

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

~~NO~~ **ELECTION DAY** ~~NO~~



November 4, 2008

Every Maryland registered voter had the opportunity to metaphorically “pull the lever” for Libertarian Presidential and Congressional candidates in the high-turnout election. Shown above is the line of people waiting to vote at Hazelwood Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore City (photo courtesy Susan Gaztañaga). Vote tallies are on page 4, and election reviews from our candidates are on pages 5-8.

Chair's Report



First of all, I want to thank each of the eight candidates who ran for office as Maryland Libertarians, and establishing our party as one to be reckoned with.

At first, I was a little disappointed with our election results. I tend to be a little overly-optimistic approaching Election Day. However, judging by the number of people who called me and congratulated me, we must

have done better than I first thought.

The Good

Media. The local media was very good to our candidates. Many candidates had letters-to-the-editor published in local papers throughout the state, as did state party members. Dr. Richard Davis and Gary Hoover each had television interviews on their local stations, and Darlene Nicholas and Thibeaux Lincecum each did a cable-tv interview. The Baltimore *City Paper* published a nice writeup about our candidates whose districts included parts of the city. The Baltimore *Examiner* published several pro-Libertarian articles, and one of their writers endorsed Dr. Davis. The website *PolitickerMD.com* ran one of Lorenzo Gaztañaga's YouTube clips. Ed Norris and his co-host Maynard both claimed on Norris' show that they voted Libertarian, and discussed the LP as an alternative to the two party monopoly. The *Washington Post* interviewed both Sebastian Sassi and Ronald Owens-Bey at length, although they only published one quote each in an article about their respective district races. I had six interviews with local papers and websites, none of which were negative in the least.

Volunteers. More than 25 people volunteered to make phone

calls to registered Libertarians on the Maryland voter registration list. Unfortunately the list was not good; many callers couldn't contact even one quarter of the list.

Candidates for 2010. I am already being contacted by people who wish to run for local office in 2010, especially young people.

Attention from the 1st Congressional District race. The closeness of the 1st district race between Democrat Frank Kratovil and Republican Andy Harris also brought us statewide publicity, since our candidate Dr. Richard Davis received over 8,000 votes, several times the margin of victory for Mr. Kratovil. While I don't necessarily agree with the thought that the majority of our votes would have gone to Mr. Harris and thus cost him the race, the extra publicity is certainly welcome.

Radio ads. The party wanted to run ads for our candidates on WBAL-AM, and we were able to raise within a week more than enough to pay for the ads.

The Bad

Support for our candidates from the party members was basically non-existent.

Of the seven candidates who were willing to accept contributions, the exception being Dr. Davis, I was the only person who donated to four of them. A fifth candidate, Gary Hoover, received money from Robert Glaser and myself. The bulk of Lorenzo's contributions came from an Argentinian doctor, and the main donor to Darlene Nicholas' campaign was a new member, Richard Falcone.

At our spring convention in March, I pledged to work one Saturday per month throughout the Summer and Fall to donate funds to our candidates and the presidential candidate. And I kept my word. All I asked of everyone else was to give one Saturday this summer and donate the money to the presidential and state candidates. I don't think one person came through on that. If someone did, please let me know, and I'll credit them in the next issue's chair report.

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Independence Day – July 4, 2008

The MdLP at the Dundalk Parade



Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Susan Gaztañaga, Bill Buzzell, and Darlene Nicholas kick off the campaign season at this annual event.

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General Election Results

U.S. President (Maryland totals)

Obama/Biden – Democratic (won)	McCain/Palin – Republican	Barr/Root – Libertarian
1,613,692 (61.8%)	956,663 (36.6%)	9,799 (0.4%)

Representative in Congress, District 1

Frank M. Kratovil – Democratic (won)	Andy Harris – Republican	Richard James Davis – Libertarian
177,065 (49.1%)	174,213 (48.3%)	8,873 (2.5%)

Representative in Congress, District 2

Dutch Ruppersberger – Dem. (won)	Richard Pryce Matthews – Republican	Lorenzo Gaztañaga – Libertarian
198,578 (71.9%)	68,561 (24.8%)	8,786 (3.2%)

Representative in Congress, District 3

John P. Sarbanes – Democratic (won)	Thomas E. Harris – Republican	Sebastian Sassi – Libertarian
203,711 (69.7%)	87,971 (30.1%)	waiting for write-in count

Representative in Congress, District 4

Donna Edwards – Democratic (won)	Peter James – Republican	Thibeaux Lincecum – Libertarian
252,524 (85.8%)	37,958 (12.9%)	3,284 (1.1%)

Representative in Congress, District 5

Steny H. Hoyer – Democratic (won)	Collins Bailey – Republican	Darlene H. Nicholas – Libertarian
250,608 (73.5%)	82,170 (24.1%)	7,731 (2.3%)

Representative in Congress, District 6

Roscoe Bartlett – Republican (won)	Jennifer P. Dougherty – Democratic	Gary W. Hoover, Sr. – Libertarian
190,856 (57.8%)	128,129 (38.8%)	11,055 (3.3%)

Representative in Congress, District 7

Elijah Cummings – Democratic (won)	Michael T. Hargadon – Republican	Ronald Owens-Bey – Libertarian
227,379 (79.5%)	53,147 (18.6%)	5,214 (1.8%)

Representative in Congress, District 8

Chris Van Hollen – Democratic (won)	Steve Hudson – Republican	Gordon Clark – Green	Ian Thomas – Libertarian
224,761 (75.1%)	65,020 (21.7%)	6,622 (2.2%)	2,512 (0.8%)

Reflections on the 1st District Congressional Race

This was an entirely new experience for me, and I think it has been quite worthwhile. As a complete novice this was basically a solo effort with a great deal of help from my wife and some very helpful support from Bob Johnston, who was a great help in guiding me through the official filing process. Thanks, Bob!

