

GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA

"I could not have won the election without the DFA training 2 months ago. Without that training I would have worked harder, gotten less done, and lost. I also know that if [democratic candidate] Michael Birkner had campaigned more or stayed at the polls all day, I would have lost. But as they say, 'A win is a win.' It is also very important to note ... that I took

Republican votes. It surely wasn't just the 16 [registered] Greens...that won the race."

**--Marty Qually,
Green Party winner
(more on Marty Qually's
campaign on page 3)**

The next issue of the newsletter will inaugurate volume 2 and our second year of publication!

Special thanks to **Jason Townsend**, founding editor, for getting things going, and to Lou Hammann, Evelyn Steen, and many volunteers for their role in production and mailing. Kudos as well to Jeanne Neylon, who has recently taken on production coordination.
--JoAnn Udovich (editor)

My Political Life (so far) ...

-- Herb Riede (Democrat), Mayor of McSherrystown

My first political memory is at age 14, watching the news video of a hoarse Governor Clinton speaking in the middle of the night in my hometown of Erie, PA. When I turned 18, my first vote was for Clinton's nomination – my second for his re-election. Then I moved to Florida, and Broward County mishandled my registration.

Long story short, I was an angry FL voter, making calls BEFORE the 2000 election.

When I returned to PA in August 2001, settling in McSherrystown, I met with Jamie Fleet, and in 2002 I was elected to the Democratic County Committee. Then, in 2003, I defeated a 36-year incumbent to win a position on McSherrystown's Borough Council. I also co-founded the Adams County Young Democrats, becoming the first President. In 2004, I helped Alan Henry, a write-in Democratic candidate for State House on a shoestring budget. All along, I have been active in the Pennsylvania Young Democrats, fighting to endorse Howard Dean for DNC Chair, and winning election, first as Correspondence Secretary and then Treasurer of this state-wide group.

In 2005, I became McSherrystown's mayor, defeating a former mayor of Abbottstown!

So, what did it take to win Council, then Mayor? Besides the above, I went to McSherrystown Borough Council meetings. I went to County Democratic Committee meetings. I circulated petitions to be on the ballot for myself and others, and went door-to-door and stood outside at the polls *every election* for myself and others. I raised about \$250 for Council, and \$450 for Mayor, from people within the county, but also from many across the country through my exploits as a Young Democrat and "disenfranchised Florida voter." In addition, I went to the candidate school given annually in Cumberland County by the Democratic Party there (a few times by now), and have attended many trainings, including DFA's recent training and the Young Democrats of America candidate training. I completed Leadership Adams Hanover, a local leadership class given through HACC by Gail Pavlovich, whose husband Mike Pavlovich is on the party's Ways and Means Committee. I participated recently as part of a panel entitled, "Running Young and Winning," in Harrisburg.

Of course, working the polls on Election Day – along with friends and family – is an indispensable component of winning. But I knew I had worked hard enough for the victory before Election Day 2005. Success doesn't just come just by showing up on one day. It's the result of many small steps.

Federal Budget Up-Date: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – *safe for now!* --Sue Bumbaugh

The environmental task force has been working diligently with other concerned activists to protect America's [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#) from being turned into another polluted/polluting industrialized complex. On November 9th our grassroots efforts paid off as 29 courageous House Republicans vowed to vote against their party budget reconciliation bill if it sacrificed our Nation's greatest wildlife refuge. Sadly, Todd Platts, our congressman, has chosen not to be among these progressive thinkers.

Fearing the bill would not pass, angry conservative Republicans reluctantly removed drilling from the bill in order to pass its version on November 18 by a vote of 217-215. Both the Senate and House versions include billions of dollars in cuts to domestic programs such as student loans, Medicaid, food stamps and more tax cuts.

Since the Senate previously passed their version of the bill, which allows for drilling, the House will move into conference with the Senate. Congress is now on recess but will return to work on December 5 and begin to work on compromising the differences between the two budget proposals. Pro drilling proponents have vowed to bring drilling in the Refuge back into the final version. A decision is expected by the end of the year.

The environmental task force still needs your help to call and email our members of Congress. If you like to call and thank the brave 29 moderates ask Sue Bumbaugh for their names (longpinelake@yahoo.com).

Wal-Mart Movie --Carol Brown

After attending the showing of "The High Cost of Lower Prices" (sponsored by the Unitarian/Universalist Church, along with NOW, the Green Party, and Gettysburg Area DFA), I have decided to pay off my credit card account, and boycott Wal-Mart. As the Hanover *Evening Sun* noted in their coverage, Wal-Mart poses a threat to three areas in our region: Dillsburg, West Manheim Twp., and Windsor Twp.

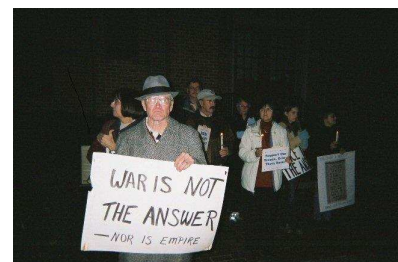
From my own experience, I used to live in Jerseyville, IL, which once had a small Wal-Mart. When that store caught fire and burned down, Sam Walton himself showed up, within days, promising a new store. But a few years later, the rebuilt store was abandoned (and left unused) after a Wal-Mart Super Center was built on the edge of town. Jerseyville is a small town of less than 8,000, but with the Super Center, it soon became the shopping megalopolis for all the surrounding small towns. The town went from having one stoplight to five in a very few years. Yet when we left to come to Gettysburg, the downtown area was fighting for its life. I saw this tragedy unfold in Jerseyville; I don't want it to happen here or any place else.

