



PRESERVATION AND PROGRESS

A Newsletter of the Chadds Ford Democratic Party

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WHY VOTE IN '09?

It's an off-year election, right? No national candidates, no state representatives, right? Nothing is really at stake, right? Wrong! This fall we have the chance to break the Republican stranglehold on our local government. Here are three reasons why 2009 is an important election year:

ONE: Despite widely known financial and political cronyism, the Republicans have long occupied all 5 Delaware County Council seats. Nancy Baulis and Keith Collins, two highly competent and motivated members of our community, are trying to put transparent windows in that closed chamber and let the sunshine in.

TWO: And speaking of cronyism, one must wonder why a new Court of Common Pleas judgeship was created just as County Council President, Linda Cartisano, is coming to the end of her final term. Nancy Rhoads Koons, her Democratic opponent, has 25 years of experience in the courtroom and believes in an open and non-partisan courthouse.

THREE: We have an important School Board election here in Chadds Ford. It is our belief that School board elections should not be about political parties. They should only be about the kids and the community. That is why we support Chadds Ford resident, Gregg Lindner, for School Board. On August 26th Gregg was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Unionville-Chadds Ford school board created by Ed Wandersee's departure. For the past 5 yrs, Gregg has been as active a participant in school district activities as anyone not actually on the board can be. He is clearly the logical choice for an open seat. However, this is only an interim appointment and Gregg must run for election in November. Let's make sure that his term is longer than 3 months. Gregg is a very successful businessman who runs the day-to-day operations of a large company and knows how to handle budgets, large staffs, and negotiations. He has three children in the school district and knows the importance of schools and their impact on our children and the community. He also understands that good schools add value to the community and positively impact housing values. We must continue to have the best schools possible and make the investments needed while keeping an eye on our tax structure to make sure we do not overburden community members.

HEALTHCARE NOW!

By Robert Porter, MD

Is there a right to healthcare? Not in America there isn't! But there is in every other wealthy democracy in the world. Every other country thinks that access to basic healthcare is a right just as much as access to a basic education is a right. Every other wealthy country recognizes that it is immoral for their citizens to die because a society with the resources to ensure medical care for all simply decides not to. Yet in America, 45,000 people die each year

from treatable diseases simply from lack of access to healthcare. Our infant mortality is twice that of European countries. We have too long let the advocates of greed and selfishness frame the debate as an economic one. It is not. It is a moral one. We, the richest society the earth has ever seen, have a moral obligation to ensure health security for all our families and neighbors. Anything less is unconscionable. Speak out.

A PEOPLE'S COURTHOUSE

By Nancy Rhoads Koons

Candidate for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas

For decades, one political machine has hand-picked Delaware County's Judges. On November 3, the citizens of Delaware County have the opportunity to pick their own judge, one who is experienced and wants to make the courthouse a "People's Courthouse".

Our Pennsylvania Constitution provides for Courts of Common Pleas in the counties. In Delaware County this is a trial court, where many cases begin, where you may find yourself as a plaintiff or defendant, where you may be called to serve as a juror, and which you may have seen portrayed on television as in "Law and Order". Our Judges in Media resolve disputes between people and apply the laws by which we live. Through that process, they help define our rights and responsibilities and determine the distribution of public and private resources. To be fair and effective, judges should be non-partisan. They should not be politicians, but experienced lawyers.

I have tried cases throughout the Northeast for over 25 years and have experience in many courthouses. I recognize Delaware County's pressing need to institute programs which are available in other counties in Pennsylvania – a Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program to ensure justice for families in danger of losing their homes; a partnership of our at-risk youths with adult mentors in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program; and a Commerce Court for local businesses – all of which I strongly feel Delaware County deserves. I know these programs will have a positive effect on the lives of people who live in the county. In particular, I know that the Mortgage program works because I've represented multiple homeowners in just such a program in Philadelphia as Pro Bono Counsel and successfully prevented ordinary people from losing their homes.

A long-time resident of Delaware County, I live with my husband and two teenagers who attend high school. I am a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Gettysburg College and a graduate of the Temple University Beasley School of Law. I grew up in Southeastern Pennsylvania and spent my summers in Essington, where my grandfather lived as a minister and inspired me to look out for other people. I believe in protecting the interests of the people of Delaware County and providing a safe and even-handed place to live and work.

