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Democratic News

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MARCH 2011

President's Message — Richard Ball

Since November, the right has been relentlessly attacking the working people. Their agenda has included cuts in critical programs that support women, children, the elderly and the working poor; an all out assault on organized labor; a continuous drumbeat of fear of economic collapse; and the dismantling of every safety net put in place in the past century — from environmental regulations that protect our food, water and air to the financial regulations that hold the very people responsible for the current economic climate.

Sinclair Lewis said, "When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross." While tax cuts are given to the wealthy and the corporations, the GOP is crying about the deficits they created and telling us we must "share the sacrifice." While corporations are posting record profits, GOP-run governments are demanding public service workers give up their right to negotiate. While manufacturers are sending jobs overseas, GOP-run governments are passing laws that enable them to remove elected

officials from office, dissolve local charters, and take control through fiat. This is FASCISM.

We have no one to blame but ourselves. Too many Democrats stayed home in the last election or decided to "punish" our Democratic representatives for not being progressive enough. We allowed the GOP to out message, outspend, out organize, and maneuver around us. Fellow Democrats, if there were ever a time to take action that time is now!

Over the next several months, we will be putting a plan in place to change the momentum for 2012 and 2014. To implement that plan, we will need you. A handful of people cannot do everything that needs to be done: identify and train candidates, raise money, organize precincts, recruit volunteers, especially young people. We need your active participation and your help.

I look forward to working with all of you to elect Democrats next year and every election year in the future.

2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

Annual Spring Dinner and Scholarship Awards*

May 1st, 3pm - 5pm, Madison Bay Restaurant, Tickets \$25 each

Annual Crab Feast

August 19th, 6pm - 8pm, Vienna Community Center, Tickets \$30 each

Holiday Party

December 5th, 6pm - 8pm, Dorchester Center of the Arts, Bring covered dish and book or toy for donation.

**Remember fellow Dorchester Democrats through a memorial contribution to the Scholarship Fund.*

2011 Meetings Calendar

General Membership Meetings

1 May, 2:30pm, Madison Bay Restaurant

19 Aug, 5:30pm, Vienna Community Center

5 Dec, 5:30pm, Dorchester Center of the Arts

Board Meetings (open to members)

Second Monday of each month, Richard Ball's home

Central Committee Meetings

First Monday of May, Aug, Oct at Chamber Office in Cambridge

Report from the State Party and Central Committee — Cheryl Everman

On March 5th, the Democratic Central Committees from all of the counties met in Lanham for a Party-wide business meeting. Susan Turnbull stepped down as the Chair of the Maryland Democratic Party. The following individuals were elected to the Party Leadership.

Chair	Peter O'Malley	Baltimore City
1st Vice Chair	Yvette Lewis	Prince Georges County
2nd Vice Chair	Oscar Ramirez	Montgomery County
Treasurer	Bob Kresslein	Western Region
Secretary	Beth Swoap	Southern Region
Deputy Treasurer	Victoria Stanley-Jackson	Eastern Shore
Deputy Secretary	Tony Baysmore	Baltimore County

The Governor recommended that two additional positions be added, a 3rd Vice Chair and a Diversity Vice Chair, to reflect the diversity of the communities throughout the State. Revisions to the State Party By-Laws were presented and discussed. The final vote on the changes will be made at the next Statewide meeting scheduled for April 27th. The 2012 National Convention is scheduled for September 3rd 2012 in Charlotte, NC. Members were provided a brief presentation on the delegate selection process. We were also given a presentation on a new website hosting system, *Salsa*, which is available through the Party for \$50/month. Finally, the State Party asked that each County Central Committee provide a 2-year plan as soon as possible.

The Central Committee met January 3rd and March 7th. Nominations to the Board of Election were approved and submitted to the Governor. The individuals nominated are Tom Corkran, Jeanne Webster, and Bill Batson. The last communication with the Governor's appointment Office indicated the nominations were being submitted to the Legislature for approval. Nominations were submitted to the County Council for individuals to serve on the County Redistricting Commission. One representative was nominated from each of the 5 Districts: 1st, Becky Hughes; 2nd, Octavene Saunders; 3rd, Ricky Wheatley; 4th, Ken Heesh; 5th, Jim Dolan. We also appointed Mike Brown (District 1) and Sheri Hubbard (District 4) to two of the four vacant seats on the Central Committee. Two additional at-large seats are still open. Anyone interested in applying for one of these seats should email their resume to me (ceverman@comcast.net) or send via mail to Cheryl Everman, 6715 Bailey Store Rd, Federalsburg, MD 21632. For gender balance, the seats will be filled by one male and one female.

We are in the process of developing a 4-year plan, which includes identifying and training candidates, identifying and training volunteers, and fundraising. We have established a goal of raising \$5000 per year to support the election of Democratic candidates.



Scholarship Supporters

We would like to thank the following individuals for their generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund.

Mr. & Mrs. James Adkins

Ms. RoseMarie Albites

Mr. & Mrs. George Anzalone

Mr. John Brannock

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brown

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Corkran

Mr. & Mrs. David Everman

Mr. Melvin Hickman

Mrs. Mary Lee Kincaid

Fred Pomeroy & Lex Lowe

Ms. Elaine Lowry

Mrs. Margaret Malkus

Ms. Tracey Reid

Hon. Carolyn Todd

Communicators Wanted

We are looking for individuals interested in being part of our rapid response communication team. Do you read the letters to the editor and get steamed when the GOP supporters blast fellow Democrats or Democratic principles? Well, we are looking to put together our own writers to respond to the many letters printed that are less than accurate and truthful. With all of the crazy things our current Congressman says, we could keep busy just responding to his nonsense, not to mention some the things the local Tea Party Republicans say.

We have so many critical issues being thrown out there right now, and we need to be as effective as our opposition in getting our message out. We also need to be able to assist our candidates. We recently watched the Republican Governor in Michigan strip citizens of the right to run their own local governments if the Governor decides the locality is in financial difficulty. We watched as another Republican Governor stripped collective bargaining rights from public employees. In our own backyard, we have a Congressman who believes cutting 100,000 federal workers and eliminating programs that provide a safety net for poor children (school lunches) is a good thing and "it won't affect Maryland in the next year."

As we get closer to the 2012 election it will be even more important to have our group in place. We know that the Republicans are going to outdo themselves. How many times have we heard that the President is a Muslim or was not born in the US? Facts mean nothing to these folks, so we have to hold them accountable for the words they write and the things they say. We can only do this with your help. Messaging is crucial and will be even more so in the coming election cycle.

Finally, sometimes we just need to let off a little steam ourselves. We need to hold our local officials accountable. One way to do that is to let them know whether we like (or dislike) the things they are doing (or not doing). The more ideas we have the better. The more writers we have the better. So, if you want a place to vent, join us! If you want a way to set the record straight, join us! If you want to participate in making government work,

JOIN US!

Contact Mike Brown at mglbrown@verizon.net or by calling (401) 901-9962 for more information.

Membership Renewal for April 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012

If you have not renewed your membership for the coming year, please do so today. Your dues help us support local candidates, defray the cost of operating the campaign headquarters each election year, and support events for Democratic elected officials.

Sign Up or Renew Your Membership for 2011

Cut out and send this form with your check to:

Cheryl Everman
6715 Bailey Store Rd

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Renew (\$10/per person) New (\$10/person) Student (\$5/per student)

Total Dues: _____

