

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

theShoreLine

The newsletter of the Shore Democrats

January Lunch

Wednesday, January 18
11:30 A.M.

Off the Hook
Route 26, Bethany Beach

Speaker:
Russ McCabe
*A Quick History
of Sussex County*

Menu Choices
(\$15/\$17 nonmembers):

*Mushroom Flatbread
or Fish and Chips
or Burger with Pesto*
● Tea & Coffee ● Cash Bar

Reserve by 11:00 A.M., January 16
Ray Sander: 202-256-9501
raymondjsander@gmail.com

*If you are unable to join us for lunch,
come at 1:00 for the guest (free)*



Welcome 2012, but First, Farewell to 2011...

... and the Iraq War (or so we hope). Osama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki. Moammar el-Quaddafi, Hosni Mubarak, Ali Abdullah Saleh, and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Kim Jong Il (as the son also rises). Silvio Berlusconi. Anthony Weiner and (next January) Barney Frank. Herman Cain and 9-9-9 and the pre-Iowa Republican debate circus. Jack Kevorkian. Steve Jobs. Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The space shuttle program and a U.S. drone over Iran. Nine-plus percent unemployment. The deficit-reduction super committee. The nation's AAA credit rating. Interest rates without a zero in front. A viable middle class. Respect for teachers, public safety employees, and other union workers. Pepper spray as a "vegetable." Hurricane Irene. Hopes for Sussex County Council redistricting and clean energy from Bluewater Wind. Salt Air, Betty's, and Dippin' Dots.

Save the Date!

Winter Break February & March

The next lunch will be in April. Plan instead to attend the March 24 annual spring dinner for county Democrats.

Spring Dinner March 24

Sussex County Democrats host their annual dinner, Millsboro Fire Hall, 6-9:00 p.m. \$40. obkeen@verizon.net.

April Lunch April 18

Welcome spring with the next Shore Democrats lunch, to be held at Slainté Pub in West Fenwick Island.

President's Column by Lee I. Dogoloff

Happy Days Are (Almost) Here Again!

AS WE TAKE STOCK of where our country is on the number one issue—the economy—there is much to be optimistic about:

- New claims for unemployment benefits dropped in December to the lowest level in more than three and a half years, suggesting that the labor-market recovery is gaining speed. Consumer confidence is now at the highest level since last April.
- Unemployment is down from 9.1 percent to 8.6 percent, trending in the right direction.
- U.S. home building climbed to the highest level in 19 months during November, with most of the increase in housing starts coming from multifamily construction.

A recent Gallup poll shows President Obama

enjoying his highest approval rating since July. And let's not forget that under his leadership, Osama bin Laden is no more. Our president has also kept his promise to end our involvement in the longest, and probably the most misguided, war in American history.

By holding tough and championing the middle class, Democrats were rewarded by driving Republicans to accede to the extension of both unemployment benefits and the payroll tax holiday. It is now clearer than ever that Democrats are fighting for the middle class, while

Republicans are protecting those earning in excess of a million dollars a year.

This contrast in priorities between the two parties should work to the benefit of Democratic candidates—from the White House to Congress to state and local races—in the 2012 elections.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and peaceful New

Year with renewed energy to elect the people our country needs to continue to move forward:

DEMOCRATS!



If you have not yet paid your dues, please bring them to the January lunch or mail them to the address on the back of the newsletter: \$40/couple or \$25/single. In this election year, our coffers will be used to help support deserving Democratic candidates.

Plunging into the New Year

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Tell your friends and fellow voters to visit our web site: www.shoredemocrats.org

Only in Sussex

“Sussex is a place with such a fierce identity that Delaware is sometimes said to have three political parties: Democrats, Republicans, and Sussex County. It is not always taken as a joke.”
Carla Cohen, Delaware Grapevine

Come Heres

BECAUSE OF POPULATION GROWTH, Sussex County is getting itself a new state Senate district in time for the 2012 election, and it looks like the southernmost of Delaware's three counties is in for something else new, too. Not one of the candidates who has declared an interest in running is from Sussex.

