

NOVEMBER 2011

theShoreLine

The newsletter of the Shore Democrats



A Voice for Children

Since he took office in 2009 as the state's lieutenant governor, Matt Denn has worked to become "a voice for Delaware's children in the halls of government." At the November 16 Shore Democrats luncheon, Denn will speak about his priorities, which include:

- Improving public schools by making Delaware a destination of choice for our region's top new teachers and child care professionals and treating those teachers and child care workers as professionals.
- Expanding the role of mentors and parents in our public schools.
- Increasing the number of Delaware children with health insurance.
- Ensuring stricter enforcement of Delaware's environmental laws, to protect our kids from pollutants that cause childhood asthma and brain damage.
- Improving the services that our state offers children who face special challenges—children who are abused, neglected, living in foster care, or fighting to overcome disabilities.

Above left: Matt Denn at "Rainbows for Rachel [Gambrell] Day," when she got to sit in the governor's chair for the day. Right: Denn serving as grand marshal for this year's Bethany Beach Fourth of July Parade, with Vinnie Ryan and Ferris Hauck.

Save the Date!

November 3 Adopt a Road

Meet at Melson's Funeral Home at 8:00 a.m. Wear long pants, socks, and gloves. Only an hour! Contact c.fruchtman@comcast.net.

November 5 Occupy Rehoboth

Gather at the Rehoboth Bandstand and stand with the 99%. Boardwalk and Rehoboth Avenue, 1 to 3:00 p.m. Contact jcabry@gmail.com.

December 13 December Party

Enjoy the Shore Democrats holiday luncheon, Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club, 11:30 a.m. Contact raymondjsander@gmail.com.

November Luncheon

Wednesday, November 16

11:30 A.M.

NorthEast Seafood Kitchen

Off Route 26, Ocean View

Speaker:

Matt Denn

Lieutenant Governor of Delaware

Menu Choices

(\$15/\$17 nonmembers):

*Roasted Veggie Pizza
or Grilled Chicken BBQ Sandwich
or Fresh Fish Tacos
● Iced Tea ● Cash Bar*

Reserve by 11:00 A.M., November 14

Ray Sander: 202-256-9501

raymondjsander@gmail.com

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





President's Column by Lee I. Dogoloff

From Wall Street to Seville, Occupations Abound

THE 99% MOVEMENT, otherwise known as Occupy Wall Street, has spread like a virus on steroids: there are so many people involved in so many places that it is impossible to keep track of them all. And the demonstrations are not limited to the United States. To my amazement, I recently found one in the corner of the cathedral in Seville, Spain. Supporters have turned out in Bethany Beach and are set to occupy the Rehoboth Bandstand on November 5.

So what is this spontaneous movement about? Obviously it speaks to frustration: frustration not so much that so few have so much, but, more significant, that so many have so little. Here are some examples:

- Each of the top twenty highest-paid U.S. executives had annual pay and benefit packages that exceed \$20 million. Many of these companies rake in huge quarterly profits without passing these profits on to the struggling middle class.
- Last year, the CEO of United Health Care received a payout of more than \$100 million—and the company earned \$22.1 billion in profits in the third quarter of this year. Not one cent of

these profits has been applied to reduce health care premiums.

- General Electric paid no income taxes on \$14.2 billion in profits in 2010.
- This year, the third-quarter profits for Exxon soared to \$10.33 billion, while average Americans who are fortunate to have a job struggled to fill their gas tanks to get to work.

Against this reality is the fact that Republicans in Congress refused to even allow debate on a bill to restore or continue 400,000 teacher jobs. In addition, the Republicans refuse to have those who earn more than \$1 million pay a bit more in federal income tax. Plans like Cain's 9-9-9 scheme would benefit the wealthy and put an increased burden on the already overburdened middle class—not to mention that his plan, as with all flat-tax proposals, is regressive, so it would disproportionately affect those at the lowest end of the income spectrum.

It is no wonder that the 99 percenters are gathering to say, *Enough is enough!* It's time that we join hands with them to work for candidates who support our traditional Democratic values.



Working 100% for Democrats!

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 and Web Master:
Cyndee Trower
537-4236 ctrower@mchsi.com
Newsletter Editor:
Diane Maddex
539-8029 dimaddex@aol.com
Ex Officio: Kay Ryan
537-6527 kayryan@mchsi.com

www.shoredemocrats.org

Countdown to 2012

Witch-ful Thinking?

Although Sen. Chris Coons does not have to run again until 2014, Sen. Tom Carper and Rep. John Carney (*right*) are already facing some likely Republican challengers in 2012. For Carper, these include Glen Urquhart and Kevin Wade, but the UVA Center for Politics ranks a win for either as “not gonna happen.” Tom Kovach, president of the New Castle County Council, has filed to try to unseat Carney. Says Carla Cohen in the Delaware Grapevine: “It might make sense to think Carney is vulnerable because he is new, but the voters like their House members to settle in. They have not chucked out a first-termer since 1958.”



