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The Lehigh
Republican

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*Message From Our New Chair -
Time to Get Down to Business*

First off I wish to thank everyone for their demonstration of confidence and support by electing me as chair of the Lehigh County Republican Committee. It will be an honor to serve this first class organization and its committed and talented volunteers. To succeed as chair I will need your continued support. I understand many of you have been at this longer than me. Your experience will be appreciated, so if you think you have information I could use or a better way to get us where we need to go please let me know. I value any input or suggestions you may have to help us grow our great party.

I think it is fair to say that the baton of leadership has passed rather smoothly from Dean Browning to me. I want to take the opportunity to thank Dean for his outstanding commitment to the committee. Thanks to efforts by Dean and Bob Lovett before him, the party has a solid financial base and a modern office

and systems that will allow us to continue to move forward.

Since my election I have already been hard at work to ensure the party's continued success and growth. A transition team has been created to lay out a victory plan for 2007. We have moved forward on endorsements of James Anthony, Maria Dantos and Lee Koch as our judicial candidates. We are redrawing the districts for area captains, and looking at options to fill empty committee positions.

I sometimes feel like the captain of a ship that has charted a course for stormy seas. Although I see the rough waters ahead I remain confident because I know I have a capable crew that can get us through to victory.

William H. Platt II
Chairman

Message From Our Outgoing Chair-

Off to the Races

The days are longer, the snow has melted, the grass is starting to green and flowers are emerging from the earth. Republican activists understand what all these signs indicate. That's right, the primaries are just around the corner. Excitement is in the air because this year's political races are all local. The voters will go to the polls and decide who will control their local government. At the top of this year's ticket will be the judicial races starting with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on down to the court of common pleas and local mag-

istrates. Four seats are up on Lehigh County's board of county commissioners, as well as county controller, district attorney, local council seats, township commissioners, township supervisors, municipal controllers, treasurers, auditors, and school district directors. Because these races generally lack the spotlight of the larger media outlets too many voters never understand the significance of these contests, and turnout falls. Therefore, to make sure our ideas and values prevail locally, it will be our charge to make (continued on pg.2)

Message From Our Outgoing Chair—

(continued from pg. 1)

sure our voters are informed and at the polls on election day. I know the Lehigh County Republican Committee can count on another outstanding effort this year from our dedicated volunteers. Once again, our candidates are going to need all the assistance and support we can give them. The Democrats have been making a big push and have, in recent years, made some gains in Lehigh County. We need to hold the line and

turn back this tide here and now. While Pennsylvania is in danger of becoming a solid Democrat state, Lehigh County's status as a swing county is in peril of slipping into the D column. I know you understand how important it is for us to make sure that does not come to pass. The good news is that the Lehigh County Republican Committee is strong, solid, unified and growing. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the executive committee, many new initia-

tives and practices have been put into place. I feel confident in writing to you that your local committee is ready for the electoral challenges of 07.

On that note, it will not be news to many of you that I have decided to step down as chair of the committee. It has been my desire to serve the public as an elected official at the county level, and I feel the time is right for me to get back into the arena. I do so, confident that the committee will be in good hands. Bill Platt has come forward to take up the mantle and build on the positive momentum that the Party has created these past several years. Bill is a solid,

energetic, intelligent, and respected figure here in Lehigh County and beyond. His willingness to take on the chair position will add to the credibility and prestige of the Lehigh County Republican Committee.

When Bob Lovett announced his intent to step down in late 2005 I considered it an honor to accept the position of Chair of this great committee. I am extremely grateful to have had the trust and support of the committee's devoted volunteers. Now, I ask you to give that same trust and support to our new chair, Bill Platt.

Dean Browning

Committee Members' Corner— Hemlock! Anybody Want A Drink?

I suppose all of us get e-mail from various people from different parts of the country. With the Internet, Blogging, and E-mail, communication has truly become open and instantaneous. I received this e-mail message from a guy I never met in person. In our dialogue on government leaders he wrote, "It is unmistakable that our forefathers were a very religious people, much more so than our current leaders." He then went on to write, "They [the past political leaders] understood the importance of good moral values and the part they play in the survival of a civilized society." This sort of insight into our past is essential for us to comprehend the present and to see into the future. We, perhaps, have come to a place in history where the question from Psalms 11:3 must be asked: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" What will the effect be on our nation if the Republican Party cannot elevate itself to a level that meets this

situation? The Democrats have been framing the issues for years without much resistance from the Republican leadership. President Clinton did it for 8 years, and now, for the last 6+, under President Bush the Democrats still seem to be controlling the spin. It seems apparent to many Republicans that the nation now has one party with a plan and the other with only rhetoric. At the same time, it seems clear that the party with no ideas thinks so little of the party with ideas that they feel no need to explain or defend their "no plan" position. Perhaps they think they need not give the electorate any kind of answer or plan because the Republicans have not demanded any? As a Republican activist, I would pose the question, "Why does our Republican leadership play defense if, in fact, the Democrats have no plan?" Have we, as Republican activists not come to a point where we should start asking this "why" question? Unless the Republican leadership will critically examine their beliefs and communicate them effectively to the nation, the

