

# Addison County Democratic Newsletter

February 1, 2011

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Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>

## NEXT COUNTY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT ILSLEY LIBRARY

The Addison County Democratic Committee will hold its first meeting of the year at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 7 at 7:00 pm at the Ilsley Library. We will hear reports from our newly elected/reelected Senators and Representatives on what's going on in the new legislative session. There is a lot on the table this year, with an energetic new Democratic governor. Health care has been getting the most attention, and Farm to Plate has a lot of local resonance since former Representative Chris Bray played such a crucial role in getting it enacted. No doubt we will hear about the effects of the very stringent budget proposed by Governor Shumlin, so this should be an interesting meeting. We also have two vacancies in the county executive committee--secretary and assistant treasurer. If you are interested in either position drop a line to county chair Paul Forlenza, <[paul@forlenza.us](mailto:paul@forlenza.us)>. Finally, this meeting will be an opportunity to look ahead at plans for 2011, which will include reorganization of the county party. Please try to attend this meeting.

## ADDISON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SCHEDULE FOR 2011

Sponsored by Bridport Grange # 303  
and Addison County Farm Bureau

2/07/11	Bridport Grange Rte 22A	Bridport	
2/14/11	American Legion	Bristol	
2/21/11	American Legion	Middlebury	
2/28/11	Orwell fire house	Orwell	
3/7/11	American Legion Governor's Breakfast	Vergennes	
3/14/11	Whiting Town Hall	Whiting	
3/21/11	ag lunch Community Hall	Bridport	Noon
3/28/11	American Legion	Bristol	
4/04/11	American Legion	Middlebury	
4/11/11	Congregational Church	Shoreham	
4/18/11	Congregational Church		

Weybridge

6/6/11 Bridport Grange Rte 22A wrap up Bridport

Breakfasts start at 7:00am. Program begins at 7:30 am and ends at 8:45 am.

Ag lunch begins at 12:00 noon and ends at 1:45 pm. Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps our hosts to defray the cost of opening their hall.

### **COMMENT PERIOD ON HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL CLOSES FEBRUARY 3**

The Vermont Legislature recently had a presentation on the floor of the House from Dr. William Hsiao, the consultant hired by the State to review Vermont's health care system and propose options for reform. Dr. Hsiao was impressive in his knowledge and thoroughness. There is a lot to study, explore, and debate, and it is exciting to see Vermont at the forefront of this initiative.

Dr. Hsiao's condensed presentation is available and easy to read:

[http://leg.state.vt.us/jfo/healthcare/FINAL%20VT%20Hsiao%20Presentation%20for%20Jan1911\\_1.pdf](http://leg.state.vt.us/jfo/healthcare/FINAL%20VT%20Hsiao%20Presentation%20for%20Jan1911_1.pdf)

The complete report is available, too:

<http://leg.state.vt.us/jfo/healthcaresystemdesign.aspx>

The draft proposal has been in a 15 day public comment period. The deadline for responses is at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2011.

### **ADDISON COUNTY DEMOCRATS ON FACEBOOK**

ACDC has a Facebook presence. If you would like to see Addison County Democrats singing "These Green Hills" in the Statehouse, or celebrating with Governor Shumlin at the Inaugural Ball, or if you would like to have a look at other recent and not so recent activities of our local committee, check it out.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Addison-County-Democrats/1301036985>

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### **DATES SET FOR COUNTY MEETINGS THROUGH JUNE, 2011**

County chair Paul Forlenza has scheduled meetings for the first six months of 2011. The meetings are all at 7:00 pm, all at the Ilsley Library in Middlebury, as follows:

April 4

June 13

At the February meeting we will discuss adding one or two meetings to this schedule with the possibility of inviting speakers on topics related to potential legislative action.

If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this

newsletter, please reply to the address below.

Spence Putnam  
<spencerp@sover.net>  
388-1644

## **CALENDAR**

Monday, February 7, **Legislative Breakfast**, Bridport Grange, 7:00 am.  
Monday, February 7, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm  
Monday, April 4, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm  
Monday, June 13, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

## **Addison County Democratic Newsletter**

March 2, 2011

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**Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>**

### **NEXT COUNTY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MARCH 7 AT ILSLEY LIBRARY**

The Addison County Democratic Committee will hold its next meeting at 7:15 pm on Monday, March 7 at the Ilsley Library. Please note, this meeting will begin at 7:15. Meetings have also been scheduled as follows (all at 7:00 pm, all at Ilsley Library): April 4, May 2, and June 13. Please try to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

### **PATIENT CHOICES VERMONT SPONSORS TOUR WITH GEORGE EIGHMEY COMES TO MIDDLEBURY MARCH 3**

Patient Choices Vermont is sponsoring a series of discussions with Patient Choices Vermont board member David Babbott, MD, and George Eighmey (pronounced "Amy"), who was instrumental in passing and implementing Oregon's first-in-the-nation Death with Dignity Act. We'll talk about the bill that was recently introduced in the Vermont House of Representatives (H.274). The Middlebury discussion will take place on Thursday, March 3, at 12:30 at the Town Hall Theater. More information is available at [www.patientchoices.org](http://www.patientchoices.org), including a link to the bill and factsheets.

