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theShoreLine

The newsletter of the Shore Democrats

May Luncheon

Wednesday, May 18

11:30 A.M.

Off the Hook

(Route 26, between DiFebo's and Rita's)

Guest: Jim Westhoff

2010 Delaware House Candidate

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

*Fish and chips/fries
or Chicken panini/poblano/spinach
or Wild mushroom flatbread/
pecorino cheese and leeks
● Iced tea ● Cash bar*

Reserve by 11:00 A.M., May 15
202-256-9501 or
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)



Westhoff: A Candidate's Tale

The speaker for the Shore Democrats May luncheon, Jim Westhoff, is no stranger to the people of Sussex County. Whenever there has been a storm over the past few years, Westhoff—as a spokesman for DeIDOT—has been the person on the radio and TV telling people about road conditions. But many also know him as someone who stepped up when no one else would. Last year, when it looked like Rep. Dave Wilson, an incumbent Republican state representative, was going to run unopposed, the county Democratic party asked him to enter the race. Jim spent every night knocking on doors and attending dinners. One statewide blog declared that he was the best General Assembly candidate in Delaware. “Even though the results in November were almost inevitable,” says Westhoff, he impressed people of both parties as a person who wanted to help his neighbors in Sussex County and to run on ideas.

Save the Date!

Picnic in the Park

June 12

Celebrate Flag Day two days early with a barbecue at West Park from noon to 3:00 p.m. See all the details on page 4 of this issue.

June Meeting

June 12

The club's June event will be the Picnic in the Park, sponsored by the 38th District Committee. See page 4 for full details and order your tickets now.

Inland Bays Cleanup

June 25

Join the 7th annual clean-up of Little Assawoman, Indian River, and Rehoboth Bays. 9:00 a.m. www.inlandbays.org (302-855-1901).



White House Photos by Pete Souza

President's Column by Lee I. Dogoloff

We Do BIG Things

In return for a modest contribution to our president's reelection campaign, I received a T-shirt with large bold letters saying: "We Do BIG Things." I compared that truth to the soundings from some vocal members of our party who are openly critical of the president for not doing more.

An example is that even though our president did something in passing health care reform that at least four other presidents had failed to do, it was not good enough, because the bill did not include a single-payer provision that many of us had wanted.

President Obama's list of other accomplishments during his first two years in office includes undertaking the economic stimulus, bringing the financial system back from the brink of collapse, rescuing two automakers, reforming the nation's financial regulation system, and initiating major changes in student loan programs.

And now we add the eradication of Osama bin Laden.

Notwithstanding these accomplishments, the president, in his words, "took a shellacking in the mid-term elections," and his popularity and support have been waning.

What is most disturbing is that the discontent comes from a number of Democrats as well as from Republicans, as expected.

Each of us has a responsibility as a Democrat to openly support our president. When we are in situations where President Obama is being criticized, we need to be vocal and enthusiastic about what he has accomplished. The 2012 elections are not far off, and we as a country cannot afford to squander the opportunity to continue to do big things and to allow our president to finish his agenda for the American people.



Shore Democrats at Work for You!

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See our new blog by Cyndee Trower — Click on "What's New" @ www.shoredemocrats.org
Look for us also on www.facebook.com

News from All Over

Surplus to Be Turned into Stimulus

Delaware is now forecasting a \$320 budget surplus this year, and Governor Jack Markell has proposed using \$135 million of it to stimulate construction spending on transportation, preservation, open space, and affordable housing. The remainder would pay down the state debt as well as contribute to the transportation trust fund.



Governor Markell congratulating Delaware's Oscar winner

Civil Unions Bill To Become Law

By a 26–15 vote, Delaware's House of Representatives gave its approval for the state to recognize civil unions of same-sex couples. Delaware is the eighth state to grant similar legal rights accorded married couples. On signing, the bill will take effect January 1, 2012. Proponents, including Delaware Right to Marry, are hoping to legalize same-sex marriage here by 2013.

Sign Up to Host the Cottage Tour

Once again the Shore Democrats will be sponsoring one of the houses on this year's Beach and Bay Cottage Tour (the house is to be determined). Members are encouraged to volunteer to be a host for a morning or an afternoon on July 28. Contact our house coordinator, Mary Lou Dogoloff: 539-2635 or lidog@mac.com.



Rep. Carney Plays Ball in D.C.

Looking back on his first hundred days as "Delaware's lone voice in the House of Representatives," John Carney noted that his main focus is on job creation, including infrastructure and high-speed rail projects. "I'm also using my position on the Financial Services Committee to strengthen Delaware's financial and corporate services industries and to protect consumers and investors through regulatory reforms," he said.



Time to Picnic in the Park

Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 12. This is the date of the annual picnic sponsored by the 38th District Democratic Committee as a fundraiser for the coming 2012 campaign. The picnic will be held from noon to 3:00 p.m. in John West Park in Ocean View. Key state, local, and national Democrats have been invited, from Delaware's Senators Carper and Coons and Representative Carney to Governor Markell and Lieutenant Governor Denn. Barbecued chicken, hot dogs, beer, wine, sodas, and homemade desserts are on the menu. The cost is \$25 per adult; children under twelve are free. Bring a friend or a new Democrat and purchase your tickets by June 5 from Pete and Pat Keenan: 302-436-2052 or obkeen@verizon.net.



This will be
the June meeting
of the
Shore Democrats

Quote of the Month: "As [Obama] knows, his presidency lasted less than two years. We have now entered the period of rearguard defense."—George Packer, *The New Yorker*, April 25, 2011

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