

MARCH / APRIL 2011

# theShoreLine

The newsletter of the Shore Democrats



Cheryl Fruchtman, Anne Allen, and Joann Cabry rallying in Georgetown, (Delaware NAACP Youth and College Div. Photos)

## Springing Back!

While the club has taken a winter break, there has been no break in the news worldwide: Pro-democracy uprisings in the Middle East. Labor confrontations in the Midwest. Budget battles from Capitol Hill to statehouses nationwide. Earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan, the latter magnified by fears of a nuclear meltdown. New census figures that will bring redistricting to Delaware. And of course a heated race by hopefuls who want to challenge President Obama in 2012. Strong Democratic voices are needed now more than ever. Join the Shore Democrats in preparing for whatever the future brings.

**“Sarah Palin runs the risk of being little more than the thinking man’s Michele Bachmann.”** John Avlon, in *The Daily Beast*

## Save the Date!

**May 4**

### 38th District

The 38th District Democratic Committee meets at the South Coastal Library. 7:00 p.m.

**May 18**

### Club Luncheon

Plans for the next Shore Democrats luncheon will be announced at the April luncheon. Be there!

**June 12**

### Picnic in the Park

Join fellow Democrats for the 38th District’s annual fundraiser and barbecue at West Park, Ocean View. 12–3:00.

## April Luncheon

**Wednesday, April 20**

**11:30 A.M.**

### Slainte Pub

(Route 54, Harris Teeter Shopping Center)

**Guest: Chip Flowers**

Delaware State Treasurer

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

*Crabcake Sandwich  
or Grilled Chicken on Kaiser/brie/pepper  
or Grilled Vegetable Wrap/parmesan and  
balsamic reduction*  
● Iced Tea ● Cash Bar

Reserve by 11:00 A.M., April 16

202-256-9501 or

[raymondjsander@gmail.com](mailto:raymondjsander@gmail.com)

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

**Please bring your 2011 club dues  
(\$25 individuals/\$40 couples)**





*President's Column by Lee I. Dogoloff*

## Leadership for 2011 and Beyond

For many Shore Democrats, this is a time to return to our homes at the beach and to welcome spring, with all the beauty and promise it provides. As we look forward, I would like to share two issues that are in the forefront of my thinking: Libya and the challenge ahead for Sussex Democrats.

America's response to the crisis in Libya has been a source of tremendous pride in the leadership of President Obama. War, or any military action, is something to be avoided whenever possible but not avoided at all costs. With all of the critical rhetoric surrounding the president's actions, there was little recognition of the tremendous diplomatic achievement involved in galvanizing the international community to come together to take such swift action. Neither was there much talk about the moral responsibility to avoid turning a deaf ear to mass murder. I wonder how things might have been different if, in 1938, that kind of diplomatic skill and moral leadership had been brought to bear. The genocide of some six million innocent people

and a generation of young men might have been spared.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your continued leadership.

Speaking of leadership, we need to turn our attention to Sussex County and how we must prepare and mobilize for the 2012 election cycle. Although there have been attempts in the past to involve both our local African American and Hispanic communities in the democratic process, success has been limited.

I want to challenge us to change that during the upcoming election cycle. Having the executive director of La Esperanza, Zaida Guajardo, speak at the club's January luncheon was a step in this direction, as you will read on the back page of this newsletter.

Our April speaker is Delaware State Treasurer Chris Flowers, who is also committed to help with this effort, as is Governor Jack Markell.

Let's start a dialogue about how we can best achieve this objective.

I welcome your thoughts and involvement.

