



Dem Doin's



May/June 2006

Vol. 1 Issue 2

Ohio Democrats 2006 Ticket is Set



Strickland



Fisher



Brown



Brunner



Dunn



Cordray

The results of the May 2nd primary are in and the Ohio Democrats have selected one of the best slates of candidates the state has seen in a long time. At the top of the ticket will be Congressman Ted Strickland and former Ohio Attorney General Lee Fisher candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor, respectively. Former Secretary of State and Congressman Sherrod Brown will be our candidate for the US Senate. Former Franklin Co. Judge Jennifer Brunner will be running for Secretary of State. State Senate Marc Dunn will campaign for Attorney General. Franklin Co. Treasurer and former State Solicitor Rich Cordray will be our candidate for Treasurer. State Representative Barbara Sykes is running for Auditor. For the Supreme Court Court of Appeals Judge William O'Neill will run for the Jan. 1 seat and former State Senator Ben Eppy will campaign for the Jan 2 seat. Locally, Robin Weirauch will make her second attempt for the 5th District seat in Congress. Ben Nienberg will challenge for the open 1st District State Senate seat. And Ben McCullough is our candidate for the open 74th District State Representative seat. *Dem Doin's* will have profiles of all of the candidates in the coming months.



Nienberg



Sykes



McCullough



Weirauch



O'Neill



Eppy

Leadership Alliance's First Gatherings Deemed Successes

The Democratic Leadership Alliance of Defiance County met at the Spruce St. Deli on April 22 at noon. Over 20 individuals gathered at the first meeting of the group and viewed a highlight video of the documentary "Walmart - The High Cost of Low Prices" and listened to UAW member Randy Wilde talk about the minimum wage initiative in Ohio. The group enjoyed questions, answers and a discussion about the presentations.

The Alliance met again for lunch on June 10th at noon at the Spruce Street Deli. The program included presentations and discussions about two possible ballot issues- "Workers' Compensation and the Tax Expenditure Limitation (TEL/TABOR). Congressional candidate Robin Weirauch also addressed the group.

Gray and Griffith Win State Central Committee Seats

Defiance Co. will be home to both the female and male Democratic State Central Committee members from the 1st State Senate District. Brenda Griffith won another term in an uncontested race for the female seat and Charlie Gray defeated Hardin Co. Democratic Chairman Don Traxler for the open male seat. Charlie tallied 57% of the vote and carried 7 of the 10 counties in the district in route to his victory. Congratulations and good luck Brenda and Charlie.



Dam Opinionated Doit's

By Tim Holtzberg

I want to start this month's column with a bit of advice for the powers that be in the Democratic Party - **WE NEED TO DEVELOP A PLAN.** Many in the party think Newt Gingrich is right when he said the Democrats could campaign in 2006 on this slogan - "Had enough yet?" In fact, Sen. Barack Obama's speech at the state dinner made "had enough yet" as a major theme. We need more. Many recent polls have suggested that if Democrats could come forth with a unified plan, any unified plan, that they would easily take back the House and have a shot of grabbing the Senate as well. The voting public sees the Republican plan as a failure and their corruption as intolerable. I think by developing and promoting cohesive and comprehensive plans on all issues including the budget, Iraq, terrorism, immigration, lobby reform, tax and economic policy, etc., we lay out a real agenda and definitive choices for the voters, not just a finger-pointing campaign of "at least we're not as bad as they are."

We here in Ohio, have been lucky as Ted Strickland's Turnaround Ohio plan has some great goals and objectives. It is just what Ohio needs especially in light of the fact that Ken Blackwell's Tax Expenditure Limitation plan (TEL/TABOR) is a bad policy and luckily has only been partially enacted by the legislature and the rest of it will not get on the ballot in the fall. The TEL/TABOR plan nearly bankrupt the State of Colorado, which is the only other state to put it in place. But recent Democrat gains in the Colorado statehouse along with a ballot initiative to suspend the plan with alternatives by Colorado Democrats has started to turn things around, but they have a long way to go. Like Colorado things are economically challenged in Ohio, as well, but the Turnaround Ohio plan's basic structure is the type of change we need and with a little tweaking should be just what the doctor ordered to set the ship right again.