My wife has been far more supportive than I probably rated, handling pretty much all the computer work – emails, etc. – and doing a good part of the driving so I could focus on speech preparation en route.

Let me suggest if you ever try this, think long and hard first if you have children still at home. While I lost a little time to getting my youngest off to college, I feel especially bad for Mr. Kratovil's four boys, all under age 11. As with Sarah Palin's children, I feel a major political campaign falls somewhere between neglect and abuse of younger children.

I decided from the start to take no funds for the campaign. There is no way to compete with the big boys there – over \$4 million between them in this race, which is a real talking point here on the Shore where economics is tough on the vast majority of the population. I figure with copying, stationary, postage, gas for travel, and the \$100 filing fee I spent about \$300. The last count I heard gives me over 7,000 votes [8,873], around 2 - 2½ % and more than the difference between the big parties.

This was a nasty campaign for the majors – I don't know if it matched the worst from my native New York State, but it probably would be competitive there. This was a major turnoff for a lot of voters and made them a lot more inclined to listen where I could honestly say I had nothing against either of my opponents personally, and that I had no problem with that as it was the record of their parties over the last hundred plus years I was running against and the Constitution I was running **FOR**.

As I said, I was a complete novice – it took me a while to develop a list of as many local papers in the district as I could find. I tried to do one letter-to-the-editor a month and send a copy to each paper. Most were pretty cooperative. The local paper in Dorchester County printed all my letters verbatim and most printed at least some. (If the *Baltimore Sun* printed any, I've not heard about it, and I don't know about some of the areas farther from me.) The *Sun*, of course, totally ignored me as far as I could tell, but I got at least a brief mention in the *Washington Post* and phone interviews with the *Annapolis Capitol* and the *Easton Star Democrat*.

The debates were a major plus. This may have been the "perfect storm," with a very close, very expensive race with no incumbent, but I got invited. Notice was too short to make the first one up in Harford County – over a hundred miles one way – but Salisbury University was a big boost. I'm not a great public speaker. I write better than I speak (Bob Johnston got copies of all my letters-to-the-editor), and I speak better with time for thought and preparation than off the cuff on questions I don't see ahead and have one or two minutes to answer. I don't like glib, canned sound-bite answers and I'm just not willing to prep that way, but I feel I held my own a bit with the "pro's." PAC-14, the local public TV station, made copies of the debate at Salisbury (90

minutes) available, which were apparently very popular. Reviewing my copy was helpful prep for the Salisbury Rotary forum and the final debate at Chesapeake College. I'm not sure what got me the 10-15 minute interview at WBOC-TV, but I've had a lot of people say they saw me on TV and heard me mentioned on the radio. (I've missed all my own TV coverage myself.)

I don't know if we can hope for a repeat of this kind of media support – there is likely to be an incumbent next time. However, I don't see a lot of upcoming economic improvement and I'm not at all sure a lot of the "change" upcoming is what people have been expecting or wanting, so there may well still be a lot of dissatisfaction in two years.

I hope we can keep a little pressure on with things like letters-to-the-editor every 3-4 months (too much might make us just sound like cranks). Having done this once, a few areas become evident where a candidate could use some help. Ideally this would be volunteer assistance to avoid fundraising issues and the associated paperwork, and would be limited to keep from overloading and burning people out.

① Help in identifying venues to speak. The debates were great, but I could have managed more speaking engagements if given a group, time, and location. Some transportation help would have been useful to help make sure I got to the right place at the right time. If I can identify what issues a group wants to hear about and how long a talk they want, I can do better than two minute answers to pop quiz questions.

② Help copying and mailing out letters-to-the-editor.

③ Help with typing (possibly) and answering emails.

With that level of help I think there would be a shot at doing a good lot more than this year.

Bob Johnston has asked if I'd do this again in 2010. I've told him I will never put myself forward seeking a nomination but will again give it very serious consideration if the party still wants me then. I

don't expect a sudden great wave of libertarianism unless there's some unusual protracted traumatic crisis to really get people fed up with the big parties. I suspect it will be more gradual. In addition, people need to see the federal government as a limited national government – a sort of referee between states for the most part – rather than a source of personal and local goodies. (Why is it less of a bailout to pump sand from the ocean floor to the Ocean City beaches than to prop up banks and automakers?) Nevertheless, I think we have a possibility of continuing to make progress.

There's a part of me that wishes we were a larger, more unified party, but on reflection I think we're better as a relatively loose aggregation of more or less mutually supportive individuals around a common theme than a morally and intellectually useless "big tent" like the major parties – or, for that matter like the federal government. We'd all be much better off if the states were a looser aggregation comparable to the individual members of the Libertarian Party, rather than obedient dependents of an all-powerful Fed.

— Richard Davis



A Journey for Peace

My 2008 Candidacy for Congressional District 5

What a Mr. Toad's wild ride this Congressional District race has been! I wasn't sure if my heart was really in it when I was asked to run. I had many work and family issues that I knew were going to come up before the campaign would be finished and knew I wouldn't be able to give 100% of my focus. But I also knew that my life's journey had led me to move to the Washington Beltway, which practically goes through my living room, for a reason.

After it appeared that my husband Allen's job with Kaiser was going to become more permanent than we originally thought, I started reorganizing my life to find us a place to live convenient to Silver Spring where he was working – not knowing where my job prospects were going to be. We started out in what my hubby fondly calls the People's Republic of College Park – where you can't even put up a clothesline in your back yard – to Beltsville.

