



Perry County Democratic Newsletter



The Force *Number 3: October 2005*

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

Women's Democrat Association

President - Lucy Goffinet
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

Cannelton Democrat Board Members

Christal Moskos (President), Ed Bozarth, Lucy Goffinet, Arvina Bozarth

Perry County Young Democrats

Chris Coyle (President), Dr. Thomas & Emma Bailey, Adam & Lucy Goffinet, Brandi Hess

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 - Gerald Yackle (President), Rick Greulich, Shirley Little, Dianne Rudolph
Clerk-Treasurer - Barbara Ewing

Cannelton

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

Troy

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

State of Indiana

Representatives - Dennie Oxley, Russ Stillwell

Senator - Richard Young

Federal

Senator - Evan Bayh

A Word from the Women's Democrat Association

Wow, have we been busy! We held our second meeting on July 11th which focused on the methamphetamine problem in Perry County with very informative presentations from Prosecutor Bob Collins, Wes Ball a former meth addict, and his mother Janet who told us about the difficulties in getting her son back. One attendee said later that she was so moved by what she had heard that she couldn't sleep that night. We also had a very successful book drive for the Tell City Library. Chair Barbara Ewing reported that in just four weeks, over 1200 books were donated! As a result of this great response, we plan to make it an annual event. In conjunction with the Democrat Central Committee, Perry County Democrats also had a booth at this years' Schweizer Fest. Information about the new voting machine, our organization and the Young Democrats and hundreds of balloons were passed out. Congratulations to raffle winners Trey Matheis, Lisa Wilson and Marvin Rogier. On September 20th, we held a fundraiser for Baron Hill. Baron said, "it was by far the biggest event he had attended so far. It was nice to see so many "fired up" supporters." About 85 democrats attended and over \$4000 was raised for Baron. And finally, much work has been done on our new Perry County Democrat website.

We'd like to extend a big welcome to new members Kathy LaGrange, Mary Fortwendel, Anita Terry, Ruth Terry, & Mendy Ward. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you, our fellow democrats - we appreciate your ongoing support!

Perry County Young Democrats

Extends a special thank you to their panel of soldiers, Jim Bob Lawson, Gary Nelson Jr., Ralph Stiles, and Chris Faulkenberg, for making the October 11th community issues forum a success.



Audience members commented how informative the discussions and the slide presentations were. (Did you know that gas in Iraq only cost about \$.17 per gallon and that many Iraqis don't even pay for it?) To see more photos of this event and from their first meeting with guest speaker John Zody, President of the Indiana Young Democrats, visit www.perrycountymocrats.com.

The Young Democrats have also volunteered to decorate this year's democrat float for Tell City, Cannelton and Leopold Christmas parades but they need some help. To volunteer, please contact them at pcyoungdems@gmail.com or call any of the board members.

Perry County Democrat Website

Is up and running! Again, the web address is perrycountymocrats.com. It includes profiles, our elected officials, news and events, photos, how to vote, precincts, polling locations, previous newsletters and much more. A special thank you to Brandi Hess, Web Designer and to all of the elected officials that provided information that enabled us to complete what we



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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, Shelly Sherry
- 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 Howell & Pat Howell
- Rono** - Charlie Goffinet

A big welcome to new vice **Shelly Sherry!** More volunteers are needed and you don't have to live in the same precinct. If interested, contact Mary Kay Elder 547-2557

Calendar of Events

- Holiday Auction/Taste of Perry County** - Schergens Center - Saturday Nov 12th 4 - 8 p.m.
- Cannelton Christmas Parade** - Friday Nov 25th
- Tell City Christmas Parade** - Sunday Nov 27th
- Leopold Christmas Parade** - Sunday Dec 4th
- Democrat Christmas Party** - Saturday Dec. 10th Knights of Columbus

The responsibility of ministers for the public safety is absolute, and requires no mandate. It is in fact the prime object for which governments come into existence. *Winston Churchill*

believe to be a very worthwhile project. This website will be ongoing - check frequently for updates.

The Winner Is.....

Congratulations from the Women's Democrat Association to **Barb Spears** who won the democrat print painted by Candy Boerste. Thanks to everyone who bought the raffle tickets - over \$600 was raised to offset our expenses. To see a photo of Barb, Candy and the picture, please visit our new website.

Profiles

Cannelton Democrats

Malcontent - this one word pretty well sums up the starting point for our group. For years, as individuals, we had been disturbed by the way the town had been managed. We grumbled and groaned and went to the polls. The Republicans outweighed our votes. And things got worse. Many outrageous decisions were being made. By this time, we were "fired up" with anger and developed our own paths to fight the system.