It might be all right in other parts of the state ... but Sussex? Sussex is a place where Ken McDowell, the chief election official there, once opened a session of the Board of Canvass ... by saying, “No need to introduce anyone. All our families have been here for 300 years.” ... Strange but true, it could be the right time and the right place for an “outsider.”

After all, the reason Sussex is getting another senator is a lot of people not from there have moved there. The new 6th Senate District on the eastern side of the county takes in Milton, Lewes, Rehoboth Beach, and Dewey Beach, a lot of prime resort areas....

“It is a vacation area. People like it so much, they decide to stay,” said Pete Schwartzkopf, a Rehoboth Democrat who is the majority leader in the state House of Representatives.

Carla Cohen, Delaware Grapevine

Rick Howe



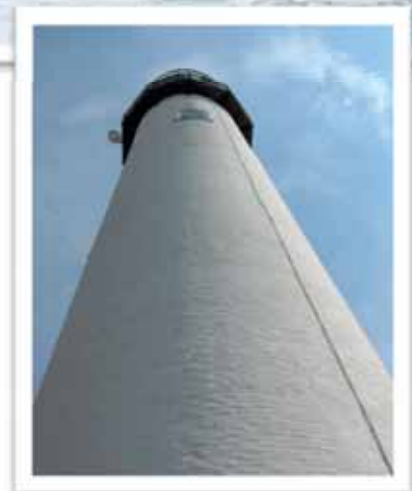
Ranking Women

SUSSEX COUNTY HAS JUST ONE WOMAN LEGISLATOR (Ruth Briggs King, R-37 RD). Delaware nonetheless ranks a bit better than the national average for the number of women in state legislatures, which stands at 23.6 percent. That percentage has dropped a point in the past year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Women represent 25.8 percent of the General Assembly, putting Delaware in 18th place. Three years ago the number was 30.6 percent, ranking the state 11th nationwide.

“Many of the topics that we are facing on a state government level deal directly with women’s issues—health, rights, and education—and women should play a direct role in addressing those issues,” said State Rep. Helene M. Keeley (D-3 RD). “Having women in government is critical to providing that unique perspective and voice, not just for women’s issues, but for every topic that arises.”

Party for the Party

THE SUSSEX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE has announced the grand opening of its 2012 campaign headquarters in Georgetown. All are invited to attend the event on Saturday, January 14, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., at 10 West Pine Street. Donations of office supplies and equipment are encouraged, along with food or drink for the party. To accept, call 302-258-7182 or jehovahrohi@aol.com.



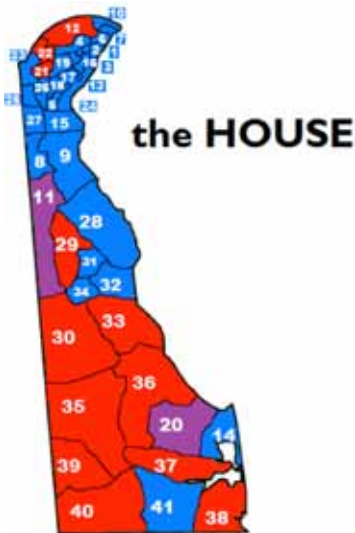
The 62-District Strategy

by DelawareDem / from www.DelawareLiberal.net

2012 IS HERE, and it is time to focus on the 2012 legislative elections. Because more often than not, state legislative races are ignored, even though they are our most direct connection to democracy, as those we elect from our respective districts in the House and Senate are our neighbors (or at least they are supposed to be). So we are going to begin to familiarize ourselves with each district and who currently represents that district. Now, it is early enough in the calendar that we don't yet know if many of the representatives and senators are going to run for reelection or if they will face challengers in their efforts to get reelected.

In 2012 all seats in the General Assembly are up for election. All 21 senators. All 41 representatives. The reason for this is because we have just drawn up new districts in both chambers as a result of population changes over the last 10 years, as indicated by the 2010 census. As a result, Kent and Sussex Counties have each gained a House seat, and Sussex County gains a Senate seat. It's ironic, since the more conservative citizens of the downstate counties gain representation as a result of a constitutionally mandated census that they decried as an unconstitutionally fascist tool of the evil Obama Administration. But I digress....