As the movie showed, Wal-Mart's political influence goes well beyond low prices. Paying low wages, fighting unions, encouraging their workers to use welfare and Medicaid to avoid paying benefits, and using and abusing foreign workers, all smack of the truly reprehensible motives behind Wal-Mart's involvement in politics.

Peace Vigil --Sherrill Brown

On the second Saturday of every month from 11:00 to noon, a local organization holds a peace vigil at the Steinwehr entrance of the Gettysburg National Military Park. Since learning of this event late in the summer at an Iraqi Task Force meeting, I have attended two of the vigils. I am gratified to be able to do something, to have chance to say, "I care."

During the November vigil, a man in a van stopped by and started to shout, "How dare you? Men died here!" My only answer was, "I dare because it's right." I think it's time to stop being afraid of stepping on toes of those who are entrenched in their thinking and assume that any war America engages in must be just. We need to speak out to those who are still prepared to listen, to encourage them to think and not just go along with the Republican Party line. We need people of courage to speak out, such as John Murtha and Phil Aivillo, who have served in the military and realize that the occupation in Iraq has gone astray. We need to truly honor the soldiers who have fought for this country by not letting other soldiers die needlessly in Iraq.



Some 65 people (including many from Gettysburg Area DFA) attended an evening vigil in front of the Adams County Courthouse marking the 2000th casualty of the Iraq war.

For a full calendar of monthly activities, see the website www.gettysburgareadfa.org

Democrat Phil Avillo Announces for Congress

Nearly 50 people, including many associates of Gettysburg Area DFA, gathered at the G.A.R. building on East Middle Street in Gettysburg on Saturday, November 12, as long-time York County resident Phil Avillo announced his candidacy for Congress in the 19th Congressional District, the seat currently held by Todd Platts. Nearly 200 friends and well-wishers crowded a similar event in York on Veterans' Day. In Gettysburg, Avillo was introduced by a host of Adams County Democratic Party luminaries, including Elaine Jones (Gettysburg Area DFA), Sam Giardullo (ACDC), Terry Adamik (Adams County Treasurer), and Tom Weaver (Adams County Commissioner).

Phil Avillo, a professor of history at York College of Pennsylvania for more than 30 years, is a decorated veteran of Vietnam, where he lost a leg. He was elected to the York School Board, serving 12 years, including seven as president of that body. In the words of Phil Avillo: "I am running for Congress ... because I want to change the direction in which our country is heading. When I came to York 30 years ago, I arrived as the beneficiary of the possibilities life in America provided me as a young man. Because of current governmental policies, these possibilities for our families, for our children, for our communities are disappearing before our very eyes. I plan to restore those possibilities and give to all Americans, their families and their communities a hope for today and a vision for tomorrow" (see the website www.avilloforcongress.com).

On December 7th, it's a **"Rick Santorum Retirement Party"**

In the spirit of the holiday season, we will celebrate our recent victories, both local and national. And looking ahead, we will turn our attention to Pennsylvania's Junior Senator, the author of "It Takes A Family." In advance of the 2006 election, our next Meetup will be a "Rick Santorum Retirement Party."

Punch and holiday treats will be provided!

In addition, Warren Steen will also give us a brief power-point workshop on how to perfect our letters-to-the-editor.

So bring your ideas on Wednesday, December 7th, for how we can make sure that Rick eases into permanent retirement from Pennsylvania politics – along with suggestions for new slogans, bumper stickers, buttons, and billboards.

Grassroots Campaigning

--Marty Qually (Green) Gettysburg Borough Council

Using simple grassroots methods learned from past experience and recent DFA trainings, my campaign focused on personally bringing issues door-to-door and asking residents about their concerns.

GRASSROOTS IN ACTION: Here is a brief strategy list that I pursued during my months of campaigning:

- Met with most council members and borough manager to learn about local issues
- Asked friends and family to review ward 1 voter list for potential support
- Charted daily door-to-door itinerary, based upon voter registration
- Prepared campaign flyers focused on issues (roughly 10 drafts before final version)
- Focused campaign flyers on local connections and not party affiliation
- Sent small mailing to current council members and selected voters for open house
- Went door-to-door and handed out or dropped off over 600 flyers
- Spent quality time with some voters, sometimes up to 30 minutes
- On Election Day, deposited 15 signs at various entrance points and other visible spots in Ward 1
- Called approximately 30 potential voters on Nov. 7th to ask for support
- Arrived at the polls at 7:00 a.m. and left at 6:45, although mid-day, I took a break to reformat my handout to increase clarity and visibility of name
- At 6:45 went home and made more phone calls (netting at least 4 more votes)

Deciding to run, and never doubting the possibility of winning, is the hard part. **Everything else is just a matter of effort.**

Gettysburg Area DFA Newsletter is published each month via mail, e-mail and website posting. To add your name to the mailing list, contact EvelynASteen@aol.com or Elaine Jones at (717) 677-9442. Submissions should be sent to JoAnn Udovich, editor, udovich@evn.net (717) 642-8311

GETTYSBURG AREA DFA

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Gettysburg Area DFA General Meeting

Wednesday, December 7th

“Rick Santorum Retirement Party”

Join us for a holiday party, with seasonal refreshments, celebrating

*Recent Election Victories, and...
Rick Santorum’s Last Year in Office*

with a power-point presentation by Warren Steen, “Perfecting Letters-to-the-Editor”

**Room 206, Valentine Hall
Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary, 7-9 p.m.**