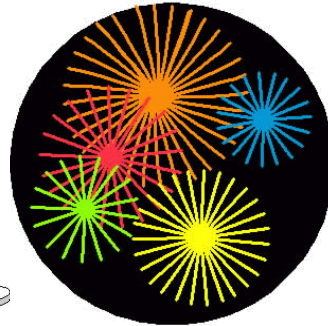


# Independence Day!



Picnic and Central Committee Meeting

Page 3

PICNIC

A cartoon illustration of a chef labeled "BBQ King" grilling a hot dog, and a man with a mustache eating a sandwich.

# Chair's Report



## Winning

In my 17 years in the Libertarian Party, one ongoing battle has been the subject of winning elections.

Winning elections for LP candidates would be great. It would give us more attention, more legitimacy in the eyes of the electorate, and

it certainly would be easier to fundraise for the party than it is now.

But it isn't necessary for Libertarians to bring about a libertarian state or country.

It is extremely difficult for minor party candidates to get elected to partisan office. No partisan minor party candidate has been elected in Maryland since 1916 – 101 years ago. No LP candidate has been elected to Congress or statewide office, and only three LP candidates have been elected to state legislatures – all in Alaska in the 1980's (several LP candidates running on fusion tickets with Democrats and Republicans in states where fusion is allowed have also been elected).

The LP has to deal with significant ballot access hurdles and restrictions. A significant amount of the Libertarian National Committee budget goes to getting ballot access in states where it is still difficult. Getting party status in Ohio for the 2018 election will cost the LNC and Ohio LP at least \$200,000. That is 200k not going towards advertising, marketing, candidate training, etc. Maryland used to have the second most difficult ballot access in the nation between the founding of the LP in 1971 and the Green Party lawsuit in 2003. You could count the number of LP candidates on the ballot in Maryland on two hands during the 32 years of difficult ballot access here.

The wasted-vote syndrome has been arguably the biggest hurdle we have to face. Most people now vote *against* a party and

its candidates, rather than *for* a party or candidate. There is little logical about politics; it is mostly emotional. And with the polarization of the voters increasing by the day, the wasted-vote syndrome will get harder to deal with.

It takes money to get the message out. A lot of money. It costs around \$50,000 to get elected to a county council seat in places like Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. Even more in Montgomery and Howard counties. It also requires a significant amount of campaign help. To get elected to a seat in the legislature, it would cost six figures. For Congress, over a million dollars. The Libertarian Party simply cannot compete with the establishment parties on resources.

So why even run for office as a Libertarian Party candidate – or get involved at all with the party – if it is so difficult to get elected to office? Because Libertarians don't need to get elected to get our policies enacted. We need to consistently get results that beat the spread between the Democrat and Republican candidates.

How do I know this is possible? Because it is exactly what the Socialist Party accomplished in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They never got more than 6% of the vote in a Presidential election, but by constantly running candidates and getting 10-15% of the vote in three-way races, they forced the Democrats and Republicans to enact their policies. Politicians will flip on an issue easily if it means keeping their seat. Look at the Republicans now waffling on reforming healthcare, even though they control the Presidency and both houses of Congress. Or how the formerly antiwar Democrat politicians are now calling for war on Russia.

Do you think the Democrats are aware that if the voters who supported Gary Johnson in Florida and Michigan voted for Clinton instead, that she would be President? Johnson beat the spread between Clinton and Trump in ten states, five of them battleground states. He got over 4.4 million votes, more votes than were cast for all 2016 Presidential candidates in the state of Virginia, a state with 13 electoral votes. If the 2020 LP Presidential

*continued on page 6*

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Editor: Robert E. Glaser, PhD

Check LPmaryland.org regularly for the current event calendar, news, blog posts, and more! Be certain to submit all of your current event information to Webmaster\*LPmaryland.org to get the information online.

## Content Policy

The views expressed by contributors to this publication are not necessarily the views of the Libertarian Party of Maryland, its Executive Board, or the Central Committee. The *Free? State Libertarian* is a first amendment publication, and welcomes diverse participation from many sources.

