

*Read all about our  
 contested race for  
 ACDC chair: Page 5*



## *Dems lose House of Delegates big time, but by small margins*

The Democratic goal of taking a majority of 51 seats in the 100-seat House of Delegates was shattered in the November balloting as the party suffered a stunning net loss of six seats.

The outcome yet again proved the importance of solid campaigning and of a strong Get Out TheVote (GOTV) effort in non-federal years as four of those seats were lost by only a hair.

Overall, the GOP defeated eight Democrats, three by walloping margins and four by hair's breadth margins—one by just 14 votes. Democrats picked up two seats, both by comfortable though not walloping margins. The accompanying table on Page 7 shows all the seats that were lost.

Here are the Democratic margins of defeat in percentage terms for each of the eight losses ranked in order of degree: 19.10%; 15.06%; 14.28%; 5.40%; 1.73%; 1.70%; 0.97%; and 0.09%.

Those last two races should have been won and the next two could have been won, while the first three were blowouts where the Democratic candidate stood no chance of victory.

The election in Virginia Beach was certified as a 14-vote Republican victory; a recount could reverse that.

The two seats picked up were won by margins of 8.34% and 4.08%. If Democrats had won the four very close races, the party would have lost only a net of two seats this year, instead of having been pushed back on its heels with a net of six losses.

In statewide races, all three Democrats suffered a shellacking. There was a lot of talk but little consensus over what went wrong. Many complained that gubernatorial candidate Creigh Deeds was a bad candidate who didn't know how to run a state-

*continued on page seven*

*Then read how our  
 outgoing chair,  
 "Pete" Rousselot,  
 got his start in poli-  
 tics: Page 9*



## *Redistricting horror looming*

Redistricting will come to Virginia after the 2010 census, and it may not be pretty, according to a panel discussion held at the Arlington Civic Federation November 10. Robert Ruiz of the Arlington County Planning Division noted that Arlington's share of Virginia's population will fall slightly, from 2.7% to 2.6%. This means that Arlington will be entitled to slightly less representation in the General Assembly and in Congress. At the end of 2010, the Virginia General Assembly and governor are required to agree on updated locations and boundaries of the districts for General Assembly delegates and senators, and for the U.S. Congress.

Although there is a nominal public process for determining what district boundaries should look like, in reality the political parties (or party, if only one is in power) control the process behind closed doors. According to former Arlington Delegate Marian Van Landingham, "There are hearings, but basically the parties decide what they are going to do." Van Landingham believes that the boundary-making process in Virginia next year is likely to be controlled almost entirely by Republicans, even though the state Senate has a two-vote Democratic margin.

Kimball Brace, of Election Data Systems, explained that redistricting is "a very contentious time." Redistricting "brings out the worst in people, the very worst," agreed Van Landingham. How-

*continued on page six*

## *Two-man race on for ACDC chair*

It appears there will be a very unusual contested race for chairman of ACDC next month. Both **Bob Platt** and **Mike Lieberman** have declared their candidacies for the two-year term to be elected Jan. 6.

Both candidates' election statements appear on Page Five of this issue.

And the Call explaining all the draft rules for the election of officers, and, before that, the election of precinct representatives (captains) is laid out on Page Six.

An optional form for those wishing to run for precinct representative will be posted on the ACDC website, <http://www.ArlingtonDemocrats.org>, after the voting rules are adopted at the Dec. 2 meeting.

*And then learn about  
 what an old, old chair,  
 Larry Roberts, went  
 on to do after finishing  
 his term in 2001: Page  
 10*



**Report from Chairman Peter Rousselot*****Bipartisanship revisited, Virginia-style***

At the time I wrote my March 2009 Chair's Column, the U.S. House of Representatives had just passed President Obama's economic stimulus plan without a single Republican vote. That development set off an extensive national debate regarding whether or not President Obama had abandoned his campaign promises to be bipartisan.

In the context of this national debate, I wrote in that column:

"To retain the public support he needs to drive his progressive agenda through Congress, President Obama should make clear that the GOP bears a heavy burden to offer something new and positive—in light of the mess the Bush Administration left behind. Obama should be on the alert for any GOP ideas that truly are new and positive, adopt such ideas if he finds any, and point to their adoption as evidence of his bipartisanship. If the Republicans persist in advancing the same old bankrupt ideas, then President Obama should continue to reject those ideas, but should very publicly continue to reach out to the GOP.

Obama should be up front with the American people that this is exactly what he is going to do, but should be clear that he absolutely is NOT 'going to meet the Republicans half way' regarding any of their ideas or policies that are proven failures."

Fast forward to Virginia circa December 2009.

Virginia Republicans swept to victory in the three statewide races this year, and increased their margin of control in the Virginia House of Delegates. Governor-elect McDonnell and the Virginia Republican Party certainly will do anything it can to subvert the tenuous Democratic control in the Virginia State Senate. The effects of the Bush recession continue to hurt most Virginians, and the Virginia state government budget is under serious pressure from multiple declining revenue forecasts.

In this political and economic environment, large numbers of voters in Virginia, particularly independent voters, are looking for practical solutions to the state's many fiscal

problems.

I strongly believe that the advice I had for President Obama in March applies just as much to Virginia Democratic legislators in December. You need to strike a principled balance. On the one hand, voters want to see you trying to govern and solve common problems effectively and with common sense. On the other hand, both Democratic and independent voters admire, respect, and vote for politicians who stand for a core set of principles, make clear what those are, and act on them.

