

March 29, 2005
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GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA

Gettysburg Area Democracy for America

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friend,

Gettysburg Area DFA is committed to action, not just talk. That means that each of us has to get involved – even if getting involved means only making a couple of phone calls every week.

The hottest thing happening right now is the Administration's attempt to "cash in their political capital" and dismantle the basic framework of government spending on most domestic programs. The Bush budget makes draconian cuts in programs like Medicaid, Medicare, veteran's services, housing subsidies, and environmental protection – while extending tax cuts for the wealthy. In addition Bush has asked for changes in Social Security that would ultimately destroy the system rather than fix it.

Members of Congress DO LISTEN to their constituents, but you may need to be persistent to get them to pay attention. As Congress recesses for a Spring Break on March 18, Senators Specter and Santorum and Representative Todd Platts will be in Pennsylvania taking the pulse of the people they are pledged to represent. Make sure they hear from you!

Phone numbers:

Rep. Todd Platts	877-902-1919 (toll free); 338-1919 (Gettysburg)
Sen. Arlen Specter	202-224-4254 (DC); 717-782-3951 (Harrisburg)
Sen. Rick Santorum	202-224-6324 (DC); 717-231-7540 (Harrisburg)

TIP: If you call the DC office, ask to speak to the person who handles the issue you are calling about – such as Social Security, health care, appropriations, or Iraq.

- Tell them you are a constituent and where you live.
- Express your concern on a particular issue – such as a budget that makes deep cuts in domestic programs while increasing spending on the war.
- Ask the person a question, i.e. "Could you please tell me how the Senator (or Congressman) voted on the budget resolution?" or "Where does he stand on privatizing Social Security?"
- Don't be afraid to engage a legislative aide in conversation about the topic. Treat them as potential allies.
- Ask the aide to take your name and address and send you an answer to your question, or just make sure they share your concerns with the Senator or Congressman.
- Be polite. Thank them for their time.

Legislative aides are powerful – and often much better informed than their bosses on a particular issue. Be a citizen lobbyist, and get the person to talk openly with you about the issue. If you can sway them, you may be able to influence the elected official as well.

Remember, all that is needed for evil to triumph is for good people to say nothing. Make that call!

Elaine L. Jones

Special Interest Articles:

Letter from the Chair
March Meetup
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Democratic Breakfast
Tips to Writing Letters
Santorum Challenged by Casey
Todd Platts Town Meeting

"Don't be afraid to engage a legislative aide in conversation about the topic. Treat them as potential allies."

March Meetup

Facts on Privatization:

Social Security is not in crisis. Even without any changes, the system would remain solvent for nearly 50 years.

The Bush plan would slash benefits promised to American workers by more than 40 percent.

Privatization would add \$2 trillion to the enormous federal deficit that President Bush has created.

March 2, 2005 – There were fifty-five people in attendance for the second meeting of the Gettysburg Area Democracy for America. Roger Lund spoke about two upcoming training opportunities. The first training session is the "Campaign for America's Future", June 1-3 in Washington DC and the second DFA's "Democracy Fest", June 17-19 in Austin, TX.

Terry Adamik, Democrat County Treasurer running for a third term, gave a brief presentation regarding her position and asked that we support her candidacy by signing a petition to be on the ballot.

Anne Dicker, president of Philly for Change, gave a Power Point presentation on "Defending Social Security." The slide show is available for local groups to demonstrate how the President's proposal to privatize Social Security will only deepen the solvency problems for younger Americans, and weaken the entire Social Security system.

Anne also explained how their group worked with students at Drexel University to create a media blitz at a Santorum event embarrassing both Rick Santorum and George Bush. While Anne's group had only had a few dozen protestors chanting, "Hey, Hey, Ho, Ho, Rick Santorum has got to go" -- they goaded the Santorum supporters into chanting "Social Security has got to go." They video-taped the event and sent it to the networks, and got coverage on CNN, and all over the local and national press -- exposing what they called the real motive behind the Bush proposal.

Attendees at the Meetup were asked to gather stories of how Social Security has affected them or someone they know personally. Democracy for America has been publishing personal stories on their web site, reminding us that having the facts and figures may not be as powerful as telling people how important Social Security has been in protecting the elderly and

the disabled for the past seventy years.

Our next Meetup is scheduled for April 6. We will further our local campaign to educate people about how to save Social Security. We ask you to bring your own short written stories of how Social Security has affected you or someone close to you. We hope to collect at least ten stories to contribute to the national debate.



Report from the Environmental Task Force

Sue Bumbaugh, chair of the environment task force, invited Chad Kister to Gettysburg for two presentations on his 700-mile odyssey through the Arctic Wilderness Refuge. Local actions to save the Arctic Refuge included mobilizing constituents to call Senators Specter and Santorum, two street demonstrations, and a visit with the staff of Representative Todd Platts.

On March 16th the Senate voted 51 to 49 to defeat a measure that would remove the provision from the Bush Budget. Both Pennsylvania Senators voted to open the Arctic Refuge for oil drilling.

But hope is not dead. Enough people in power will have to realize that the United States uses 25% of all the energy produced worldwide. The oil

that is projected from the Arctic Refuge is only 2% of what the U.S. consumes—and it would take ten years to produce and would not produce as much benefit as conservation.

Robert Redford says, "It's about the land. We came to America because it was the Promised Land. Now we're destroying the very thing that offered us freedom. The Bush Administration is constantly trying to use red, white and blue to make their case. But this land belongs to you and me. We have to own it. Messing with the Arctic Refuge is like messing with the American flag. How dare they use the flag as a symbol to destroy the land?"

