

True Blue

The Adams County Democrat
October 2013

WELCOME HOME

In Adams County Republicans outnumber Democrats by about a 2 to 1 margin. I can count several families who were solid Democrats who have children or grandchildren who have deserted the Democratic Party and are registered Republicans. Some of these folks have become very active and fervent supporters of the Republican Party.

Why would folks who were raised in a Democratic household leave the fold? I have heard the usual excuses, such as they married into a Republican family and switched to keep peace in their “new” family. I have also heard that the Democratic Party doesn’t align with the views they hear preached from their local church’s pulpit.

There may be another plausible reason to explain why some locals have left the Democratic Party. I propose that it could be an issue of insecurity. Jumping on the bandwagon with the “in” crowd doesn’t require them to think for themselves. Perhaps the comfort of the majority or “group think” provides them security since Republicans are the majority in Adams County. I admit that it can be difficult to be in the minority and it can require personal sacrifice and a strong self-concept. There aren’t too many “plums” provided to Democrats in Adams County. The opportunities for a Democrat to be elected to county office or to get a county job, appointment or advancement, even when qualifications and performance merit such, are less than the opportunities available to a Republican.

Why would anyone in Adams County choose to be in the minority? I heard a member of my family say once that if it hadn’t been for FDR, they might have starved to death. I think there were a bunch of families in Adams County who were in that same boat and were provided a life line. Their descendants benefitted from Democratic programs such as Social Security, Medicare, collective bargaining rights, and the 40 hour work week. Many went to college using Social Security survivor benefits or with federal student loans or grant programs which has enabled them to make a good living. Now that they have climbed the ladder of success, albeit with the help of Democratic programs, do they have an attitude of gratitude? Maybe those who have stayed with or joined the Democratic Party are honoring and acknowledging the sacrifices of those who came before them and gave them the opportunity for a better life. If you want to help those less fortunate to make sure they have the opportunity to work to better themselves and strengthen America’s middle class, the Democratic Party that was home to your ancestors would welcome you.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

As we go to press the work of the federal government has ground to a halt. Federal employees are furloughed and federal funding for multiple services and programs has ceased. Speaker of the House, John Boehner, has refused to allow the House of Representatives to vote on a “clean” budget bill, stripped of right-wing demands to destroy the Affordable Care Act.

Already, “Obama Care” has provided 13 million citizens with rebates from insurance companies that overcharged them and 3+ million people have been allowed to remain on their parents’ health insurance until they are 26. Soon, insurers will no longer be allowed to refuse to cover pre-existing conditions and individuals will be able to purchase affordable insurance on “insurance exchanges”. Republicans are shutting down the government because they anticipate the law will do exactly what it is designed to do. This adolescent and oppositional effort is the GOP’s last ditch attempt to kill a program potentially as far-reaching and beneficial to the American people as Social Security and Medicare.

Every day is Election Day.

Earth Day happens once per year on April 22nd. But if you ask those that think "green" all the time, they will tell you that every day is Earth Day. In their minds, and rightfully so, every day should be used to act in a manner respectful of our shared environment. Why just think about the Earth one day per year? Well, the same logic applies to Election Day. We don't just vote in primaries and general elections, but every time we make a financial transaction we are voting in favor of something. When we buy American-made products, each dollar we spend is a "vote" in favor of American labor. If we buy gasoline, that is a vote in favor of petrochemical extraction, and those that work in the petro-chemical industry. Every dollar we spend is a vote, and since money flows constantly, every day is Election Day.

So what? Well, the money we spend supports things we may, or may not like. You may like electricity - most of us do. But enjoying electricity from the grid involves giving money to, and further supporting things like pollution, coal ash dumps, and climate change. You can also, rightfully, argue that voting in favor of electricity supports good-paying jobs, and increased property tax revenue for places like Adams County. So what is a pocketbook voter to do? No choice is perfect! Make informed choices before you vote with your dollars. Think about where your money will flow after it leaves your pocketbook. Ask yourself, "Who or what is profiting from my purchases? Will those profits benefit something that is counter to my values?"

Congress may be in a state of total shameful dysfunction, and your congressperson may not share any values in common with yours, but the good news is that you can vote for what you believe in - with your pocketbook - and your vote comes through loud and clear.

EVERY TIME YOU SPEND MONEY, YOU'RE CASTING A VOTE FOR THE KIND OF WORLD YOU WANT

ANNA LAPPE

We Won't Go Back!

The Adams County Democratic Club was well represented at the We Won't Go Back Rally. The rally protested erosions of women's rights brought about by the state budget's bill. It was held on the State House lawn on October 2, 2013. It is estimated that 350 to 400 people from across the state attended the rally. Speakers included Ellie Smeal, President of Feminist Majority Foundation, Terry O'Neill, President of NOW, Stephanie Knight, President of Planned Parenthood Ohio, and Kellie Copeland, President NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio.