Here is a map of the new House districts with their current party representation, indicated by the colors red (Republican) and blue (Democratic), with the 11th District in southern New Castle County and northern Kent County and the 20th District in Sussex County colored purple, as no one is currently representing these newly created districts.



In the chart at right above, some explanation: I listed Dennis P. Williams as running for reelection, because, even though he is running for mayor

the HOUSE

District/Area	Democrat	Republican	Status
1 Wilmington - North	Dennis P. Williams		SAFE
2 Wilmington	Stephanie Hicken		SAFE
3 Wilmington - South	Helene Keeley		SAFE
4 Wilmington - West	Gerald Brady		SAFE
5 Bear / Newark	Melanie George Smith		SAFE
6 Bellefonte / Edgemore	Debra Heffernan		SAFE
7 Brandywine	Bryan Short		SAFE
8 Middletown	Quinton Johnson		SAFE
9 S. New Castle Co.	Rebecca Walker		SAFE
10 Talleyville	Dennis E. Williams		LEAN D
11 Middletown			TOSSUP
12 Accosson / Greenville		Deborah Hudson	SAFE
13 Sumner	John Mitchell		SAFE
14 Rehoboth	Peter Schwartzkopf		SAFE
15 Bear	Valerie Longhurst		SAFE
16 Wilmington Manor / N. Castle	James Johnson		SAFE
17 New Castle	Michael Mulrooney		SAFE
18 Newark	Michelle Barbieri		SAFE
19 Pike-Creek	Robert Gilligan		SAFE
20 Lewes / Milton			TOSSUP
21 Middle Run Valley		Michael Ramone	TOSSUP
22 North Star		Nick Manolagas	SAFE
23 North Star		Joe Mills	SAFE
24 Newark	Tarri Schooley		SAFE
25 E. Newark	Edward Odamski		SAFE
26 S. Newark	John Kowalko		SAFE
27 Newark	John Viola		SAFE
28 Glasgow	Earl Jacobsen		SAFE
29 Smyrna	Bill Carwin		SAFE
29 Kenton		Lincoln Willis	SAFE
30 Harrington		William Outten	SAFE
31 Dover	Daryll Scott		SAFE
32 Dover	Brad Bennett		SAFE
33 Milford / Frederica		Harold Perleman	SAFE
34 Camden / Wyoming		Donald Blakely	SAFE
35 Bridgeville / Georgetown		Dave Wilson	SAFE
36 Milford / Milton		Harvey Kenton	SAFE
37 Georgetown / Lewis		Ruth Briggs King	LEAN R
38 Bethany Beach / Fenwick		Gerald Hocker	SAFE
39 Seaford		Daniel Short	SAFE
40 Laurel / Deltmar		Cynthia Lee	SAFE
41 Millsboro	John Atkins		SAFE

of Wilmington, I think he has not explicitly said he is not running for reelection to the House, yet. I may be wrong though. So the 1st RD may be an open seat if Williams retires but a safe Democratic one nonetheless. I don't have any information on any other representatives retiring yet. There is a possibility that Helene Keeley will not run for reelection and instead run for the Senate, but more on that in a second.

I list only the new 11th and 20th Districts and Michael Ramone's 21st RD as competitive, because we have no idea who is running against the various incumbents yet in the other districts. With respect to Ramone, the new 21st RD is more competitive after redistricting, and he may face a tough race this fall.

The Democrats hold a 26-15 majority in the House, and there are no signs yet that this majority is in danger. The Republicans would need to pick up 6 seats to reach 21, enough for a majority.

“The GOP finally, after many years, may have the opportunity to gain control of the upper chamber.”

NOW ONTO THE SENATE:

Senator Marshall is retiring, also to run for mayor of Wilmington, although there have been noises that he may change his mind. Until he does, I am listing him as retiring, with his 3rd SD an open seat. Democrat Eric Anderson has already announced that he is running for the seat, and Helene Keeley may also seek a promotion, so I have listed both on the chart. This is a safe Democratic seat no matter what.

