



The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

February 2021

Central Committee

(Front Row L – R)

Lauren Beacham, Bill Reid, Deb Reynolds, Mari Lee, Tom Slater, Deborah Carter, Regan Riley (Back Row L-R)

Renee Knapp, Gabriel Cassutto, Tony Soltero, Josh Cramer, Antonio Bowens



The Chair's Corner-

Welcome to the first Banner of 2021 and to the first weeks of the Biden/Harris administration! Already, so many people have told me that they're sleeping more easily and waking up without dread for the first time in four years.

The Central Committee has its annual retreat on February 6 (albeit via Zoom this year), when we'll solidify our two-year strategic plan, set up some events for 2021, prepare for the coming Frederick city election, and more. Our next regular meeting, open to the public, will be March 18; we'll meet the third Thursday at 6:00 for the remainder of the year.

If you'd like to get involved with the city election, we welcome your help! Our office will be open Wednesdays 2:00-6:00 and Saturdays 10:00-2:00 throughout February, with the exception of February 6. Please stop by and fill out a volunteer form. And if you're a Frederick resident, consider running for office yourself! We've been promised significant support from the state party to keep the city deep blue.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, February 16, for a special Zoom presentation sponsored by the Democratic State Central Committee, the United Democrats and the Women's Democratic League. Tom and Stephen Slater have been studying elections in Frederick County for over forty years – if you enjoy Tom's column every month in the Banner, you will not want to miss this. They'll be presenting their analysis of the 2020 election at 7:00 that evening. Check your email this week for an invitation, or follow our Facebook page for updates.

Short and sweet this month, but I'll have much news for you in March. Get your vaccine when you can, and keep wearing your masks. I'm so looking forward to seeing you all in person again!

-Deborah Carter, Chair



Senator Ron Young- District 3

The Maryland General Assembly begin the 2021 legislative session last month. This has been a session like no other due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Committee hearings are being conducted virtually. Committees and the full Senate are limiting in-person voting sessions in order to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus and ensure we still fulfill our constitutional duties.

Also, different this session is the absence of President Emeritus Mike Miller. Days before he passed away last month, he resigned from the Maryland State Senate, making this the first session of the Maryland General Assembly in nearly half a century without him. Mike Miller served with and tutored scores of senators. He loved Maryland and Maryland history. He had a unique ability to work with both sides of the aisle, to maintain his position as politics changed, and to fairly respond to the needs of all areas of the state. He was tough but reasonable, and always made himself accessible.

Of chief concern to Marylanders this session is the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. While the development of the vaccine was achieved in record time, the previous presidential administration failed to build a stockpile of vaccines nor did they develop a plan to get those vaccines into the arms of the American people.

Senate President Ferguson has assigned me to the Senate COVID-19 Vaccine Oversight Workgroup. The group will meet weekly throughout the session to track vaccine distribution in Maryland, before the Senate Executive Nominations committee, which I chair, makes a decision on Acting Secretary Schrader's nomination. Meetings will be open to the public via [YouTube](#).

Several of my bills have already had a hearing, and I anticipate they will receive a vote in their respective committees in the coming days and weeks ahead. One bill that has received a lot of attention in the local news is [SB225](#): Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act). The idea for this legislation came to me from a constituent whose daughter, Brynleigh, has a seizure disorder and believes there needs to be a change in the law to ensure the safety of her child and other children with seizure disorders when they are at school. This legislation, if passed, would require at least two full-time school personnel to be trained to recognize the signs of a seizure and to administer or assist in the administering of seizure medications.

I have also reintroduced [SB123](#), The Small Business Fairness Act. This combined reporting bill would require corporations like Wal-Mart and Target to submit Maryland tax returns so that they pay their fair share of taxes in Maryland, instead of sending all the taxes they pay to the state where the company is headquartered. 28 states already do this, including red states like Texas. According to the fiscal note, this legislation would increase Maryland state revenues by more than \$60 million dollars a year starting the second year.

There will be much to report on during this session. I encourage you to follow me on Facebook so you can keep up-to-date with General Assembly news including bill hearings and legislative successes.

-Ron



Delegate Karen Lewis Young

District 3A

During 2021, I have the honor of serving as the chair of the Frederick County delegation to the MD General Assembly. Due to the health pandemic, we will have a host of new challenges given the constraints of needing to conduct meetings electronically.

We are very committed to maintaining a strong bipartisan relationship. This approach is extremely important in light of recent national events. It also maximizes our ability to work in the best interests of all of our constituents.

Our early meetings have consisted of briefings by our County Executive, Senior Public Health Officer, and leadership representatives from the BOE. It is important that the delegation receives ongoing information about the status of vaccination rollout and the plans to get our children safely back to school.

Several of our future meetings will include appearances from members of our federal delegation. As our new president rolls out a national vaccination plan, as well as an economic recovery plan, we need to understand what gaps might exist as we develop state policies.