Dam Local Doit's

Calendar of Events

July 1

City of Defiance Fireworks

Great place to campaign for Democrats

July 17

The Defiance Co. Democratic Executive Committee

UAW Hall, Baltimore Rd., Defiance, Ohio

7:00 PM

August 14

The Defiance Co. Democratic Executive Committee

UAW Hall, Baltimore Rd., Defiance, Ohio

7:00 PM

August 19 - 24

Defiance Co. Fair - Hicksville, Ohio

We need volunteers to work the fair booth

Those interested can call Dave Plant, Pat Walter or Vic Vogel

Dem Funny Doin's

"The Senate has rejected the gay marriage ban. When you think about it, do you really want Congress defining marriage? That's like asking Charlie Sheen to define monogamy." --Jay Leno



"Even though it's a little bit controversial, President Bush supports the effort to make English our national language. The president says making English our national language is not 'discriminatory.'" --Conan O'Brien

"President Bush called for the National Guard to patrol the U.S./Mexican border. The guards will track down and find illegals. That's not their job. They're trained to defend our country -- not track down and find people. Let's be honest, the Guard couldn't even track down and find President Bush when he was in the National Guard." --Jay Leno

Frances Strickland Visits Defiance County



Frances Strickland, wife of Congressman and Gubernatorial candidate Ted Strickland, came to Defiance County on the evening of May 22nd, as part of a campaign swing through western Ohio. She had stopped in Greenville and Paulding earlier in the day. Mrs. Strickland's "conversational" style was enjoyed by over two dozen supporters. Defiance Leadership Alliance President Rev. Dave Plant's home was the site for the event.

Mrs. Strickland gave a short talk and then entertained over a dozen questions about issues, campaigning and other candidates. And the end of the evening, she broke out her guitar and sermaded the group. (See photo).

What was even more surprising was the presence of *The Crescent News*, with both a reporter and photographer. The newspaper ran a front page article on the event in the next day's edition with some favorable press.

Democratic Youth Movement Comes to NW Ohio

A few years ago Defiance County became a part of two Ohio House of Representative districts. Adams Township is part of the 75th District along with Henry, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties and the rest of Defiance County along with Williams and Fulton County make up the 74th District. In both races young Democrats have stepped up and thrown their hats in the ring, in the 74th District Ben McCullough of Edon and in the 75th District Angie Byrne of Van Wert.

While both a relatively young they should not be dismissed because of their youth. As many will recall back in 2000 Democrat Derrick Seaver of Minister was an 18 year old high school graduate who won an Ohio House District that had been in Republican hands for years and was one of the few seats picked up by the Democrats that year. We can hope that lightning will strike for a second and third time here in NW Ohio.



Angie Byrne is a graduate of Van Wert High School and a 2003 graduate of The Ohio State University and has recently received her Masters in Public Health from Ohio State being named the 2006 Outstanding Graduate Student.

Angie had also been named the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Ohio Student of the Year and was Ohio's first representative the national SADD organization. She was selected to participate in the John Glenn Institute's Washington Academic Internship program and served that group as a Student Research Assistant. For more information on Angie check out her website at www.angieforohio.com.

Another website to look at is www.benforohio.com. This is the website for 74th Ohio House District candidate Ben McCullough. Ben is a recent graduate of Edon High School and is currently majoring in Political Science at Wittenberg University. In his first year of college Ben was elected class vice-president. Two years ago, Ben was selected to participate in Buckeye Boys State as a state representative and was chosen to attend the National Defense Leadership Council in Washington DC.

