

Free? State LIBERTARIAN

February 2009

Newsletter of the LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF MARYLAND

Join us at the Libertarian Party of Maryland 2009 Convention!

When: Saturday, March 7th, 2009

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

Schedule:

- 6:00 pm Commencement
6:30 pm State Central Committee Meeting – including regular business plus the following:
- Nominations and Elections for the Executive Board
All positions are open for election
 - Voting on motions to amend the State Party Program, if any (only motions presented and discussed in the Program Committee meeting on February 24th will be considered)
 - Nominations and Elections for candidates for public office
 - Check your mailing label to verify that you are paid up and eligible to vote
 - Minutes of the previous Central Committee meeting (9 August 2008) are in the last newsletter and on the website
 - ▶ Central Committee members may delegate a proxy (Sign and date a statement designating another member of the Central Committee as agent, granting that agent the power to vote in the Central Committee. Either mail the proxy statement to the Secretary (Robert E. Glaser, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117), or the agent should present the proxy to the Credentials Committee upon arrival.
- 8:15 pm Dinner Banquet: Lasagna, Baked chicken, Green beans, Mashed potatoes, Appetizers, Dessert, Coffee, tea, soft drinks
9:00 pm Featured speaker: Judge John Buttrick
10:00 pm Adjournment

Directions:

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

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

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

Cost: \$30 by February 28 (click the credit cards at left side of webpage or mail check to Box 176 address); \$35 at the door (please notify Bob if you expect to come so that he can provide the restaurant a head count); the Central Committee *only* meeting has no charge.

Program Committee Meeting

There will be a Program Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 24 at 8:00 pm (or whenever the Board meeting finishes up).

Location: Robert Glaser's residence in Owings Mills. Please RSVP.

Featured Speaker



Wake Up, Libertarians!: Judge John Buttrick will discuss the present state of the national LP, and the future, if any, of the national LP. Judge Buttrick is a Superior Court of Arizona justice, and is the highest-ranking Libertarian officeholder in the country. He was appointed to the highest court in Arizona in 2001 over 40 Democrats and Republicans, and in the 2004 and 2008 elections retained by the voters with 74% and 75% margins, respectively. He received more "yes" retention votes in Maricopa County than the number of votes LP Presidential candidate Bob Barr received nationwide. Judge Buttrick is a graduate of Harvard Law School, has served three times on the national LP Platform Committee, and has served two terms as an at-large representative on the Libertarian National Committee.

Chair's Report



Happy New Year to everyone!

Odd-numbered years are typically when most local towns and municipalities conduct their elections, and Maryland is no different.

There are 157 self-governing municipalities in Maryland. You can link to the lists of municipalities, listed either by name or by county here:

www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/locgov.html

Each of these municipalities will be conducting elections for all or part of their offices in 2009. You can view the calendar of elections by month here:

www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/munelect.html

Have you ever thought about running for office? Municipal elections are ones where Libertarians can win office now! You don't need to raise a bunch of money, and it's possible to meet and get to know a significant number of voters. In many of these races, if you have a galvanizing issue and can get 1,000 people to come out to the polls and vote for you, you can *win*.

If you've ever thought about running for higher office, this is a great way to get started!

Winning races at the municipal level will give our party political credibility, and allow our candidates to win elections at higher levels. And now couldn't be a better time to run as a Libertarian: the economy continues to erode, and both the Democrats and Republicans have no legitimacy at cutting *anything* from government.

Currently, MdLP member Muir Boda is running for the Salisbury City Council:

tilghmanmedia.com/boda4salisbury/index.htm

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

Almost all of these races are non-partisan, with the exception of Annapolis, Baltimore, Frederick, and Hagerstown. Each municipality's age and residency requirements can be viewed on their respective websites, which are linked from the above links.