Election Day 2013

The November 5th General Election will have no countywide offices up for election. There will be 2 trustees to be elected in each township and the villages have council members to be elected. Some villages also have members of Board of Affairs and a treasurer to be elected.

Early voting started on Tuesday 10/1/2013 and ends on 11/4/2013. The Board of Elections will be open for early voting:

10/1/2013 through 11/1/2013 Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm.

11/2/2013 Saturday, 8:00am – 12 noon

11/4/2013 Monday, 8:00am – 12 noon

You may walk in to vote, or request an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots must be postmarked by 11/5/2013, Election Day, or can be delivered to the Board of Elections no later than Monday 11/4/2013.

You may request an absentee ballot in person at the Board of Elections, or call 937- 544-2633.

Adams County Board of Elections
215 North Cross St
West Union, Ohio 45693

5th Annual Fall Food Giveaway

On Saturday October 26, Adams County Democratic Club and Executive Committee members will gather at four locations throughout the county to distribute potatoes and vegetables. At 11am we will meet in Peebles, Seaman, West Union and Manchester. Since 2009 we have served hundreds of families.

This Fall we remember the generosity of Lyle and Jayne Lambert who participated in our food project by donating apples from their orchard. Members of the Democratic Club helped pick and deliver the fruit to the Community Care Center in Manchester. Our gratitude and condolences go to Lyle and Jayne's children, Karen and Marty.

PEACE BEGINS WHEN THE HUNGRY ARE FED

THE EARTH PROVIDES ENOUGH TO SATISFY EVERY MAN'S NEEDS, BUT NOT EVERY MAN'S GREED.

GANDHI

Election News 2014

The main feature of the 2014 election cycle will be statewide offices, including Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer and Auditor. The Ohio Democrat Party's Executive Committee voted to issue endorsements for the statewide ticket that focused on putting Ohio back to work for the middle class. The Executive Committee voted to endorse the following candidates:

Ed FitzGerald for Governor

From serving as an FBI agent on the Organized Crime Task Force, assistant prosecutor, Lakewood mayor, and county executive, Ed FitzGerald has brought down corrupt public officials, cleaned up government and fought to make government work for the middle class.

<http://www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com>

David Pepper for Attorney General

Pepper is a former Hamilton County Commissioner who is running to increase government transparency, strengthen local law enforcement, and be a leading watchdog for Ohio's taxpayers.

<http://www.DavidPepper.com>

Nina Turner for Secretary of State

A State Senator and former Cleveland City Councilwoman, Turner has been a fierce advocate for making Ohio the gold standard for free and fair elections, where every Ohioan has unfettered access to the ballot box.

<http://www.NinaTurner.org>

Connie Pillich for Treasurer

After serving in the Air Force and earning her MBA, Pillich started her own business in Cincinnati before being elected to serve in the Ohio House of Representatives. As both a legislator and attorney, Pillich has protected seniors against predatory lenders, sponsored legislation to hold unscrupulous brokers accountable, and supported workforce development and education programs to create jobs and help our economy grow.

<http://www.ConniePillich.com>

John Patrick Carney for Auditor

Currently serving as State Representative 22nd Ohio House District, John Patrick Carney has a history of success working across the aisle. As Auditor, he will work to create jobs, strengthen local communities, and increase government transparency.

<http://www.votecarney.com>

The Privatization of Government – JobsOhio

Since 2011 there have been questions about JobsOhio, a privatized economic development program, created by Governor John Kasich that uses public funds. Many of the questions, even from members of the Republican Party, focused on whether it was legal. As reported in the Akron Beacon Journal, a review has found six of the nine board members at JobsOhio have ties to companies that have received tax credits and other state or JobsOhio assistance.

Questions were raised months ago about the lack of transparency of this "quasi-private" organization that appeared to be created to avoid disclosure of records and information that publicly-funded government agencies must adhere to. When the Republican State Auditor tried to obtain records so the program could be audited, Kasich and his friends that are "JobsOhio" simply said "no". Ed Fitzgerald, the Democratic candidate for the 2014 Governor's race has called for the Ohio Ethics Commission to investigate.

All Ohioans need to know that their tax dollars are being used to line the pockets of insiders who are Kasich's friends while job growth in Ohio is anemic and working class families continue to struggle. In fact, according to the non-partisan Pew Institute and also a study from Arizona State University, Ohio ranked 47th in the nation in the last year for job creation. In addition, during March 2013, Ohio ranked 1st, (highest) in the nation in jobs lost and in June 2013, Ohio ranked 2nd in the nation in jobs lost.

Ohio deserves better!