Unbeknown to each other, Morris (Smokey) Graves and I each approached Senator Richard Young at the annual Christmas party and announced that we would be the next mayor of Cannelton. In January, I found out that it was against the Hatch Act for me to run for office because of my employment with a community action agency. Smokey was already working to put together a **team of candidates** that he thought could not only make a change, but could also beat the existing system. Ironically, he convinced me to be his **campaign manager**. I was very reluctant because I knew very little about him and had no indication if he was a man of his word. I accepted with reservation thinking that in the worse case scenario it couldn't be as bad as what the town already had. Doesn't this sound like your ideal campaign manager? When we later discussed his running mate selections, I saw his wisdom in selecting people that complimented his skills. Early on, he had a plan to do business.

With the slate of officers in place and the primary election passed, a campaign team was pulled together. It was a very eclectic group with multiple personalities and agendas. There was much tension and a struggle ensured to come to a common consensus. As with any struggle, some people were lost, but strength and respect were the end results of this process.

Early in the campaign, we developed an ambitious **time line**. Having a plan and keeping focused was our saving grace when election time neared and we were running low on energy. Our first order of business was to fill in the blanks for the **precinct committee people** and their vices. The team looked for strong candidates and worked with the Central Committee to put the right people in place. Arvina Bozarth was chosen for her love of politics, knowledge of her precinct and her efficient follow through. John Yaggi became her vice and Smokey became Pat Reed's vice. By July, we were meeting weekly. As you can guess, by now I had the opportunity to learn more about Smokey through his decisions, follow through and actions. While it is not good to start a campaign with a manager that is not sold on the



Does Ideology Matter? Not Within Our Party – by Chris Coyle

Since becoming active in politics a few years ago, I've come to know several different circles within the Democratic Party. I'm proud to be part of such a diverse party, where multiple ideas, ideologies, and policy stances are voiced. These differences always manifest in conversations at the different meetings I attend. All the conversations usually evolve into one argument; the party ideology and where it should stand. Some groups say "we need to be more liberal". Other groups say, "we're way too liberal, we've got to moderate. Both want to return to majority; they just can't agree how to do it. I say party ideology isn't a major factor.

Why are we worried about exactly where our party sits on the political spectrum? In the mid-20th century, the Democratic Party held huge majorities in both house of Congress. We had a four term President. We won the biggest war in modern history. We pulled the nation back from economic brink. And, we did all this with liberals, moderates, and conservatives in our party. Sure there were ideological debates back then, but they remembered what was more important, talking to the people.

The general public isn't really all that worried about how liberal or conservative someone is. They're worried about their families, jobs, and health. They're worried about providing a better future for their kids and ensuring their parents are comfortable in the twilight of their lives. The Democrats of the 1930s and 1940s came from all different walks of political ideology, but they took care of their people above all and that's why they were dominant in their era. Presidents Kennedy and Johnson worked the same way and would have continued the Democratic Party dominance but both parties went through a political purge in the late 1960s. We have a near obsession with how liberal, moderate, or

(*Cannelton Democrats cont...*) product, it worked this time because of Smokey's management skills and the fact that he had made some wise decisions in planning his team. I was now on board. The attitude of the team was changing and strengthening. We had acquired two mildly committed Republicans in Matt and Lucy Moore. They were dedicated to making a positive change in Cannelton, but were not quite sure of the early Democrat team. Once committed, they brought fresh **ideas**, good **problem-solving skills** and **energy** to keep everyone going. You can see the importance of developing a team early. It takes time to jell and develop a plan long before the actual work begins.

Next, we scrutinized **voter lists**, reviewed **previous election results** and trends, went door-to-door to **register voters** and assist with **absentee applications**. These important pieces were done early and continued fervently until the deadlines had passed. After much discussion and listening to what voters wanted, a **team platform** was developed. We made sure that the items on the list were ones that could be followed through with long after the election was over. Bruce Myers, candidate for councilman, was our researcher. He gathered the stats and data on campaign issues and compiled them in a notebook for each candidate. This information supported our platform and gave each candidate consistent information regarding the Democrat's position on important issues. We were adamant about standing **strong and unified** in our presentation to the public.

The first of September rolled around and after working hard for two months, we geared up! Now was the time for the candidates to be seen. We made schedules for **door-to-door contact**. If a candidate had only a short amount of time in the evening, he had strict orders to park his car on the highway and walk where people coming home from work would see him out campaigning (exposure, exposure, exposure). As I mentioned earlier, this is where the timeline served us well. We didn't want to lose momentum and wanted to stay well ahead of our opponents. But door-to-door contact is exhausting.