What if you don't live in an area that has a municipal election? You can run in 2010 for your county council. You can see the list of counties in Maryland and link to each county's website here:

www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/county.html

If you are interested in running for office, or would like to discuss the possibility of running, please telephone me at 443-310-5373, or contact me via email at Chair*md.lp.org.

Please join us for the MdLP state convention, being held on Saturday, March 7th at *Squire's Italian Restaurant*. Arizona Supreme Court Judge John Buttrick will be our guest speaker. He is the highest-elected Libertarian official in the country, and will be discussing the present and future of the national LP. Also, we will be holding the Central Committee meeting, where we will elect officers to the Executive Board, and nominate candidates for local and state offices for the 2010 elections. Full details for the convention are on the newsletter front cover.

We are beginning our party recertification petition drive as of now. The party has official state recognition through December 31, 2010. We must collect 10,000 valid voter signatures by then to retain recognition in order not to lose the registration status of all Libertarians in the state. Please start now. We were very lucky on the last drive with an exceptional last minute effort to finish barely in time. Send your petition sheets in to the PO Box 176 address.

— Bob Johnston

Free? State Libertarian ISSN 1076-3155

The *Free? State Libertarian* is published three times/year by the Libertarian Party of Maryland. All material is copyrighted 2009 and may be reproduced, provided credit is given as follows:

“Reprinted from the *Free? State Libertarian*.”

Email: LPMD.Newsletter*ICengineering.com (preferably)
Mail: LPMD Newsletter, PO Box 321, Owings Mills, MD 21117
Fax: 360-364-8748. Newsletter submissions are solicited.

Editor: Robert E. Glaser, PhD

Check www.MD.LP.org regularly for the current event calendar, news, email listserves, photo album, and more! Be certain to submit all of your current event information to LPMD.Event*ICengineering.com to get the information online.

Content Policy

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

The Libertarian Party of Maryland

P.O. Box 176, Abingdon, MD 21009-0176 1-800-MLP-1776

Website: www.MD.LP.org

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

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

If You Are Not a Subscriber

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).

Editor's Corner



This is a *special* issue of the newsletter: we are printing and mailing 1000+ copies, mostly to non-MdLP members. Some are lapsed MdLP'ers, some are National-only LP'ers, and some are simply registered Libertarians. This is often confusing to libertarians. Bear with me and let me elucidate:

National LP: being a free, sustaining, or any other type of National LP member is great, but is completely separate from the *Maryland* party. Campaign reform legislation (McCain/Feingold) made it impossible for us to continue combined memberships.

Maryland LP (MdLP): We are the *local state group* which publishes this newsletter, has meetings, events, provides outreach booths, etc. We are in your community. Annual dues is \$20.

Maryland State Central Committee (CC): the CC is the legal entity approved by the Board of Elections. We provide the "Libertarian" party status for candidates on the ballot. CC members must be MdLP members; must be registered Libertarian in Md.; and state their agreement with the non-aggression principle. They are the *voting* members of the state party and put statewide candidates on the ballot at meetings (we don't have primary elections). There is no additional cost. There are also *county* LP organizations which operate under the auspices of the state CC.

Registered Libertarians: any state resident who registers to vote may choose to be registered as a Libertarian. There is no

requirement to belong to any of the above organizations, and there are no dues.

We are talking to you! We really, really want you to *join the MdLP* (send in the back page form, or click the credit cards on the webpage to join). Become a CC member if so inclined. It would be great if you also join the National LP (www.LP.org). We really, really want you to *register Libertarian* (get a form at the Post Office or the website). When we get 1% of the state registered, we can stop collecting petition signatures every four years. Speaking of which, we really, really want you to collect some signatures. *Please* at least send in your own signature; better yet, collect a few more – but don't procrastinate and forget to even give us yours! Consider coming to our upcoming convention and meet a real-life successful Libertarian Judge. You might even also take up Bob Johnston's challenge and run for local office yourself. Stranger things have happened.

