



Falmouth Democratic Town Committee
Newsletter, March, 2015

Our monthly meeting was held in Bourne and was a joint meeting of the Upper Cape Democratic Coalition and the Democratic Town Committees of Bourne, Falmouth, Mashpee, and Sandwich. Six members of the Falmouth Committee attended (**Lou Turner, Mary Harris, Martha Gillis, Scott Simenas, Steve Patton, and Kirstin Moritz**). **Bill Grant**, Bourne Committee Chair, introduced the meeting asking if the Coalition would like future joint meetings to discuss topics such as: the 208 Water Plan, the Cape Cod Commission, Electric rates and the Cape Downwinders. Then he introduced the speaker, **Senator Dan Wolf**,(D Harwich), asking him to explain how he had been

elected with a 25% margin in the same year that the state elected a Republican governor. “What’s the secret of your success?” he asked.

Senator Dan Wolf had just come from the Senate discussion of the budget. He started by boldly stating that Democrats need to start telling the truth. The economy is the issue of the day. Why did Democrats campaign on a “recovered economy” and now are reluctant to take any steps forward before “the economy recovers?” There is a cognitive dissonance in our positions before and after the election. Has the Party lost the ability to tell the truth? We do have the ability to fix the economy if we stop buying into the “trickle down economy” myth. We need “ Bottom up, Middle out” solutions. That is, as a bottom up fix, we need tax policy reform to combat the fact that wealth has been redistributed to the top. For example, the Walton family has as much net worth as the bottom 140 million people in the U.S., while Walmart workers are the largest beneficiaries of government safety net programs. Our taxes go to support Walmart employees. Senator Wolf has filed a bill to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Our state has a deficit of over a billion dollars, and before the election, we said the economy had recovered. Democrats seem to believe that budget cuts and not new revenues are the solution to the deficit. We need to be more realistic and truthful.

Senator Wolf also said we need to invest in the infrastructure of the state; for example by building new roads and bridges, burying utility lines underground, fixing the MBTA, and upgrading the facilities at Cape Cod Community College. These investments would increase employment in the state and provide good paying jobs. Labor unions are important as a way for working people to speak and negotiate with employers. The Democratic Party has lost its way in its traditional identification with the unions. We need to figure out how to help the labor unions reclaim their own powerful identity.

Our MA health care plans have been designed by conservatives to benefit pharmaceutical companies and the health care providers. These plans are not adequate, and we need a single payer health plan. For example, **Senator Wolf** pointed out that the nearest site providing abortions is now Attleboro, MA. He wants a bill which requires health care facilities that are public to provide abortion services.

Senator Wolf then went on to answer the question about why he won by such a good margin. He says he is seen as a job creator, because he founded Cape Air. He sees the role of the economy as being “ Our tool to deliver the future we want.” He believes capitalism can serve a civic society positively. He is now Chair of the Steering and Policy Committee and hopes to get away from a “We are victims” mentality and to encourage the schools to teach civics, economics and religion in order to open minds to all possibilities.

The audience then asked questions such as how to deal with the problem of “Corporations are People,” the problem that the Senate cannot initiate money bills, the concern that the house is controlled by **Speaker DeLeo** who pledged no new taxes, and the excess power of lobbyists. **Senator Wolf** feels that lobbyists should not be allowed in the State House.

Finally, **Seth Rolbein**, Senior Advisor to Senator Wolf, unveiled a proposal by the Senator to hire a community organizer to focus on issues of importance to the Cape. We have been focusing on elections and we need to shift our focus to become community organizers. The Cape Democratic Town Committees will be asked to pledge and raise enough money to hire a full time person with benefits to work with us “on the street.” This person would help us define issues which are local, regional and basically Cape based. This person would need an office and would work with volunteers. The Senator was urged to look at the model set by The Coalition for Social Justice for this kind of approach in its Working Families Agenda.

Senator Wolf finished the evening with the famous quote from **Dr. Martin Luther King**, urging us to concentrate on the “fierce urgency of now.” Afterwards the audience addressed questions to him individually and some commented on how **the Senator** reminded them of **Elizabeth Warren** and how excited they were to have heard his talk.

Next FDTC Meeting: April 15 at 7 pm at the Gus Canty Center as usual. Please remember to bring contributions of food for the Falmouth Service Center. **Hugh Gregory** delivers these goods to the Service Center after each meeting and the contributions are appreciated.

Newsletter submitted by **Kirstin Moritz** and photos by **Martha Gillis**.

FDTC Officers:

Chair: Megan English Braga at 508-540-3434 Ext. 4 and attymeb@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Scott Simenas at 508-540-3490 and scott_simenas@comcast.net

Treasurer: Lloyd Beckett at 508-563-6264 and papa@alum.mit.edu



Secretary: Lou Turner
at 508-540-3263 and
lnlturn5557@comcast.net

Corresponding
Secretary and
Newsletter Editor:
Kirstin Moritz at 508-
540-8528 and
kmoritz@verizon.net

Affirmative
Action/Outreach
Advisor: Hugh Gregory
at 508-548-4696 and
moohu38@yahoo.com

Annual Membership Fiscal Year: April 1 to March 31, 2016

Name:

Precinct:

Address and Telephone:

Email Address:

Elected Committee Member (\$25 a year)_____

**Associate Member (\$15 a year)_____ Newsletter by U.S. Mail is \$10 extra a year_____ Total Donation:
\$_____ Send check to FDTC, P.O. Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541**