Prior to securing a permanent position with GDIT, I had the luxury of driving around getting lost. The first two times I ventured from the Super 8 where Allen had been temporarily living, I accidentally found myself down in DC feeling extremely claustrophobic with lawyers to the left of me, politicians to the right, here I was stuck in the middle with them to paraphrase an old song by Steelers Wheel.

But then like the Calvary coming over the horizon, I would find myself going past the Cato Institute or Institute for Justice and realize that I had also found my home with like-minded people to fight alongside. It took me a while before I made contact. I found a standing meeting of the College Park Libertarians who were to meet at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant on a specific night every month. Allen and I were the only Libertarians there.

Eventually, I hooked up with Bob Johnston and Tony Spezio and ended up at the picnic in the summer of 2007 at Dave Sten's.

In January 2008 Tony, who with Spear Lancaster formed the Annapolis Gallery Gang, started bringing me to the state house while the legislature was in session. He was chomping at the bit to introduce me to people as the candidate running for Congress against Steny Hoyer – way before nominations were held. I should have known from the "Good Luck" comments that I would be treading on ground where few others dare tread.

I had only run small grassroots campaigns spending less than \$50 for ink and paper in the past. This time I felt I had to challenge myself more as I heard more and more people express their displeasure with Steny Hoyer, the unbeatable 15-term career politician. It seemed that many people were just excited to have other candidates running on the ballot, which hasn't always been the case. I realized that I would actually have to raise some money for this campaign, which I had never done.

I raised less than \$400 in two small fundraisers. The \$100 filing fee, gas money, and expenses to travel around the district came out of my pocket, plus I matched some of the donations received to purchase additional signs, print more brochures, business cards, and bumper stickers. Without a lot of time to organize a fundraiser, I simply sent out the word that we were having a barbeque at our house. I made up a little newsletter and put it on the doors of my neighbors. The one neighbor who came over promised to vote for me, and later on put up one of my handful of signs in her yard. A few people came from the list including Thibeaux Lincecum, the 4th District candidate who brought me the cherished and much used gift of a map of the sprawling Gerrymandered 5th district. The surprise visitor was the Republican candidate who talked a blue streak and never let anyone else get a word in edgewise. But he seemed a sincere Ron Paul kind of a Republican who would dearly love to take down Steny and wanted to work together to do so. At the end of the



campaign our paths crossed again at the Calvert County League of Women Voters Forum where gee, no incumbent bothered to show up, go figure. But Collins Bailey was very complimentary on my debating abilities and thought that if I had gotten out earlier, I might have gotten more well-known. Many people didn't know where I had come from just popping up on the scene as I did.

I hadn't planned on spending my summer campaigning because of a huge engineering review that I was responsible for planning at work, plus caring for a very good friend who was dying of cancer. I am also in the middle of obtaining a certification for an energy healing modality that I needed to take time off for

the Level 4 class in Connecticut. My company also sent me to take a week long class in Colorado Springs in June. But with the encouragement and help of Lorenzo and Susan Gaztañaga, I did hook up with a room full of libertarians at the National convention which re-energized me to step up my campaign. I helped Thibeaux with his Special Election in District 4 lending my phone skills and learning about shared Google spreadsheets.

I accepted an invitation to tape a two-minute voter guide debate at Channel 8. They were surprised that I took the metro down rather than drive and pay for a parking garage – an indicator of the "gotta raise \$60,000 to be taken serious" crowd minimum in the demopublicans and republicrats. When Steny Hoyer's Chief of Staff introduced himself to me as such at the Calvert County forum, I responded, "I'm Darlene Nicholas and I'm my own Chief of Staff." He scoffed "Well, I guess that's one way of saving money!" as if that was a bad thing. Steny is only too happy to spend Taxpayer money. By the time I left Channel 8, though, the production crew was ready to be my staff!!

I also taped a 4-minute speech at the Montgomery County Access TV station mainly to purchase a copy of the DVD. Get-

ting it out on the web proved more challenging than I thought, but with the help of our older son's computer programming friend, at least I was able to get more of a web presence that will provide forums for future endeavors. I had one really good article in the Gazette that portrayed me as David with Steny as Goliath. Since David beat Goliath, I remained undaunted.

The local veterans were very supportive, offering the College Park Post as a venue for my second fundraiser. Having just come back from my class in CT, though, didn't allow me much time to organize an event for September 20th. Fortunately, I met Adam Kokesh, a Veteran Against the War advocate (the heckler at the Republican National Convention) who agreed on the spur of the moment at the LNC fundraiser to speak on my behalf at the VFW. Although the turnout was small, I had several people say they would vote for me. They didn't really understand what Adam was trying to convey, but they liked that I was against taxes, the National ID card, and the Patriot Act. Those who well understand the horrors of war agreed that we need to end the quagmire and bring our kids home now. Plus they loved the idea of ousting Steny Hoyer and limiting Congressional terms to two.

All in all I stretched my comfort zone tremendously during this campaign, learned new technology, and enjoyed just getting out there marketing the ideas of freedom and liberty one-on-one. I endured a very stressful debate in Calvert County and made as many calls as I could on the last weekend.

Tony and I hit the polls at the extreme northern end of the district at 7:00 am on Election Day, shaking hands and giving out brochures. When we ran out, we went to make more. I kept in touch with Rich Falcone who was doing the same in the southern part of the district. I finally headed home 13 hours later, a little soggy from the rain and tired, but confident that I had done all I

could do with what I had. I overheard Steny's people comment, "She doesn't give up, does she!" They told me that Steny was inside making sure everything was going well, but not electioneering – *right*.