As a Virginia Democratic legislator, you need to send the message that you have such core principles, and explain what they are. If you do that effectively, then you can and should stand up proudly and vote "NO" on those proposals forwarded on to you by Bob McDonnell and the Virginia Republican Party which are fundamentally at odds with your and the Virginia Democratic Party's core philosophy.

Not only is this the right thing to do, this is the politically savvy thing to do to position Virginia Democrats for a comeback in 2011 when all the Virginia legislative seats will next be up for election.

***The next Virginia election is upon us***

On November 3, Ken Cuccinelli was elected attorney general. He will resign his seat in the Senate as of January 16. The Virginia Democratic Senate Caucus that I chair is committed to a vigorous campaign to elect a Democrat to this seat.

Our current majority is 21-19, a slim margin that needs to be strengthened as we will be the only Democratic voice in the coming sessions and for redistricting in 2011. This special election in a fairly Democratic district is a great opportunity for us.

To succeed, we need your help! The Republicans are emboldened by the results of the recent election, and we will need to put all our energy and funds into this race.

We will be letting you know of volunteer opportunities in the near future and on December 12 you are invited to participate in a fundraising event at my home from 4-6 p.m. For more information, call 703-534-9211 or email at [laaspin@comcast.net](mailto:laaspin@comcast.net).

*Senator Mary Margaret Whipple*

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*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the ACDC unless expressly approved by an appropriate Committee Resolution*

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## Next Monthly Meeting All Dems Invited

Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 7 p.m.

NRECA Building, 4301 Wilson Blvd

Corner of North Taylor and Wilson, just east of Glebe & Wilson  
Free parking under building, enter from Taylor Street

In advance of retiring in January after four years as chair of ACDC, Peter Rousselot will address the committee on, "The Seven Most Important Things I Learned as Party Chair."

## Bumper Sticker of the Month

**He won.  
Get Over it.**

# Arlington still deep blue despite state's slip

Democratic candidates won every single one of the 306 contests in the county on election day.

Elections are contested precinct-by-precinct and every local Democratic candidate and every statewide candidate won every one of the 51 precincts in the county for a clean sweep.

Countywide, the ticket leader was, of course, School Board candidate **James Lander**, who ran unopposed and pulled in 96.7 percent of the vote. The four other countywide candidates were all clustered very closely with only 2 percentage points separating them:

AG—Steve Shannon	67.5%
LtGv—Jody Wagner	67.4%
CB—Jay Fisette	66.3%
Gov—Creigh Deeds	65.5%

The closeness indicated considerable straight-ticket voting.

What was most curious, however, was that the Green Party candidate, running against **Jay Fisette** garnered more than one-third of

the votes, while Green Party candidates are normally down in single digits.

It appears that Arlington doesn't have so much a Republican opposition as an anti-Democratic opposition. The opposition voters went GOP where there was a GOP candidate, but voted Green where that was the only opposition. Here are the opposition numbers from the seven races in the county where Democrats faced opponents.

	Gov	LtGv	AG	CB	45 <sup>th</sup>	47 <sup>th</sup>	48 <sup>th</sup>
GOP	34.3	32.5	32.4	—	35.4	31.7	37.6
Green	—	—	—	31.7	—	4.6	—
Write-in	.2	.1	.1	2.1	.1	.1	.1
TOTAL	34.5	32.6	32.5	33.8	35.5	36.4	37.7

The County Board race drew as much "opposition" as the other races even though there was no GOP candidate on the ballot. And the GOP candidate in the 47<sup>th</sup> Delegate District drew the lowest Republican percentage where there was also a Green candidate.

The totals suggest the Republican voters will vote Green where there is no GOP candidate and the Green voters will vote Republican where there is no Green candidate. Basically, they are best described as anti-Democratic voters.

Turnout was a problem, not surprisingly. Virginia and New Jersey are the only states that hold gubernatorial elections in the year after a presidential race. There are no federal candidates on the ballot to help draw out voters. The result is that voter turnout falls—precipitously. The GOP vote for governor this year was down 35% from the GOP vote for president last year—but the Democratic vote was down 53%.

That would suggest the main Democratic problem was getting out the vote. But that's not the whole story. Make the same comparison with the Arlington vote totals in 2005, the last gubernatorial year. The Democratic gubernatorial vote this year was down 13 percent compared to 2005, while the GOP vote was UP 42 percent.

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Arlington Chamber of Commerce

## AYDs unveil their 2009 Top Ten List

It's hard to believe the 2009 AYD year is about to end. This year we've experienced our share of triumphs as well as some "teachable" tribulations. While there are many ways to capture AYD's year-in-review, I thought it would be best to sum up the year through a Top Ten list. Drum-roll, please...

### Top Ten Reasons Why Arlington Young Dems Ensured 2009 Was Not The Year Of The Elephant:

10. Impressively, AYD called approximately 9,000 voters for the Democratic ticket—and were only hung-up on 1,000 times.

9. Due to the miles walked door-knocking at over 4,000 homes, we probably should have entered The Office's version of The Biggest Loser.

8. Our GOTV efforts to the Jefferson retirement community ensured that one resident voted on NOV 3 instead of DEC 3 which was marked on her calendar as "Voting day for Deeds."

7. AYD "partied" with, I mean got to know, our local elected officials through the "Coffee with an Elected" program.

6. AYD boosted its social skills by creating the Director of Retention who led us to all sorts of fun activities from jazz fests to '80s movies, and, of course, happy hours.