(continued on last page)

The Allentown Report

In recent years there hasn't been a lot of good news out of Allentown, but that hasn't dampened the City Committee's spirit. In spite of the many challenges, they continue to press forward in their determined attempt to restore good government to the state's third largest municipality. The sad reality they face is that the situation in Allentown is now worse than ever in almost every regard. The new Democrat mayor, Ed Pawlowski, is continuing Roy Afflerbach's disastrous borrow and spend policies and inflicting real damage to the city's work force by removing competent city managers. At the same time, Allentown's City Council's ability to act wisely or responsibly on anything has been crippled by the loss of universally respected city Republican Tom Burke at the polls last year. Nonetheless, Joe Hilliard and the city committee continue their fight for a reasoned

and common sense approach to municipal government. To that end, they have recruited Michael Schware to run for the position of City Controller. The value of electing a Republican to this oversight position is of paramount importance if the public is to be made aware of the rampant financial shenanigans of Allentown's ruling Democrats. Mike, who is Allentown born and raised, is a family man and a qualified financial professional, is venturing onto ground that many others fear to tread. Fortunately for the city, Mike is a person who understands that unless one rolls up their own sleeves and enters the fray, change just won't happen. The Allentown ticket will be rounded out with the city's elder statesman Dave Bausch and current school board member Bob Smith.

GOLF FUNDRAISER LEHIGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE



1st, 2nd, 3rd
Place
and
Longest Drive
and
Closest to Pin

Date: Friday, May 18, 2007

WHITETAIL GOLF CLUB

2679 Klein Road, Bath

Rt. 22 to Rt. 512N, 5 miles to Bath, Left at first light (Newburgh Rd.). Take Rt. 987N 1 mile and turn left onto Whitetail Deer Drive. At top of hill turn left onto Klein Road.

- \$90.00 Per Person Entry Fee or \$350 for a Foursome (Greens Fee & Cart).
- Entry Fee also Includes Lunch, Dinner and Beverages (\$35.00 for Dinner Only).
 - Four Person Scramble - Shotgun Start.
- 25 Teams of 4 (Entry Limited to 100 Golfers and Course will be Closed to the Public then).
- \$300 for Hole Sponsorship or \$390 for Hole Sponsorship and Entry Fee or \$650 for Hole Sponsorship and Foursome.

Time	Event
12:00	Registration and Box Lunch
12:45	Shotgun Start
5:00	Dinner, Prizes and Raffle

Please Retain top portion for your information.

Make Checks Payable to:
Lehigh County Republican Committee
1544 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
RSVP by May 15, 2007

Contact: Dean Browning
Phone: 610-435-3322
Fax: 484-214-0055
E-Mail: dbrowning@lehighgop.com

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- Single Entry Foursome
- Hole Sponsorship Dinner Only
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Final Thoughts—

The Fight Ahead

It will come as no surprise to most of you that, in the past several years, the Democrats have worked hard to move Lehigh County into their column. Last year, for instance, huge sums of Democrat cash, as well as manpower and expertise, were funneled into the county from places like Philadelphia and Washington DC. The results have been apparent and painful. This is all the more frustrating as this Republican Committee has, in this same time period and on its own, worked hard, built its base, raised more money, recruited additional volunteers, found quality candidates, mounted coordinated get out the vote programs, and turned out more voters. The lesson we have learned from the recent results is that we have to do more and we must do it better. Otherwise, what has happened to Allentown could spread to the rest of the county's municipalities. While we understand that

Democrat rule will not bring good government, lower taxes, or improved municipal services, our future could be wrought with problems if the Democrat strategists get their way. They clearly understand the tactical importance of our county to statewide and federal elections.

For those of us who call Lehigh County home, this area is more than a square on a political chess board. It is our residence; it is where we work, where our children go to school. Often, it is our past, and it is our hope that it be our future. We are Republican activists because we understand the importance of good local government; conversely, we now see that the Democrat interest in our locality is merely base power politics.

All is far from lost, however. This committee can win elections this year and send the message to the Democrats that they won't be taking this county for granted any

time soon. Victory can be ours if we stick together and continue to build and improve the committee. To do this, it is imperative that all of us look to our shared values

for guidance, and put aside the issues that have at times put us at odds. As a united team, we can prevail over this well heeled threat.



Saturday; June 23rd, 2007

LCRC 1st Annual Miniature Golf Tournament

North! At Bear Rock Junction, Rte. 309 and Mountain Road. \$20.00/person, \$10.00/child under 12, children under 5 are free. Fun, Food, Prizes, Meet Local Candidates. Interested in sponsoring a hole? There will be 72 holes to be sponsored at \$25.00/ea. We are also needing someone to sponsor the tournament at \$250.00. Associate Sponsorship available at \$75.00. Please call for more info. or to sign up 610-435-3322



Saturday; June 30th, 2007

LCRC 1st Annual Miniature Golf Tournament

South! At Putt U, Rte. 309 Center Valley. Will start at 9am. \$20.00/person, \$10.00/child under 12, children under 5 are free. Fun, Food, Prizes, Meet Local Candidates. Interested in sponsoring a hole? There will be 72 holes to be sponsored at \$25.00/ea. We are also needing someone to sponsor the tournament at \$250.00. Associate Sponsorship available at \$75.00. Please call for more info. or to sign up 610-435-3322.