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. Help us, join us, to keep this train moving forward in Maryland. It won't happen by itself – we need you with us!

— Robert E. Glaser

P.S.: this bonus issue contains condensed articles from our December 2008 issue. Go to the website to download the full version.

State Executive Board Officers

Chairman	Robert S. Johnston III	443-310-5373	Chair*md.lp.org
Vice Chairman	David Sten	410-287-2823	Vice-Chair*md.lp.org
Secretary	Robert E. Glaser	410-363-6626	Secretary*md.lp.org
Treasurer	Michael Linder	410-569-2186	Treasurer*md.lp.org
Media/Campaigns	Steve Boone	443-386-3977	Campaign*md.lp.org
At Large	Tony Spezio	---	TheSpeez*yahoo.com
At Large	Lorenzo Gaztañaga	443-414-6539	BaltimoreCity*md.lp.org

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

County Affiliates

	Baltimore City/County	Susan Gaztañaga	443-414-6539	BaltimoreCity*md.lp.org
www.LP-CC.org	Cecil County	Dave Sten	410-287-2823	Chair*LP-CC.org
	Frederick County	Glen Litsinger	301-831-5832	Frederick*md.lp.org
www.HC-LP.org	Harford County	Derek Mancinho		Harford*md.lp.org
www.MontgomeryLP.org	Montgomery County	Nick Sarwark	301-526-7491	Montgomery*md.lp.org
	Prince George's County	Jim McLaughlin		PrinceGeorges*md.lp.org
	Talbot County	Dic Gleason	410-364-9847	Talbot*md.lp.org
	Wicomoco County	Muir Boda		Wicomoco*md.lp.org

College Affiliates

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

General Election Results

U.S. President (Maryland totals)

Obama/Biden – Democratic (won)	McCain/Palin – Republican	Barr/Root – Libertarian
1,629,467 (61.9%)	959,862 (36.5%)	9,842 (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
258,704 (85.8%)	38,739 (12.9%)	3,384 (1.1%)

Representative in Congress, District 5

Steny H. Hoyer – Democratic (won)	Collins Bailey – Republican	Darlene H. Nicholas – Libertarian
253,854 (73.6%)	82,631 (24.0%)	7,829 (2.3%)

Representative in Congress, District 6

Roscoe Bartlett – Republican (won)	Jennifer P. Dougherty – Democratic	Gary W. Hoover, Sr. – Libertarian
190,926 (57.8%)	128,207 (38.8%)	11,060 (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
229,740 (75.1%)	66,351 (21.7%)	6,828 (2.2%)	2,562 (0.8%)

Candidates' Reflections on the Congressional Races

First District: Richard Davis



This was an entirely new experience for me, and I think it has been quite worthwhile. 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. The *Baltimore 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. Salisbury University was a big boost. I write better than I speak. 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 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 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. Having done this once, a few areas become evident where a candidate could use some help: ① Help in identifying venues to speak; ② Help copying and mailing out letters-to-the-editor; and 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.

Fifth District: Darlene Nicholas



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. But I also knew that my life’s journey had led me to move to the Washington

Beltway for a reason. I had only run small grassroots campaigns 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.

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.

I accepted an invitation to tape a two-minute voter guide debate at Channel 8. By the time I left Channel 8 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 and get it out on the web. 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. 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.

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.

The night before the election, I called a Mrs. McClellan, who 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. 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*.

Sixth District: Gary W. Hoover, Sr.

I was a Democrat before becoming an Independent and deciding to run for the US Congress. I happened upon the MdLP webpage: there I found a political party that I agreed with on most issues. 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 11,060 votes. 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.



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. The next thing is that we had seven formal candidate forums in the sixth district race and I saw only one member attend one of those. 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. I only heard from two MdLP officers the entire campaign. 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 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. We must be willing to come out and show support at forums and we must be willing to recruit more people into this party. 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.