I worked my way down to Upper Marlboro and back up through Bowie, Greenbelt, and College Park, finally ending back up in Beltsville where I and my husband had voted for me and Bob Barr earlier in the day. When I went in to vote, setting aside all of my campaign materials, I was surprised that the Election Judge thought that Libertarian was just another word for Independent and didn't realize that we are the country's third largest political party.

The night before the election, I received an e-mail from Sean Haugh – the LP's Political Director – to call a Mrs. McClellan, who needed to ask me a few questions to make her decision. She was a sweet elderly woman who very clearly went through her list of questions, expecting succinct sincere answers. When she had finished, she informed me that she agreed with everything I said and would vote for me. She further shared that she was a constitutionalist who had run for public office in her younger days often working alongside Libertarians and enjoying their conversations. She recognized that I was fighting an uphill battle, but asked me to keep her number and call her if I ever decided to run again so she could make calls on my behalf. It was the single most meaningful and heartfelt one-on-one dialogue of my entire campaign. Every conversation we have is important, not just the TV speeches, YouTube videos, and debates or forums. Politics is *people*. Mrs. McClellan didn't have access to the Internet, but went the extra mile to vote her conscience.

Thank you all for being the change you wish to see in society, in our party, and in our world.

— *Darlene H. Nicholas*

From page 2, Chair's Report

Each of our candidates took off part of their workday to drive to Annapolis, when gas was \$4 per gallon, and spend \$100 of their own money to put their names on the ballot as our party's representatives. And it bothers me that most of them didn't receive enough money to break even.

Several of our candidates were invited to participate in debates, yet hardly any of our members attended them and supported our candidates. Gary Hoover drove three hours to attend our summer picnic, yet nobody would drive an hour or two to check out one of his debates or appearances. I was guilty of this, and have apologized to each of the candidates.

Have you called or emailed the candidates and thanked them for running, for putting us in a position to be the alternative to the two-party monopoly in Maryland?

On the MdLP announce list and the website, I asked members to contact me about getting a Bob Barr rally sign for Election Day. Not one person contacted me. And you can count on two hands the number of members who went out on Election Day and worked the voting precincts.

I get the feeling that there are some people in the party that

think that being allowed to run for office as a Libertarian in Maryland is a privilege, and if that is so, let me say that I completely reject that notion. Yes, we hold a powerful card in that since we have party status in Maryland, a prospective candidate doesn't have to spend the money and time to get signatures to get onto the ballot. Further, we should only nominate people for office who represent our views, our philosophy. But once they qualify and are selected, we should support and back these people.

Due to personal mitigating circumstances, Ronald Owens-Bey and Ian Thomas were not able to run active campaigns. Both men apologized to me for not doing more. However, just by putting their names on the ballot, they did more for the MdLP this year than anything Bob Johnston or any other member who was not a candidate did. Hundreds of thousands of voters saw our party name on the ballot in a presidential election, and in six of the eight races, we were the only alternative to the Democrats and the Republicans.

The Possibilities

I believe that we can at minimum double our election results in 2010 and each successive election, and thus be in position to win races by 2014. Further, I think that our local/county candidates can get at least 10-15%, and be in a position to win in 2014. As soon as a third-

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**Brian Carrigan
Louis Denrich
Jesse Markowitz
Robert Glaser
Eric Gorr
Don Barber
Roy Birk
Steve Boone
Nick Sarwark
Fred Unger
Gary Smith
Bill Buzzell
Katrina Groth**

*Thank you for
donating to the
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My Congressional District 6 Race

I was asked to write about my experience as a first time candidate for office as a Libertarian. At first I wasn't sure if I wanted to write this letter because I have a habit of being blunt and straightforward. Life has taught me that most people don't want to hear the truth – they would rather live with what they believe in their minds to be the truth. Then I remembered that I did not get involved in this race to make friends or to become popular. I got involved to change our country, or at least a little part of our country.

I was a Democrat for 32 years before becoming an Independent and deciding to run for the US Congress in the 6th district of Maryland. I left the Democrats because they no longer stand for the same things I do. I realized that it was an uphill battle against the two major parties. A funny thing happened along the way of my campaign. I happened upon the Maryland Libertarian Party webpage: there I found a political party that I agreed with on most issues. And I met with the Central Committee and was nominated as the Libertarian candidate for US Congress for the 6th district of Maryland. And I was more than happy to run as the Libertarian candidate, and believe I represented the party in a way that would make many proud. On election night we came up short, but we did receive 11,055 votes – which I felt was an accomplishment. The 11,055 votes counted for only 3.3 percent of all votes cast in the 6th district Congressional race. But with the fact that we spent less than \$2000 on the campaign and my opponents spent more than \$100,000 each, I feel we did well.

Now for those of you still with me allow me to explain what I see as some of the negatives running as a Libertarian: one, no support from the party members. My campaign received contributions from only two members of the party. We have more than six thousand members in Maryland [registered Libertarians, not MdLP members – ed.] and I would hope more would make even a token contribution of five or ten dollars. I feel that people do not realize the task that a candidate goes through when running for office. I realize that some people are what we call paper candidates and are merely on the ballot (which I disagree with, get either in or not), but that's not my decision. The next thing is that we had seven formal candidate

forums in the sixth district race and I saw only one member of the Central Committee attend one of those that was held in Cecil County. While other candidates had many members of their parties there to encourage them, we had none. One has no idea how encouraging it is to know that there are people there to support you. We take many hours out of our lives to campaign and attend forums, and I would think that others could spend a few hours to show their support. And maybe for some reason your

schedule would not allow you to attend a forum – how hard would it have been to give a candidate a call of support? Another suggestion I would have is for those who hold an office to get involved and do the job of that office. That's not to say that none of the officers do anything but I only heard from two of them the entire campaign. If your office duties are to be involved in the campaigns, then be involved – we need you, and we would welcome your help. And the other members: when did you offer to help a candidate at an event or help to set up an event or a fund raiser?

