



May 2018	Delaware County Democratic Party Newsletter	Issue #5
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Ed Helvey, Chair

Cheers For The Chair

Special Ed-torial Column by the Ed-itors:

Central Committee Members Rally at Breakfast Meeting:

On Saturday morning, May 19, at the Delaware Township Hall, **Chair Ed Helvey** set into motion a new era for the Delaware County Democratic Party. The event was a welcoming of the newly-elected Central Committee (CC) members, the largest such group in the history of the Party. Several aspects of the morning made it special and memorable as nearly 80% of the 110 newly elected CC members were on hand to enjoy the great fellowship. The breakfast was highlighted by a stellar line-up of statewide and local candidates, and the bittersweet note of this being the final event that Ed would be hosting as Chair--bringing to a gradual close his exemplary stewardship of the County Party over the past 13 years.

Ed took the podium and kicked off the event by welcoming all the new members and reminding people about the unprecedented broad-range coverage of precinct representation, touching all corners of Delaware County.

In his introduction of **Judge Melody Stewart**, Ed reminded attendees that judges don't have party affiliation on the ballot and reinforced the need to get the word out about our Democratic Judicial Candidates across the precincts.

Judge Melody Stewart began her talk with a message about the traditional Republican nature of the Ohio Supreme Court and the need to elect Democrats to balance this key branch of our state government. She underscored the importance of making a strong Democratic showing in this election, because the following election is when current Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor will be age-limited off the bench.

Judge Michael Donnelly, who had made a special effort to attend, spoke of the need for judicial and journalistic transparency in making sure we hold our judges accountable for their actions and decisions.



Judge Melody Stewart
Supreme Court Candidate

Zack Space
Candidate for State Auditor

Judge Michael Donnelly
Supreme Court Candidate

Keynoter Challenges CC Members

Keynote speaker **Zack Space**, candidate for State Auditor, had some powerful messages. He reminded attendees that we should expect a Government that is honest, fair and where everyone matters; is rational and dispassionate, and inspires us to participate in the process. These are necessary elements for a healthy democracy and is what we have not seen from the Republican state leadership.

Honesty, Fairness and Rationality are immutable **values**, and he gave examples of how the current statewide leadership in Ohio has lost touch with these values:

Honesty. The Ohio House Speaker resigns because of relationship with payday lenders.

Fairness. We have compromised our public education through the ECOT scandal and the for-profit charters that have siphoned off millions from public institutions that support our children.

Rationality. The Republicans have been “Reshuffling the legislative deck” and have “turned redrawing districts into a political weapon of vast proportion.”

Space contended that Gerrymandering has disenfranchised millions and has divided us when we need to come together. It has created vulnerabilities in our primaries which have forced candidates to cater to the fringe -- and that situation “powers extremism and substantiates the claim that the system is rigged.” He posited that Trump will be his own downfall, but also warned, “that which created those evils will not go away when the individuals collapse,” conveying the urgent need to come together to work for change.

He challenged the new Central Committee members, saying it is not too much to expect an electorate that shows up on election day — a key role Central Committee members will play in their respective precincts. He noted that many in the room are new to the political process (as Central Committee members) and asked them to think about why they are Democrats. Answering his own question, he said it is because we believe and aspire to social justice. That manifests itself economically, with better access to affordable healthcare, a cleaner environment, and resolving racial, gender and other social issues. In conclusion, he stated, we need to attain political justice, holding true to these fundamental principles of democracy: *everyone matters, every vote matters*. This, he concluded, is why we are Democrats.

Local Candidates, Others, Share Perspectives:

John Russell thanked his supporters for their efforts in his recent race for the primary for the 12th district, and asked them to join him in supporting **Danny O'Connor**. Making one of the most important points of the morning, he reminded the assembled that the August 7th Special Election is going to set the tone for all the Ohio state races in November and encouraged attendees to donate and participate in Danny's campaign. He also echoed the theme of the meeting - that Central Committee members are the lynchpin of the party, and urged all newly elected members to work their precincts to support all Democratic candidates by going out to meet people in their precincts, knock doors, socialize, and turn out the vote.