LIVING DOWNWIND: GENOCIDE BY ANY OTHER NAME

In the 1970's and 80's, with increased EPA regulation and the introduction of the catalytic converter, the amount of lead in our atmosphere was drastically reduced. It is estimated that, with a lag time of 23 years, lead emissions from automobiles explain 90% of the variation in violent crime across the country. Why? Because of the effect of lead on the developing brain's impulse control center. Across the U.S. violent crime rates peaked in the early 90's and have declined steadily from that time: Washington DC down by 58%, Dallas by 70%, Newark down by 74%, New York by 75%, and Los Angeles by 78%. (Rick Nevin, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1994)

With the reduction of pollution by leaded gasoline, the major sources of lead contamination in the U.S. have shifted. In 2013 our major (known) sources of lead are airplane fuel, water pipes and solder, old paint and, most prominently, coal ash. Coal ash is filled with arsenic, lead, mercury and chromium. While Congress is trying to stop the EPA from setting regulations, coal ash is contaminating the biosphere and leaking into streams, lakes, rivers and aquifers at nearly 200 sites across the country (Knoblauch, Earth Justice, Spring 2013).

Since the 1960's Adams County has been downwind of multiple coal-burning power plants that spew these heavy metals into our air, waters and soil. For years we have ranked at or near the highest rates of premature death and poverty both in the state and nation. But we are also in the middle of a decades-long epidemic of neurological disorders. A research project, conducted at the University of Cincinnati, is studying the influence of environmental lead exposure on the developing brain. A group of 300 children were followed for more than 30 years. It is very likely that children from Adams County participated in this study. The results of MRI scans show that lead levels are associated with brain activity becoming both slower and less coordinated. Lead exposure in young children leads to permanent damage to the prefrontal cortex, the area of the brain associated with reasoning, control of aggression, emotional regulation, concentration, initiative and insight (Dietrich and Cecil).

Multiple studies across the country have linked heavy metal exposure in small children to major problems in later life. Combined findings show an undeniable relationship between heavy metals and autism, hyperactivity, learning disabilities, lower IQs, failure of impulse control and emotional regulation, increased involvement in both juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, chemical dependency, violent crime and shorter

Continued next column

IT'S EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN

Frederick Douglas

(Cont.) LIVING DOWNWIND:

life spans. Adams County residents are victims of corporate greed resulting in genocide. Because emissions from coal burning power plants have diminished due to stricter regulations, rates of violent crime, cancer and neurological impairment should be going down. They are not. We have (at least) four major problems. First, the young adults who were exposed 20 plus years ago continue to experience the consequences of early exposure. Many of them are lacking in impulse control, are poor candidates for the work force, and are ripe for chemical dependency and at risk for developing cancer. Second, the heavy metals that saturated our soil for decades are kicked back up into the air in dry weather in a process called "re-suspension" -as potent as they ever were. Third, there are unanswered questions regarding the whereabouts of the byproduct of burning coal: coal ash. One place we know it is being deposited is on our roads in winter. Where is it being dumped? How close to the river? How much is leaching into our water table? Fourth, there are similar questions regarding where the gypsum used to scrub heavy metal residue from the inside of smokestacks up and down the Ohio River is dumped.

KASICH'S "DUMPING GROUND"

Under the Kasich administration and Ohio's Republican-controlled state legislature, industrial waste is being shipped into Ohio for permanent deposit from other states. Our Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is remaining "hands off" about the matter. "Mum" seems to be the current administration's word on this matter, as there is secrecy about the final destination of these wastes, which most certainly are toxic to varying degrees. There is virtually no transparency about which companies are profiting from this practice, nor do we even know in which counties this waste is being dumped. Regardless of the final destination, common sense tells us chemicals from such wastes are leaching their way into Ohio's soils, waterways, and drinking water supply. Such wastes generally are brought into our state under cover of night. Consequently, we do not know which of our children - indeed, we do not know which of our citizens -- are being exposed. This leaves us with a basic question: *Why is there so much secrecy around this practice?*

Read more at: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20130830/NEWS0108/308300052/Is-Ohio-site-exiled-waste->

Is Adams County an Official Dumping Ground?

IN MEMORIAM

Over the past year, we have lost many faithful Democrats. We miss them all, but want to mention two specifically as they were leaders in our local Democratic Party and strong advocates for working people.

Wilbur DeAtley

In March our local Democratic Party lost a valuable member in Wilbur DeAtley. Wilbur was a long-time member of the Adams County Joint Central & Executive Committee, a retired ODOT employee and a loyal and diligent worker for the Democratic Party. He worked at our fair booth and could be counted on to pitch in whatever needed done and towed the trailer to festivals as long as his health permitted.

We extend sympathy to his widow, Betty, and his children Nick, Christy and Jay along with their children.

