

November 2005  
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# GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA

*One Vote Does Make a Difference*

**ELECTION DAY is NOVEMBER 8, 2005**

It's an Off Year, some say. Who is up for What, anyway?

You can hardly tell in Adams County that November 8 is a national Election Day, unless you happen to live near someone who peppered their neighborhood with signs. There are very few hotly contested races on our county's ballots – and many more blanks and vacancies, where no one bothered to run for a local office.

So why does this matter? Ask Will Lane. He lives in rural Butler Township, where developers purchased acre upon acre of surrounding farmland and plan to build 429 units in Orchard Heights and 299 houses in Summerdale Crossing. The news shocked the neighborhood. Where will the water come from? What will that do our roads? What happens to classroom size in our saturated Upper Adams Schools? Suddenly the usually quiet Butler Township Supervisor's meeting turned into a rather raucous town meeting.

Butler Township has no zoning. Neither does Arendtsville, where I live. If you don't have a plan for the future of your neighborhood, you can be powerless to those who have both money AND a plan to make more money. We have two vacancies on the ballot for Arendtsville Borough Council – and one for our school board. Most of us care what happens to our neighborhoods, but few of us see a reason to run for office – or even to coax someone else to run.

Did you know that on Tuesday November 8 you can elect a person to an office where there is a vacancy with just **ONE VOTE**? And if that person does not want to accept that office, s/he can just decline to serve – or can take the challenge and get in there and help us govern our own county!

One of the primary acts required to Take Back Our Country, is to SHOW UP, Go to the polls and vote, and write in your name – or some other Progressive's name – where you see a vacancy. But please, **SHOW UP AND VOTE** – and take a neighbor with you. It's important.

Elaine L. Jones  
Chair, Gettysburg Area DFA  
Candidate Upper Adams School Board

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For a full calendar of monthly activities, see the website [www.gettysburgreadfa.org](http://www.gettysburgreadfa.org)

## *Congressional Candidates for 2006*

*Last month, Democrat Joe Otterbein, candidate for the 19th Congressional District, spoke at our general meeting.*

*This month, we will hear from Democrat **Phil Avillo**, from York.*

*Phil is a Vietnam veteran, retired Marine officer, former school board member and president, who currently teaches Civil War history at York College.*

*Watch for Phil Avillo's official declaration of candidacy for the US House seat for the 19<sup>th</sup> district in Gettysburg on November 12.*

## Roger Lund Speaks on Coalition Building

Gettysburg Area DFA vice-chair Roger Lund was the keynote speaker at the Franklin County Democratic dinner on Tuesday night, October 18th. Speaking from his experience working with both Gettysburg Area DFA and the Adams County Democratic Committee, Roger reported that a preponderance of Republican voters in Adams County had not prevented Democrats from getting things done.

Among Roger's remarks: "Our Democratic Committee has had an 80 percent increase in a year, many of them members of Democracy for America. By building coalitions with other groups, the committee has been able to bring in more people and more money. When you engage those people in the process, it turns out they have checkbooks and they can write checks, too. The party in Adams County is building a base of volunteers and contributors for future campaigns."

## Congressional Town Meeting

Along with others from Gettysburg DFA, Brett Snyder attended the Town Meeting at Biglerville Fire Company on October 11 with Congressman Todd Platts (R). As reported in the Hanover *Evening Sun*, Brett questioned Mr. Platts about his support for drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, citing the site's role as a birthing area for Caribou and the high rate of oil spills in the area. Although Congressman Platts identified himself as pro-environment, he said he favored drilling in order to decrease dependence on foreign oil.

## Results of Survey

At our last general meeting a survey was taken of attendees. Here are the results:

Do you identify as

1. Republican [1]
2. Democrat [31]
3. Green [2]
4. Independent [6]
5. Dem/Green [1]
6. No answer [1]

Which candidates do you tend to vote for:

1. Republican [0]
2. Democrat [30]
3. Green [0]
4. Independent [0]
5. Mix it up [12]

Which is a higher priority for you?

1. Changing politics as we know it and attempting to gain power within the existing structure of government. [32]
2. Focus on 1 or 2 issues that are important to me and try and influence those currently in power on those issues. [10]

Which is a higher priority for Gettysburg Area DFA?