Please visit our [Meet the Candidates page](#) to learn more about the great line-up of local candidates who spoke at the breakfast: **Louise Valentine** (19th state senate district), **Cory Hoffman** (67th house district), **Kathleen Tate** (68th house district), **Aileen Wagner** (County Commissioner), and **Indu Rajan** (County Auditor). Also learn more about Indu in the "Candidate Spotlight", below.

Peg Watkins, Chair of the Campaigns & Candidates committee, introduced the three "BE's" for the new Central Committee members.

- **BE Sociable** – Reach out to your own precinct. Get to know who your constituents are and keep them informed about party happenings, important election dates, who the candidates are, and how and where to vote. And it's FUN it is to get together with the many other Democrats in Delaware County.
- **BE Informed** – Attend CC meetings and read the communications and material provided to you. Pay attention to the news and stay informed on candidates and issues. We get great information directly from these candidates that help us relay this information to our friends and neighbors. The party's website, the candidates and other resources will help you.
- **BE Supportive** – the purpose of this organization is to help Democrats get elected to office. We want your time, your talents, and your financial support; each according to your abilities.
- Peg's parting advice: CC members can work together using their best gifts, whether canvassing, working the phones, collecting signatures, office work, organizing, and more. She expressed gratitude for those who are stepping up as Central Committee members and reminded that We are Stronger Together and to get ready to bring on the Blue Wave!

Ed Helvey, in his closing remarks waxed philosophical that maybe he was stepping down from his chair position too soon, given the large influx of new Central Committee members and the excitement being generated by Democrats across the county. He said that he will still remain connected to the Party on both a local and statewide basis. (Ed was re-elected to both the County and State Central Committees and will retain his position on the County Board of Elections.) He once again congratulated the new Central Committee members and everyone else who attended and made this a memorable, motivating morning.

Reminder: Miss a newsletter? They are archived on our [website](#).



Yeah, We Passed Issue 1!! Now What?

Fair Districts For the Future; We Did it Together!

State Issue 1, a constitutional amendment to reform the way congressional districts are drawn, passed with a resounding 75% approval. The amendment:

- Mandates bipartisan approval for ten-year congressional maps
- Institutes strict anti-gerrymandering criteria if the parties couldn't agree. For example, it will help keep our communities together by limiting the number of splits of counties, cities, and townships.
- Requires transparency and opportunities for input including public hearings and citizen map submissions

The approved amendment mirrors a state legislative district reform that was placed on the ballot by the legislature and won overwhelming approval from voters in 2015. This ballot initiative will go into effect after the 2020 census data is compiled and maps are redistricted overall, according to numbers of Congressional seats, Ohio counties and population densities.



Next We Take the 12th




Now that the Primary is over for the 12th district, it's important that we pull together to work toward ONE GOAL -- to elect **Danny O'Connor** (left). The Democrats, for the first time in over a quarter of a century, **can win the 12th**. There is an opportunity for Democrats to regain the House, to balance the powers in our national government, and mitigate the tyranny of the current administration.

With this goal in mind, volunteers in the 12th district need to quickly work together as a team to help Danny get elected (you can donate or volunteer [here](#)). We have momentum on our side and we need dedicated volunteers to make this grassroots campaign winnable. There are rumors that the

Republicans will be putting a lot of money behind the conservative Balderson (anti-choice, NRA advocate, and more Libertarian than Republican). We need to show the state of Ohio and the US that Delaware County has what it takes to turn the 12th district Blue.

Voters can now bring about change in how they are represented in Congress in a two-stage election process. The first vote will be August 7th to complete the term of Pat Tiberi, who left Congress early this year. The second vote will be the November 6th general election for the full two-year term.