LEHIGH COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

1544 HAMILTON ST, SUITE 202, ALLENTOWN, PA 18102—610-435-3322

I appreciate the work that the LCRC is doing and I would like to support the Committee's efforts during 2007.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of:

\$500.00 _____ \$250.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ Other _____

Make checks payable to "Lehigh GOP"

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Occupation (if giving \$250.00 or more) _____ E-mail _____

Note: No corporate checks can be accepted.

Republicans Brave the Elements for Breakfast

This year, getting to the Lincoln Day Breakfast required more than the usual diligence. A fierce winter storm made travel treacherous and the temptation to remain cozily indoors on that Saturday morning was significant. However, a great turnout at the Iron Lakes Country Club proved that Lehigh Republicans are cut from a tough cloth. They would not allow the harsh winter condi-

tions to prevent them from attending this annual opportunity to network with fellow activists. It is worth noting that several candidates, Mike Krancer for Supreme Court and Bruce Bratton and Jackie Shogan who are running for Superior Court made the extra effort to attend. The one person who couldn't make it was the event's featured speaker, Pennsylvania's Attorney General Tom Corbett. For a few moments it

appeared the event would have to go on without a speech, but upon request and without a moment's hesitation, up to the plate stepped Congressman Charlie Dent to pitch hit. Charlie is a great speaker and delivered with one of his rhetorical home runs. All in attendance gave their congressman a standing ovation for his recent vote to support the president and the troops. This was truly a wonderful and memorable

moment. Karen Richardson and Joe Hilliard were honored for their dedication as volunteers of the year, and the many elected officials in attendance were recognized. Thanks go out to the entire Events Committee and especially to its outgoing chair, Sue Witmer. This was another superb effort.

Chairman's Council Report

On March 1st the Finance Committee put on another great First Thursday event in the Pub Room of the Brookside Country Club for members of the Chairman's Council. The featured speaker was State Senator Pat Browne. The unique insights he provided from inside Pennsylvania state government proved to be an interesting presentation. He pointed out some areas of real concern with Ed Rendell's proposed State Budget. Pat explained (to the surprise of no one at the event) that Rendell, who played the role of the phony fiscal conservative candidate just last year, has now effortlessly morphed back to a big city liberal. The speculation all around is that Ed's hard turn to the left, as demonstrated in this new budget, is meant to improve his standing as vice presidential material amongst his fellow Democrats. It was agreed that Ed Rendell, a natural glad hander, would jump at the chance to spend four years

in Washington to spend his time attending that city's many receptions and cocktail parties. Senator Browne deftly fielded tough questions from those in the audience who expressed concern with various positions

of the state's Republican Party. It was an interesting, enlightening, and satisfying dialogue all around. Pat Browne was clearly interested in the opinions expressed and will return to Harrisburg well informed on the

views of the party's activists. Thanks to Pat's presentation, council members garnered information not available in the media or the press.

Latino Committee Report

The Latino Committee, under the direction of its chairwoman Sandra Vasquez Zawistowski, is meeting and charting its course for the upcoming year. One of the committee's members, Carlos Lopez, is running for the Allentown School Board. Carlos hopes to bring Republican values and principles to a board that, through its own acquiescence to the administration, finds itself in real hot water. Carlos will have his hands full as Allentown's School District faces many challenges. While the district's tax base dwindles, the current board has embarked on what many consider

to be an ill advised plan to spend a quarter of a billion dollars in the next ten years to expand and renovate the district's facilities. Carlos can join Bob Smith in demanding real answers to where the money is coming from.

Carlos Lopez is one of many Lehigh Latino Republicans who, thanks to the efforts of this committee, has decided the time is right to get involved. Clearly, this new conservative voice is going to be heard.



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Committee Members' Corner—

(Continued from pg. 2)

Republican Party will not be able to solve this country's problems. I think this is the problem of the Republican Party. Let me close with a quote from Robert G. Olsen's book "A Short Introduction to Philosophy" 1967: "Socrates had thought that by exposing the murkiness and inconsistency of man's beliefs he would make the man 'angry with himself' and thus 'gentler' to others. Usually, however, the anger Socrates aroused was directed against himself." Nonetheless, Socrates spoke the truth, and, in the end, it cost him his life. Likewise, we, as Republicans, must be willing to truthfully point out the murkiness, inconsistencies, and outright failures of our own party. I ask you to join me and make Hemlock the drink of the day.

Randy Toman—Committeeman for Bethlehem 13-2

***If you are a committee member and interested in submitting an article for this column, please e-mail it to: kim8thward@yahoo.com. All articles are subject to edit.*

Mark Your Calendar:

Friday; May 18th, 2007—
LCRC Golf Fundraiser -
Whitetail Golf Club (*Proceeds
from the golf outing benefit the November
'07 GOTV effort*)

Thursday; June 7th, 2007 -
LCRC Chairman's Council
Meeting—Brookside Country
Club—7PM