We have a wonderful party, we are on the right side of most of the issues, we are where most in our country are, but we can't win a major election. One must ask themselves why, one must ask themselves why not. One of the things I heard when I got involved was that none of the candidates were going to win and I have to ask why not? We can win if we do what it takes to win. The difference between winners and losers is that losers are not willing to do what winners are. We have to be willing to come together and support our candidates with money and labor, we must be willing to get out and help them at events and help plan events and fundraisers. We must be willing to come out and show support at forums and we must be willing to recruit more people into this party.

When was the last time you recruited a new member into the Libertarian party? Do you really believe in this party, or is it just a way to not be a part of the major parties? Do you want to change our country and to protect the future generation's rights, or are you just hanging around for the dinners and picnics? I want to change the country and I want and need your help. I plead with you to get involved and help us take our country back.

— Gary W. Hoover, Sr.



11,055: All Roads Lead North



While Andy Harris may have lost an “in the bag” congressional election, ol’ Roscoe is safe for another two years. That’s not to say he didn’t deserve it; he was the only Maryland politician (Congressman or Senator) who twice voted “no” on the \$700+ billion bailout. Jennifer the Democrat couldn’t break 40%, which doesn’t come as a huge surprise in the 6th District. However, something that should come as a pleasant surprise is the outcome that the election had for our party. Gary Hoover pulled in

3.3%, or 11,055 votes, the highest of any Libertarian Congressional Candidate in Maryland. That is even more significant when you consider that Barr/Root only managed 9,799 votes in the entire state. In the weeks prior to the election, Congressman Bartlett made a comment regarding voter frustration and how he believed some Marylanders would vote for a third party candidate because they were mad at the Republican and Democratic Parties. As someone who has lived in the 6th Congressional District for most of my life, I think the issue at hand is much further reaching than simple irritation with the current two-party system. 11,055 people in the 6th Congressional District voted Libertarian. Of Barr/Root’s 9,799 statewide votes, 19% of those votes were in Baltimore County. I don’t know about you, but that tells me something about the northern area of the state.

In northern Baltimore County, State Legislative District 5B, the average household income is \$78k. Approximately 70% of all resi-

dents have attended college, and 33% currently have children under the age of 18. These people appreciate being left alone to successfully lead their own lives. They don’t feel like they need to be taken care of by a large government, hence the failure of the Democratic Party to capitalize on a national trend. The long-time residents of 5B have deep roots in the Republican Party, but there seems to also be a new trend forming. Equality and social rights are becoming more and more of a mainstream topic. Ideas deemed previously unacceptable regarding gay marriage are slowly being laid out on the table at the same time as ideas regarding reverse discrimination, such as Affirmative Action. While many in this area of the state would not compromise their own personal views, you have to wonder where the conversation could take us. If you can convince someone that it’s ok to not agree with another person’s lifestyle, so long as you do not attempt to force your beliefs on them, then you can find yourself a winning formula.

I would like you to take a few minutes and ponder some questions to yourself. How successful could we be in this area of the state if we focused our resources here? Would these residents be more receptive than most other voters across the state? How easily could we capitalize on a Northern Politician’s tradition of being invisible to their constituents?

The time to make our next giant leap is 2010. The place to do it is within the federal, state, and local races within the 6th Congressional. Let us focus our resources and see where it gets us. Several small fires may cause a commotion, but one large fire will spread exponentially.

— *M. Justin Kinsey*

Note carefully that my findings do not mean that Wall Street thinks Obama will be better for the economy than John McCain. My results instead mean that Wall Street does not think he will be any worse. If anything, my study provides support for the Libertarian view that the long-term economic effects of the two major political parties are not all that different.

— *Mark Hulbert, Hulbert Financial Digest*

The majority of people who contact Congress do not believe lawmakers are interested in what they have to say. When lawmakers do respond, constituents are unhappy with the results. The most common reasons given for dissatisfaction were that the response did not address their concerns and that it was too politically biased. The same technology that empowers millions to mass email form letters to lawmakers also drives members of Congress to mass email boilerplate responses to constituents in return. Little wonder, then, that Congress’ approval rating is somewhere south of the Mendoza Line.

— *eWeek*



Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Tuesday, 8 July 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 7:21 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: 9 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting; plus 4 proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 33 members.

Nominations of Candidates for Statewide Office: Ian Thomas was nominated to replace Benjamin Parker (who withdrew) for U.S. Congress, 8th district. Mr. Thomas spoke and answered questions. His nomination was approved unanimously.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 9 August 2008

Opening: The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met on the grounds of Dave Sten's home in North East, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:46 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

Attendance: the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Dave Sten; and Bill Buzzell. It validated that 12 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. The Central Committee rolls consist of 34 members.

Minutes: The minutes of the 1 March 2008, 19 May 2008, and 8 July 2008 Central Committee meetings were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted by Michael Linder. He closed one Bank of America account and replaced it with a more frugal PNC account. We currently have three bank accounts: regular (BoA), administrative (PNC), and FEC (PNC).

Chair's Report: Bob Johnston reports that all eight Congressional candidates are officially on the ballot. We have at least four districts where we are the only non Rep/Dem candidate. He sent out a press release to 25 small papers, but none were picked up yet. Asks us to plan on helping out on Election Day Nov. 4 at the precincts. We also need volunteers for a phone bank. Bob is looking to build our membership after the election. He thanked the Stens for hosting the picnic, and Jim Lark for making the long drive to attend.