Danny O'Connor has maintained a commitment to service his whole life, with a career spanning from working in one of the poorest communities in the country while in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps to his current service as Franklin County Recorder. Danny says that he is running because "people who clock in and clock out every day don't have enough people looking out for them in Congress, it's time they did." **John Russell**, who ran against O'Connor in the primary, is throwing his support to Danny, saying "we need to work together to help get him elected so we can get a strong Democrat, finally, in this very gerrymandered seat in Congress".

	<p>On November 2nd, 2017, President Trump's Twitter account was deactivated for 11 minutes by a departing Twitter employee. Too bad it wasn't forever!</p>
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DeLaDems in the News

Published in the Columbus Dispatch
May 26, 2018

"There's something rotten in the Buckeye State, and it's been rotting for years under Ohio Republicans' leadership. The Chartergate scandal is unfolding day after day with new details about how Statehouse Republicans allowed the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow to pilfer at least \$80 million of taxpayer dollars, and it could be much more. Now, the FBI is investigating whether founder Bill Lager skirted campaign finance laws by giving his employees money to donate to Republican candidates, campaigns and conservative entities.

Ohio Republicans, on the other hand, who readily accepted Lager's campaign contributions, scrambled to give back their donations just hours before it became clear that the FBI is asking questions about ECOT's possibly illegal campaign finance donations. Before that, Republicans were singing a different tune.

Back in 2015, Dave Yost, the GOP candidate for state attorney general, awarded ECOT with an "excellent record-keeping" award. Now, all of a sudden, he's saying what Democrats have been saying all along: Investigate ECOT.

This is the Republicans' scandal, just as much as it is ECOT's."

Mindy Hedges, Radnor
Central Committee Member



Turning Delaware Blue...

Delaware Dems showed up strong for the May 8th Primary. Yes, we are outnumbered by the Republicans (and the Nonpartisan voters outnumber both the Democrats and the Republicans combined) but we were a presence at the polls:

Democrats: 68% turnout
 Republicans: 42% turnout

When conventional wisdom holds that Democrats traditionally do not show up as strong in the primaries as the Republicans, the DelaDems showed that we're ready to challenge the status quo.

Governor:

Democrat: **Richard Cordray** was the clear favorite of Ohio Dems, with 62% of the statewide vote (**Kucinich** was a distant 2nd with 23%.) In Delaware County, Cordray collected an impressive 75% of the vote.

Republican: It was much closer (and dirtier) between Mike DeWine (60%) and Mary Taylor (40.2%). In Delaware County DeWine won by a similar margin: 61% to 39%

12th Congressional District Primaries for the Special and General Elections:

Democrat: **Danny O'Connor** made a strong showing with 40% of the vote across the 12th district. In Delaware County, O'Connor still edged out hometown favorite, **John Russell**, 32% - 21%.

Republican: a well-funded **Troy Balderson** just barely edged out **Melanie Leneghan** 29% to 28% across the 12th district (will there be a recount?). In her home county of Delaware, Leneghan had a 32% - 21% advantage over Balderson.

All the other local Democratic races were uncontested, with some notable exceptions in our Delaware County Central Committee races:

Precinct	Candidate	Vote	%	Precinct	Candidate	Vote	%
DELAWARE CITY 3-E	LYNDA BEHAN	47	61%	ORANGE T	HELEN CHO	30	65%
	CORY HOFFMAN	30	39%		STEPHEN SCHOTTEL	16	35%
LIBERTY D*	BRAD SHIMP	26	50%	POWELL B	BRIAN JAFFE	47	64%
	JANA THOMAS	26	50%		HEATHER KARR	26	36%
Liberty E	BARBARA J. MCBRIDE	27	57%	WESTERVILLE CITY A	EILEEN KOLMAN	42	51%
	NORMA SCHMANSKY	20	43%		CATHERINE KULIK	41	49%
LIBERTY L	ELIZABETH DAY	61	81%				
	MEHAR ANSARI BEG	14	19%				

*Recount underway

Thanks to all our great candidates, and the new Central Committee members.