In addition, we will have speakers from the business community who will communicate the status and needs of their members. The focus will be on the issues of small businesses, which have been the most negatively impacted by the pandemic.

The county’s legislative package includes three (3) new proposed bills:

- Changes to the Contract Lien Act to provide protection to Frederick County consumers and transparency in home buying
- Changes to the General Provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act – Salary or Wages of Public Employees to protect personal and financial information of Frederick County employees
- Changes to Frederick County Board of Education – Vacancies to provide for limited special elections to fill vacancies on the Board of Education

Each year we move forward some alcohol bills that give our restaurants more flexibility. The bills that are under consideration this year are:

1. Correct Light Wine Class B, BWL – This legislation corrects the current 14.5% to 22% to be consistent with the current definition of wine for Frederick County.
2. Removal of Seating Requirement – Remove the current seating requirement for Class B, BWL restaurants.
3. Barbershop/Beauty Salon – Changes the current serving of beer from 5 ounces to one bottle, or can of beer up to 12 ounces, per customer, per day. This will help the establishments who cannot afford to install expensive draft system and prevent waste of unused product.
4. Off-Premise Consumption Class B establishments have

been asking to keep the “to go” drink option that has been allowable during the pandemic.

5. On-Premise Consumption Class A – This request came from two of our Class A establishments asking for something that mimics Montgomery County’s liquor store license that allows establishments to sell a small amount of alcohol for on-site consumption.

6. Removal of Styrofoam – Remove the requirement of Styrofoam containers due to the Styrofoam ban instituted in Maryland.

The delegation meets on Friday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Here is the public link if you would like to join our meetings:

https://youtu.be/RqvDI_oP4m0



Ken Kerr

District 3B

Whew! We can finally all exhale (but not without a mask yet, please). After four shameful, wasted years, we have functioning executive government in Washington. However, we are not yet finished with the former president who must be held to account for his crimes, and our very own Congressman Jamie Raskin will present the case to the Senate. We could not be in better hands as far as that is concerned.

In Maryland, the legislative session is off to a strange start. We gathered on opening day, January 13, just long enough to elect our speaker and vote on rule changes that would permit us to do our committee work remotely. In case you are not aware—the committee is where the real work is done. All committee hearings are streamed live on the MGA YouTube channel.

I heeded the request of leadership and brought a modest legislative portfolio to Annapolis this year—four bills, three of which were introduced last year and did not get through the process before we adjourned 19 days early, leaving all of them to unceremoniously die. I pre-filed these and all four have had their committee hearings. The concerns: consumer protection, school safety, prescription drug expiration dates, and medical professional designations. Now we wait for the committees to give the favorable reports and send them to the floor for second read.

I am also honored to have been asked by the speaker to take the lead sponsorship of two important bills. The first is for a pilot program that will provide subsidies for young people to purchase insurance on the individual exchange. Those age 19-34 make up the largest portion of Maryland's 6% uninsured, and those who earn more than 400% of the federal poverty level (just over \$51,000) are not eligible for any federal subsidies and must bear the full cost of coverage on their own. Coincidentally, the average starting salary for a college graduate is \$51,347. This bill will not only make health insurance affordable for these young Marylanders, but it will also strengthen the risk pool and help to stabilize the market. Additionally, this is fully funded from the same reinsurance program that has seen rates on the individual market for by 34% since 2018.

A second bill I was asked to take on involves tax relief for individuals and small businesses economically harmed by the COVID-19 state of Emergency.

All of your District 3 Democrats are making the best of this less-than-ideal arrangement. We will begin in-person voting session the week of February 8 and are split into two rooms—half of us the traditional House Chamber and the other half in a large multi-purpose room in the Lowe office building.

-Ken



Tom Slater- Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

The Rest of the Story

In addition to the restoration of democracy that occurred on January 20 with the inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as president and vice president of the United States, the state of Maryland, in the past sixty days, suffered the loss of two giants of the Democratic Party.

Paul Sarbanes died on December 6, 2020. He was 87. He grew up in Salisbury, Maryland and never forgot his humble beginnings. Smart as a whip, he graduated from Princeton University, was a Rhodes Scholar with a degree from Oxford and a Harvard law graduate. After briefly practicing law, he ran for and was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1966 followed by election to the House of Representatives, representing Baltimore City, in 1970. To win in 1970, he had to defeat long-time incumbent George Fallon, who was first elected in 1944 and was chairman of the House Committee on Public Works. After redistricting in 1972, Congressman Sarbanes was placed in the same district as incumbent Edward Garmatz, who was first elected in 1947 and was chairman of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. Congressman Garmatz, facing the possibility of running against the young Sarbanes challenger, chose to take a premature retirement. Congressman Sarbanes defeated former Senator Joe Tydings in the

Democratic primary in 1976 and defeated incumbent Republican J. Glenn Beall, Jr. to become a U.S. senator. He served in the Senate for 30 years until he retired in 2006. He was the prime sponsor of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which reformed federal securities laws.

