

OCTOBER 2011

theShoreLine

The newsletter of the Shore Democrats



Council to League: No Thanks!

The Sussex County Council has declined to adopt a plan developed by the League of Women Voters to bring more equitable representation to the beach areas. "And the League thought we would redistrict County Council!" former president Sandra Spence told Shore Democrats on September 21. The group suggested placing most of District 5, held by Vance Phillips, west of Route 13; the district now stretches from the shore to Sussex's western line. The council's plan, which will have a public hearing within the next month, was designed to change districts as little as possible, noted Spence (*above right, with Joan Deaver*), although Districts 1 and 3 were redrawn because of population changes. For the first time, four of five districts have a majority of voters east of Route 113. Go to www.sussexcountyde.gov for more information.

October Luncheon
Wednesday, October 19

11:30 A.M.

Just Hooked

Sunshine Plaza, Route 1, Fenwick Island

Speakers:

Sen. George Bunting

The 2011–2012 Legislative Sessions

Mitch Crane

Candidate, Insurance Commissioner

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

*Bacon, egg, and cheese burger
or Wild mushroom flatbread w/ leeks
or Spicy mayo tuna melt*
● Iced tea ● Cash bar

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

Ray Sander: 202-256-9501

raymondjsander@gmail.com

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

Save the Date!

Road Cleanup November 3

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

Next Luncheon November 16

Join us at NorthEast Seafood Kitchen to hear from Lt. Gov. Matt Denn. Details will follow next month.

Holiday Party December 13

The club will return to Cripple Creek C.C. for its festive holiday luncheon, with entertainment. Plan to bring a child's gift.



President's Column by Lee I. Dogoloff
 “Keep That Eagle Flying!”

Last month while visiting Prince Edward Island, Canada, I found myself in the house that served as the setting for *Anne of Green Gables*—one that had been occupied by the same family since the 1700s. The current resident had spent a good deal of time in the United States. At the end of her talk, she said: “Keep that eagle flying!”

What an impressive, yet simple, statement. On one level, it reflected how important America is to the rest of the world, how so much of the world looks to us as a source of everything from our jeans and our music to our being the greatest democracy the world has ever known. And while our jeans and music remain intact, I wonder about how others now see our governance.

The current climate in Washington, and indeed in many communities across the country, has so polarized political conversation that it has paralyzed our ability to tackle serious economic and social issues.

The eagle has always stood for a strong and vibrant America. But that notion flies in the face of the reality of a Congress that cannot pass a budget on time, that is constantly threatening to shut down the government or default on our debt. We have a Congress that cannot agree on a way to pass a jobs bill or even to clearly state what the Republican House members would propose in place of the president’s proposal.

And now we have protestors on Wall Street and many Main Streets, railing against the income disparity between the very rich and most other Americans.

Given this state of affairs, it

is now more important than ever to support our Delaware congressman and senators—to let them know that we endorse their efforts to get things done in Washington. It is most important to join in the grassroots effort to reelect President Obama by signing up to work for Obama for America and to give as generously as we can of our time and our financial support.

That seems to me to be the best way to “Keep that eagle flying.”



Want to knit and crochet
for a good cause?

The club has been donating knitted and crocheted goods to La Esperanza in Georgetown and plans to expand our donations to La Red (a health facility) and the Veterans Home of Sussex County. Hats, scarves, sweaters, afghans for children, and lap robes for the vets would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Janet Skibicki at jls71546@aol.com or call 539-8053.

www.shoredemocrats.org

And Keep in Touch!

Send us your thoughts and ideas



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The Prince of Privilege: A “Perry Tale”

Jim Hightower

PRINCE RICK WOULDN'T BE WHERE HE IS without the steady “intrusion” of big government into his life.

It's bedtime, children. Get on your jammies, scootch under the covers, and I'll tell you a “Perry Tale.” In this one, Prince Rick is trying to make it to the big White House in Washington. It's a strange quest, because he calls the capital city “a seedy place,” and he tells the commoners in the land that he hates—nay, deeply loathes—the very government that he wants to head.

With his tea party hat carefully positioned atop his bounteous crop of perfectly coifed hair, Prince Rick warns the commoners that big government is bad, bad, bad—because it intrudes into their lives, forcing things like Social Security and Medicare on them.

Strangely, this prancing prince of privilege would not be where he is without the steady “intrusion” of big government into his life. From elementary school through college, his education was paid for by local, state, and



federal taxpayers. Also, as cotton farmers, he and his family were supported with thousands of dollars in crop subsidies from the pockets of national taxpayers.

Then, after a brief stint as a government-paid Air Force transport pilot, the perfidious prince hit the mother lode of government largesse: political office, where he's been for 27 years and counting. In addition to drawing more than a quarter-century's worth of monthly paychecks from Texas taxpayers, Prince Rick also receives full health coverage and a generous pension from the state, plus \$10,000 a month to rent a luxury home, a flock of personal aides, and even a state-paid subscription to *Food & Wine* magazine.

So, children, the moral of this Perry Tale is to ignore the prince's hypocritical hype. Instead, look at what he actually does. When he says he intends to make government “as inconsequential as possible,” he means in your life, not his.

Courtesy OtherWords.org

Voter Fraud – or Voter Suppression?

ARE NEW PHOTO ID LAWS in Alabama, Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin really necessary to stop widespread fraud?

1. Prosecutable cases of voter fraud are rare. For example, ... Ohio found four instances of ineligible persons voting ... in 2002 and 2004, out of 9 million votes cast.... Most instances of improper voting involve registration and eligibility, such as voters filling out registration forms incorrectly or a person with felony convictions attempting to register. Neither ... would be prevented by a state photo ID requirement....

2. State photo ID restrictions disproportionately affect African Americans, Latinos, young voters, people over 65 and people with disabilities.

3. Taxpayers will bear the costs of these measures—more than \$20 million in North Carolina to educate voters and provide free IDs to those without them.... A birth certificate in Texas costs \$22, a U.S. passport costs as much as \$145, and naturalization papers can run up to \$200.

4. Under the Voting Rights Act, states with a long history of voting discrimination ... must obtain the approval of the Justice Department or the D.C. District Court to change their voting practices.

5. Both federal and state laws [already] include stiff fines and imprisonment for voter fraud.

Judith Browne Dianis, “5 Myths About Voter Fraud,” *Washington Post*, October 9, 2011

Quote of the Month

The Social Contract

Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senate Candidate, Massachusetts

“There is nobody in this country who got rich on his own. Nobody. You built a factory out there—good for you.

“But I want to be clear. You moved your goods to market on the roads the rest of us paid for. You hired workers the rest of us paid to educate. You were safe in your factory because of police forces and fire forces that the rest of us paid for....

“Now look. You built a factory and it turned into something terrific or a great idea—God bless! Keep a big hunk of it. But part of the underlying social contract is you take a hunk of that and pay forward for the next kid who comes along.”



<http://www.elizabethwarren.com>

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