Candidate Spotlight

[Indu Rajan](#) - Candidate for Delaware County Auditor



Several reasons led me to my decision to run for the Office of Delaware County Auditor, but the main reason is that I want to make a difference to our Community and help our veterans, our seniors, and the under represented. I am an active community volunteer, Girl Scout Troop treasurer, a school PTO chair, substitute teacher and freelance accountant. Since 2016, I have been involved in grassroots activism, participating in marches, visiting our lawmakers' offices, calling our state representative/senators and writing postcards to voters. I have been appalled by many lawmakers' indifference to our voices. This is another reason that motivated me to run for this office.

I feel very well qualified as I have extensive work experience with financial powerhouses like Citibank and GE Capital. I worked primarily with improving the quality of service and quality audits.

The Delaware County Auditor's office needs new leadership in order to promote new ideas. I intend to:

- Improve accuracy of the transactions that take place
- Improve accessibility
- Promote a positive and productive work environment.

I hope each and every one of you will support me and vote for me. Let's bring the Blue Wave to Delaware County!

Please check the DCDP website for their respective FB pages: <https://www.ohiodeladems.org/2018-candidates>



Richard Nixon was so good at poker that most of his first campaign for the House of Representatives was funded by poker winnings from his time in the Navy.



Central Committee Meeting News and Getting Involved

Central Committee Meeting Notes

Ed Helvey was out of town for the Central Committee meeting on Thursday May 17, and Vice Chair **Roger Van Sickle** ably stepped in to chair. The meeting got off on a light note as Party Secretary **Carol Young** announced that **Andy Brenner** is currently *behind in his race for his Central Committee seat!* His competitor is a comedian. (Roger dryly noted that a comic and a clown were running for the same Central Committee seat.)

DCDP will be at the Sunbury flea market and parade, and the focus will be candidates, so we want the presence of candidates and local candidate volunteers and campaign materials. Roger announced the **Main Street Initiative: ODP's Bench-Building Bootcamp**, June 2. To register go to: go.ohiodems.org/bootcamp. See photos of the event [here](#).

Rand Guebert reviewed the poll-worker turnout for the May 8th primary. Even though there were 60 vacancies, Democrats had 338 show up for their shifts, compared to 291 for the Republicans. Well done, Rand! The deadline to register for the August 7th Special Election is July 9th. Early Voting for the Special Election begins July 10. Special Elections normally have lower turnout than the General so there is an opportunity to work extra hard to get out the vote.

Committee Reports:

- **Linda Gaffey**, Membership chair, reported that we are now at 200 members, which is even with last year at this time. Let's help Linda exceed her goals and help the Party with donations. Make your membership contribution [here](#).
- **Peg Watkins**, Chair of Campaigns & Candidates, reminded attendees that a role of active Democrats is to support people running for office and to ensure that candidates get the support they need. Peg announced that people who have attended three Central Committee meetings may be eligible for appointment to Central Committee. She announced a Sherrod Brown fundraiser on June 23 – see events listing at the end of this newsletter.
- **Julie Houston**, Fundraising Chair, announced that we have confirmed Steve Dettelbach, candidate for State Attorney General, as the keynote speaker at our next fundraiser, Catch a Rising Star, on July 24th (see events listing below for details).
- **Brian Jaffe**, Chair of Communications, announced that the “Dare to Share” campaign on e-mail and Facebook to promote “Issue 1” was shared by 45 users. The message was seen by over 13,000 FB users. The new website platform is scheduled for release on June 21. On June 14 there will be a Usability Lab to test the new website. The web team has already signed up testers and is looking for additional people. The planned location will be the Columbus State Computer Lab from 6-9pm. If interested in participating, please contact Brian at bmjaffe@gmail.com
- **Donna Sinclair**, Chair of Events/Office Manager, is considering extending the office days/hours. The first "First Friday" in May was very successful, and many candidates were at our table. Theme for June First Friday is "Hidden Spaces," when you get a map of downtown and can visit the these beautiful buildings which are normally closed to outsiders.