John Kerry argued that more oil would be saved than the Arctic Refuge could produce if Congress enacted an energy

policy focusing on conservation. Chad Kister said of the opposition to conservation, "The advocates of drilling are not really interested in the oil.

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- Patricia Hammann



Democratic Breakfast to honor Mary Celio

The “newly energized” Democratic Committee will host its annual breakfast on Saturday, April 23 at 8:30 AM with the Honorable Mike Veon as guest speaker. Please join us at this fundraiser to support Democratic candidates and to honor Mary Peters Celio. Mary is Vice Chair of the ACDC and has been invaluable to the Adams County Democratic Committee for as long as most of us can remember.

Through the years, Mary has been the point person for recruiting volunteers for ACDC events, and launched and lead the Women's Democratic Committee, bringing together many in the community with notable speakers, both political and non-political.

Mary has undoubtedly gathered more signatures on more nominating petitions than any other Democratic in Adams County, and she has been a stalwart in many campaigns.

Please RSVP by April 10 to Roberta Sullivan at 337-9616, or send your contributions in honor of Mary to ACDC, PO Box 4001, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Let's show up in force, and prove that the Democratic Party in Adams County is reborn!

Santorum Challenged by Casey

The April 6 Meetup will feature an analysis of Senator Rick Santorum as “The Worst Senator in PA History” by General Gerald Sajer of Lake Meade. General Sajer is a dynamic speaker who campaigned widely for John Kerry, and who is leading the local effort to promote Bob Casey's bid. to defeat Santorum in 2006.

Pennsylvania State Treasurer Bob Casey announced that he will run for the U.S. Senate in 2006 causing Barbara Hafer and Joe Hoeffel to remove their names from contention. Barbara Hafer withdrew her name at the request of Governor Rendell, despite support from Emily's List and women's organizations.

When announcing his decision to run, Casey pointed to the President's most recent budget proposal and the post-election push to privatize Social Security as examples of the misguided efforts by the Republican leadership to take the country in the wrong direction.

“The current Republican leadership in Washington views the results of the November election as a mandate to increase the speed and severity of their push to undermine policies that protect middle-income working families,” Casey said. “Their actions since the election played a large part in my decision to enter the Senate race.”

The son of Pennsylvania's former governor, Bob Casey Jr. was elected Auditor General in 1996 and re-elected in 2000. In 2004, he was elected State Treasurer, winning more votes than any other candidate for any state or federal office in the history of the Commonwealth.

Join Us to Kick Off the Newly Energized

Adams County Democratic Committee Annual Fundraising Breakfast

Honoring
Mary Peters Celio

For a lifetime of outstanding service to the Democratic Party

Saturday, April 23, 2005
8:30 a.m.

Special Guest Speaker
The Honorable Mike Veon
PA State House of Representatives Minority Whip

The Pike Restaurant
985 Baltimore Pike, Gettysburg

R.S.V.P. by April 10
Donation: \$25 per person

Tips to Writing a Letter to the Editor

The Gettysburg Area DFA Media Committee encourages all members to participate in getting out our message through the writing of letters to the editor of our local papers. Rather than asking you to sign up for writing letters at specific times, as we have done in the past, we ask that each member set a personal goal to write one letter every month.

Here are a few “tips” that may be useful:

TIPS for writing Letters to the Editor

- Write a letter whenever you are moved to – don't wait to be asked
 - Some papers require 30 days between publishing letters from any one individual.
 - You can send your letter to the Gettysburg Times as well as the Hanover Evening Sun (and any others you so desire).
 - You can submit your letters “on-line” if you prefer.
 - Be sure to include your phone number as the paper will call to verify that you are the person who submitted the letter.
- Letters with a personal angle are always compelling. Ask yourself how the issue affects you and your family.
- Keep it brief and to the point. Letters under 250 words are much more likely to be published.

Feel free to contact Warren Steen @ (717) 259-7870 for consultation, advice, or assistance with your letter.

According to a February Quinnipiac University poll, Casey already holds a lead over Santorum 46 percent to 41 percent, with the remaining 11 percent undecided. Although the election is 21 months away, leaders in both parties are paying close attention to what many agree is likely to be the nation's premier Senate race.

Mr. Casey accepted an invitation from the Gettysburg College Democrats to speak on the future of the Democratic Party on April 21 at 7:00 in Mara Auditorium. The public is invited.

For more information, contact Elaine Jones at 677-9442.



GETTYSBURG AREA DFA
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:News Flash!

**:Congressman Todd Platts will hold a town meeting in Gettysburg on Monday, April 4 from
:1:00 -2:30 at the Grand Army of the Republic, 53 E. Middle Street.**

:This is a wonderful opportunity to let our representative know our concerns – especially on Social
:Security, the Bush budget and the deficit, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Iraq war – and more.

:Press will be there, and so will we! Anyone who is not tied to a job at that hour is needed to show that
:times have changed in this congressional district.

:Mr. Platts has already learned of the Gettysburg Area DFA, and now we need to show him we are a new
:force in the region, and we are paying attention to what is happening in and to our country. **Let's
:overflow the room and make sure Todd Platts knows that we expect him to represent our
:views in Washington!**

:The steering committee will discuss our top priority issues to be raised at the meeting. If you have a
:concern to share, please call Elaine Jones at 677-9442.

:But mark your calendar, and show up!

:We will hold a preparatory discussion session prior to the town meeting on April 4 at 11 AM at the
:Trinity UCC Church at the corner of E. High and Stratton. Please join us at the church, or at the GAR,
:but mark your calendar and show up!

The next Gettysburg Area Democracy for America Meet-Up is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6 at the Gettysburg College in McCreary 101 at 7 PM. We invite you to come and help us plan steps for our next local campaign.