In the 11th SD, Tony Deluca has a primary race with attorney Bryan Townsend, and Christine O’Donnell thug Evan Queitsch will seek the Republican nomination to face the winner of the Deluca-Townsend primary. This is a safe Democratic seat no matter what as well. Evan Queitsch, like his mentor, will never win an election in Delaware for anything.

In the 4th SD, Mike Katz got royally screwed by Deluca for daring to stand against him in the leadership election, as, after redistricting, his district got much more Republican. In the House, Minority Leader Greg Lavelle’s 11th RD was moved downstate and he was placed in Deborah Hudson’s 12th RD. So he announced he would not primary Hudson, but he has not yet announced that he would seek a promotion to the Senate. If he did, and I would be shocked if he didn’t, he would be challenging Katz in the 4th. And if Lavelle did challenge Katz, it would be a tossup race, if not a Lean Republican race given the new Republican territory that the 4th SD now covers.

The new 6th SD in Sussex County is an open seat and its demographics make for a competitive race. Andy Staton is already running for the Democrats, and Ernie Lopez and failed 2010 congressional nominee Glen Urquhart are running for the Republicans. If Urquhart wins the primary, I dare say this race leans Democratic.

In the 12th SD, Dori Connor was given more Democratic territory to represent, and thus I have to list her race as accordingly competitive. But it will depend on who runs against her. In the 8th SD, Tony Deluca also punished both David Sokola and Liane Sorenson for voting for Mike Katz

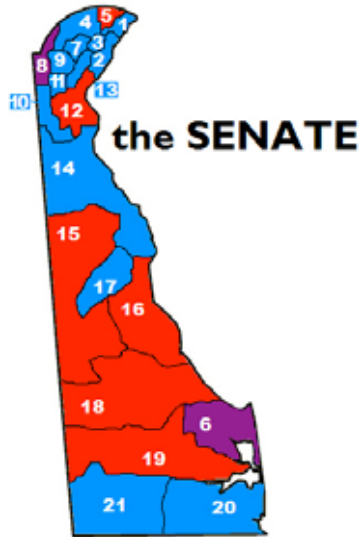
in the leadership election by placing the Democrat and Republican in the same district. Thus, this is a competitive race.

Finally, if either Senators Bunting or Venables retires downstate in the 20th and 21st SDs, then these districts become instant Republican pickup opportunities, and both would lean Republican no matter who runs for either party.

The Senate currently stands at 14 Democrats and 7 Republicans. The GOP would need to pick up 4 seats to gain the majority, and given redistricting and the treasonous move by Tony Deluca to punish his party for his own personal vengeance, the GOP finally, after many years, may

have the opportunity to gain control of the upper chamber. Indeed, if they pick up the 4th, the 8th and the new 6th SDs, as they will probably be favored to do, they would only need one more seat to win control. So the Democrats had better pray that neither Bunting nor Venables retires, as that would give the GOP the one seat they need.

With regard to retirements, I have heard only the possibility that Senator McBride might retire, but that is just rumor.