## The Libertarian Party of Maryland

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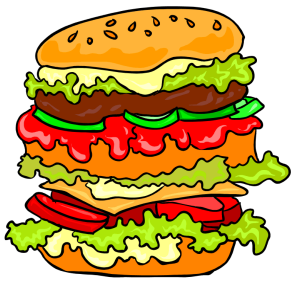
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The *Free? State Libertarian* is mailed to all Libertarian Party of Maryland members and paid subscribers. You may have received a gratis copy (mailing label says “Join the MD Libertarian Party”) because you are registered Libertarian, are a member of the National Libertarian Party, or requested information. We appreciate you acting to: join the MdLP with the back page form; join the Central Committee; become a newsletter subscriber only (send \$20 to above address); and/or register Libertarian (when we get 1% of the state registered, we can end collecting petition signatures).



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

**Date:** Saturday, July 29 (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:** \$12.00 please mail to Box 176 or pay by credit card on website by July 23,  
or pay \$15.00 in person upon arrival

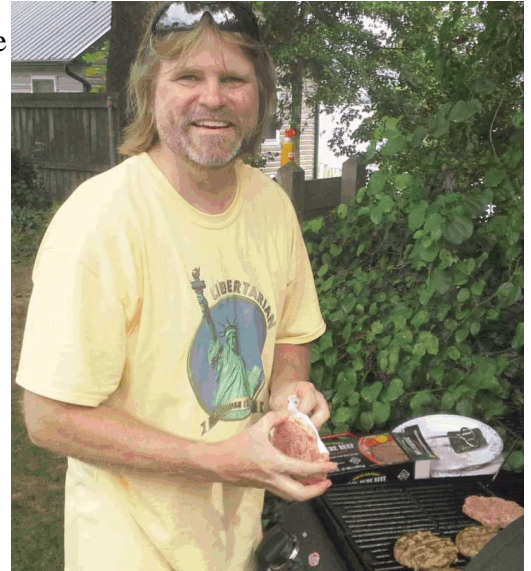
**Food:** provided (hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, beer, soda, juice, H<sub>2</sub>O)

**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.



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**Activities:**

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

Note: \$8.00 cash toll on I-95 and Route 40 northbound, but free southbound on both.

**Don't miss it -- Three years without rain!!!**

## Minutes of the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Maryland — Saturday, 29 April 2017

**Opening:** The Libertarian State Central Committee of Maryland met at *Red Hot & Blue* in Laurel, Maryland. The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm by chairman Bob Johnston.

**Attendance:** the Credentials Committee consisted of: Robert Glaser; Stuart Simms; and Tony Spezio. It validated that 33 Central Committee members were in attendance for the meeting. Two proxies were represented. The Central Committee rolls consist of 47 members.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the 30 July 2016 Central Committee meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's report:** was accepted as submitted by Michael Linder.

**Chair's Report:** Bob Johnston reports that we have 136 members. We have 20,162 registered voters as of 3/31/2017, and are a little over halfway to the 1% threshold. The LP now has more legitimacy than we've had before, great time to be part of it. Would like to run a full slate of Congressional candidates, state Senate too; looking for candidates.

**Vice-Chair's Report:** We returned to the legislature, was a difficult year as everyone is gearing up for the partisan governor's race. Worked very hard on a number of bills. Tim Sutton worked on bail reform (monetary bail), beat the bail industry's bill working with other partners. Gun legislation: gun free zones on college campuses. Ballot access bill: formed a coalition to pass the bill we've sought for the past three years (10,000 registrations instead of 1%); got endorsements; R/D's still see no reason to help us, but was close. Second year in a row worked on police rights (open government) bill; pared away into nothing, might get summer study. Testified on marijuana legalization bills. Lot of other bills worked on.

**Jim Lark, LNC Regional rep:** It is only a group of friends that would entice him to drive through DC traffic to get here. Took questions on LNC activities, some electoral successes. Thanks Scott Spencer for his LNC work.