Besides being an effective and diligent legislator, Paul Sarbanes was frequently considered the smartest and nicest person in the room. His kindness to staff and friends was legendary. He also was known for his great memory for names. I first met Congressman Sarbanes on the floor of the first Democratic Party Mid-Year Conference held in Kansas City in 1974, where I was the alternate delegate from the 6th Congressional District, and Paul was a delegate from Baltimore City. On the hundreds of occasions that I met him after that, he always remembered my name. After my son, Stephen, stopped working in Senator Sarbanes’s office in Washington to join me in my law practice, Senator Sarbanes never forgot to ask how Stephen was doing every time I talked to him.

Paul was married for 48 years to Christine Sarbanes, from Brighton, England. She was a political heavyweight in her own way. Vice President Joe Biden spoke at her funeral. Christine and Paul Sarbanes had three children, one of whom, John, currently represents the 3rd district of Maryland in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Another legend to leave us was Maryland Senator Mike Miller, who passed away on January 15, 2021, at the age of 78. He was the longest serving president of any state senate ever, having served from 1987 to 2020. After graduating from the University of Maryland at College Park and obtaining a law degree from the University of Maryland Law School, he was first elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1970 and the Maryland Senate in 1974. Nobody was better at the nitty-gritty of legislating than Mike Miller. He was a master. He was funny, intimidating, irreverent, loyal, feared and sometimes annoying, but he was always “Mr. President.” His

knowledge of and interest in Maryland history were legendary.

It is also sad to note the passing of Jeff Bresee, Mary Lee Matthews and Barbara O’Malley. Until they moved to West Virginia in 1993, Jeff and Kay Bresee were very active in the Democratic Party in Frederick County. Barbara O’Malley was former Governor Martin O’Malley’s mother and long-time receptionist for Senator Barbara Mikulski in her Washington office. Mary Lee Matthews, whose husband Chris was appointed to the Frederick County Board of Education and the Frederick Community College Board of Trustees, was my treasurer when I ran for the Maryland House of Delegates in 1984 and 1994. Her brother, Charles Smelser, represented Frederick County in the Maryland Senate from 1967 to 1995. Mari Lee was an active precinct worker and member of the Womens’ Democratic League.

Other relevant political chatter:

...Galen Clagett was awarded the Clayton Mitchell Award for Distinguished Service by Comptroller Peter Franchot.

...Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis was House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer’s special guest at the January 20 Inauguration. She had an opportunity to see most of the festivities up close and personal.

...Former Maryland Democratic Party Treasurer Gary Gensler has been appointed by President Biden to be Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

...A recent study by the London School of Economics, reported in *The Washington Post* on December 24, 2020, concluded that slashing individual, corporate, and estate tax rates mostly resulted in a windfall for big corporations and wealthy individuals.

... Quote from John Adams’s salutorian address to his class at Harvard University: “And may national honor and integrity distinguish the American commonwealths, til the last trump

shall announce the dissolution of the world, and the whole frame of nature shall be consumed in one universal conflagration." From *John Quincy Adams*, Fred Kaplan, p. 89. Who would have guessed?

Pictures:



Bob Kresslein with Christine and Paul Sarbanes at 1992 Democratic Convention



Senator Paul Sarbanes with Jennifer Dougherty at the 1994 Jefferson-Jackson Dinner



Sen. Sarbanes with Future judges Bill Nicklas and John Cejka



Sen. Sarbanes and Tom Slater



Sen. Sarbanes and Chip Jewell



Sen. Sarbanes and Gail Bowerman



Sen. Sarbanes and Gail Norman



Sue Yingling, Sen. Sarbanes, Bruce Reeder and Odette Reeder



Mike Miller at 2008 Democratic Convention with Thomas D'Alesandro, III, and Ted Venetoulis



Lindsay Graham for US Senate. In his remarks, Jaime vowed to continue the push to be a “56 State and Territory” party and emphasized the need to listen to the needs of people “who live on dirt roads as well as city streets,” stressing that a sustainable majority requires a broad-based party, inclusive of rural and exurban voters as well as and diverse populations and those in urban and suburban areas.

The training officers elected last week include Vice Chair Civic Engagement/Voter Protection: Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms; Vice Chair: Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer; Vice Chair: Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth; Secretary: Jason Rae; Treasurer: Virginia McGregor; National Finance Chair: Chris Korge; Vice Chair/Assoc of State Democratic Chairs President: Minnesota Chair Ken Martin. I find it interesting that the officer corps is heavily midwestern and southern and not northeastern or western. The meeting wound up with a virtual visit with the fabulous Vice President Kamala Harris, who took her time to thank the party and its thousands of volunteers for their efforts in the recent presidential election, especially the export work done by volunteers in both the presidential and the Georgia senatorial elections that followed.

FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE on the DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

By Bob Kresslein

The winter meeting of the Democratic National Committee was held virtually on January 21, 2021. It is a tradition that this meeting occurs on the day following the inauguration of a Democratic President. In “normal” times, the DNC Committee members would attend the inaugural ceremony and the balls following and then drag themselves to the winter meeting the next day! Fortunately, we have inaugurated a Democrat as our President; unfortunately we had to watch the inaugural ceremonies from afar!

The main business of the meeting was the election of DNC officers. Following a tribute to our outgoing Chair, Tom Perez, a motion to elect the slate of officers recommended to the committee by President Biden carried, resulting in the election of Jaime Harrison of South Carolina as DNC Chair. Jaime most recently served as Vice Chair of the DNC and ran a strong campaign last fall to unseat

United Democrats of Frederick County-

Happy 2021, all! We know 2020 was a memorable year for many reasons (good and bad), but with the new year, we have the chance to put things right and move forward as a nation. We are grateful for everyone who worked so hard on the 2020 elections locally and in other states, to ensure President Biden and Vice President Harris have a Congress that will be able to move our agenda forward. We look forward to a return to policy and non-violent discussions, instead of the never-ending fire drills and not-so-subtle dog whistles coming from the White House the last four years. The hard work is just beginning, we are grateful for our membership's willingness to roll up their sleeves and to get to work.

We had our first meeting of 2021 on January 11. We elected our officers and board members for new two-year terms. The following people were elected: President, Mark Jafari; Vice President, Gary Magnuson; Secretary, Maureen Grayzeck; Treasurer, Jim French; returning Board members, Karl Bickel, Jill Cody, Richard "Kap" Kaplowitz, Mari Lee, Michael Sowell, and Gene Stanton; and finally, our newest board members Melanie Galloway and Rober Van Rens. Congratulations to you all.

Our meeting topic was "Moving Forward in 2021" with special guests Jim Racheff and Rev. Dr. Derek Shackelford. Mr. Racheff discussed the demographic and voting pattern changes in the county. Time will tell if 2018 and 2020 are anomalies or a new pattern for the county. Independents/unaffiliated voters are the largest growing group in the county. We need to understand why and work to develop policies that address the concerns of this significant part of the population. Rev. Dr. Shackelford stressed the importance of speaking to people who may feel left out or discouraged by the current political climate. We need to find commonalities with our neighbors to mend our community. The last four years did not just happen on their own, and the division is not limited to that time either. We have serious issues to face in Frederick County and as a nation, but we will not make any headway if we do not communicate with each other.

Our February 8 meeting topic will be "Moving from Protests to Policy Changes." Protests are the critical first step to making change, but we must follow that with legislative and policy action to make those changes a reality. Please look on our Facebook page or in our monthly email for the link to sign-up. The event will start at 7:00 p.m.

Become a member! Dues are \$20 individual or \$35 family. As a reminder, dues are payable in January of each year. You can contact us at UnitedDemsFrederick@yahoo.com, by phone at 240-630-4280, or by mail at P.O. Box 3882, Frederick MD 21705. We're also on [Facebook](#), so please "like" the page and interact with us there!



Frederick County Democratic Party Podcasts

Be sure to listen in as we discuss all things of interest to local Dems.

Listen on [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#) or on your podcast app. Be sure to follow us too!

Important Note: Remember, that while we have defeated President Trump in the election, Trumpism lives on and will outlast his term in office. We must work to expunge these dangerous beliefs from our politics at the local, state and federal level.

-Gabriel Cassutto



Editor's Corner

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Banner Newsletter Ideas?

Send me an email with your ideas, materials, or feedback for consideration.

Hope you enjoyed reading!

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OR

Central Committee -

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and



with

Frederick County Democrats

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WDL
Women's Democratic League
Frederick County, Maryland



1923-2018

Special Co-Hosted Meeting with UDFC

Monday, February 8

7:00-9:00 p.m.

***“Moving from Protests to Policy
Changes”***

Guest Speakers

*Akiyyah Hall Billups – Director, Frederick March for Justice
& Gayon Sampson – Community Outreach Advisor at Johns
Hopkins University*

Visit our website or Facebook page for more info and to sign up!

www.wdlfrederick.org

Questions? Email us at wdlfrederick@gmail.com WDLFrederick on Facebook

WE NEED YOU

KEEPING FREDERICK COUNTY BLUE

www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute

We appreciate your monthly contribution now more than ever!
We look forward to resuming fundraising events when we can.

Thank You and Stay Safe!



By Authority : FCDCC Tony Soltero, Treasurer

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)