## 2011 Shore Democrats Officers

**President: Lee Dogoloff**

539-2635 lidog@mac.com

**Vice President: Janet Skibicki**

539-8053 jls71546@aol.com

**Treasurer: Ray Sander 202-256-9501**

raymondjsander@gmail.com

**Secretary: Cheryl Fruchtman**

227-1056 c.fruchtman@comcast.net

**Director: Pete Keenan**

436-2052 obkeen@verizon.net

**Director: Natalie Reatig**

539-9135 nreatig@aol.com

**Director: Cyndee Trower**

537-4236 ctrower@mchsi.com

**Membership Director: Lois Lipsett**

539-7851 lois.lipsett@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor: Diane Maddex**

539-8029 dimaddex@aol.com

**Ex Officio: Kay Ryan**

537-6527 kayryan@mchsi.com



Enroll for e-mail newsletters — Contact Natalie Reatig at [nreatig@shoredemocrats.org](mailto:nreatig@shoredemocrats.org)  
[www.shoredemocrats.org](http://www.shoredemocrats.org) Look for us on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

# Sussex and Kent to Gain in Redistricting

*Sandra Spence, President, League of Women Voters of Delaware*

Change in legislative districts at all levels is coming! The 2010 Census reported population growth of 25 percent in Sussex County (197,072) and 28 percent in Kent. New Castle County grew by 7.6 percent but lags behind Kent and Sussex, so that county will likely lose seats.

All state and local districts must have populations within plus or minus 5 percent of the average. With a total state population of 897,934, the average for the forty-one House of Representatives districts is 20,901, with an acceptable range of 20,806 to 22,996. The acceptable range for the twenty-one Senate districts is 40,759 to 44,897, based on the average of 42,759.

The five Sussex County Council districts range from 37,447 to 41,389, based on the average 39,418. Joan Deaver's district has grown to 44,533, while Council President Michael Vincent's Seaford district falls under that range, at 32,637. The other three are within the acceptable range.

How will the process be done? Will it be transparent and allow for citizen participation, or, as usual, be done behind closed doors?

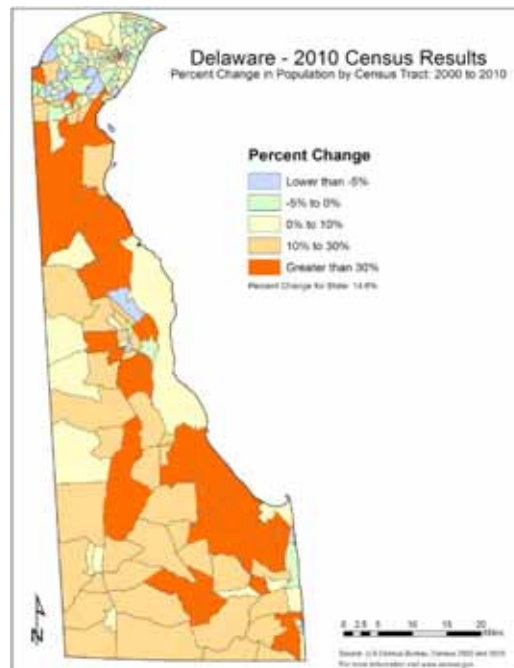
On April 6 the Senate reported out of committee SB 50, sponsored by the top three Senate leaders (DeLuca, Blevins, and Henry). It requires that all meetings and documents be completely open to the public, including caucuses dealing with redistricting; however, it does not require any process of public participation. That bill is unlikely to be enacted because of major issues between House and Senate leaders.

Meanwhile the House Democratic Caucus has announced its plan. Although it does not call for open caucus meetings on redistricting, it does provide a four-week public comment period (April 5–29). Residents can submit their plans, suggestions, and requests in writing to [house.redistricting@state.de.us](mailto:house.redistricting@state.de.us). All other comments can be sent to House of Representatives, Attention Erik Schramm, 411 Legislative Avenue, Dover, DE 19901.

The staff will then draft a map that will be available to the media and the public for specific comments at a hearing between May 16 and 30. State law requires a final plan by June 30.