**Program Committee's report:** The committee recommended no changes to the State Program.

**Constitutional Amendment:** (to be voted up or down) Replace section V4B with the following:

[See page 4 of the December 2016 *Free? State Libertarian* for text]

The Investigating Committee for this proposal is Chelsey Snyder, Bob Johnston, Stuart Simms, Dean Ahmad, and Robert Glaser; it unanimously recommends a vote FOR the amendment.

Vote: unanimous FOR on a voice vote, passes.

**Proposed Bylaw:** The Constitutional Investigating Committee for the approved amendment proposes the following bylaw to complete the amendment's requirement:

[See page 5 of the December 2016 *Free? State Libertarian* for text]

Vote: passed on a voice vote.

### Nominations for Public Office:

Shawn Quinn for Governor/Christina Smith for Lt. Governor; nominated on a voice vote.

Joseph Sandy for state delegate 42B (Baltimore county) (JDforliberty.com); nominated unanimously on a voice vote.

Thomas Parks for state delegate 35B; nominated unanimously on a voice vote.

Christopher Wallace for state senate 30; nominated unanimously on a voice vote.

**Officer Elections:** Robert S. Johnston III was nominated for Chairman; elected unanimously on a voice vote. The following were nominated as officers: Robert Glaser, Michael Linder, Stuart Simms, Shawn Quinn, Chelsey Snyder, Scott Spencer. As there were no more than six nominations and there were no objections, the nominations were voted upon as a slate; a unanimous voice vote approved the slate.

**Announcements:** July 29 picnic at the Stens'; Robert Glaser has license plate applications on hand and MdLP caps for sale; Jim Lark (JWLark\*virginia.edu) offers to assist with college events; Eric Blitz promotes Young Libertarians of Maryland.

**Adjournment:** the meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.

— Robert Glaser



Thank you to outgoing Executive Board member Eric Blitz (left) and welcome to incoming member Scott Spencer (right).



## Libertarian Party of Maryland 2017 Convention – Saturday April 29

After the Central Committee meeting our featured convention speaker was LEAP's Executive Director Neill Franklin. He began by saying that among us he felt that he was preaching to the choir when it comes to drug policy. LEAP is an international nonprofit organization consisting of prosecutors, judges, and federal agents. "We are a speaker's bureau that speaks on the failed War on Drugs." It was formed in 2002 by two police officers as a response to that counterproductive policy. Members have spent a good portion of their lives dealing with drug problems.

There is a stigma of addiction: something is morally wrong with you. How about other addictions, like gambling, tobacco, weed, coffee, Mountain Dew, sex? The other stigma is that we criminalize it.

LEAP has branches in six other countries. They have 200 vetted speakers. We really like to arrest people and put them in jail: we are the #1 jailer on the planet. When thinking of Liberty and Freedom, people expect the leaders to be *us*. Richard Nixon declared war on drugs, but his budget was more for treatment than prosecution. As time passed, "public safety" got tougher and created a big media campaign – lock up those degenerates. Our rate of incarceration was equal to Europe in the 1960's. Now the U.K. imprisons 147/100,000 citizens; we are at 714/100,000. 2.1million are incarcerated now, was as high as 2.3million.

It's about the environment that we create for drugs. The policy of prohibition is about the worst that we could have done. Equate it to the alcohol prohibition of the 1920's – that only lasted 13 years. We still had alcoholism, but drive-by shootings, organized crime, kids being recruited by bootleggers, corruption, and the murder rate soared. They realized they'd made a mistake. Had to amend the Constitution to institute alcohol prohibition; couldn't pass a federal law to affect all of the states because of the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment and state's rights. Prohibition was a huge failure, but we repeated it with drugs.