Jim Lark: mentioned that Sept. 17 is Constitution Day; it is a good opportunity for press releases and candidate activity.

Lorenzo Gaztañaga (2nd): has been able to make outreach at various events since July 4, including Pride (Annapolis) and Vote the Power (Aberdeen); is working with the Greens.

Darlene Nicholas (5th): got some good press; had interview in the *Gazette*; filled out political courage test on Vote Smart; was a field marshal at the Revolution March; sending in questionnaire for Calvert Co. LWV; prepared a candidacy newsletter and picnic.

Gary Hoover, Sr. (6th): doing outreach; met a lot of people, especially at the Hagerstown July 4 fireworks; getting local press; invited to Carroll Co. LWV and National Association of Retired Federal Employees forums. Looks to increase LP exposure in western Md.

Susan Gaztañaga: The Baltimore LP is about the only remaining affiliate which is active. It has a number of events which require registration fees, and the treasury is low. Susan raised enough donations to fund the events (\$115).

Dave Sten: had been storing LP material for some time and it needs to be redistributed; dispensed outreach material to activists at the picnic.

Presidential Electors: The following were voted as Presidential Electors committed to Bob Barr: Robert Glaser, Bob Johnston, Spear Lancaster, Steve Boone, Dave Sten, Susan Gaztañaga, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Michael Linder, Bill Buzzell, and Donald Nicholas.

Adjournment: the Central Committee meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

— Robert E. Glaser



At the picnic/Central Committee meeting: Susan Gaztañaga raises outreach funds; Congressional Candidates Lorenzo Gaztañaga (2nd), Darlene Nicholas (5th), Gary Hoover, Sr. (6th)

Libertarian Obituary: J. Alan Bowman

J. Alan Bowman, an active Maryland libertarian until moving to Florida, died of heart failure on August 18, 2008. He was 65.

Al was among the founding members of the Montgomery County Central Committee of the Maryland Libertarian Party in 1980. He was the official photographer for my 1982 campaign for the State Legislature, and an unofficial photographer for the state party.

Al was self-employed as a photographer. The biggest coup he had professionally that he told me about was when he sold his photo of the attempted assassination of George Wallace in Laurel, Maryland on May 15, 1972 to *Life Magazine* for \$10,000 (recall Wallace's presidential run that received enough votes in Maryland to encourage Maryland legislators to create the onerous candidate qualification rules we have suffered under).

Al was one of the few people who knew how to make a story interesting. My favorite story of his was that he was almost not born because doctors initially thought he was a tumor. His Mom

was 47, and rather than thinking she might be pregnant (most women are in menopause by that age), they thought she had a uterine cancer. Good thing they made the correct diagnosis, and Al was born to help enrich our lives!

Al was a heavy smoker who seemed to subsist on cigarettes, coffee, and junk food. He joked beyond his political views about not paying into Social Security personally because he probably wouldn't live long enough to get any of its benefits given his lifestyle. Sadly, he was correct.

Al is survived by his wife, Cheri, son Joby, and daughter Katy as well as his grandchildren. Cheri can be reached at 18484 91st Road, McAlpin, FL 32062.

Al's death reminds me of other libertarians we have lost prematurely such as Don Monroe and Terry Atwood. Hopefully you will keep this in mind, and not allow petty disagreements to keep you from friendship with fellow libertarians as well as other friends, family, and contacts.

— *Gerald Schneider*



I have started a blog with some pungent questions, hoping to further the cause:

<http://revolution2010.wordpress.com>

I need your help. While I fully embrace the LP views, I am new at this game... The Blog has only been up for about 5 or 6 days, but I have had almost 700 hits on it... there is a lot of banter that is really good, but I believe most of the people are D's and R's... I would really like some posts from LP veterans to move it in a directional way... if you could chime in when you get the chance, I think it would be good...

— *Rani Merryman*

From page 7, Chair's Report

party candidate starts polling around 20-25%, voters who normally vote for the lesser of two evils will believe that the third-party candidate can win, and thus get behind them, as happened to Jesse Ventura in 1998.

In Gary Hoover's district, the 6th Congressional, there are over 70,000 registered Independents and Unaffiliated, and less than 5,000 of them voted in 2006. To double his vote total, all he has to do is maintain his base of 10,000+ votes that he received this election, and pick up another 10,000 of the Independents. But it takes money and support. You can't do it on \$500. You can only shake so many hands, and meet so many people at fairs, debates, and appearances. You have to run ads, at least radio and Internet. You have to mail to prospective voters.

Many county council races in Maryland are won with around 10,000 votes. 10% of the votes would be 1,000. This is doable, with some money and legwork. And it provides us with an excellent opportunity to present our views in a personal, one-on-one manner.

Not only that, but it looks like the Republican party is imploding and in full need of rebuilding. And the Democrats, thinking that they were swept into office because of their agenda rather

than getting rid of the Republicans, will probably overreach, just as they did during the first two years of the Clinton administration.

The time will come when voters will finally tire of the two-party dictatorship. We need to be ready when that day comes. We are already establishing ourselves here in Maryland as *the* alternative to the two-party stranglehold, thanks to Dr. Richard Davis, Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Sebastian Sassi, Thibeaux Lincecum, Darlene Nicholas, Gary Hoover, Ronald Owens-Bey, and Ian Thomas.

As mentioned earlier, I am recruiting candidates for 2010. At least three of our Congressional candidates wish to run again, and I will field a full slate. I am also lining up people to run for local and county races. Two people have already contacted me to run for their town councils, and another six or more to run for various county councils. I want to run at least one person for county council in each county in Maryland. If you are interested in running, including state office, please email me at Chair*MD.LP.org, or call me at 443-310-5373.