The League of Women Voters of Sussex County has developed recommended criteria for redistricting and is holding a series of public forums to solicit public comments on how maps should be drawn for redistricting the county council. The first will be held on April 13, 1:00 p.m., in the Beebe Medical Arts Building on Route 24 (302-645-1797 or [www.sussexlwv.org](http://www.sussexlwv.org)). While respecting requirements of state law, the League criteria focus on "communities of

interest." In addition to racial and ethnic communities, this might include such things as media markets, school districts, or other areas with common concerns. Communities of interest identified through public processes generally stand up whenever redistricting plans become subject to litigation.



## *Dewey Beach May Be Redrawn Out of the 38th District*

Although the 14th District has about 4,000 people more than it should, Rep. Pete Schwartzkopf (R-Rehoboth Beach), the House majority leader, says that he intends to bring Dewey Beach back into the same district as Rehoboth Beach. Dewey Beach was separated in 2002, he said, when the lines were redrawn by House Republicans to favor their candidate, who ran against former Dewey Beach Mayor Bob Frederick, a Democrat. "It wasn't right when it happened. It hasn't been right for 10 years," Schwartzkopf said. Dewey Beach residents became part of the 38th District and have to drive to the poll in Bethany Beach. Schwartzkopf said that Rep. Gerald Hocker (R-Ocean View), who currently represents Dewey Beach in the 38th, agrees that Dewey Beach should be in the 14th District.

— *From the Cape Gazette, March 27, 2011*

*Governor Jack Markell*

## Taxes Are the Wrong Focus for Economic Growth

Two months ago, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker invited businesses in Illinois to “escape to Wisconsin” as a result of the recently enacted tax increases in Illinois.

Admittedly, I don’t know whether Walker’s offer has been effective. My own experience, though, as a business executive and as a governor, tells me that businesses are interested in a lot more than a low tax rate when they decide where to locate.

The debate in Wisconsin over whether workers should be allowed to collectively bargain has garnered most of the attention, yet Walker’s attempt to woo Illinois businesses while cutting funding for Wisconsin’s schools raises a fundamental question: What will drive economic growth?

First, a caveat: As a governor for two years in a state hit hard by the recession, I sympathize with all governors who are struggling to balance budgets. Flat revenue, soaring costs for Medicaid and increasing demand for other government services are a tough combination. So over the past two years, we in Delaware have implemented dozens of proposals to reduce spending. I’ve cut the state government workforce and endured mass protests, including impeachment signs, as a result of a pay cut I pushed through over huge opposition. Now I’m working with our state’s unions to develop a plan to reduce health care and pension spending by taxpayers.

My focus on the budget, though, has played second fiddle to what I believe is even more important—creating jobs. I’ve visited hundreds of businesses the past two years and always ask the same question: What can I do to facilitate their success?

The number of business leaders who asked me to lower their taxes can be counted on one hand. Perhaps that’s because they recognize they get great value in Delaware already. But what I hear most from business leaders is that they want the

government to continue to improve our schools, reduce the time it takes to issue permits and licenses, enhance our transportation infrastructure, protect our arts community, strengthen linkages between our institutions of higher education and local companies, and be responsive.

Don’t get me wrong. Business leaders want to be in places where the taxes they pay are spent wisely. But they’re more interested in things that will allow them to succeed in the marketplace.

That doesn’t happen on its own. And as much as I ... respect the value of the free market, I believe there is a role for government to play here.

This precise argument is playing out in states across the country and is, in fact, probably the most important part of the budget debate in Washington.

Certainly, we must get control of our nation’s spending, deficits and debt. But doing so is not the ultimate job-creation strategy....

President Obama has appropriately focused in recent months on the need to out-innovate other countries. But where will the innovation come from if we don’t make necessary investments in federally funded research? Who will take innovation to market if we don’t help millions of workers retool their skills with appropriate job training? How will we get these new goods to market cost-effectively if we don’t improve our infrastructure? These are precisely the investments other nations are making. We must, too.

These, then, represent the key competing visions for our country’s future. My money is on appropriate cutting coupled with investments in the factors that will lead to economic growth. We’ve never succeeded as a country by racing to the bottom, cutting the investments that matter the most. Now’s not the time to start.