LEAP is interested in public safety. Legalizing and regulating all drugs. Cartels want to maintain its illegality because they make a lot of money. All cities suffer from violence, territorial control, shooting from territory encroachment back-and-forth for months, years. It was violence that got Mr. Franklin here. As a state trooper, he locked up a lot of people: most for marijuana possession. He never arrested a kingpin, but some dealers. Everybody's just a free agent now. They hire a lot of kids. In 2000 he had retired from the state police and had worked undercover in task forces in Cecil and Harford counties. His good friend Ed Toatley was buying cocaine on October 30, 2000. It makes sense to rip each other off because drug dealers can't go to the police. Someone decided to rip off Ed Toatley, better off to do away – he was shot at pointblank range.

Mr. Franklin and others started thinking about it. *Drug prohibition policy* – not drug use – causes this. Learning about mass incarceration, all the time he was doing leadership jobs he didn't

think about how many people are incarcerated. Not thinking about liberties and freedoms. He was asked to speak to Students for Liberty. The work he'd been doing for 34 years was counterproductive to our freedoms. The War on Drugs is affecting freedom more than anything else. It has brought us civil forfeiture – there are only two types: those who hate it, and those who don't know about it. *Money* is guilty of being used in a crime. The policy came about under Reagan in the 1980's. It was created for kingpins, but they ran out of kingpins. If you have half a joint in your car, take the car and the cash on you. Baltimore City just reviewed four years worth of stops: 300,000 pedestrian stops; 3.7% got a ticket or arrest. How about the other 96.3%? Talk about infringement of liberty. Those numbers are from paperwork and reports; he checked radio transmissions: the correct number is not 300,000, it's seven times greater because the police weren't generating paperwork. 2.1million stops in 4.5 years indicates half a percent, not 3.7%. Police spend more time addressing drug business than anything else.

Any political views are Neill Franklin's views, not LEAP's. He currently is registered Republican but will think hard about a party change. We have a similar situation with the mentally ill: we arrest a lot of people with mental health issues, including many veterans. Police don't evaluate the circumstances when they put handcuffs on them.

LEAP's Website (LawEnforcementActionPartnership.org) has five silos attached to the War on Drugs. Plea bargains are common, especially for the poorer people. The list is long how the War on Drugs – the War on People – affects our freedom. Other countries have moved to a public health viewpoint. Portugal decided 14 years ago "enough is enough" on how the U.S. handles it. It decriminalized possession for all people for a personal use 10-day supply. Users go before a panel of medical folks who decide if you're addicted or a casual user.

If a casual user, they're told to "watch your use" and go. If addicted, they're sent for treatment; they have the money to do so because they're not spending so much on imprisonment. Here's the result: 71% reduction of HIV for intravenous drug users; 52% reduction in overdose deaths.

We could have tens of thousands of lives saved across our country if we did the same thing. It is easy to buy illegal drugs now, but one has no idea of what is being purchased. More stronger stuff is coming onto the market now. We are nowhere near the end of it unless we change our policy. There was a reduction of 22-25% for middle and high school students in Portugal. Drugs are just ordinary now. For a white child, 1 out of 57 have a parent in the criminal justice system; for a black child it is 1 in 9. When you don't have a strong family unit, a stable nucleus, watch out. We need policy that supports family units, a health centered approach, a way to rebuild families when they come out of the system. It will cost a lot more. We need people to come down to Annapolis to testify to change laws.

At the conclusion of the convention Eric Blitz introduced the Local Group leaders present.



Robert Glaser had his letter to the editor published in the *Baltimore Sun* on February 18<sup>th</sup>: “Reefer madness in Arundel.” He points out that the lengthy car chase involving multiple law enforcement agencies and which culminated in injuries to bystanders at the Maryland Live casino was due to the suspect allegedly possessing marijuana, and urges the legislature to end the senseless war on drugs.

The *Baltimore Sun* printed Joe Pomykala’s letter on March 11<sup>th</sup>: “Pugh should veto the \$15 minimum wage.” Dr. Pomykala was the Libertarian candidate for Congress (3<sup>rd</sup>) in 2000.

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



from page 1, Chair’s Report

nominee gets as many or even more votes than Gary Johnson, do you figure that the political establishment will realize that there is a sizeable block of voters who want an end to the egregious spending, deficits, War on Drugs, and aggressive foreign policy? And that if they want to stop losing elections, they better start legislating libertarian-friendly policies?