Insuring a Primary

“The insurance consumer in Delaware has no lobbyist in Dover. We need an insurance commissioner who puts the needs of the consumer first,” Mitch Crane (www.mitchcranefordelaware.com) told the Shore Democrats on October 19. The lawyer and former judge is running against the Democratic incumbent, Karen Weldin Stewart. Vincent White will join them in the September 12, 2012, Democratic primary for the position. Says Crane (*left*): “As your insurance commissioner I will continue the work of the commissioner who first brought me to the Insurance Department—Matt Denn.”

Senate Blues—and Reds

State Sen. George H. Bunting (D-20), who also spoke at the October Shore Democrats luncheon, will have to run again in 2012 to hold onto his newly redrawn district. Because of changes in senatorial districts statewide, all senate seats will come before the voters even if an incumbent was elected in 2010, as was Bunting (*right*). “My district lost Rehoboth, Dewey, and Henlopen Acres,” he explained. “Now it is very red, very conservative. There’s lots of passion and polarization out there. But I think the senate will retain its Democratic majority.”



“A Republican Black Hole”

That’s what Carla Cohen of the must-read Delaware Grapevine (www.delawaregrapevine.com) calls the odds of the opposition taking over the governor and lieutenant governor positions now held by Democrats Jack Markell and Matt Denn. Markell (*left*) seems secure to become the fifth governor in a row to win a second term. “Unless the Republicans wake up, Denn can have sweet dreams about the governor’s race in 2016,” Cohen forecasts.

“Too Dirty to Fail”

Lisa P. Jackson, *Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

AMERICANS MUST ONCE AGAIN STAND UP for their right to clean air and clean water.

Since the beginning of this year, Republicans in the House have averaged roughly a vote every day the chamber has been in session to undermine the Environmental Protection Agency and our nation's environmental laws. They have picked up the pace recently—just last week they voted to stop the EPA's efforts to limit mercury and other hazardous pollutants from cement plants, boilers and incinerators—and it appears their campaign will continue for the foreseeable future.

Using the economy as cover, and repeating unfounded claims that “regulations kill jobs,” they have pushed through an unprecedented rollback of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and our nation's waste-disposal laws, all of which have successfully protected our families for decades. We all remember “too big to fail”; this pseudo jobs plan to protect polluters might well be called “too dirty to fail.”

The House has voted on provisions that, if they became law, would give big polluters a pass in complying with the standards that more than half of the power plants across the country already meet. The measures would indefinitely delay sensible upgrades to reduce air pollution from industrial boilers located in highly populated areas. And they would remove vital federal water protections, exposing treasured resources such as the ... Chesapeake Bay to pollution.

How we respond to this assault on our environmental and public health protections will mean the difference between sickness and health—in some cases, life and death—for hundreds of thousands....

“Too dirty to fail” tries to convince Americans that they must choose between their health and the economy, a choice that's been proved wrong for the four decades that the EPA has been in existence. No credible economist links our current economic crisis—or any economic crisis—to tough clean-air and clean-water standards.

A better approach is the president's call for federal agencies to ensure that regulations don't overburden American businesses. The EPA has already put that into effect by repealing or revising several unnecessary rules,

while ensuring that essential health protections remain intact.

We can put Americans to work retrofitting outdated, dirty plants with updated pollution control technology. There are about 1,100 coal-fired units at about 500 power plants in this country. About half of these units are more than 40 years old, and about three-quarters of them are more than 30 years old. Of these 1,100 units, 44% do not use pollution controls such as scrubbers or catalysts to limit emissions, and they pour unlimited amounts of mercury, lead, arsenic and acid gases into our air. Despite requirements in the bipartisan 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, these facilities have largely refused to control their emissions — creating an uneven playing field for companies who play by the rules and gaming the system at the expense of our health.



Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) chairs the Senate subcommittee overseeing the Clean Air Act. “For us, these are not esoteric issues. We have huge air-quality issues that destroy people’s health and life and the quality of their life.” Carper was at Fowler Beach on Delaware Bay, with Michael Stroeh, manager of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. “People can say sea-level rise is fiction, it's not real. I would invite them here.” (*Gary Emeigh, The News Journal*)

If these plants continue to operate without pollution limits, as a legislative wish list from House Majority Eric Cantor (R-Va.) would allow, there will be more cases of asthma, respiratory illness and premature deaths—with no clear path to new jobs.

