

A Publication of the Lorain County Young Democrats

Points of interest:

- Presidential Race Divides Young Dems
- Awards Banquet Stunning Success
- Lorain County say NO to Republicans
- LCYD Members win Central Committee Races

**Check out the Opinion section with an article from Paul Adams page 5*

Dates to Remember

Mar. General Meeting	3/24
April General Meeting	TBA
May General Meeting	TBA
June General Meeting	TBA

Presidential Race Divides Young Dems



Lorain - Just as the Presidential Race has divided the nation, many of the Young Dems are split on the race as well. Current LCYD Secretary, incoming Executive Director Chase Ritenauer, and Brendan Kelley are strong supporters of Barack Obama.

Brendan Kelley, a recent Oberlin College Graduate, has lead the college organizational team for Barack Obama here in Ohio. He has helped organize Obama clubs at Oberlin College and at Lorain County Community College.

Chase Ritenauer has been a strong supporter of Obama since last fall. He supports Barack Obama because, "as our country confronts serious, complex issues such as affordable healthcare, the War in Iraq, and the economy, I want a president who has a track record of working with both sides of the aisle to accomplish goals.

Pragmatism should trump partisanship and divisiveness, and I truly believe that Obama is the candidate who can achieve these meaningful results without having to try to appease the special interests and lobbies that have dominated Washington for the past eight years."

Out going LCYD President Paul Adams, new President Cory Shawver, and outgoing Executive Director Adam Bryda are ardent Hillary supporters. Adam is drawn to her plans for affordable health care and determination as a fighter. "We must bring universal health care to this country and the only candidate that supports a plan

Awards banquet stunning success!

Lorain - The Lorain County Young Democrats held our 5th Annual Award Banquet. The three "Democrats Who Make A Difference" award winners were; **Scott Muska, Anthony M. Krasienko, and Thomas J. Smith.**

The Young Democrat of the Year Award went to;

LCYD Treasurer, Rebekah Litteral.

Amid a record turnout, nearly 200 attended, the LCYD welcomed Maryland Congressman John Sarbanes and our Congresswoman Betty Sutton. Outgoing LCYD President Paul Adams was surprised by the presentation of a number of Proclamations from various politicians present at the dinner. Mayor Anthony Krasienko went as far to proclaim March 1st 2008 "Paul Adams Day" in the city of Lorain.

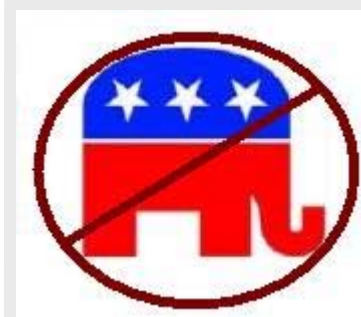
Though it was stated repeatedly at the event, the success is due to the hard work of Treasurer Rebekah Litteral and Scott Muska. Rebekah's tireless work in organizing the awards selection process, the handling of ticket sales and event organization are truly an incredible asset of the LCYD. However, her accomplishments could not have been done without the advice and help from Scott Muska. His dedication to the LCYD has been irreplaceable and all the Young Dems were proud to be able to present to him one of the 2008 Awards.



**Young Dems Elect a New Officer Team
See who on page 2**

Visit us at: www.LorainYoungDems.com

Lorain County says NO to Republicans!



Engineer

Careny	63%
Hesmond	37%

Judicial Race

Walther	46%
Lilly	38%
Rothschild	15%

Lorain - Lorain County voters chose to elect Democrats in the Democratic Primary this past Tuesday. Republicans Paulette Lilly and Thomas Hesmond were soundly defeated in their bids for office.

The LCYD took the unusual step of making endorsements in the primary election (a full text of the letter approved in January regarding the LCYD's position is on page 4) This past November one of the LCYD's own, Greg Holcomb, was challenged by a Republican who tried to run as a Democrat. With support from the party and the Young Democrats he was able to easily fend off the challenge. However, due to those events the issue of republicans trying to fool the voters really hit home with many of the Young Dems. Will we take the reigns of the party in a few years when a Democrat isn't really a Democrat? Will this trend of Republicans hiding their party by running in Democratic Primaries or as Independents continue to increase? These are the issues the Young Dems considered when choosing to endorse in the primary election.

We were pleased when the final vote totals came in on Election Night and it was clear that not only did the party send a message to the Republicans, but so did thousands of voters. It was a resounding message that the Democrats in Lorain County will not let Republicans use loopholes to get elected. Voters want Democrats who share their values running this county, not people who take the party label just to get elected.

The voters of Lorain County proved they want Democratic Candidates to be Democrats!

Con't from front page -Presidential Race

that covers all Americans is Hillary Clinton, " said Adam. He sees few real differences between the candidates, but the health care issue.

