



# The Caroline County Democrat



The Official Newsletter of the Caroline County Democratic Committee

Volume IV, Issue I

January/February 2009

## Upcoming Meetings

### Mark Your Calendar

#### January

On **January 10<sup>th</sup>** the Caroline County Democratic Committee will hold its regular monthly meeting at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held at Aunt Sarah's in Carmel Church. Please join us in a special discussion/election for the Electoral Board and for a visit from a special representative of the Jody Wagner for Lt. Governor Campaign.

#### February

On **February 14<sup>th</sup>** the Caroline County Democratic Committee will hold its regular monthly meeting at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held at Aunt Sarah's in Carmel Church. If you have an idea for a speaker for this meeting, please let us know.

Special thanks to Bill Day, former candidate for U.S. Congress in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. Mr. Day visited us in December to thank us for our support in the election and to discuss his continued work in healthcare initiatives, environmental work and more. Thank you Mr. Day for your great effort in the November 2008 election!

## Thank You

I want to make sure that I begin the New Year by making sure that each and every volunteer that helped before the election and on Election Day knows that they are greatly appreciated and that none of what was accomplished in Caroline County could have happened without their unwavering dedication. So many of you put in countless hours of calling and canvassing, registering voters, manning tents, preparing parade floats, putting up signs around the county, and more before finally working all or part of the day on Election Day. Many of you took off from your regular jobs, got up very early, and were at the polls and ready to work before 6:00 am. Thanks to all of you, every polling place was staffed all day through rain showers and chilly temperatures. Also many thanks go to C. W. Edwards Funeral Home, Pam Lawrence of Hometown Realty, Carl & Barb Kesner, Chuck Unger, Don Davenport, Ray Scher and Reuben Rock who provided tents to keep our volunteers and many voters dry. I have heard from Anita Hartke, Bill Day and Mark Warner, who send their profound thanks and appreciation for all the work each of our volunteers provided.

As I sat at the Caroline Election Party, I was filled with an amazing mixture of camaraderie, exhaustion, adulation and hope. Each of you there that evening, and many of you who could not attend, were on my mind and will be forever linked to my memory of this most amazing election. I felt a flush of pride erupt, as many of you did, when television announcers called Virginia for Barack Obama. An overwhelming feeling of accomplishment and relief washed over me as I realized that each of us was part of "Turning Virginia Blue" in a presidential election for the first time in 44 years. Within a minute or two, as the west coast polls closed, the announcement was made that Barack Obama was the President-Elect and would be our 44<sup>th</sup> U.S. President. The elation was magnificent as everyone in the room cheered and hugged.

As I reflect back on the weeks since the election, and listen to pundits and experts tell us to brace for a difficult journey and much belt tightening in the future, I realize that each of us that worked so hard on this election are now faced with much more work. As some of you reminded me before I left the party that evening, 2009 is a big election year here in the Commonwealth and we have lots to do over the coming year. Not only will we choose a new Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General, but members for a new state legislature will be chosen. For Democrats in Virginia this election is crucial because it will set into place the government that we will have for the 2010 redistricting. Thank you again for your efforts and a magnificent year, I hope that each of you will work just as hard in 2009 to ensure that Democrats are successful this year in the Commonwealth.

Maggie Sacra, Chairperson

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# Election 2008

Election 2008 was special for many of us here in Caroline, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and around the country. For the first time in 44 years Virginia voted for a Democratic candidate for president, and for the first time in the history of our country an African-American was elected to the country's highest office. The members of the Caroline County Democratic Committee are very proud of the work that our members did to help ensure an Obama/Biden win and a Mark Warner win. We are also proud of the work that we did to help Anita Hartke in the 7<sup>th</sup> District and Bill Day in the 1<sup>st</sup> District. Although Hartke and Day were unable to win in their districts, Caroline was key to positioning them as strong candidates in 2008. In Caroline, Obama/Biden won with over 55% of the vote as compared with about 53% nationwide and in Virginia as a whole. Mark Warner(D) won over Jim Gilmore(R) in Caroline with over 69% of the vote as compared to an overall 65%.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> District, Bill Day(D) received over 47% of the vote in Caroline precincts as compared to around 42% of the vote district wide against Robert Wittman(R). Bill Day's performance was outstanding considering that he was only in the race for about two months. As many of our Committee members said to him at our December meeting, we hope that he will work hard over the next two years and run again in 2010.



Caroline County Democratic Committee members staffed every precinct in the county from opening until closing on Election Day. Each precinct, including the central absentee precinct (CAP), had volunteers observe the final count for the precinct. Volunteers then called that count into the Committee chairperson who tracked counts and any issues that arose at the precinct counts. We are very proud that we were able to have this level of coverage throughout the day and hope to continue this for future elections with your help.



Democrats joined together from all over Caroline to celebrate the historic win. Here some listened to the President-Elect's speech and enjoyed the amazing evening.

Anita Hartke (D) made a great run against a very established Eric Cantor(R) in the 7<sup>th</sup> District. Mr. Cantor, who serves as the Deputy Minority Whip in the U.S. House of Representatives was able to wield a great deal of power, but Ms. Hartke made a valiant run with a very limited budget. Ms. Hartke received over 53% of the vote in Caroline compared to about 37% for the entire 7<sup>th</sup> District. Ms. Hartke is optimistic about the outcome and plans to run again in 2010. Next time, we hope she will be able to increase her spending against Cantor, who reportedly spent millions of dollars in the last couple weeks.

Both districts are currently stacked against Democratic candidates because of the gerrymandered condition of the districts, which makes it difficult if not impossible for Democrats to win. Remember that the elections held in 2009 will set up the state legislature and government that will be in power when redistricting occurs in 2010. The Caroline County Democratic Committee plans to work hard to ensure that Democrats make a strong showing in the state legislative elections and state-wide elections that will be held this November.



## Join Our Relay for Life Team

Last year for the first time, the Caroline County Democratic Committee participated in the Caroline County Relay for Life. This year we have decided to participate again and hope that you will join our team. Relay for Life is a great event that raises money to support the fight against cancer. The Caroline Relay for Life has its very own website, which makes it very easy for you to log on and join the Committee team.

Join us by going to [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=13219](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=entry&fr_id=13219). Click on "Sign Up", then "Join an Existing Team", search for "Caroline Democrats", and finally click "Join" and follow the instructions. The site makes it easy to join, set up your own page, solicit donations, and thank those who donate. If you cannot join the team, please go online and donate on our page of the Caroline Relay for Life site. Caroline Relay for Life is having a kickoff event on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Bowling Green Town Hall. We hope that you'll join and then come out to the kickoff event to find out more.

**Help us save money! Fill out the form on page 3 and let us know if you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail. Sending one less newsletter by mail each month saves us about \$5.00 each year.**



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Please send comments about the newsletter to  
newsletter@carolinedems.com. We welcome newsletter  
writers. Please let us know if you would like to help.

## Important Dates!

- January 10 - Regular Monthly Meeting  
10:00 am – Aunt Sarah’s
- January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 20 - Inauguration Day
- February 2 - Groundhog Day
- February 14 - Valentine’s Day
- February 14 - Regular Monthly Meeting  
10:00 am – Aunt Sarah’s
- February 15 - Susan B. Anthony Day
- February 16 - Presidents Day
- February 24 - Mardi Gras
- February 25 - Ash Wednesday
- March 8 - Daylight Savings Time  
Begins – Don’t Forget to  
Change Your Clocks!

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