— Reprinted from *The Washington Post*, March 11, 2011

## *Thanks to Spring Dinner Sponsors*

*The Sussex County Democratic Party’s annual Spring Dinner on March 19 was another great success. The party would like to thank the following corporate sponsors for their contributions to the event:*

**Banks Wines & Spirits**  
**Jeremiah’s Beach Shop**  
**Kick n’ Chicken**  
**M Squared**  
**Made You Look**  
**Mizzen Mast**

**Off The Hook**  
**Outlet Liquors**  
**Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse**  
**Slainte Pub & Restaurant**  
**Sun Glass Studio**  
**Tideline Gallery**

## Report from Legislative Hall

### Progressive Bills Advancing in Dover

Local Democrats have been monitoring several important bills in the General Assembly that have good prospects of passage. **Civil Unions:** Senate Bill 30 creates civil unions in Delaware for eligible persons and recognizes same-sex unions from other jurisdictions. **Medical Marijuana:** Senate Bill 17 would permit doctor-recommended medical use of marijuana by patients with serious medical conditions, including possession of up to six ounces. **State Employment of Legislators:** House Bill 75 would prohibit all General Assembly members from being employed by the state while in office, unless the member was already a state employee at the time of election.

### Legislators Face 2012 Budget

As for the 2011 budget, Governor Jack Markell has said that coming to agreement may be "very difficult," pointing out that revenues have been stagnant while health care costs for state employees continue to rise and Delaware is losing more than \$100 million in federal stimulus money it had last year. Markell said that job creation is a key priority for his administration, noting that employers look not just at economic incentives a state might offer, but also at schools, quality-of-life issues, and taxes. But with many Delawareans struggling financially and more than 35,000 of them unemployed, House Majority Leader Pete Schwartzkopf (D-Rehoboth) observed, "There are no plans that I know of at this point to raise taxes," noting that lawmakers won't know until May how much state income tax revenue they can count on. This year Markell is meeting with leaders of unions representing state employees to win their cooperation on pension and health care costs.



Legislative Hall (top) and Governor Markell talking to a school class in March (above).

### Adopted Roads Cleaned Up

Neither rain nor trash kept ten stalwart members of the Shore Democrats and 38th District Democratic Committee from coming out on March 24 to clean up the two inland roads the groups have adopted. Those participating included Anne Allen, Cheryl Fruchtman, Pat and Pete Keenan, Russ Melrath, Sally and Al Melvin, Marilyn Panagopoulos, John Schmidlein, and Eric West. For those who have not yet helped with this community project, another opportunity will present itself in the fall.

### Japanese Sister State Stricken

Delaware has begun a statewide effort to support its Japanese sister state, Miyagi Prefecture, a relationship that was begun in 1997. A nonprofit fund has been set up at the Delaware Community Foundation to accept donations to help the area recover from the recent devastating earthquake and subsequent tsunami. "We hope that you will consider contributing and also let us know about any efforts that you are already working on," said Governor Jack Markell. "Delaware is the state of neighbors — thank you for your interest in helping our neighbors on the other side of the world." Go to <http://www.delaware.gov/HelpMiyagi>



## ¡Voto!

When Zaida Guajardo of La Esperanza spoke to the Shore Democrats at their January 19 luncheon, she outlined some of the services her fourteen-year-old organization in Georgetown provides to the local Hispanic community: translation of documents, rental information, literacy help, pre- and postnatal aid, nutrition advice, and the like.

“But we also try to impress on them the importance of voting,” she said, “so they can have their voices heard.” Of the ten thousand Latinos in Sussex County, Guajardo suggested that it would be a good idea for Democrats to first approach the teenagers, many of whom are citizens. “We need a plan for getting them to vote and gaining their trust.”



Shore Democrats  
P.O. Box 1543  
Ocean View, DE 19970-1543