1. Changing politics as we know it and attempting to gain power within the existing structure of government. [33]
2. Focus on 1 or 2 issues that are important to me and try and influence those currently in power on those issues. [8]
3. No answer [1]

## Rally Against the PA Legislative Pay Raise

-Carol Brown

Recent rallies in Washington may have attracted six thousand supporters for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and more than one hundred thousand to protest the Iraq War. But for many Pennsylvanians, the most important rally was held on September 26, 2005 on the steps of the Capitol in Harrisburg, when **2,000 hearty souls** gathered despite the foul weather. Many citizens had been waiting for months for their legislators to return from their long summer break so that they could voice their displeasure with the 16% to 54% pay raises for the legislators, judges, and other officials.

It was raining. Hundreds of umbrellas dotted the scene. People were standing on the steps of the Capitol listening to various speakers. Some of them were adamant, and others were low key, but they all had one purpose: to let the Pennsylvania Legislature know their opinion concerning the 2:00 a.m. pay raise of July 7, 2005 and the underhanded manner in which it was passed.

There were signs, advocating the removal of legislators. Many of the speeches dealt with the injustice in the use of "unvouchered expenses." Although the pay raises don't take effect until December of 2006 when the new legislature begins, the use of "unvouchered expenses," means many legislators are receiving their pay raises now, including many committee chairmen such as our own Stephen Maitland from the 91<sup>st</sup> district.

### Special Screening of Bob Greenwald's new film on Wal-Mart "The High Cost of Low Price"

Unitarian Universalist Church, 136 S. Stratton Street, Gettysburg  
November 13, 6:30 p.m. (free admission)

A discussion about our own community upon completion of the film.

Sponsored in conjunction with Gettysburg NOW and the Unitarian Universalist Social Action Committee

The *Gettysburg Area DFA Newsletter* posed the following question to DFA-associated candidates for the general election on November 8. In fifty words, how does your candidacy reflect the progressive values of Gettysburg Area DFA? Here are their answers:

**Marty Qually, Candidate for Borough Council, Gettysburg, Ward 1**

A Progressive Gettysburg will be (1) a fiscally responsible Gettysburg which reexamines revenue sources and reduces property taxes with a new sustainable policy based on fairness, and (2) a pro-environment Gettysburg which reduces energy consumption in Borough-owned buildings by 20% and begins a multi-jurisdictional yard waste facility.

**Alan Olson, Candidate for Borough Council, Carroll Valley**

Given the number of ballot vacancies, we need more credible democrats and progressives in local government. As a Council member, I plan to: maintain and promote our quality and civility of life in Carroll Valley; promote a dialog with interested citizens; push for continued fiscal responsibility.

**Elaine Jones, Candidate for School Board, Upper Adams**

Our schools are the basic building blocks for democracy: an educated citizenry committed to equal opportunity for all to live in dignity and good health, find meaningful work, and promote global security. Schools should teach us to respect each other, our diversity and the small planet we live on.

**Bob Gordon, Candidate for Township Supervisor, Hamiltonban Township**

Webster defines Progressive as moving forward. I will listen to my constituents and I will respect their views. I will do my best to serve all the citizens of the township and make my decisions after I gather all the facts from various sources including various professionals.

## Setting the Stage to Win

-Roger Lund, Vice Chair

Our counterparts on the right-wing have had decades to hone their skills in language, precinct organizing and winning offices high and low. We have all agreed that the time is ripe for us to assert ourselves and take back the country we so dearly love.

But wishful thinking is not enough. Neither is anger. We must learn the skills that the right wing has mastered and learn to use the tools available to communicate our message forcefully and effectively. To that end, in our last two monthly meetings, we have examined what is stopping us from running for office, what we even stand for as progressives, and how we can effectively communicate with the voters we hope to reach.

For our November meeting we will be working on how to effectively reduce our thoughts on an issue to a short paragraph or sentence. Then we will work on assembling these "reduced thoughts" as effective communication. Some wonder why all this is important if one is never going to run for office. The answer is, spreading and sharing our values is a constant process, whether it is communicating with our families, someone in the checkout line at the grocery store, a member of our church, a neighbor. The tools we are sharing are good for effective letter writing. The tools are good to help focus a task force.

Gettysburg Area DFA Newsletter is published each month via mail, e-mail and website posting.  
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## **Gettysburg Area DFA General Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 2nd**

### ***“Communicating with Voters”***

*Share your values so that others will hear and be more receptive to your message.  
Join us to turn Adams County "blue."  
Join us to win!*

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

**Special appearance by Phil Avillo, anticipated Congressional candidate 2006**