Outgoing President Paul Adams supports Hillary as well, "one of the major issues is universal healthcare. I don't want to see our country pass up another chance at providing this necessary right to the people. Americans deserve universal health care and only Hillary will fight to provide it for them."

However, he also has made these observations;

"It is apparent that now neither candidate can win a majority of pledged delegates and win the nomination outright. Even though many of the pundits argue that Obama should receive the nomination solely because he happens to have more pledged delegates that issue can't be truly resolved until the convention itself, in August! Either way, we may end up with a nomination contest that drags on for month after month. While we spend time fighting each other and using our limited resources, the Republicans are organizing and solidifying their campaign for November. With increased talks of re-votes in Michigan and Florida the issue becomes all the more pressing.

At some point the party must unify and move off it's current path, a path that is leading to a disastrous brokered convention. The huge turnouts in Democratic Primaries and Caucuses across this country prove the American people are screaming WE WANT A DEMOCRAT! Let's not allow a divisive primary to destroy our chances of winning back the White House."

New 2008 Officers

Cory L. Shawver - President

Brandi Schnell - Vice President

Chase Ritenauer - Exec. Director

Rebekah Litteral - Treasurer

James Ward - Secretary

LCYD Members win Central Committee Races



Lorain—Two Young Democrats faced opposition in their races for Precinct Committeeman. Greg Holcomb in Lorain 6-C and Brian Dembinski in Sheffield Lake 4A both won their races this past Tuesday. Brian was running in his first political race and used it as a learning experience for a possible future in politics. Greg Holcomb, a veteran councilman, easily secured a victor with over 60% of the vote.

Other LCYD members who were unopposed were;

Paul Adams - Lorain 5-F

Adam Bryda - Amherst Township #4

Jose Candelario - Lorain 7-F

Brandi Schnell - North Ridgeville 1-D

Andy Young - North Ridgeville 2-E

Members Greg Haynes, Marcus Madison, John Leonard will seek appointment to vacancies in their precincts.

On election night Chase Ritenauer also won re-election in an unopposed race for state central committee. He will serve another 2 year term representing Lorain, Huron and Seneca Counties in Columbus.

Congratulations to all the Young Dems who have been elected to serve as members of the county central committee. It is these small positions that are the building blocks of the party and now Young Dems will have a seat at the table!

New Executive Dir. a familiar face

Lorain - Back in 2002 Chase Ritenauer served as the founding President of the Lorain County Young Democrats. His vision and leadership helped create the organization we know today. At the request of our new President, Cory Shawver, he has chosen to return to a leadership position with the LCYD.

In his new role as Executive Director he will have authority over the administration of all committees and will be responsible for drafting the 2008 budget. Chase brings an incredible amount of experience and leadership abilities with him. He currently serves with Mayor Krasienko as an administrative assistant. The formal process for his appointment to the

position of Executive Director will begin later this month.

The appointment by the president will need the approval of a majority vote at the upcoming general meeting. However, there is no question that the vote to approve will most likely be unanimous.



Chase Ritenauer, New Executive Dir.

Young Dems Consider Candidates in Judicial Race

Lorain- The Democratic Primary race for Lorain County Common Pleas Court Domestic Relations Judge is now in its final stretch. The two Democratic candidates, Jim Walther and Honey Rothschild, and the Republican running in the Democratic Primary, Paulette Lilly have been very busy campaigning.

It seems that everywhere you look you see Jim Walther's smiling face on some billboard or sign. Honey Rothschild, not to be outdone, has been running ads on WEOL. Walther said that he also plans on running radio ads as well as T.V. ads and two mailers. Ms. Rothschild and Ms. Lilly have also been busy putting up yard signs.

I decided to ask the members of the Lorain County Young Democrats what they thought about the race and who they would be casting their ballots for. LCYD Executive Director Adam Bryda said, "As A Democrat from Lorain County I am supporting Jim Walther for Judge because he is a good Democrat and works hard for Democrats around Lorain County and also he is a REAL Democrat".

Incoming LCYD Vice President Brandi (Mitchell) Schnell said that her reasons were almost the same. She felt the Mr. Walther was the only REAL Democrat and she said she does not approve of Ms. Lilly's party "flip-flopping". She also felt that after being active in the Democratic Party for as many years as she has been, she should have seen Ms. Rothschild at some event. She said that since she had not, she felt that Ms. Rothschild was not an, "active Democratic Party supporter."

Although most of the members of LCYD planned to support Jim Walther the one message that was heard over and over was that everyone highly disapproves of Paulette Lilly's claim that she is a Democrat.

Judicial Race Results

Jim Walther 46.22%

Paulette Lilly 38.10%

Honey Rothschild 15.68%

Jim Walther will only face an Independent candidate in November. No Republican sought their party nomination.