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS: A SIMPLE CHOICE

By Jesse Sheppard

On the 3rd of November, we will elect a judge to a newly created 20th judgeship on our Court of Common Pleas in Media. Nancy Rhoads Koons, a Democrat, and Linda Cartisano, a Republican, both seek this judgeship in an election that raises interesting issues for Delaware County.

Throughout our country, we have federal and state courts with judges who are Democrats and Republicans. In Delaware County, however, we remain true to our one-party tradition with a one-party judiciary. It is a very long tradition that begins before the Civil War. We currently have 19 judgeships and 17 judges who are Republicans. (Our county has been waiting for the appointment of two judges for a long time now, but Senator Pileggi has vowed that he will never put forth the name of a Democrat for consideration.- if your case is delayed or rushed, thank Senator Pileggi) In fact, Delaware County has never elected a Democratic judge to the Court of Common Pleas. No other county in our Commonwealth can boast of such uninterrupted unanimity through a century-and-a-half of elections.

When we entrench the bench in one party, certain patterns of behavior do emerge. The President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas recently denied a petition to stop foreclosure sales by the sheriff on homes with mortgage defaults. What of it? Who cares? Obviously, Nancy Rhoads Koons, the Democratic candidate, cares; she wants a Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program to help homeowners keep their homes. Everyone knows that plenty of people lost their homes during the Great Depression. Some survived and some didn't, but whatever happened along the way has long since been forgotten. Likewise, at some time in the future, the current crisis and the evicted homeowners of today will be nothing more than a distant memory. Besides, foreclosures only affect the families who lose their homes, and it doesn't get that cold in Delaware County in the winter.

When the party is our priority, we vote the party, not the person. Who wants to waste their time reading about experience and qualifications? Sure Cartisano has never tried a jury case... it's only a judgeship on the Court of Common Pleas. For most litigants the county Court of Common Pleas is the most important court they will ever go before. Our Supreme Court in Harrisburg, like our Supreme Court in Washington, hears few cases and upholds the vast majority of decisions from the lower courts. For this reason, you have a very real stake in the functioning of the Court. This court, out of all the courts in the Commonwealth, looms largest in the lives of county residents.

Given this situation, voters... what is to be done? Do we cast our votes for the experience of Democrat Nancy Rhoads Koons or for the party of Republican Linda Cartisano? Let there be no doubt. When the job the judge learns on is your case, you pay for the on-the-job training. In a sense, it's a lot like medicine. Judges learn how to be judges in courtrooms - before elevation to the bench - the way surgeons learn how to be surgeons in operating rooms. Neither judges nor surgeons learn by examining patients or litigants somewhere down the hall, nor do they learn by writing evaluations or reports; they learn by doing what they're supposed

to do in court or in surgery. Nancy Rhoads Koons has done what she was supposed to do for litigants in court for twenty-five years.

On this fact, will we in November vote for insight or inertia, for the future or the past? Will we vote for a judgeship on the Court of Common Pleas or will we vote for a courthouse appendage of the Republican Party?

It's our vote, our choice, our court.

YES WE CAN!

This year, no less than last year, we cannot allow complacency to defeat us. We have great candidates and a great need for change in our local government. It is time that Delaware County, where Democratic presidents have won in the last 5 national elections and President Obama got over 60% of the vote, stops being run by one party. It is time for open government that reflects the ideas and dreams of its citizens. Local elections have a big impact on our lives; if we all vote this November we can have a big impact on this election. Come out and vote for Lindner, Baulis, Collins, and Koons.

Please VOTE November 3rd!

SUPREME COURT

Jack Panella

SUPERIOR COURT

**Anne Lazarus
Robert Colville
Kevin McCarthy
Teresa Sarmina**

COMMONWEALTH COURT

**Linda Judson
Barbara Behrend Ernsberger**

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Nancy Rhoads Koons

COUNTY COUNCIL

**Nancy Baulis
Keith Collins**

SCHOOL BOARD

Gregg Lindner

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