I'm in this to win. How about you?

— *Bob Johnston*

Editor's Corner



The next issue is planned for April, after our convention. Thanks to this issue's contributors.

It might not appear that we've accomplished a great deal without anything close to a Libertarian election victory in Maryland. But we ran candidates for every office for the first time. Another first was the radio advertisements we ran on WBAL-AM. Most of the credit goes to Susan and Lorenzo, along with the last minute contributors who paid for the ad campaign. We were stymied the day before broadcasts were to begin: because it was not the usual single-candidate promotion, with the "I approved this message" ending, the radio station put it into the "issue ad" vs. "political ad" category. Big deal, except that the rate for the former is much higher than the latter. Which meant that we could afford to place the spot two times. We arranged the radio station to telephone the candidates and have each record the name and district in the first person. This spliced-together recording passed muster and is the one which played thirty times on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday prior to the election. (Text below, recordings at the website's *Candidates* link.) Lorenzo also had his own radio ad running during that period.

Thanks go out to our candidates and their helpers. I spent Election Day at Congressional District 2 polls. Usually I stand in front and hand out pamphlets as voters walk in, but this time the lines snaked all around. That made it easy to simply walk down each line, handing out Lorenzo's literature. At least it was a pleasure not to have to be collecting petition signatures this time. Speaking of which...

Now that the 2008 cycle is complete, take a breather. But not too long – it's time to plan for the 2010 elections! Either we need to achieve 1% of the Gubernatorial vote, or turn in 10,000 new petition signatures to extend our official Party status past December 31, 2010. It is imperative that we maintain state recognition in order to avoid losing all registered Libertarians. We managed that feat in 2006, but I think that that was the only time we ever made the deadline.

— *Robert E. Glaser*

The war in Iraq was launched on lies. The Patriot Act is a coverup for massive intelligence failures after 9/11. The big bailout was for frauds and thieves while America's Main Street hurts.

The morally bankrupt two party system bankrupts our way of life. This November 4th you can break away from the destructive policies of Demopublicans and Republicrats – excuse me, Republicans and Democrats.

For President, Bob Barr. Congress: Dr. Richard Davis, First District; Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Second District; Sebastian Sassi, Third District; Thibeaux Lincecum, Fourth District; Darlene Nicholas, Fifth District; Gary Hoover, Sixth District; Ronald Owens-Bey, Seventh District; Ian Thomas, Eighth District.

No more excuses. Don't waste your vote. Vote the difference to fulfill America's hope. Vote the Libertarian slate. You'll have no regrets the morning after.

Authority Md. Libertarian Party, Michael Linder, Treasurer.



In the News

Gerald Schneider's letter to the (Montgomery County) *Gazette* was published on February 27. In "Environmental decisions require balance" he says that ecology and economics must be balanced in environmental disputes.

Gerald Schneider writes a commentary in the *Gazette* on July 23: "Being 'cheap' adds up to savings." He explains that there are many ways to be environmentally friendly.

Gerald Schneider writes in *Gazette.net* on September 17 that the "Natural world is like a garden." Human intervention in the environment expands the variety of plants and animals that thrive.

The *Calvert Recorder* printed **Rich Falcone's** letter on October 8: "There Is No Such Thing as a Wasted Vote." (See next page.)

The *Washington Post* printed **Jay Baker's** letter on October 18 commenting on their editorial endorsing Barack Obama for president (see below).

Guest Columnist **Kevin Zeese** wrote in the *Baltimore Examiner* on October 28: "For a country that considers itself the 'greatest democracy on Earth,' the U.S. sure does run messy elections."

Rani Merryman wrote to the *Baltimore Sun* on November 11 explaining why she voted Libertarian in the election. (See next page.)

The *Baltimore Sun* printed **Doug McNeil's** letter on November 16 – "'Spoiler' shows need for instant runoffs" – about Dr. Davis' 1st district race and instant runoff voting.

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

Senator Barack Obama has promised to bring change and hope. The *Post's* Oct. 17 endorsement editorial "Barack Obama for President" made it clear that he has already succeeded in bringing hope to the Post when it states:

"We hope he would navigate between the amoral realism of some in his party and the counterproductive cocksureness of the current administration, especially in its first term."

"... we can only hope and assume that Mr. Obama would recognize the strategic importance of success in Iraq and adjust his plans."

"We also can only hope that the alarming anti-trade rhetoric we have heard from Mr. Obama during the campaign would give way to the understanding of the benefits of trade reflected in his writings."

"We had hoped, throughout this long campaign, to see more evidence that Mr. Obama might stand up to Democratic orthodoxy and end, as he said in his announcement speech, 'our chronic avoidance of tough decisions'."

That sure is a lot of "hope."

Personally, I hope we won't have occasion to find out whether or not the hopes of the *Post* are realized.

— *Jay Baker*, Rockville MD

This last election process has left me a bit dismayed. I want someone to take the high road, to fight for what is right. I have two young boys and I am trying to figure out how I am going to tell them that during my generation, taxes increased from 2% to 50%. The free country that their Great Great Grandfathers fought for is gone, because we were not paying attention. I teach my boys to work hard, and they get to keep what they work for, but that will not be true if we continue on this path.

The rights that we have are so precious. We take them for granted. We all keep saying that we are paying too much in taxes, the welfare system needs to be abolished or reformed, we need to do something about illegal immigration, Social Security should be an optional program, politicians and Wall Street Giants are not allowed to grease their palms on our backs; however, the state of Maryland voted in every incumbent House member in our most recent election. We do not have to take up arms... yet. We do not have to die in the line of fire.... yet. We do not have to hand our musket loader to our 13-year-old son or daughter... yet. All we have to do is be that one person who stands up for what they believe. We have to believe that our vote is not wasted if we vote for the person who best represents our views.