## **ADDISON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SCHEDULE FOR 2011. GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST ON MARCH 7**

This coming Monday the governor's breakfast will take place at the American Legion in Vergennes.

3/7/11	American Legion	Governor's Breakfast	Vergennes	
3/14/11	Whiting	Town Hall	Whiting	
3/21/11	ag lunch	Community Hall	Bridport	Noon
3/28/11	American Legion		Bristol	
4/04/11	American Legion		Middlebury	
4/11/11	Congregational Church		Shoreham	
4/18/11	Congregational Church		Weybridge	
6/6/11	Bridport Grange	Rte 22A wrap up	Bridport	

Breakfasts start at 7:00am. Program begins at 7:30 am and ends at 8:45 am.

Ag lunch begins at 12:00 noon and ends at 1:45 pm. Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps our hosts to defray the cost of opening their hall.

Sponsored by Bridport Grange # 303  
and Addison County Farm Bureau

## **SENATOR AL FRANKEN FEATURED SPEAKER AT DAVID CURTIS DINNER, MARCH 19**

The annual David Curtis Dinner will feature Senator Al Franken of Minnesota as the keynote speaker. The dinner will be on Saturday, March 19 at the Hilton in Burlington. Online ticket purchasing has been closed, but you can contact Ben Eisenberg at 802-229-1783 or [events@vtDemocrats.org](mailto:events@vtDemocrats.org) with questions regarding ticket availability.

## **VERMONT'S BUDGET SHORTFALL AND TAX STRUCTURE UP FOR DEBATE. ARE PROGRAM CUTS THE ONLY SOLUTION?**

Like many states, Vermont is wrestling with the need to bring revenues into balance with expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. A tax commission has recommended significant changes in the way taxes are assessed in Vermont, but they are intended to be "revenue neutral." The same amount of money will be collected, just in a different way. Governor Shumlin has proposed balancing the budget with more cuts to programs and services offered by the state. Vermont's own Public Assets Institute has provided information on what would happen if the state chose to recoup the revenue it has lost as a result of the extension of the Bush tax cuts on the national level. You can read their article at the following link:

<http://publicassets.org/publications/reports/federal-tax-cuts-can-help-close-vermonts-budget-gap/>

The Center for American Progress has an article at the following link that shows how eliminating certain tax cuts for the wealthy would generate enough revenue on the national level to eliminate the need for cuts to programs benefiting low income people that are part of the Republican House leadership proposal.

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/02/tax\\_breaks\\_infographic.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/02/tax_breaks_infographic.html)

If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this newsletter, please reply to the address below.

Spence Putnam  
<spencerp@sover.net>  
388-1644

#### **CALENDAR**

Thursday, March 3, discussion of **Death with Dignity** bill, Town Hall Theater, Middlebury, 12:30 pm

Monday, March 7, **Governor's Legislative Breakfast**, Vergennes Legion, 7:00 am.

Monday, March 7, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:15 pm

Saturday, March 19, Curtis Dinner with Senator Al Franken, Burlington Hilton

Monday, April 4, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Monday, May 2, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Monday, June 13, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

## **Addison County Democratic Newsletter**

April 2, 2011

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**Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>**

**NEXT COUNTY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, APRIL 4 AT ILSLEY LIBRARY**

The Addison County Democratic Committee will hold its next meeting at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 4 at the Ilsley Library in Middlebury. Since our March meeting was snowed out we have lots to cover. Also, we are in the critical part of the legislative session with action happening on the budget, health care reform, transportation, and other areas, so there will be lots to discuss. Meetings, all at 7:00 pm, all at Ilsley Library, have also been scheduled as follows: May 2, and June 13. Please try to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

### **GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST ON APRIL 4 AT MIDDLEBURY LEGION**

This coming Monday the governor's breakfast will take place at the American Legion in Middlebury. The remaining legislative breakfast schedule is as follows:

4/04/11	American Legion	Middlebury
4/11/11	Congregational Church	Shoreham
4/18/11	Congregational Church	Weybridge
6/6/11	Bridport Grange Rte 22A wrap up	Bridport

Breakfasts start at 7:00am. Program begins at 7:30 am and ends at 8:45 am. Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps our hosts to defray the cost of opening their hall.

Sponsored by Bridport Grange # 303  
and Addison County Farm Bureau

### **MIDDLEBURY HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN RIGHT POTLUCK GATHERING, APRIL 6. GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION**

On Wednesday, April 6, 6:30pm - 8:00 pm  
Join local members of the Healthcare is a Human Right Campaign at Middlebury Indoor Tennis to:

-Share you healthcare story -Participate in our "Picture Healthcare as Human Right" project -Watch a short film about the campaign -Get the latest updates about healthcare in VT -Share food with friends and neighbors

(If you can bring a snack to share, great. If not, just come and enjoy an informative evening)

RSVP to

Kate Kanelstein [kate@workerscenter.org](mailto:kate@workerscenter.org) or call (802) 825-8399

A grassroots organization is forming in Addison County in support of the "Health

Care is a Human Right" (HCHR) campaign. Addison County is fortunate because we have two legislators in Montpelier who are involved in health care reform in Vermont, Claire Ayer in the Senate and Mike Fisher in the House. One way to assist the HCHR is to write a letter to the editor.