State of Maryland - Petition to Form a New Political Party

For _____ County or _____ (check if Baltimore City)
 We, the undersigned voters of Maryland, support the organization of a political party to be known as the _____ Libertarian Party.
 Robert S. Johnston III, Address: 1311-D Sheridan Place Bel Air, MD 21015

The State Chairman is: _____

NOTICE TO SIGNERS: Please print or type all information other than your signature. Post Office Box addresses are not generally accepted as valid. By signing this petition, you agree that the above-named party should be recognized as a political party in Maryland and that, to the best of your knowledge, you are registered to vote in Maryland and are eligible to have your signature counted for petition purposes.

Please Note: The information you provide on this petition may be used to change your voter registration address.

DATE (mm/dd/yy)	PRINT FULL NAME	PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP CODE	DATE OF BIRTH	SIGNATURE, SAME AS PRINTED
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

CIRCULATOR'S AFFIDAVIT

Under penalties of perjury, I swear (or affirm) that: (a) I was at least 18 years old when each signature was obtained; (b) the information given to the left identifying me is true and correct; (c) I personally observed each signer as he or she signed this page; and (d) to the best of my knowledge and belief: (i) all signatures on this page are genuine; and (ii) all signers are registered voters of Maryland.

Individual circulator's printed or typed name _____
 Residence Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone Number _____

FOR ELECTION BOARD USE ONLY	Endorsed by: _____
Total Number of Signatures _____	
Number of Invalid Signatures _____	
Number of Valid Signatures _____	

Circulator's Signature _____ Date (mm/dd/yy) _____

(Sign and date when signature collection is completed)

Petition Instructions

The page at the left may be torn out and used, you can copy it and use the copies, or you can download it from our website. Only one side per page can be used, however.

Only registered voters' signatures count. Each page must be used *only* for a single county or Baltimore City. The relevant address is the one the Board of Elections shows as the person's residence. PO boxes are generally rejected unless for the rare circumstance where the registration address itself is a PO box. Business addresses are also not valid. Remember, the local county Board of Elections actually matches the submitted petition address with their list of registered voter addresses: no match means the signature does not count.

The information should be written as clearly as possible; block lettering (printing) is desired, except for the signature, of course.

The printed name should match the signature as provided.

The date of birth is recommended but not actually required. If the voter balks, ask for the month and day only; or the month and year only. Tell them it is the Board of Elections asking so that they can verify the signature.

Anyone, including the circulator, may write the voter's information on the form; but the signature must be that of the voter.

Voters can sign similar petitions for other political parties, but naturally can only sign once per party. It creates no obligation to support the party or its candidates. You might explain that while the form says "New Political Party" in our case it really means "Renew" our existing political party. Most people do not know that we are required to collect signatures *just to exist* and to be able to place candidates on the ballot.

You can assure signers that the MdLP will not use this information for any other purpose and that they will not be put on any mailing list. Tell them that the form is a Maryland Board of Elections form and that it is the state requesting the information – not us. If they want information on the LP, pass that request along as a separate matter.

The circulator must be 18 years old at the time the voter fills out the form, but does not have to be a registered voter nor a resident of the relevant county (or even the state of Maryland).

Fill out the circulator's block *after* the page has been completed. Address stickers are okay (but add the telephone number). Be certain to fill out the circulator's signature and date. The circulator's date *must* be after the most recent voter's signature date.

Mail the original sheet(s) in to the PO Box 176 address. Please send them in as you collect them.

Thank You!!!

Copy or Clip Form ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒

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

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

County:

Email:

Phone (day):

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.

Payment Information	
Maryland/county-only dues	\$ 20.00
Additional donation:	_____
Total Payment:	\$ _____

Monthly Credit Card Donation:	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Discover	
Card# _____	Exp: _____
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**

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



1-800-MLP-1776

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

Tired of **BIG GOVERNMENT** and High Taxes? Call 1-800-MLP-1776

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Owings Mills, MD
Permit #22