5. We kept a close eye on our beloved County Board Members by appointing an AYD County Board Liaison.

4. AYD almost became WWE fighters at the Moran Health Care Town Hall, as we sent over 30 members to stand-up for Health Care Reform and the Public Option against the aggressive opposition.

3. AYD once again played Cupid and fostered Democratic romance through the annual date auction. Maybe this is a new fundraising venture we should consider in the future—democraticlove.com?

2. AYD embraced its diversity by promoting five active caucuses – African-American, Women, Latino, Asian-Pacific, and LGTB.

1. AYD is the only organization where a white male is a minority—eight out of nine elected positions are held by women.

On behalf of AYD, I want to thank all the Arlington Democrats for their incredible support of the organization. We look forward to the new successes in 2010.

Democratically yours, **Sarah Godlewski**, President, AYDs

# Donkey Ears

Listening to the doings  
of Arlington's Dems

as overheard by  
**Dan Steen and Warren Nelson**



**Another tragic loss:** Dollars for Democrats Chairman **Warren Nelson** is saddened to report that this year's \$4Dems drive missed its goal of \$8,000. The total gross was \$7,999.85. "I was stunned that we didn't make our target," Warren moaned. He asks anyone who would like to relieve the pain to please "scotch tape a nickel and a dime to sheet of paper" and mail it to \$4Dems, ACDC, PO Box 7132, Arlington VA 22207.

**Hard row to hoe:** A *Washington Post* article before the balloting quoted ever-hard-working **Kip Malinosky** in an article on how hard it was to get campaign volunteers this year compared to last year. "I've been pulling every trick I can think of to get people involved," Malinosky said. "I've tried inspiring. I've tried anger. I've tried guilt-tripping. We've organized pizza nights. It's just very difficult."

**Bookish:** Long-time volunteer **Chuck Toftoy** has found time in between lit drops to craft a fiction-thriller, "It's In The Eyes," that is set in Arlington. Toftoy spoke and held a book signing event recently at the Barnes & Noble in Clarendon. The book features many Arlington sites, from the Silver Diner and Pasha's to Arlington Cemetery and the Virginia Hospital Center and up-and-down Wilson Boulevard.

**Passages:** Paul Morroy, father of Commissioner of Revenue **Ingrid Morroy**, has passed away at the age of 90. The senior Morroy, a veteran of World War II, died on Veterans Day.

**Retirement:** Since 1989, former ACDC Chair **Fred Berghoefer** has served on the Arlington County Electoral Board, which oversees balloting in the county. He and his wife Louise are about to move into a retirement community in Fairfax County, so he has submitted his resignation from the board. The timing—while Tim Kaine remains governor—means another Democrat will be named to the Board, maintaining a 2-1 Democratic majority. **Charlene Bickford**, another former ACDC chair, is the other Dem on the Board.

**From the Forest to the Knolls:** Former Precinct Ops Vice Chair **Jesse Rosenthal**, with wife Stacy and their young sons, Will and Ben, have moved to Overlee Knolls after many years enjoying the Arlington Forest neighborhood. The Rosentals are relieved to have survived the months-long home selling, buying and moving crucible and look forward to settling into a bit of a larger space for their growing family.

**Promotion:** ACDC Deputy Chair **Alfonso Lopez** has been elected one of 75 at-large members of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Alfonso was one of four Virginians elected at the recent DNC meeting in Austin, Texas. In addition to the at-large members, the DNC also includes four state-elected members from Virginia, one of whom has been Arlington's **Frank Leone** for the past two years.

**Passages:** Long time Dem activist **Lawrence J. Latto** passed away at the age of 89 just after the elections. Forty years ago, back when precinct captains were on the primary ballot, Larry and his wife Roslyn were elected from Aurora Hills in 1969. A lawyer, Larry was also the first chairman of the Arlington Human Rights Commission and developed the commission's procedures. In 1999, he was the first winner of the county's Jim Hunter Human Rights Award for his work on the commission.

# Contest for ACDC chair coming up

ACDC rules require a reorganization of the committee every two years, including election of new officers and a new steering committee. This takes place in January of even-numbered years which means there will be a reorganization next month—January 2010. (Gosh—wasn't Y2K just a couple of years ago?) See the draft Call to Caucus on the next page.

Current and two-term ACDC Chair **Peter Rousselot** announced earlier this year that he was not going to seek re-election. Two long-time ACDC stalwarts—current Finance Chair **Mike Lieberman** and current Parliamentarian and Resolutions Committee Chair **Bob Platt**—are seeking election to succeed Rousselot. Their announcements are here.

## Mike Lieberman

## Bob Platt

With this letter, I announce my candidacy for Chair of the Arlington County Democratic Committee. Over the past seven years, I have had the privilege of working with many of you as Campaign Manager for Walter Tejada, President of the Arlington Young Democrats, Precinct Captain in Buckingham and Ballston, and, for the past two years, as Finance Director for ACDC.

Our success in Arlington speaks for itself. I am proud that every elected office in Arlington is occupied by a Democrat. I am proud that during my time as Finance Director, we have had the two most successful fundraising years in ACDC history. And I am proud that ACDC continues to provide a vibrant and active community for those who share our progressive values.