By contrast, the nation's first-ever standards for mercury and other air toxic pollutants which the EPA will finalize this fall — and which the Republican leadership aims to block—are estimated to create 31,000 short-term construction jobs and 9,000 long-term jobs in the utility sector through modernizing power plants. And the savings in health benefits are estimated to be up to \$140 billion per year by 2016. Contrary to industry lobbying, this overhaul can be accomplished without affecting ... our power grid.

Our country has a long tradition of treating environmental and public health protections as nonpartisan matters. It

was the case when President Nixon created the EPA and signed into law the historic Clean Air Act, when President Ford signed into law the Safe Drinking Water Act and when President George H. W. Bush oversaw important improvements to the Clean Air Act and enacted the trading program that dramatically reduced acid rain pollution.

Our environment affects red states and blue states alike. It is time for House Republicans to stop politicizing our air and water. Let's end “too dirty to fail.”

Los Angeles Times

Numbers Count

The War in Iraq

"After nearly nine years, America's war in Iraq will be over." Barack Obama, October 21, 2011

The Obama Administration's announcement of a withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of the year offers the possibility of a definitive conclusion for the U.S. military's involvement in Iraq. But while the return of all U.S. service men and women by Christmas is a cause for celebration, the costs of the war are only beginning to be fully understood.

The "cakewalk" to Baghdad, as George W. Bush adviser [Kenneth Adelman](#) infamously wrote in February 2002, has been anything but. The Iraq war, and the faulty premise that Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction, has had a staggering humanitarian and economic cost. Here are some relevant numbers (as of October 11):

- 8 years, 260 days** since Secretary of State Colin Powell presented evidence of Saddam Hussein's biological weapons program
- 8 years, 215 days** since the March 20, 2003, invasion of Iraq
- 8 years, 175 days** since President George W. Bush's "Mission Accomplished" speech on the USS *Abraham Lincoln*
- 4,479** [US military fatalities](#) *
- 30,182** [US military injuries](#)
- 468** [contractor fatalities](#)
- 103,142–112,708** documented [civilian deaths](#) *
- 2.8 million** [internally displaced Iraqis](#)
- \$806 billion** in [federal funding for the Iraq War](#) through FY2011
- \$3–\$5 trillion** in [total economic cost to the United States](#) of the Iraq war, according to economists Joseph E. Stiglitz and Linda J. Blimes
- \$60 billion** in U.S. expenditures lost to [waste and fraud](#) in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001
- 0** weapons of mass destruction found in Iraq

Eli Clifton, ThinkProgress

* Other sources suggest higher figures

The War on the Middle Class

"The president is barnstorming swing states, pushing a divisive message that pits one group of Americans against another on the basis of class." Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), October 26, 2011

An October report by the Congressional Budget Office documented that the incomes of the [nation's top earners have grown](#) far more rapidly than those of everyone else over the past three decades. The figures show that the nation's economic gains have been increasingly concentrated in the households of the top 1% of Americans, echoing previous studies cited by [Occupy Wall Street protesters](#). "The distribution of market income became more unequal almost continuously between 1979 and 2007," noted the CBO. "The amount of growth of the top 1% is shocking," said Erin Currier, project manager with the [Pew Charitable Trusts' Economic Mobility Project](#). "But the piece that is missing is income mobility, and what we see there does not reflect the American dream. We're not seeing equality of opportunity."

- 1%** Americans who are millionaires †
- 46%** Members of Congress who are millionaires †
- \$2.4** Median net worth of senators, in millions †
- 275%** Average income growth for the 1% of Americans with the highest income, 1979–2007 ††
- 40%** Growth in middle-income Americans' income ††
- 18%** Growth in income of the 20% at the bottom income levels ††
- 28%** People who say that the Obama Administration favors the rich †††
- 69%** People who say that the Republicans in Congress favor the rich †††
- \$26,364** Median wage in 2010 (half of all workers made less than this) ††††

† *The Washington Post*

†† Congressional Budget Office

††† CBS News–*New York Times* poll

†††† Social Security Administration

Quote of the Month

Candor from Cantor?

After calling the Occupy Wall Street protestors "angry mobs" one week in October, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) conceded the next week: "We know in this country right now that there is a complaint about folks at the top end of the income scales, that they make too much and too many don't make enough," Cantor said during an appearance on Fox News Sunday. "We need to encourage folks at the top of the income scale to actually put their money to work to create more jobs so we can see a closing of the gap."



*Life among the 1%
Mitt Romney (at center),
playing the money game
with his Bain Capital colleagues*

What Class Warfare? The Classless Thoughts of Paul Ryan (R-Wis.)

"We're coming close to a tipping point in America where we might have a net majority of takers versus makers in society.... [W]hat we will end up doing is we will convert our safety net system ... into a hammock that ends up lulling people into lives of dependency and complacency which drains them of their incentive and the will to make the most of their lives."

Shore Democrats

P.O. Box 1543

Ocean View, DE 19970-1543