Ben's website has a plan for NW Ohio called "The Roadmap to What's Next". The plan lays out specific points for many tough issues currently facing the Buckeye State. The plan addresses the economy, healthcare, education, homeland security, the environment and NW Ohio values in great depth and you are encouraged to read it.

With young, hard working advocates of Ohio's middle class looking out for all of our futures we can rest assured that Angie and Ben, once elected, will get Ohio moving ahead just as it was when Democrats controlled the statehouse.

Ben Nienberg for State Senate

Ben Nienberg of Glandorf, Ohio is running for the open 1st District State Senate seat. Nienberg is self-employed in financial services in his hometown.

Nienberg states that we need to regain a measure of local control for our people that has been given away by his opponent in terms of local governments' ability to assert their power on local issues.

Ben stated, "I read in the papers that my opponent admitted that 'We're at a point where personal income has moved from 20 percent above the national average to 10% below the national average in this State. So that means there must be plenty wrong in Ohio. This loss of our income has happened on the current legislators' watch.' The is a trend that Ben wants to reverse.

Ben points out that his opponent Steve Boehrer stated that a conservative group 'rated him 100% for his voting record.' Being the 3rd most highly taxed state in the United States, Ben asks, "Why didn't this candidate lead an attempt to repeal the tax increases that have made Ohio uncompetitive with neighboring states?"

Ben was a candidate for the 75th District in 2004 and has always had a grave concern for the factory farms that are polluting our land and water. Ben wants to work to preserve the family farm and the health of our environment.

On his relative inexperience Ben has said, "Steve Boehrer may have experience in the legislature; but does not have a record of accomplishment. He has supported Bob Taft's failed agenda of mismanagement and corruption, and now he wants to be promoted to the Senate. If elected, I will represent the best interests of the hard working people in this district."

The 1st Senate District includes Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams Counties along with a portion of Auglaize County.



ROBIN WEIRAUCH for CONGRESS

Robin Weirauch of Napoleon is making her second run at Ohio 5th Congressional District. After graduating from BGSU with a degree in Business Administration 1990, Robin founded and continues to lead a non-profit charitable organization whose mission has improved the quality of life for people and animals in the greater Henry County area. Under Robin's leadership, the area's first full service animal shelter became a reality.

Robin lives in rural Napoleon with her husband, Lt. Bruce Weirauch, a 21-year veteran of the Napoleon Police Department. The couple has been married for 29 years. Bruce and Robin both graduated from Liberty Center High School, and Four County Joint Vocational High School.

For ten years, Robin worked as the regional program coordinator for the Humane Society of the United States -- serving people and animals in a four state region. That work exposed her to the best and worst of human nature as well as the world of public policy, which led her to pursue a Master's degree in Public Administration in 1998.

Soon after, Robin accepted a position with the Center for Regional Development at Bowling Green State University where she could continue to contribute to the improvement of communities and the effectiveness of local governance. Currently serving as the Assistant Director of the Center, Robin is responsible for program development and delivery with hands-on assistance to communities and organizations in a 27 Ohio county region.

Robin's website at www.robinforcongress.com contains much more information about Robin and her stands on many issues including the economy, the environment, energy, diplomacy, veterans and partisanship. She makes a compelling argument on each of her positions and we should be proud that she is our candidate.

The 5th District is a huge land area that stretches eastward near Cleveland, south and west to Celina and to the Indiana and Michigan borders surrounding Lucas County.

ANGIE BYRNE
• • For Ohio House • •

Remember
BRUNNER
For Ohio Secretary of State

CORDRAY
For Ohio Governor

ROBINWEIRAUICH
for CONGRESS

Strickland
Fisher ★

BARBARA
SYKES
for STATE AUDITOR

Sherrrod
Brown
for U.S. Senator

Ben
McCullough
for U.S. Representative

ESPY
for JUSTICE

Marc Dann
for Attorney General

Ben Nienberg
for State Senate

Judge William O'Neill
for Ohio Supreme Court

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