We do a lot of things right in ACDC, and as Chair, I would not propose wholesale change. But we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. I therefore propose three simple but significant tweaks to help ensure ACDC stays on the cutting edge of party organizing:

(1) *Identify our voters* – Our precinct operations team is very effective at turning out the Democratic voters we know, but Arlington voters are constantly changing. As Chair, I will organize an off-season voter ID drive to make sure we know who to turn out on Election Day.

(2) *Retain our new members* – Involvement starts with incorporating newcomers into the ACDC community. I therefore propose establishing a Retention Committee aimed at greeting new volunteers at ACDC events, discovering what brought them out, and providing social and volunteer outlets based on their feedback.

(3) *Embrace technology* – To realize our full potential, we must explore and incorporate new technologies into our Committee operations. Technology is not a substitute for old-fashioned voter contact, but it can help us reach our volunteers, voters, and donors more regularly, more quickly, and more affordably.

I am honored and humbled to have the endorsement of current ACDC Chair **Peter Rousselot**, Deputy Chair **Alfonso Lopez**, Precinct Operations Chair **Maureen Markham**, AYD President **Sarah Godlewski**, 10 of Arlington's elected officials, 26 members of the ACDC Steering Committee, 4 former ACDC Chairs, and many others.

I seek the position of Chair because I believe I can help make sure Democratic successes continue in Arlington, and that ACDC remains the hard-working, effective, and fun organization we know and love. On January 6, I respectfully ask for your support and your vote.



I am running for Chair to improve our already strong organization. I pledge to

- Reemphasize and strengthen our Precinct Operations
- Make ACDC equally inviting to volunteers of all ages
- Expand our use of social media and electronic communications
- Increase our volunteer recognition and social events
- Conduct interesting monthly meetings
- Find a new permanent office and relocate to it with minimum disruption.

As Chair, I would be inclusive and would actively recruit new volunteers. I would ensure that necessary tasks get completed without micromanaging our volunteers. I will lead ACDC in a well-organized, coordinated way, but with volunteers having fun in the process.

With our loss of the statewide offices, ACDC must join the loyal opposition by working with our Arlington Delegation and by educating the voters about the Democratic values at stake in Richmond. If necessary, ACDC could organize mass lobbying trips to Richmond.

I have been active in ACDC for almost 20 years as a Precinct Captain and for most of two decades on the Steering Committee. I have worked on almost every aspect of ACDC, including Parliamentarian, Legal Counsel, Sergeant at Arms, Newsletter layout, Webmaster, School Board Caucus Director, and Resolutions Committee Chair. I have also represented ACDC on Arlington's Campaign Sign task force and on the 8<sup>th</sup> District Platform Committee. I have served on the Joint Campaigns: designing printed media, planning gold card events, organizing Metro stop voter registration, mailing to absentee voters, and other tasks. I am currently Area Chair for the Southeast. I have been a delegate to 6 State Conventions and served on a state Credentials Committee.

I was Chemistry major at Cornell University and graduated from its law school. I served for 5 years as president of a 1,300 member volunteer organization, and served 4 years on Cornell's Board of Trustees. I have been a patent lawyer and an energy lawyer.

I have reached the point in my career where I can devote a majority of my time to serving as ACDC Chair, and I ask that you entrust me with this task for the next two years.



## **Arlington County Democratic Committee Call for Caucus to Elect Precinct Representatives and Election of Officers**

*This draft call has been approved by the Steering Committee and will be presented to the ACDC for approval at its December 2, 2009, meeting. Following approval, it, along with the Rules for the Caucus, will be available on the ACDC website as of December 3, 2009, at [www.ArlingtonDemocrats.org](http://www.ArlingtonDemocrats.org).*

The Arlington County Democratic Committee (ACDC) hereby calls a caucus on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at the NRECA Conference Center, 4301 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, Virginia, for the purpose of electing Precinct Representatives of the ACDC.

To be eligible for election as a Precinct Representative by the participants of the caucus, individuals must deliver (i) written notice of their intent to seek election, specifying their precinct, and (ii) a non-refundable filing fee of \$25 (payable to ACDC) to the Chair of the ACDC, Peter Rousselot, or his designated representative, at ACDC Headquarters, **2009 14<sup>th</sup> Street N, Suite 612**, Arlington, VA 22201, by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2009. The fee may be waived by the Chair upon writ-

ten request received prior to the filing deadline.

In order to certify the eligibility of a candidate for election as a Precinct Representative, the Chair shall ascertain that he or she is a resident of and registered to vote in the precinct in Arlington County for which he or she seeks election; is a Democrat; does not intend to support, endorse, or assist any candidate who is opposed to a Democratic nominee or endorsee; and is not a member of any other political party. Two Precinct Representatives may be elected from each precinct in Arlington County, and each of the 14 precincts that cast the most votes for the Democratic candidate for Governor in the 2009 General Election may elect a third Precinct Representative.

Any Arlington voter who certifies that: 1) he or she is a resident of and registered to vote in the precinct in Arlington County, Virginia; 2) is a Democrat; 3) does not intend to support, endorse, or assist any candidate who is opposed to a Democratic nominee or endorsee; and 4) is not a member of any other political party, may participate in the caucus. Participants may vote only for the Precinct Representatives for the pre-

cedent in which they are registered.

Only those Precinct Representatives elected at this caucus will be eligible to vote for the officers of the Arlington County Democratic Committee at its January 6, 2010, Reorganization Meeting.

