



Perry County Democrat Newsletter

The Force *Number 2: July 2005*



Women's Democrat Association of Perry County womdem@excite.com

Women's Democrat Association

President - Lucy Rhodes-Moore
Vice-President - Kimberley Collins
Treasurer - Christal Moskos
Secretary - Arvina Bozarth
 Candy Boerste
 Debbie Elder
 Barbara Ewing
 Martha Graves
 Dianne Rudolph

Hon. Board Member - Louise Bruce

Democrat Central Committee

Chair - Mary Kay Elder
Vice-Chair - Terry Lock
Treasurer - JoAnn Smith
Secretary - Don Sherry

Perry County Young Democrats

President - Chris Coyle
Vice-Presidents - Dr. Thomas Bailey, Emma Bailey, Adam Goffinet, Brandi Hess & Lucy Rhodes-Moore

Democrat Elected Officials

County

Assessor - Mendy Ward
Auditor - Debbie Elder
Clerk - Debbie Weatherholt
Commissioners - Terry Lock (President), Jody Fortwendel & Don Sherry
Coroner - Darrel Riley
Council - Pete Franzman (President), Alan Cassidy, Ryan Daum, Merle Doogs, Steve Goodson, Pat Reed
Judge - James McEntarfer
Prosecutor - Robert (Bob) Collins
Recorder - Jane James
Sheriff - Robert (Bob) Glenn
Treasurer - Martha Wooldridge
Troy Township Assessor - Brenda Powers
Troy Township Trustee - JoAnn Smith

Tell City

Council - Rick Greulich, Shirley Little, Dianne Rudolph & Gerald Yackle
Clerk-Treasurer - Barb Ewing

Cannelton

Council - Bruce Myers (President), Dale Duke & Louis Scarboro

Troy

Clerk-Treasurer - Vicki Tuggle
Council - Michael Parker (President), Chester Mathena, Ed Sweeney

State of Indiana

Representative - Dennis Oxley
Representative - Russ Stillwell
Senator - Richard Young

Federal

Senator - Evan Bayh

A Successful First Membership Meeting

The Women's Democrat Association of Perry County first membership meeting was held April 11th at the Knights of Columbus with over 100 women in attendance. Our guest speaker was Rita Long, former chairwoman of Warrick County's Democrat Women's Club and their Democrat Central Committee and four time delegate to the National Democrat Convention in Washington, D.C. She indicated that she very much enjoyed the opportunity to speak to us and was quite impressed with our organization. Thank you Rita! And thanks to you members for supporting us!

We rolled out the first issue of this newsletter and appreciate all of the feedback and subsequent requests for copies. Paid-up memberships (\$10 per year - free for seniors over 65) are currently at about 75 - we'd like that to be much more. Our email address is womdem@excite.com - mailing address is P.O. Box 270, Cannelton, IN 47520. You don't need to complete any form - just send us your name, address, phone number and email address if you have one and a check (if applicable).

Our third meeting, to be held in October, will be open to all Democrats, male and female. The Women's Democrat Association of Perry County, in conjunction with the Democrat Central Committee, will be sponsoring a panel discussion on how to conduct an effective election/campaign. The focus will be on what has worked well in Perry County in the past and how we can propel these past experiences towards strengthening our local party's future. We are still in the planning stages - further details to be announced.

To-date our association has showed lots of promise and we want to keep the momentum going. With republican opposition rising in our country and state, we feel that our goals and mission can help to ensure democratic successes. Your support is vital - the larger our group the more we can accomplish!

President, Lucy Rhodes-Moore

Perry County Democrat Website

The Internet today is one of the first places a person who has access to a computer will go to get information. A personal website gives you the ability to reach more people with less money and we are very pleased to announce that Perry County Democrats will soon have one. Brandi Hess is designing it to include information about our party, precincts, news/events, elected democrats and candidates, how to get involved and much more. We hope to have it ready by this fall.