Cory Hoffman, candidate for the 67th statehouse district, reiterated his previous messages of hard work. He used the example of Chris Redfern, former chair of the Ohio Democratic party, from Erie county. When running for State Rep, Redfern didn't feel he needed to campaign. Steve Kraus, a relative unknown of questionable repute, worked the neighborhoods, knocking on doors and leaving post-it messages. Chris Redfern lost the race, and now it's our turn to work the doors and win back the 67th district.

Reminder: Central Committee meeting minutes are posted on the [website](#) each month.

Sign-up/Renew your Party Membership:

While the Party operates on volunteer support, we do have actual costs that are required to maintain day-to-day operations. Please go to our [DCDP Membership](#) area to sign-up for or renew your Party membership.

'Like' and Interact with us on Facebook:

Communicate with our active membership and get the most up-to-date information.

<https://facebook.com/ohiodeladems>

Attend a Central Committee Meeting:

The county-wide Central Committee meets the third Thursday every month (except when notified), 7:30pm, and is open to the public. It is held at 12½ N. Sandusky St. Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Check the [website](#) for volunteer opportunities

Central Committee Membership - Opportunity to Make a Difference

Any interested candidate can always request an at-large seat on the Delaware County Democratic Party Central Committee. If you are interested in serving, contact the central office for more information: Phone: (740) 363-7500; email: chair@ohiodeladems.org. You can always get more information on our [website](#) on how to file for candidacy.



Become Part of the Solution

Ohio Democratic Party/Delaware County Democratic Party-Sponsored Events:

What: Main Street Initiative: ODP's Bench-Building Bootcamp

Who: For those interested in becoming a candidate or working on campaigns

Where: Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio

When: Saturday June 2, 2018 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

[Website sign-up](#)

Here's the Facebook Event Information: [Bootcamp Facebook Info](#)

What: State Representative Kathleen Clyde, Candidate for Secretary of State Fundraiser

When: June 6, 2018, 5:30-7:00pm

Where: Home of Nancy and Bill Cline, 432 Senate Ave, Delaware, Ohio 43015

[RSVP](#)

What: Reorganization Meeting - DCDP election for a new Officers

When: June 7, 2018 at 07:30 PM

Where: [Willis Education Center](#) in Delaware, OH

What: Sherrod Brown Fundraiser with Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii)

When: June 23, 2018, 6:00 - 8:00pm

Where: Horse and animal farm of Joyce Bourgault, 9032 Todd Street Road, Sunbury, OH 43074

What: Catch a Rising Star DCDP Fundraiser

When: July 24, 2018 at 07:00 PM

Where: [Scioto Reserve Country Club](#) in Powell, OH

Other Events:

What: Indivisible's Rapid Resist Rally if Mueller or Rosenstein Fired

When: July 7, 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Where: Bicentennial Park, 233 S Civic Center Dr, Columbus, OH 43215

[Indivisible's Rapid Resist Rally if Mueller or Rostenstein Fired](#)

What: Sustainable Delaware Meeting

When: June 9 and 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:00 - 11:00am

Where: Delaware Main Library

[Sustainable Delaware](#)

What: Citizens Climate Lobby Meeting

When: June 9 and 2nd Saturday of each month, 11:45am - 2:00pm

Where: 1st Presbyterian Church, Winter & S. Washington

[Citizens Climate Lobby Delaware](#)

What: Stonewall Columbus Pride Festival and Parade

When: Jun 15 - Jun 17; Parade is Saturday, June 16, Step-off at 10:30 AM

Where: Bicentennial and Genoa Park 233 Civic Center Drive Columbus, OH 43215 (Festival); Parade is Short North to downtown Columbus (route announced soon)

[Stonewall Columbus Pride Festival and Parade](#)

What: Juneteenth Celebration

When: June 16, 10:00am - 2:00pm

Where: Freedom March begins at Woodward School and concludes at Bicentennial Park for Festival

Who: Dr. Charles C.M. Kellom (OWU Faculty) and Brent Carson (Delaware Historian), Guest Speakers

The *Delaware Directions* Newsletter is written, designed, and assembled each month by members of the DCDP Communications Committee, along with contributing writers.

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