Immediately following the caucus, ACDC will hold its Reorganizational Meeting to elect the following officers: Chair, Deputy Chair, Precinct Operations Chair, Finance Chair, Press and Public Relations Chair, Outreach and Visibility Co-Chairs, Communications Director, Newsletter Editor, Volunteer Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Parliamentarian.

Candidates for office wishing to have their names listed on the ballot for one or more of these offices shall deliver written notice of their intent to seek election, specifying the office(s) that they seek, with the Chair of the ACDC, Peter Rousselot, or his designated representative, at ACDC Headquarters, **2009 14<sup>th</sup> Street N, Suite 612**, Arlington, VA 22201, by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2009. No filing fee is required to seek ACDC office.

## **Challenge of redistricting dead ahead**

*continued from page one*

ever, she suggested the result for Arlington districts may be that they become safer than ever for Democrats if Republicans organize our districts in combination with heavily Democratic areas from Fairfax, Falls Church and Alexandria. Republicans may do this in order to remove Democrats from the remaining districts in Fairfax County so they become more competitive for Republicans.

One consequence of party-focused redistricting is that district boundaries are more likely to cross jurisdictional lines. Van Landingham said it is challenging for legislators to represent more than one district, because the number of constituencies they need to keep up with makes great demands on their time. When she was a delegate, the boundaries of her district (the 45<sup>th</sup>, now represented by **David Englin**) were changed to include parts of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County.

Brace emphasized that the one thing under citizen control is ensuring that the Census fully and accurately counts Arlington's

population. "The key is to send back the [Census] form," to avoid requiring census workers to visit many homes to make sure everyone is counted. The Census also determines Arlington's share of a variety of federal fund-

ing formulas. He also pointed out that the legislature may not have the final word on redistricting. "We go through a legislative process, and then we go through a court process," he said.

**Sue Gruskiewicz**  
Investment Representative

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# *Dems lose big in delegate races but by small margins, signaling more footwork needed*

*continued from page one*

wide race. But four years ago, he lost the statewide race for attorney general to the same Bob McDonnell by just 323 votes and in June Deeds creamed two experienced campaigners in the Democratic primary.

Furthermore, it wasn't just Deeds who lost. None of the three statewide candidates reached 44 percent. Lieutenant governor candidate Jody Wagner was just 2.15 percentage points ahead of Deeds while attorney general nominee Steve Shannon was just 1.14 percentage points ahead. And the party lost that net of six seats in the House of Delegates. It was bad across-the-board.

The most popular media interpretation was that voters had turned against President Obama and made Democrats pay for it. But polls do not show Obama to be unpopular and most voters are capable of distinguishing state and federal issues. (In the only two federal elections held in November, Democrats won both, including picking up a House seat in upstate New York that no Democrat had held since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.)

Others attributed the Deeds loss to excessive negative campaigning, or to the fact that McDonnell had a simple message and stuck to it, or to the draining Democratic primary, which meant McDonnell—who faced no primary—got off to a flying start last June while Deeds spent 90 days playing catchup and seeking to fill his depleted campaign treasury.

Still, the bottom line was that the loss

was not just a Deeds' loss, but a party loss across the board.

This House of Delegates election had special significance because this legislature will re-draw the boundaries of state senators, state delegates and U.S. representatives. Ten years ago, the GOP took control of both houses of the General Assembly and used that power to draw boundaries designed to disadvantage the Democratic party by shoving as many Democrats as possible into districted ghettos. (See a related story on redistricting starting on Page One.)

That ploy worked very well in 2001, the first election under the new districts. Democrats lost a net of 13 seats in the House of Delegates. But in the 2003 elections, Democrats began to claw their way back and won an increasing number of delegate seats in each successive election until this year. (See table at right.)

The GOP will hold the governor's mansion and the House of Delegates during next year's redistricting battles. But the Democratic party holds a two-seat majority in the Senate and may be able to foil any egregious re-districting ploys. (There are two new vacancies in the state Senate as a result of incumbent senators being elected to other offices in November. But both of those seats are currently held by Republicans so the Democratic majority is not in danger.)

The Democratic loss in the delegate races was essentially an unraveling of the Democratic gains of the previous four years. Every one of the defeated Democrats had been

<b>House of Delegates</b>	
<b>Election Year</b>	<b>Dem Seats</b>
1997	50
1999	47
2001	34
2003	37
2005	40
2007	45
2009	39
2011	??

elected for the first time in either 2005 or 2007.

The two Democratic pickups were both special cases. In Newport News, Democrat Robin Abbott beat Phil Hamilton, who is under an ethics investigation for seeking a job with Old Dominion University while shepherding a bill through the legislature to fund the position he sought.

In Prince William County, Democrat Luke Torian picked up the open seat held by retiring Republican Jeff Frederick, who was deposed as state GOP chairman last spring in a nasty intramural bloodletting that left many Republicans disheartened.