Richard Shoemaker

May 2013 brought the passing of a former Chairman of the Adams County Joint Central & Executive Committee, Richard Shoemaker. Rich fought a valiant 3 year battle with cancer. Richard was a member of the Joint Central & Executive Committee until resigning a few weeks before his death. In addition to being the former Chairman and a Central Committee member, Rich furnished his truck and trailer for many parades. Prior to his death, he and his wife made arrangements to donate the trailer to the Adams County Democratic Party for our continued use

We extend condolences to his wife, Patty Henize Shoemaker, two adult children, Garine Shoemaker and Nikki Butcher and grandchildren, as well as his brother Theron Shoemaker.

DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE

THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO HELP CREATE IT

Adams County Annual Ham & Bean Dinner-
October 19th

The Adams County Democratic Party's Ham & Bean Dinner is on Saturday evening, October 19th at West Union High School. Social time is at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. We will hear from local candidates and Russ Arey and associates will conduct an auction to raise funds for our 2014 election efforts! We will also have door prizes!

Adult tickets are available for a \$9 donation and meal tickets for children age 12 and under are \$5. *Please see any Central Committee member to reserve your tickets!*

This fundraiser is key to our success in 2014 so come out and do your part to help elect Democrats!!

GET INVOLVED:
THE WORLD IS RUN BY THOSE WHO
SHOW UP

ONE GENERATION PLANTS THE TREES.
THE NEXT GETS THE SHADE

TRUE OR FALSE

- 1) No developed country has a higher percentage of people in poverty than the U.S.A.
- 2) Larry Summers withdrew himself as a candidate for chairman of the Federal Reserve under pressure from progressive Democrats.
- 3) Jessie Jackson warned "the demographic winter of white America" is near.
- 4) The U.S.A. sends more people under 21 years old to jail than any other country.
- 5) One of John Kasich's first official efforts as governor was to begin selling Ohio prisons into private hands and to begin funneling state resources away from education and into the prison-industrial complex.
- 6) 2,245 U.S. counties were declared disaster areas because of drought last year.

Answers on back page

The State of Our Union

Minimum Wage: The minimum wage has been raised 4 times in the last 30 years.

Capital Gains: The capital gains tax has been cut 4 times in the last 6 years.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Patrons

Yvonne Bailey
Wendell & Doris Barnes
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John V. & Joyce Caraway
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John T. & Elaine Lafferty
Sylvia & Bob Lieb
Melanie Ogg, 14th Senate District
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Dennis J. Grooms
Linda Stepp
Steve Stepp

Thank You

Thank you to all Adams County Dems, who have supported and worked on True Blue since its inception in 2011 – The Adams County Executive Committee, the Adams County Democrat Club and its members - and special thanks to Ina Hendrix for those True Blue cakes and Sue Naylor and family for folding and stuffing envelopes.

ANSWERS

- 1) False: Romania's is higher.
- 2) True: Sherrod Brown, Elizabeth Warren and Jeff Merkley of the Senate Banking Committee have refused to endorse him.
- 3) False: Pat Buchanan did.
- 4) True: Nation, Oct. 2013
- 5) True: John Kasich began by selling Lake Erie Correctional Institution on 8.31.11
- 6) True: Earthjustice, Fall 2013

BALLAD OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
(Sung to the tune "I Walk the Line")

The GOP would like us to ignore
They sell us out to those who still want more.
From Halls of Congress we hear the shouts of men:
"Repeal ObaaaamaCare Again."

As corporate greed eliminates our jobs
They call the people a dirty deadbeat mob.
And swear to (though their exploitation never ends):
"Repeal ObaaaamaCare Again."

McDonald's made a budget for the staff they rob
And saw they could not live without two fulltime jobs.
They say "On minimum wage you know we'll never bend":
"Repeal ObaaaamaCare Again."

We see the bees are disappearing from our skies.
While soot and heavy metals fill our lungs and eyes.
Their remedy to put us on the mend:
"Repeal ObaaaamaCare Again"

We see the weather patterns changing day by day.
The oceans flooding over shorelines and highways.
What is their answer to this very scary trend?:
"Repeal ObaaaamaCare Again."

And when they come to stand before those Pearly Gates
The GOP will cry in answer to their fate:
"We promise NEVER to – if you'll just let us in:
Repeal ObaaaamaCare Again."

Feel free to create additional stanzas to this ongoing ballad. Please submit to adamscountytrueblue@gmail.com

ONLY TWO THINGS ARE INFINITE:
THE UNIVERSE AND HUMAN STUPIDITY.
AND I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE FORMER.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

WE HAVE ENOUGH YOUTH.
HOW ABOUT A FOUNTAIN OF SMART?

Contact us at:

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