The plan allowed us to stay in a position where they could only react to our lead. **Ads** were planned prior to September, and had only to be tweaked for last minute details. We budgeted our money wisely to increase the momentum of the ads. Size, color and content were used to illicit attention. As a result, the Republican ads ended up being geared to react to our lead.

Lucy Rhodes-Moore sparked the idea and was the effort behind our grand finale. Who would have ever thought that a **rally** would be effective in Cannelton of all places? It is this **out-of-the box thinking** that is desperately needed in a good campaign. Don't get me wrong, basic campaigning strategies are essential, but excitement and a sense that the candidate can get the job done are important also.

Our strategy was successful and we are very proud of the fact that the Democrat party, for the first time in memory, holds the controlling vote on the Cannelton City Council. We re dedicated to use this leverage to make well-informed decisions for the good of the town. Smokey lost his mayoral quest by only 42 votes, but that did not stop him from **following through** on his campaign promises. (Isn't that a novel idea – lose the election and follow



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"centrist" someone is. We need different political thermometers. We need to look at how well a candidate connects with the people. Does he or she take care of the people they represent? The perfect example of this new system of measurement: Bill Clinton.

Old Bubba can't be slapped with a political label. He's not a liberal. He's not a centrist. He's not even a moderate. Why? Because he was a little bit of everything based on what the subject was. Clinton only cared about taking care of his people and he did what he thought would do that the best. It's the most politically smart play a person can make.

People in general don't pay much attention to the beltway, but they know BS when they hear it. Clinton didn't BS and even when he did, they forgave him because he BS'd them less than everyone else. He took care of them and they loved him for it. We need to look at what's best for the people. We need to start talking about how their lives can be better. We need to start talking about improving education. If school vouchers are a part of the plan to best serve the people, put them on the table. If raising taxes on our wealthiest citizens helps the masses, put it on the table and be HONEST about it. Jesse Ventura won his gubernatorial race by being straightforward. When asked whether or not he would raise taxes, he said, "I don't know." He went on to explain he didn't know what the future held. If raising taxes were necessary, he would do it. Young people came out in mass and elected him. Younger people are a constituency we need to work hard for. They also are hard to label and they just want someone to tell them the truth for once.

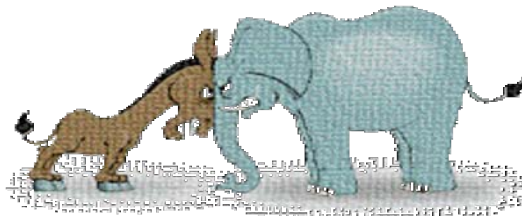
So our simple plan is: FORGET ideology. Talk to the people and get their ideas. Be honest and lose the BS. This approach may be so refreshing, the people might actually be shocked into paying attention.... for a minute.

(Cannelton Democrats continued...) through on your promises!) Besides regularly attending council meetings, he worked with Ed Bozarth and Bruce Myers in a door-to-door petition campaign to get an elected school board. It looks like this issue will be on the ballot in May.

Shortly after elections, we suffered a tremendous loss with the death of Matt Moore. The memory of his example continues to guide us in our community work. We no longer are just a campaign team. We have evolved into the Cannelton Democrats. For the first year and a half after elections, we met bi-weekly to work on campaign goals. Recently we have scaled back to meeting monthly as the campaign goals are being reached. **Accomplishments** have been two book drives; (The first one netted over 3,000 books to the Cannelton library. The second one is being wrapped up now for the Cannelton High School Library.); two handicap accessible ramps for the seniors at Golden Years; door-to-door drop of methamphetamine brochures in conjunction with the prosecutor's office; sponsorship of the bump outs on Washington Street, progress toward an elected school board, and support for the fire department's fund raiser for a new fire truck.

The current list of our members is short: Snooks Scarboro, Bruce and Kim Myers, Dale Duke, Ed and Arvina Bozarth, Smokey and Martha Graves, Lucy Goffinet, Ike Glenn, Pat Reed, John Yaggi and myself with Linus and June Linne offering good advice when needed. Our newest member appeared on the scene this past year. Adam Goffinet brings with him good judgment and knowledge of the inner workings of a town (could there possibly have been a dinner conversation or two on this subject at his childhood dinner table?) The identity of the group remains very diverse. That didn't change. What did was the ability to appreciate each others' differences and use them to the good of our common goal – we all love Cannelton and Perry County and **work to make it a better place to live.**

*Christal Moskos
President, Cannelton Democrats*



'The Force' is a quarterly publication of the Women's Democrat Association of Perry County. Send us your comments, ideas and concerns to womdem@excite.com. Website: perrycountymocrats.com.