## *2009 Dem losses to GOP in Virginia House of Delegates*

<b>District Number</b>	<b>GOP Winner</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Dem Incumbent</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Terms</b>	<b>GOP margin</b>	<b>District Locale</b>
03	Will Morefield	8,665	Dan Bowling	6,499	2	14.28%	Buchanan County, far SW
21	Ron Villanueva	7,673	Bobby Mathieson	7,659	1	0.09%	Virginia Beach
23	Scott Garrett	10,813	Shannon Valentine	10,604	2	0.97%	Lynchburg
32	Tag Greason	14,552	David Poisson	10,739	2	15.06%	Loudoun County
34	Barbara Comstock	12,636	Margi Vanderhye	12,214	1	1.70%	Fairfax County, just north of Arl
51	Richard Anderson	7,940	Paul Nichols	7,671	1	1.73%	Prince William County
67	James LeMunyon	10,857	Charles Caputo	9,743	2	5.40%	Fairfax County
83	Chris Stolle	9,347	Joseph Bouchard	6,346	1	19.10%	Virginia Beach

# Thank you to those who made the Arlington sweep a thing of beauty

Many thanks to the volunteers and voters who helped in my campaign this year! We had a successful team effort that included many candidate forums, mailings and events

– including a fabulous kick-off at Signature Theatre and a successful Democratic Dinner & Auction. And let's not forget the touching personal postcard message from Cassie and Chocco - my dogs. I can't say enough about those two!



But I especially want to single out the two workhorses of the campaign, my campaign manager Jody Olson and campaign treasurer Betsey Wildhack. I relied on them heavily and they were terrific from the beginning to the end.

While the state took a step backward on Election Day, the results in our own Arlington County reinforced this community's commitment to good government. Thanks, again, to the best Democratic Committee in Virginia. I look forward to continuing to work with all of you to make Arlington even better.

*Jay*

Thank you to the people of the 47th District for giving me the honor and privilege to represent them as their next Delegate. I especially want to thank the numerous HOPE supporters who combined years of political experience with the energy of many first time enthusiasts. Virginia faces challenging times ahead and I'm committed to representing Arlington's values in Richmond.



While other election results were disappointing, Arlington's commitment to protecting our environment, ensuring adequate funding for our public schools and colleges, and expanding transportation options must continue. We must also remain vigilant to protect our most vulnerable populations to ensure our homeless have

safe and decent housing, our seniors have adequate services to remain at home, all Virginians have access to quality health care, and people with disabilities have services and treatments that allow them to thrive.

I promise to protect these principles and look forward to serving the 47th District.

*Pat*

## From the Joint

The Joint Campaign (JC) Co-Chairs: **Chris Zimmerman, Krysta Jones, and Kim Klingler** would like to thank everyone for their efforts in Keeping Arlington Blue! The ACDC JC would like to give special thanks to the following leads and their hard working and dedicated teams:

### OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS

Thanks to Chris Gill, Jordan Higgins, Arielle Holland, & Brian Devine for their leadership in scheduling events and facilitating effective communications.

### FINANCE & EVENT PLANNING

Thanks to Virginia Robinson, Amaka Gossett, Kate Mesches, Jen Amore, Ingrid Morroy, Jean Crawford, Amy Lewis, Madi Green, Mike Lieberman, and the Kitchen Crew for planning, fundraising, managing the budget, and executing the Chili Cook-Off, Vintages for Virginia, Golden Gala, and Dollars for Democrats.

### TARGETING & FIELD OPERATIONS

Thanks to Carrie Johnson, Chris Jones, Peter Owen, Nancy Pilchen, Maureen Markham, Paul Ashin, Carol Fontein, Lauren Hall, Jim McBride, Bob Platt, Charley Conrad, Kip Malinosky, and Chris Mehrabi for their work regarding precinct operations, absentee voter contact, metro flyering, median signs, phone banking, canvassing, and election day activities.

### DESIGN & PRINTING

Thanks to Amanda Brino and Mike Anderson for designing, printing, and mailing the grip cards, sample ballots, targeted postcards, and event invitations.

### OUTREACH, VISIBILITY & VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Steve Baker, Atima Omara Alwala, Marj Signer, Libby Garvey Ana Gabilondo, Carolina Espinal, Shaun Edwards, Alexandra Beninda, Carol Fontain, Brian Straw, Marj Signer, Marge Epstein & Nancy Pilchen, Gordon Simonett, and Therese Griffin for coordinating and executing visibility, outreach, and celebration activities.

Finally, a big thank you to ACDC Chair Peter Rousselot, AYD Executive Committee, our Candidates, and our Electeds!

Many thanks to Arlington Democrats for your hard work and dedication during this year's campaigns. While elsewhere Election Day was not what we had hoped, you made sure that Arlington's tradition of responsible, progressive leadership – Democratic leadership – continues as strong as ever.

The two lessons I hope we learn most from this year's races are: 1) We must always give people something to be for, and not just against. We have been so successful in Arlington not just because we're not the other guys, but because we continue to offer a compelling and positive vision for the future and ideas to turn that vision into reality; and 2) We should never apologize for being Democrats or for our progressive approach to solving our nation's problems, which rests on the very principles of equality and justice upon which our nation was founded.

With your ongoing energy and commitment, I am confident that our positive, progressive vision for the future ultimately will prevail. Thank you!

*David*

Despite setbacks elsewhere in the state, Election Day in the 48<sup>th</sup> District was a strong affirmation of Arlington values and "the Virginia we want to be." My re-election margin turned out to be over 6,000 votes, and I deeply appreciate the efforts of everyone who made that victory possible: my long-time volunteer manager and treasurer, Tom Connolly and Madi Green; Aileen Whitfill, who handled scheduling and a thousand other things; Shannon Craig Straw, Wordsmith Extraordinaire; the YDs and Kitchen Crew who helped make my fundraiser with Governor Kaine at Sharon and Adam Levin's home such a success; and all those good Arlington Democrats who helped me reach out to the 48<sup>th</sup> District's voters at the Metro, the Farmer's Market, and the doors. As always, List Lady Carrie Johnson made sure we contacted exactly the right voters by mail and phone. And I especially want to thank the Washington Post: I couldn't have done it without them.