Perry County Young Democrats

Great news - a 'Perry County Young Democrat' (PCYD) group has also been formed! This group's mission will be to "stimulate young people toward an active interest in governmental and civic affairs through a combination of social fellowship, community involvement and political activism. Through the promotion of young people and their involvement in the political process, the Perry County Young Democrats will work to support and advance



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Precinct Committee Chairs & Vices

- Cannelton 1** - Arvina Bozarth, John Yaggi
- Cannelton 2** - Pat Reed, Morris Graves
- Tell City 1** - Bill & Dolores Goffinet
- Tell City 2** - Kenny Elder, Jayne Glenn
- Tell City 3** - Albert Faulkner, Kathy Tsantis
- Tell City 4** - John Little, Jenny Brunner
- Tell City 5** - Jeremy Yackle
- Tell City 6** - Steve Austin
- Tell City 7** - Mary Kay Elder
- Tell City 8** - Shirley Little
- Troy Township 1** - Diane Gebhard
- Troy Township 2** - Marshall Terry, Cindy Feedback
- Troy** - Michael Parker
- Anderson** - Hubert Hagedorn, Dorothy Lagrange
- Clark 1** - Bill & Phyllis Crocket
- Clark 2** - Hilbert Denu
- Oil** - Robert & Janie Flamion
- Leopold** - Curtis & Sue Rogier
- Tobin** - Pam & Terry Lock
- Derby** - Noah Steve & Pat Howell
- Rono** - Charlie Goffinet

Local Meetings

Perry County Commissioners' Meetings, Courthouse, **first and third Mondays** of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Perry County Council Meetings, Courthouse, **fourth Thursday** of each month - 4:30 p.m.

Tell City Council Meetings, City Hall, **first Monday** of each month - 7:00 p.m.

Cannelton Council Meetings, Cannelton Library, **Mondays every two weeks** - 6:00 p.m.

Troy Council Meetings, Troy Utility Office/Town Hall, **first Wednesday that falls on the 10th of the month or after** - 7:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events

- July 10th - 17th - **Perry County 4-H Fair**
- Aug. 11th - 13th - **Schweitzer Fest**
- Sept 1st - **Perry County Chamber of Commerce** - Annual Picnic
- Oct. 1st - **Hoosier Heights Fall Tour**
- Oct 8th - **4-H Demolition Derby;** Emmanuel Lutheran **Church Soup Supper**
- Oct 9th** - Bristow October Fest

policies of the highest principles and to increase the efficiency of popular government. Through this mission, the Perry County Young Democrats will not only work toward the highest degree of justice and social welfare for the citizens of our country, but also sculpt future leaders from the young citizens in the Perry County and Southern Indiana region community". Membership age limit is 40.

Their first meeting will be held on August 23rd at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. John Zody, President of the Indiana Young Democrats headquartered in Indianapolis, will be the keynote speaker.

Please support our young democrats by attending their first meeting. If you need more information, contact President Chris Coyle at 812-453-4681 or email him at coltsfan976@sbcglobal.net.

Democracy for America of Perry County

Headed up by Gus Kuhner and Chris Coyle, Democracy for America (DFA) of Perry County held their first meeting June 7th at the Twilight Towers in Tell City. With about 20 people in attendance, mostly senior citizens, discussions centered around issues concerning Social Security, Medicare, Prescription Drugs and the new Voter ID law. Chris Coyle reported "feedback from one of the residents included her statement that she was so happy that someone took the time to come down and talk to them and provide them with information. She said she had family and friends she wants to bring next time."

The next meeting will be July 12th at 7 p.m. in the Twilight Tower dining room. Everyone is welcome!

Note: Inspired by the presidential campaign of Howard Dean, Democracy for America (DFA) is a political action committee dedicated to supporting fiscally responsible, socially progressive candidates at all levels of government—from school board to the presidency.