President's Comments



Paul Adams

Former LCYD President

Today I leave an organization that is strong and I have confidence in the new officer team our new President, Cory Shawver, will lead.

Thank You!

This will be my last article as the President of the Lorain County Young Democrats. I would like to take this final opportunity to thank the members of the LCYD and those in the party who have been so supportive over the past few years.

When I joined the LCYD in the summer of 2003 I didn't think that within a year I would serve as the President of the organization. Looking back now 2004, my first year as president, was a curtail crossroads for the organization. We could have very easily fallen out of existence as so many Young Dem chapters in Lorain County had in the past. With a few hundred dollars in the treasury in the treasury and 3 members at my first meeting, things didn't look well. However, we slowly built a strong officer team that lead the organization to rebuild membership and put us on a solid financial footing. That original officer team, Dan Ramos, Eva Wolkowitz, Greg Holcomb, Brandi Schnell, and myself ensured the LCYD wouldn't disappear again.

Today I leave an organization that is strong and I have confidence in the new officer team our new President, Cory Shawver, will lead. Cory will certainly bring a new style to the organization, but his political connections and love of politics will only benefit the organization now that he is the President.

A lot of experience will be brought in when the new team takes office. Four of the five new officers have served as officers before and our founding president has chosen to return and take the position as Executive Director.

I challenge the new leaders of the LCYD to take the organization to the next step. In this crucial election year the energy and inspiration of the Young Dems will be needed more than ever. Never waiver, always hope, and don't be afraid to dream!

LCYD Letter on Republicans—sent out this past January

Over the past few years Republicans have increased their efforts to deceive the voters of Lorain County and the Lorain County Young Democrats believe enough is enough. The entrance of Republicans Paulette Lilly and Thomas Hesmond into the upcoming Democratic Primary is just the latest round of hypocrisy. We have seen members of their party run as Independents or in Democratic Primaries all over the county, just to increase their odds of winning. Unfortunately, in a few cases it has worked and has only encouraged this type of behavior to continue.

The voters of Lorain County choose Democrats because they agree with the fundamental principles of our party. They expect that when they see candidates running in our primary elections that those candidates hold our principles. If Republicans in Lorain County are ashamed to let the voters know who they are and what they stand for, then why should we allow them to hide behind our party label and lie to the voters. Why should we not mobilize against this travesty?

The Lorain County Young Democrats endorse Kenneth Carney for County Engineer in the 2008 Primary Election. Ken has been a loyal Democrat over the years and we support his re-election bid.

The Lorain County Young Democrats denounce the entrance of Paulette Lilly into the Democratic race for County Judge and urge the voters to support one of the real Democrats in the race. As a registered Republican and former Republican judge it is impossible to understand how she can represent the ideology of our party.

The Lorain County Young Democrats view this as a major issue, not only because these are truly lies to the voters, but because our political careers are in the not too distant future. We see a trend that, if not stopped, may redraw the political landscape in Lorain County. We live in a county where a Democrat is a Democrat and we want to keep it that way!

We call upon all the organizations within the party to follow the lead of the County Executive Committee and the Lorain County Young Democrats by endorsing Ken Carney and opposing Paulette Lilly's candidacy this year. However, that fight doesn't end there. We all need to show our support through donations, helping campaign, and simply getting the word out to family and friends. Join us in denouncing hypocrisy!

Leadership - LCYD

Cory Shawver

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Brandi Schnell

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Rebekah Litteral

Treasurer
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James Ward

Secretary
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Lorain County Young Democrats

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Keep track of upcoming LCYD Meetings!

March

LCYD March General Meeting

Date: March 24th, Monday

Time: 6:00 Reception
6:30 Officer swearing in
7:00 Meeting

Location: Lorain County Democratic
Party HQ
730 North Ridge Rd. East
Lorain, OH 44055

April

LCYD April General Meeting

Date: April 21st, Monday

Time: 6:30 Pop & Pizza
7:00 Meeting

Location: Lorain County Democratic
Party HQ
730 North Ridge Rd. East
Lorain, OH 44055

May

LCYD May General Meeting

Date: TBA

**President Shawver to announce a
new meeting schedule soon*

Political Events

For a complete list of events please visit the county party website's calendar;

<http://www.loraincountymunicipalparty.com/events.asp>

RaNdOm StUFFs

LCYD Members Marcus Madison and James Ward helped as election day technicians during the election this past March 4th. Young Dems serving as elections workers is a great learning experience for these and members who have done it in the past.

Incoming President Shawver will be announcing committee assignments soon, along with other appointments.

Our new Executive Director Chase Ritenauer is hard at work putting together this coming years budget. More information will be provided to members over the next month.



... FRIENDS
DON'T LET
FRIENDS
VOTE
REPUBLICAN...