*Bob Brink*

# JFK, Europe brought Rousselot to politics

**Peter Rousselot** steps down in January after serving two terms (four years) as ACDC Chair and he can count some of Arlington's most exciting and exhilarating Democratic victories in decades as having occurred during his watch.

These include honchoing Arlington's role in providing the margin of victory necessary to elect Senator Jim Webb in 2006, and in adding to the margin of victory for Senator Mark Warner in 2008. Arlington also boosted the victory margin of the first Democratic presidential nominee to carry Virginia in 44 years, Barack Obama, in what Rousselot calls "the best organized Democratic presidential campaign I have seen in my lifetime." And, despite the dismal results of the 2009 statewide elections, Arlington Democrats carried every precinct in the county by substantial margins.

Rousselot became active in ACDC just 10 years ago when, having recently moved to Arlington from Reston so his daughter, Anne, could attend Washington-Lee High School, he and his wife, Mary, became active in the W-L PTA. There they got to know several long-time Arlington Democratic activists, including **Mary Beth Tschetter**, who recruited him to volunteer for **Sharon Davis'** campaign for the Arlington School Board. That experience got him "hooked again" on politics after a three-decade hiatus. From then on, it was a rapid rise through the ranks (Lyon Village Precinct Captain, Joint Campaign GOTV Coordinator, Co-Chair, and High Dollar Event Chair, Campaign Manager for **Elaine Furlow's** School Board run, and Precinct Operations Chair) until he was elected Chair of ACDC in January 2006.

Rousselot hails from New York City and grew up in Englewood, NJ, in an international family with roots in France, Denmark and Spain. His parents actually met in Puerto Rico and his maternal grandmother, who spoke little English, lived with the family. This explains Rousselot's fluent Spanish which he puts to good use at ACDC Latino events.

While attending a small (only 16 in the graduating class), private, all-male high school, he was strongly influenced and motivated by his math teacher who convinced him that majoring in math in college was what he wanted to do. "Fortunately," he says, "I gave up that idea when I got back the grade on my first college math test—10 out of 100!" Nevertheless, he was the valedictorian of his high school class ("No big deal when there are only 16 kids in the class") and enrolled at Yale

University in the fall of 1959.

Yale gave Rousselot his first taste of politics during the fall and summer of 1960 as a result of two catalysts: First, having spent the summer in Europe, he had the first opportunity to "think about both my country and myself from the outside looking in." Second, John Kennedy was running for President as a Democrat. "He was young, articulate, and energetic—a real contrast to the boring Eisenhower years," says Rousselot. "I came home from [Europe] with an interest in politics and a commitment to the Democratic Party. He became a political science major (much more fun than math) and was elected President of the Yale Political Union where he prepared his first campaign flier and was a member of Yale's intercollegiate debate team.

He graduated from Yale *summa cum laude*, entered Harvard Law School that fall, and graduated from there in 1966. Following law school, Rousselot immediately went to work as an entry-level associate at the large DC-based law firm of Hogan & Hartson (where current ACDC counsel, **Tom Connally**, now is a partner).

"This was the middle of the turbulent 1960s and I still had the 'political bug' from college," he notes. "When an opportunity arose to work on the national campaign staff of Robert Kennedy for President in 1968, I jumped at the chance.

"The campaign was an intense and exhilarating political experience—with a tragic ending." Rousselot began as a field organizer in various states and his boss was the late Senator Ted Kennedy. After Bobby Kennedy's assassination, Peter ended the campaign by planning the seating arrangements at the funeral in St. Patrick's cathedral in New York City. He rode the funeral train back to DC and attended the burial at Arlington Cemetery.


"The conclusion to the Robert Kennedy campaign was wrenching enough that, when combined with my growing law practice and raising a family, I never really got back into politics in an active way for three decades—until shortly after moving to Arlington in 1997," he says.

Rousselot retired from Hogan & Hartson in 1994 and has done legal and consulting work for international railroad clients. He has been virtually a full-time ACDC Chair since his election in 2006. He says he has no detailed plans regarding what he will be doing when his term is up but that "political consulting and punditry will be in the picture."

**Rousselot will reveal "the 7 most important things I learned as ACDC Chair" at ACDC's December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.**

FELLOW UNION MEMBER:

Previous Yale Political Union administrations have been long on ideas but short on action. If you elect our team, the following things will be done during the Spring term:



Pete Rousselot

I. A FULL SCHEDULE OF TOP-FLIGHT SPEAKERS is the key to a successful term of Political Union meetings. If we are elected, we will make a special trip to Washington, D.C. in order to engage U.S. Senators, Representatives, and other leaders in politics and government to speak before the Union. We have already contacted:

Sen. John Sherman Cooper	Gov. Leo Hoegh
Cong. Charles Halleck	Cong. Tom Pelly
Cong. Catherine May	Cong. William Miller

II. A CONCENTRATED SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE will be undertaken if we are elected. Good speakers attract large audiences, but the success of our organization depends on active participation. We propose a hard-hitting drive utilizing widely-distributed leaflets, publicity, and personal contact.