Library Book Drive

A book drive, sponsored by The Women's Democrat Association, will be held during the month of July in support of the Tell City-Perry County Public Library. By donating your new or gently used books, you can help our local library reduce costs and provide reading material for all ages. Please watch the Perry County News for a listing of drop-off sites. We feel that this is a great way for the Democrat Women to support our community! For additional information, please contact Chair Barbara Ewing at 547-2726.

Profiles

Pete Franzman - County Councilman

Pete was elected to his first term January 1, 1983. He is in his 23rd year as a councilman, and his 18th year as President. Pete has been very active on the state level with his county council and county government associations. He has been past President of the Indiana Association of County Councils, as well as President of the Association of Indiana Counties. Pete was awarded Outstanding County Councilman by the IAC for the year 2000. The



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Democrat Golf Scramble

The annual June 20th Democrat Golf Scramble sponsored by the Democrat Central Committee was a huge success with 97 golfers participating. First State Bank team members **Clay Ewing, Neal and Jim Dauby**, and **Jeremy Yackle** won first place in Flight A with a 17 under par. Carpenters Local 631 team members **Don Sherry, Charlie Davis, Greg Miller** and **Matt Anderson** won first place in Flight B with a 5 under par.

The Central Committee sincerely thanks all of the sponsors and golfers and the volunteers that helped organize this fund/fun raising event.



It's true.... Baron Hill is making a run next year to win back his Congressional Seat. Sarah Feinberg, a spokeswoman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said Hill's knowledge of the district makes him "a gold-standard candidate." Hill represented Indiana's 9th District in the U.S. House from 1999 through 2004. He narrowly lost a bid for a fourth term last fall. "I want to learn from this defeat," Hill said in a telephone interview from his home in Seymour.

Hill said, he will travel the district to speak with voters and learn more about the factors that influenced November's election. He said key Democrats in Washington already have indicated they will support a campaign next year. He said he now wants to hear from voters as well.

Special Note: *The Women's Democrat Association of Perry County will be sponsoring a fundraiser for Baron early fall. Stay tuned for more details.*

Association of Indiana Counties honored Pete with the Arthur R. Himsel award in 2003. This is the most prestigious award the Association bestows upon a county official.

Pete is a member of St. Paul Catholic Church. He is also a member of The Knights of Columbus, Loyal Order of Moose, and Marksman Booster Club. He sits of the Committee, and serves on the County's Emergency Management Advisory Council.

Pete and his wife Pam have been married 30 years, and are the parents of three children; Eric (and wife Dana) of Tell City, Brad of Owensboro, KY and Cassie of Fischers, IN. They are also the proud grandparents of Brenna & Claire Franzman of Tell City.

Don Sherry, County Commissioner, District 1

Don has been a resident of Perry County for twenty-one years. In addition to being one of three County Commissioners for Perry County, he is secretary of the Democrat Central Committee. He has been actively involved in grass roots election efforts for Governors' Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan, Ninth District Congressman Baron Hill, State Senator Connie Sipes and State Representative Bill Cochran. Don has served as a Perry County Delegate to the Indiana Democratic Convention for the past two Presidential elections. He is a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and the American Legion. He is currently seated on the Board of Directors for the following; Perry County Development Corporation, Perry County Solid Waste, Indiana Region 15 Planning Commission, and the Southern Seven Workforce Investment. His involvement in the community extends to organizations such as the Tell City Little League, American Cancer Society, Dollars Against Diabetes, and the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

Don is married to the former Michelle McCallister and together they have four children; Brittney, Courtney, Cameron and Caleb. He resides at 1111 21st Street, Tell City. He is employed as a Representative of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and serves as an Indiana AFL-CIO wage setter.

Don states, "I envision a Perry County Democrat Party that embraces the underlying principles of our core values; a Party that proudly reaches out to the next generation and emboldens them to participate as elected officials, thereby solidifying our Party's future in Perry County."