In this last election, I voted Libertarian. All of my friends and family chastised me for "wasting my vote." I do not think I did. There is something demoralizing about voting for the lesser of two evils just because you do not think your "vote will count." What if we as American citizens, demanded that all of the party candidates should be allowed to debate, so we have all of the information? How many people would be willing to make the stand? We are not asking our fellow Americans to take up arms, just to take a stand. Let's demand to hear all of the party voices in the next election and take a stand for what we believe in.

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them. – Thomas Jefferson

— *Rani Merryman*, Baltimore

There Is No Such Thing as a Wasted Vote

Prior to this election year, I had not been accustomed to reserving my vote for the candidate I felt would make the best President. Instead, during each election I consistently casted my vote for a candidate I felt was second-best. This is because my preferred candidate usually had been from a grass-roots third-party, which had virtually no chance of defeating a corporate funded campaign of a Democrat or Republican. Between the Democrat and Republican of an election, I usually felt that one would be an "OK" President, and the other would be a "bad" President. I reasoned that, since my preferred candidate has virtually no chance of winning, a vote for my preferred candidate or a vote for any other candidate besides my second choice would essentially be a vote for the candidate that would make a "bad" President. So, like a programmed voter, with each ballot I casted I inadvertently pledged my continued support of the corrupt, corporate-driven, two-party political system which continues to expand government to menacing levels and steadily infringes on the precious rights of its people. However, this year I refuse to support either candidate of the two-party system.

Instead, I will vote for Libertarian presidential candidate Bob Barr. The Libertarian Party is the third-largest political party in the U.S. Generally, Libertarians have conservative economic views (low taxes, small government) and liberal social views (rights to free speech and privacy, individual freedom). Bob Barr is very principled, has excellent leadership ability, and expertise in national issues, which is especially evident during recent televised interviews regarding the current economic crisis. If you are an undecided voter, or if you consider yourself a "lesser of two evils" voter, please consider voting for Libertarian Bob Barr for President. There is no such thing as a wasted vote because each vote has a voice attached to it. Let us make our voices heard loud and clear.

— *Rich Falcone* Chesapeake Beach, MD



Matthew A. Crenson, a professor emeritus of political science at the Johns Hopkins University, credited Kratovil's success to an "extraordinary year" for Democrats and the emergence of Libertarian candidate Richard J. Davis as a spoiler. Running to the right of Harris, Davis received 8,632 votes, nearly four times the difference between the two front-runners.

— *Baltimore Sun*

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Give People Something to Do

My church has been without a pastor for some months now. As we sift through potential candidates, we have also been working to fix up the church and parsonage grounds and buildings. On two Sundays, we dedicated the time we would have been having our Sunday service to trimming bushes, weeding, and similar yard work. I called up everyone who had ever come to let them know, so that if they came, they would be dressed appropriately. Two people who had not been to church for a long time showed up and worked diligently, staying longer than Lorenzo and I did. Spouses and neighbors who never come at all also lent a hand.



program. We have been doing this under the name “Libertarian Club of Baltimore” four times a year for 14 or 15 years, and received a certificate of appreciation from the State Highway Administration in 1998. The state maintains permanent signs with our name on them at the beginning and end of our stretch of highway. Not only is this good publicity for the name “Libertarian,” but for at least three of our group, it’s their only involvement with the LP. They don’t come to any meetings or hold any offices in the party, but they faithfully show up every time we go out. We stroll along talking about libertarian ideas, current events, and

movies we’ve seen or books we’ve read. So I would say to anyone who wants to build up their county affiliate: enlist in the Adopt-a-Highway program, or find some other way to *give people something to do*.

— Susan Gaztañaga

Photo: Lorenzo Gaztañaga, Mike Fewster, and Bill Buzzell do roadwork.

TO: SHA Adopt-A-Highway Program

WHO: The Libertarian Club of Baltimore

WHERE: Charles Street

WHEN: Saturday August 16, 2008

ATTENDANCE: 5 people out, 9:20 AM to 11:15 AM

WHAT: 12 Bags Collected

DETAIL:

South Bound

- 1 bag @ Adopt-A-Hwy sign at Belona Rd.
- 1 bag @ 40 MPH sign
- 1 bag @ Ruxton Ridge Rd.
- 1 bag @ School Crossing sign across from Manor Care

North Bound

- 3 bags @ Greenwood Road across from Ruxton Ridge School
- 1 bag @ “NO TRUCKS OVER 3/4 TON” Sign South of Kenilworth

A number of Libertarian activists met at the *New Towne Diner* in Reisterstown on November 15. The newcomers, along with the “not so new” stalwarts discussed how to take the progress we made in the 2008 elections forward to 2010 and beyond. In particular, taking advantage of the enthusiasm displayed by younger residents was a major topic.



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!*



March 7, 2009 (Saturday): Maryland Libertarian Party Annual Convention, *Squires Italian Restaurant*, Dundalk. Bob Johnston

MdLP membership dues reduced to \$20/year

Copy or Clip Form ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

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

Name:

Address:

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County:

Email:

Phone (day):

Phone (evening):

Phone (other):

Payment Information

Maryland/county-only dues \$ 20.00

Additional donation: _____

Total Payment: \$ _____

Monthly Credit Card Donation: \$ _____

Check Mastercard VISA Discover

Card# _____ **Exp:** _____

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.

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.

I'd like to volunteer for:

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

**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 Jan. 19 through April 13, 2009 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



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