candidates, both before the election and at the polls on Election Day.

With the triumvirate of the Drug War, Protecting Children, and anti-Terrorism, a guise can be chosen to satisfy any Big Government program whatsoever. Pick whichever rationale you wish. The Constitution is no obstacle to this onslaught. For instance, Customs agents (as reported in [www.eWeek.com](http://www.eWeek.com)):

Michael Timothy Arnold, a California resident, faces charges of transporting child pornography after customs officials seized his laptop at LAX as he was returning from a trip to the Philippines. The only probable cause was that the Philippines is supposedly renowned for its child pornography.

A Los Angeles district court booted the case on the grounds that the examination of laptop files was unreasonable, overly invasive, and a violation of the Fourth Amendment. The court ruled that customs failed to articulate a reasonable reason for searching the laptop in the first place.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision, ruling that customs needs no particular reason to search laptop contents. The higher court said laptop searches are no different from searches of luggage.

So be aware that customs agents can search your laptop on what amounts to nothing more than a whim. They can copy the entire contents of your hard drive, including proprietary business information, trade secrets, and other privileged information. Maybe they will just grab your iPod and check it to make sure all your music is legal.

I guess President Bush was smarter than all of us when he reportedly said that the Constitution was just a goddamned piece of paper.

— *Robert E. Glaser*



## In the News

**Doug McNeil's** letter on January 25 was printed in the *Baltimore Sun*: "Voting for war is no path to peace." He complains that nearly all of the Congressional Democrats talk peace, but vote for war.

**Gerald Schneider's** letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on January 30. In "Private schools fill a need" he explains that increased private school enrollment is due to the desire of parents for independent schools that might better serve the needs of their children.

**Gerald Schneider** writes in his letter to the editor in the April 2008 *Washington Beacon* about John McCain: "He would begin serving as president at 72 if elected. His father and grandfather died at earlier ages. Who the vice president nominee is is a factor to consider by those who would vote for Mr. McCain."

The *Gazette* published **Gerald Schneider's** letter on April 16. He proposes in "One man's plan to rein in spending": no new taxes; replace taxes with user fees when possible; no new roads at public expense; lowering housing costs by ending needless zoning and building codes; and to substitute teleconferencing for out-of-county travel.

**Gerald Schneider's** letter to the *Gazette* was published on May 2. In "Foreign language publications not worth cost" he expounds on the expense of a nanny state.

On May 20, the *Baltimore Sun* published **Doug McNeil's** letter "Democrats finally act to stop war." He thanks House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Congressional Democrats for defeating the \$166 billion war funding bill. Doug reminds us that although she represents California in Congress, Nancy Pelosi comes from a Baltimore political dynasty. Her father and brother were both mayors of Baltimore, and she was born in Baltimore.

**Gerald Schneider** comments about the union movement today having lost its way in his *Gazette* letter "1935 labor act contributed to unions' decline" of May 30: "The NLRA promoted use of government force rather than peaceful voluntary negotiations to gain concessions from employers."

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

**The young couple hauled in \$40,000 in cash at their Greek wedding. They knew if they deposited \$10,000 or more at once, the bank would have to file a "currency transaction report" and they'd have to wait in line to provide information. So they deposited their loot in smaller lumps. Soon, they were being investigated by Internal Revenue Service criminal agents. Carving up deposits to avoid a currency report is "structuring." Structuring is a felony.**

**You don't have to be dealing drugs, cheating on your taxes, or paying prostitutes to run afoul of the structuring law. Even if the money is from a legal source and used legally, the government can charge you with a crime and/or demand you forfeit cash. By contrast, with money laundering, the cash has to be related to an underlying crime.**

— [www.forbes.com/forbes/2008/0407/038.html](http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2008/0407/038.html)

TO: SHA Adopt-A-Highway Program  
 WHO: The Libertarian Club of Baltimore  
 WHERE: Charles Street  
 WHEN: Saturday April 19, 2008  
 ATTENDANCE: 5 people out, 10 AM to Noon  
 WHAT: 12 Bags Collected  
 DETAIL:

South Bound

3 bags @ Ruxton Ridge Rd. + 1 piece of wood + 1 piece Plate Glass  
 3 bags @ Yellow School Sign North of Ruxton School

North Bound

3 bags @ Greenwood Road across from Ruxton Ridge School  
 3 bags @ "NO TRUCKS OVER 3/4 TON" Sign

"So maybe we should look at Al Wynn's premature departure as addition by subtraction. In fact, we should encourage all members of Congress who want to go work for a lobbyist to go now. We can save the costs of special elections by not having them. Leave their seats empty until next January. Empty seats would be better than the representation we have now."

— Dan Rodricks  
*The Baltimore Sun*

"Every penny spent on health care comes from us as citizens. It is simply passed through to insurance companies in the form of premiums, employers in the form of lost wages and government in the form of taxes."

— Greg Scandlen  
*Consumers for Health Care Choices, Hagerstown*



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— Steven Sass



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# COMING EVENTS

Note: consult [www.MD.LP.org/events/](http://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 4 (Friday): Dundalk 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Line up 7:15 am in the Logan Village Shopping Center on Dundalk Ave. Bill Buzzell 410-477-9173, 1-866-576-9651, waBuzzle11\*juno.com

July 8 (Tuesday): 7:30 pm Executive Board meeting via teleconference. Robert Glaser

July 19 (Saturday): 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. Chesapeake Pride Festival. Rain or shine at the AA Co. Fairgrounds (Route 178), Crownsville, MD. Bill Buzzell (contact info at left)

August 9 (Saturday): 2:00 pm. MdLP picnic and Central Committee meeting. Page 4

November 4 (Tuesday): Election Day!

Copy or Clip Form ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

## ***Libertarian Party of Maryland*** [www.MD.LP.org/join-form.pdf](http://www.MD.LP.org/join-form.pdf) **Membership Form**

Name: .....

Address: .....

City, State, Zip: .....

County: .....

Email: .....

Phone (day): .....

Phone (evening): .....

Phone (other): .....

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.

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Dave Sten at [NewMember\\*md.lp.org](mailto:NewMember*md.lp.org).

### **Payment Information**

**Maryland/county-only dues \$ 25.00**

**Additional donation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- Envelope stuffing
- Outreach programs
- Computer work
- County organization
- Campaign help
- Public Relations
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

# www.MD.LP.org

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## Regularly Scheduled Libertarian Gatherings

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

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


Baltimore LP: 7:00 pm Sundays as scheduled at the *Charred Rib*, 12 Ridgely Road, Timonium. Susan Gaztañaga

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

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