III. POLITICAL UNION MEMBERSHIP WILL HAVE MORE TO OFFER for the

**FLIER — "Pete" Rousselot produced this, his first campaign flier, for his successful race to become president of the Yale Political Union back when he started in politics in the 1960s.**

# Roberts' Arlington experience led him to Richmond and now D.C.

*Larry Roberts, ACDC chair in 2000-2001, has served as general counsel to Governor Tim Kaine and is now chief of staff to Kaine in his capacity as chair of the Democratic National Committee. The Voice asked him to compare the two jobs.*

*by Larry Roberts*

When Peter Rousselot asked if I would speak to ACDC about the 2009 gubernatorial race in Virginia, I jumped at the chance. It would be a homecoming of sorts, having just changed my voter registration back to Arlington earlier in the day.

I served with many of you during my years as an Arlington Democratic activist. I was privileged to work with several ACDC Chairs, culminating in my work as Program Chair, Finance Chair, and then ACDC Chair during the 2000 and 2001 election cycles.

Through my work as ACDC Chair in 2001, I got to know one of our Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor – Tim Kaine. Over time, that relationship grew, and I began to help map out the strategy for his gubernatorial race in 2005.

Ultimately, I moved to Richmond and became chairman of the Kaine for Governor campaign. Our success afforded me the opportunity to serve as counselor to the Governor.

One of the highlights of my service as counselor was to make sure Virginia was prepared for the massive increase in voter regis-

tration and turnout for the 2008 election.

That election, of course, resulted in Virginia voting for a Democrat for President for the first time since 1964, electing a second Democratic U.S. Senator, and gaining a majority of Virginia's 11 congressional seats.

Following that success, President-Elect Obama asked Governor Kaine to serve as the new chairman of the Democratic National Committee. In turn, I was asked to serve Chairman Kaine as Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff.

Truly, I could not have become a member of the DNC leadership team without the experience and opportunities that I gained as a member of the ACDC family.

Through ACDC, I learned from Arlington's long-time experts and relative newcomers about how to win elections and serve the public effectively. I gained valuable knowledge of precinct operations, voter lists, fundraising, communications, outreach to various constituencies, political scheduling, joint campaigns, volunteer engagement, GOTV, listening to voters, and working with honest and effective elected officials.

These skills developed with my ACDC colleagues have allowed me to work confidently to improve our state party, help elect a governor, serve in the governor's cabinet, and to plan and implement strategies for our national Democratic Party.

In my role at the DNC, I run the day to day operations of the Office of the Chairman. Most importantly, I manage the chairman's schedule, meet with key Democrats on behalf of the chairman, review all communications from the DNC to make sure they reflect the chairman's values, and help decide how and where the DNC's resources are deployed. Scheduling challenges have been particularly difficult this year as I help the governor/chairman balance governing, campaign and DNC priorities.

The lessons I learned as ACDC chair now allow me the necessary perspective to evaluate and prioritize the many requests and inquiries we field for the chairman's time and the DNC's resources.

I am pleased that Governor Kaine has retained the "50-state strategy" that allows the DNC (and me) to work closely with state parties, local committees, and Democratic activists across the country – the lifeblood of our

party.

Together, we have also expanded that capacity through the Organizing for America program – which provides a vehicle for activists to weigh in against the special interests who have dominated governing in Washington for too long.

Thank you, ACDC, for allowing me to serve and teaching me how to be a successful Democrat.

## Democratic Values in Action

### Show Dem values over the holidays

The holidays are upon us and there are many ways to turn your Democratic values into action. Under co-chairs **Charley Conrad** and **Sarah Zevin**, ACDC's Democratic Values in Action Committee is undertaking the following projects and urges your participation:

- Bring cereal and canned goods to the December meeting. The items will be donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) and the need is greater than ever.
- Bring used coats and new hats and gloves for children to the December meeting for donation to the Arlington Homeless Shelter.
- Work with Project Christmas Angel, a program of Offender Aid and Restoration of Arlington County, Inc. (OAR) to provide holiday gifts to children of individuals incarcerated in our local detention center. You can make a financial donation (by December 1); bring an unwrapped gift or check payable to OAR to the December meeting; donate a gift directly to OAR; and volunteer to help wrap gifts on December 17. Finally, after December 17, you can deliver the gifts to children's homes. To send a financial contribution and/or a gift for a child directly to OAR, address it to OAR – Project Christmas Angel Coordinator, 1400 N. Uhle Street, #704, Arlington, VA 22201. For gift suggestions or for additional information about the wrapping party (or to RSVP for the party), contact (703) 228-7030 or send an email to [projectxmasangel@oaronline.org](mailto:projectxmasangel@oaronline.org) or check last month's issue of *The Voice* at [www.arlingtondemocrats.org](http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org). You can also visit the OAR website at [www.OARonline.org](http://www.OARonline.org) to learn more about the organization.

## By-Laws now under review by one and all

Every two years, ACDC's Bylaw Committee reviews the Bylaws for consideration by the full ACDC.

The Committee welcomes input from all Arlington Democrats. If you have any recommendations about the Bylaws, please email them to ACDC Chair **Peter Rousselot** at [peter.rousselot@gmail.com](mailto:peter.rousselot@gmail.com) and also to Bylaws Committee Chair **Bob Platt** at [bob@racepacket.com](mailto:bob@racepacket.com) by December 21.

The current bylaws may be reviewed on the Arlington Democratic party website, [www.arlingtondemocrats.org](http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org). Click on "Site Map," then "Bylaws."