Further, when candidates insist that they have to win, especially a partisan race, they are setting themselves up for failure. Suppose the candidate loses, but does get a significant amount of votes which would cause the legislature to take on their issues. I will take that any day.

And by telling voters that they are going to win, the voters are not going to take the candidate seriously, especially when you take into account the track record of LP candidates’ vote totals. Just tell the voters that you are working to get pro-freedom, libertarian policies enacted, regardless of whether it is done by Libertarians, Democrats, or Republicans.

Yes, it would be nice for LP candidates to get elected to office, but I don’t need for them to do so. I just want a libertarian state and country with libertarian policies. And if Democrat and Republican politicians wind up enacting those policies thanks to pressure from our candidates, that is fine with me.

— Bob Johnston

“Winning elections isn’t necessary for Libertarians to bring about a libertarian state or country.”

*Five candidates were nominated for the 2018 election at the state party convention on April 29:*

Governor:

Shawn Quinn

Citizens4Quinn.com

Lt. Governor:

Christine Smith

Citizens4Quinn.com

State Senate 30:

Christopher Wallace

State Delegate 35-B:

Thomas Parks

State Delegate 42-B:

J. D. Sandy

JDforliberty.com

“The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to allow the subject races to possess arms. History shows that all conquerors who have allowed the subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by so doing. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that the supply of arms to the underdogs is a sine qua non for the overthrow of any sovereignty.”

— Adolf Hitler

### State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Bob Johnston	443-310-5373	Chair*LPmaryland.org
Vice Chairman	Chelsey Snyder		Vice-Chair*LPmaryland.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626	Secretary*LPmaryland.org
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Treasurer*LPmaryland.org
Membership	Stuart Simms		StuSimms*LPmaryland.org
Outreach	Shawn Quinn		Citizens4Quinn*outlook.com
At-Large	Scott Spencer		ScottSpencer*LPmaryland.org

The executive board meets monthly. All meetings are open to Central Committee members. Contact the Chairman for date, time, and location.

### Local Groups

Anne Arundel County: Chris Wallace ChrisWallaceSr\*LPmaryland.org  
 Baltimore City: Erin Carrington-Smith ECarringtonSmith\*LPmaryland.org  
 Baltimore County: Kyle Wagner Kyle.Wagner\*LPmaryland.org  
 Carroll County: Matthew Geiger MattGeiger\*LPmaryland.org  
 Frederick County: Zach Robinson ZachRobinson\*LPmaryland.org  
 Harford County: Martin Cohen Martin.Cohen\*LPmaryland.org  
 Howard County: Christopher Stanton LibertarianHoCo\*gmail.com  
 Montgomery County: Leigh Tauber LaTauber\*gmail.com  
 Southern Maryland: Michael White Michael.White\*LPmaryland.org  
 Upper Eastern Shore: Matt Beers Matt.Beers\*LPmaryland.org  
 Western Maryland: Ken Buckler Kenneth.Buckler\*gmail.com

Maryland voters registered Libertarian:

# 20,377 (0.52%)



Copy or Clip Form ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄

## Libertarian Party of Maryland

## Membership Form

Name: .....  
 Address: .....  
 City, State, Zip: .....  
 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** \_\_\_\_\_

### 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**

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 Stuart Simms at StuSimms\*LPmaryland.org.

# LPmaryland.org

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## COMING EVENTS

Stay up-to-date on MdLP activities with our online calendar-of-events: visit [LPmaryland.org/events/](http://LPmaryland.org/events/) (often!). Check page 7 for contact numbers not listed here.

April 29 (Saturday): 2 pm. Picnic, Central Committee. Page 3  
June 30 - July 3, 2018 (Saturday-Tuesday): LNC convention, New Orleans. *"I'm That Libertarian!"*

"Arguing that you don't care about the right to privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different than saying you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say."

— Edward Snowden

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# 1-800-MLP-1776

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