Impact of Election Law Changes

Due to recent changes in disability and election laws, punch card or lever machine voting systems must be replaced by January 2006 and all polling locations have to be accessible to the disabled. This means providing ramps, special door handles, signage and even paved parking areas. As a result, several polling places in Perry County will have to be relocated.

As a Circuit Court Clerk in Indiana, it has been a major challenge to become compliant by the deadline. Fortunately this was a funded mandate and federal dollars have assisted in the change. The only drawback is if the state is not in compliance by the next election, we stand to lose all of our federal



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Social Security Privatization Hurts Women

Half of All Women Seniors Would Live in Poverty Without Social Security

Women can't afford to gamble away their Social Security benefits on the stock market. More than 50% of America's women seniors would live in poverty without their guaranteed Social Security benefits. [Democratic Policy Committee; U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty Status of People, by Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2003"; AARP Public Policy Institute, "Social Security and Women: Some Facts"]

2 out of 3 Women Seniors Rely on Social Security for At Least Half of Their Income

The Republican privatization plan includes a cut in the guaranteed Social Security benefits of all Americans. Since nearly 67% of all women seniors receive half their income from Social Security, any benefit cut would affect their ability to make ends meet. [National Women's Law Center, Women and Social Security Reform: What's at Stake]

Most Mothers Can't Contribute As Much to a Private Account

Many American women have shorter work histories, lower salaries, because they leave the workforce to have children. Under the Republican privatization scheme, mothers would have less money in their private accounts and would be most adversely affected by the Republican-proposed cut in their guaranteed benefits. [Anna Rappaport, Mercer Human Recourse Consulting, "Women and Social Security: Important Issues for Financial Security of Older American"]

dollars for the new machines and assistance that was given to get the polling places handicap accessible. Perry County alone has spent \$254,000 for machines. This does not include the money it will take to redo polling sites.

Another new legislation that will affect Hoosiers is the requirement to show photo ID's at the polling sites. Each voter, regardless of age or disability, will be required to show the proper credentials to enter the voting booth. This must be either a driver's license or approved ID card from the BMV. As legislation stands now, if a voter does NOT have the correct form of identification, then that voter is not allowed to cast a ballot. There has already been litigation filed to stop this law and we will have to see what happens as the courts decide the legality of this procedure.

Debbie Weatherholt, County Clerk



State Budget – Senator Richard Young

The first regular session of the 114th Indiana General Assembly contained both accomplishments and disappointments for all Hoosiers. The most important issue considered this year was the establishment of a new state budget for the next two years. Contained in House Enrolled Act 1001, the \$24.3 billion appropriations plan will purportedly balance the state's budget without increasing any statewide taxes. However, my greatest concern is that the **plan balances the state budget at a very high cost to public schools around the state.**

One of the many reasons I voted against this budget was because it **cuts funding to 142 school corporations** across the state. At the same time it could potentially **increase local property taxes** by as much as \$850 million and simultaneously place a freeze on state property tax relief.

Under this budget's new school funding formula, only 1 percent of additional funding is provided for schools in the first year of the biennium and 1.1% in the second. This is well short of the annual 2.75% schools will need to keep up with inflation and the costs associated with enrolment growth.

This budget and school funding formula will mean laying off thousands of teachers, larger class sizes, fewer opportunities for expanded curriculums and less of a chance for our public schools to cope with the burden of unfunded state and federal mandates that are continually placed on them.

The budget also fails to adequately fund state universities, which in turn will cause tuition costs to rise. It under funds the projected growth in Medicaid costs and reduces funding dedicated to local communities for road improvements.

Although I was very disappointed with the outcome of the state budget, several important initiatives were enacted to spur job growth, aid farmers and rural communities and assist our military personnel.

In the coming months I look forward to continuing to bring these issues to the forefront and generating public awareness about how this budget will impact Indiana's future. If I can provide you with more information or assist you with problems or concerns please feel free to contact me.