the SENATE

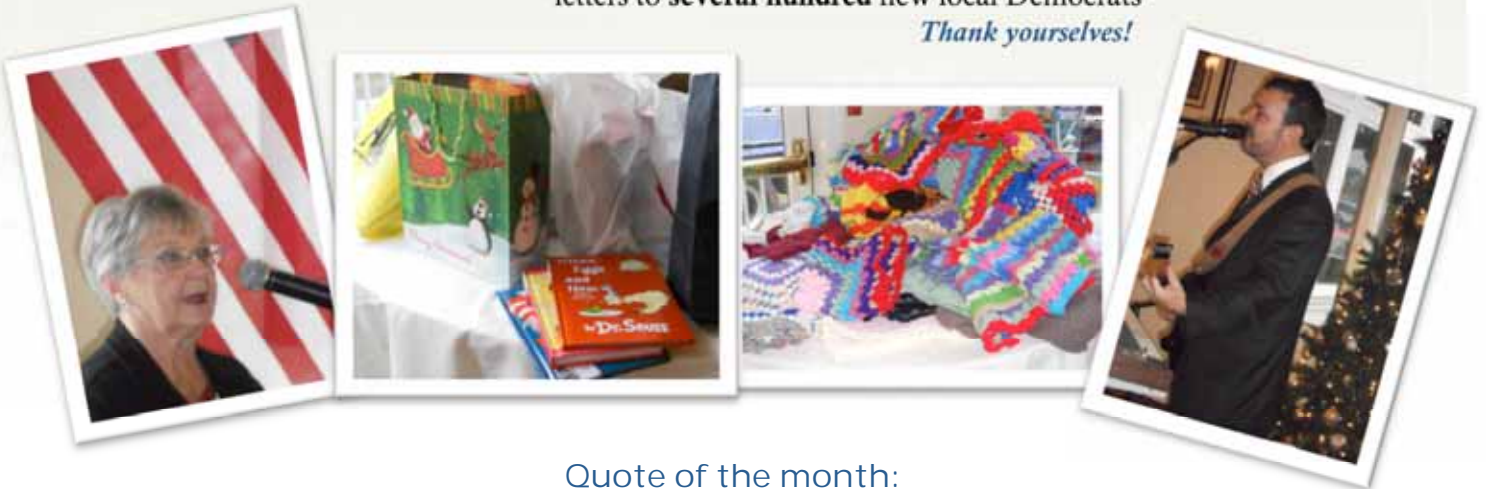
District	Area	Democrat	Republican	Status
1	Claymont, Wilmington	Harris McDowell		SAFE
2	Wilmington, With. Manor	Margaret Rose Henry		SAFE
3	Wilmington	Eric Anderson		LEAN D
		Helene Keeley?		
4	Greenville, Hockessin	Michael Katz	Greg Lavelle	TOSSUP
5	Brandywine		Cathy Cloutier	LEAN R
6	Lewes	Andrew Staton	Glen Urquhart	TOSSUP
			Ernie Lopez	
7	Elsmere, Pike Creek	Patricia Blevins		SAFE
8	Newark, North Star	David Sokola	Liane Sorenson	TOSSUP
9	Newark	Karen Peterson		SAFE
10	Glasgow, Bear	Bethany Hall Long		SAFE
11	S. Newark	Tony Deluca	Evan Queitsch	SAFE
		Bryan Townsend		
12	New Castle		Dori Connor	LEAN R
13	Rt. 40 Corridor	David McBride		SAFE
14	S.E. NCCO, NE Kent	Bruce Frink		SAFE
15	W. Kent		David Lawson	SAFE
16	E. Kent		Colin Bonini	SAFE
17	Dover	Brian Birschweiler		SAFE
18	S. Kent, N. Sussex		Gary Simpson	SAFE
19	Georgetown		Joe Booth	SAFE
20	Bethany Beach	George Bunting		LEAN D
21	Seaford	Bob Venables		LEAN D

Christine Sadowski of La Red accepts the children's books donated at the holiday luncheon. Also displayed were some of the colorful knitted goods made by Mary Ellen Corridore, Nancy Shaffer, Janet Skibicki, and others who answered a newspaper request. Sol Knopf entertained members at the December 21 luncheon at Cripple Creek Country Club.

In 2011 Shore Democrats

- Delivered more than **500** meals to the needy
- Donated more than **300** knitted clothes to children in the Hispanic community
- Donated more than **100** lap robes to hospitalized veterans, hospice patients, and children in the Hispanic community
- Donated more than **100** books to children immunized at La Red
- Cleaned local roads that the Shore Democrats adopted
- Sent, with the 38th District Democratic Committee, welcoming letters to **several hundred** new local Democrats

Thank yourselves!



Quote of the month:

*"That's one of the things I like about him, because he's been consistent since he changed his mind."
Christine O'Donnell, casting a spell over primary voters for "Landslide" Mitt Romney*

Shore Democrats

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