<http://workerscenter.org/writeathon/> This link will help you write your letter and have it sent directly to the papers of your choice. If you would like further information please contact Kathy Heitkamp at 545-2443.

If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this newsletter, please reply to the address below.

Spence Putnam  
<spencerp@sover.net>  
388-1644

### **CALENDAR**

Monday, April 4, **Governor's Legislative Breakfast**, Middlebury Legion, 7:00 am.

Monday, April 4, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 6, **Healthcare is a Human Right Potluck**, Middlebury Indoor Tennis, 6:30pm - 8:00 pm

Monday, May 2, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Monday, June 6, **Wrap-up Legislative Breakfast**, Bridport Grange, 7:00 am

Monday, June 13, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

## **Addison County Democratic Newsletter**

April 29, 2011

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**Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>**

**CANCELLED COUNTY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 2  
CANCELLED**

The Addison County Democratic Committee meeting previously scheduled for the first Monday in May has been cancelled. The legislature is working at fever

pitch, so legislators are unlikely to have time to attend with us. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13, but watch for further announcements. We may decide to move the June date up a bit.

## **HEALTHCARE PARADE AND RALLY IN MONTPELIER ON SUNDAY, MAY 1**

The Vermont Workers' Center and other organizations are sponsoring a "March on Montpelier--Healthcare is a Human Right Statewide Rally" on Sunday, May 1. It will begin at 11:00 am at City Hall in Montpelier with a parade down State Street to the Statehouse, where a rally will take place at about noon. For more information go to [www.workerscenter.org/may1](http://www.workerscenter.org/may1).

## **LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SCHEDULE COMPLETED, EXCEPT FOR JUNE WRAP-UP**

The final legislative breakfast will take place on Monday, June 13. It will be a wrap-up of the session's work. Breakfast starts at 7:00am. Program begins at 7:30 am and ends at 8:45 am. Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps our hosts to defray the cost of opening their hall.

Sponsored by Bridport Grange # 303  
and Addison County Farm Bureau

## **VERMONT HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS HAS NEW POLITICAL DIRECTOR**

Nick Charyk, the new political director of the Vermont House Democratic Caucus came to introduce himself to the Addison County Committee and brief us on his work so far. Nick reminded us that it's not too early to start thinking of the next election. He will be working with locals to recruit good candidates for the 2012 elections. Nick is also working on coordinating communication and fundraising for the House Caucus, mostly in support of candidates. He explained that Health Care Reform may be as divisive in Vermont as it has been nationally and that House candidates often take the brunt of any backlash to breakthrough legislation. He will also be keeping an eye on redistricting, which will happen between now and the 2012 elections.

Nick Charyk can be reached at <[nick@vthouse.org](mailto:nick@vthouse.org)>.

## **CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

- Legislators present at the April meeting the ACDC discussed issues they are involved with. Dave Sharpe led a quick discussion of Vermont's options in the event Vermont Yankee ignores a non-renewal of their operating license and continues operation. He expects that in that case the state of Vermont will end up in court with Entergy. (And so it came to pass!)

As always, Ways and Means continues to work on tax reform. Paul Ralston is a member of the Commerce committee. One of their bills was a consumer protection law which will make illegal, among other provisions, the masquerading as a Vermont business by an out of state internet company. The Commerce committee is also working on a bill to hire experts to examine the impacts of Vermont Yankee and working on a bill that will propose a new business form, the Mutual Benefit Enterprise. According to Diane Lanpher priorities of the House Transportation committee this year are in public transport and rail. Vermont has again filed for the Western Corridor grant. Work on the Champlain Valley Bridge is proceeding as expected. The stoplight bridge in Bristol will finally be upgraded (someday). She explained that the beat-up conditions of the roads after this long winter are due, in part, to decades of bipartisan deferred maintenance.

## **TIME TO GEAR UP FOR SUMMER/FALL ACTIVITIES**

Fran Putnam of the ACDC Events Committee updated us on upcoming events. We are still in the planning stages of a September event with US Representative Peter Welch. This event will showcase local foods and agriculture and is tentatively planned for Sunday, September 18. Please let us know if you are aware of conflicting events. Other upcoming events are the Memorial Day parades, the Independence Day parade, and the Ice Cream Social, which is tentatively planned for August 21 3-5pm.

If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this newsletter, please reply to the address below.

Spence Putnam  
<spencerp@sover.net>  
388-1644

## **CALENDAR**

Sunday, May 1, **Healthcare is a Human Right Parade and Rally**, Montpelier City Hall (11:00 am) and Vt. Statehouse (noon)

Monday, May 2, **CANCELLED Addison County Democratic Committee**

**meeting**

Monday, May 30, **Memorial Day parades**, Middlebury and Vergennes, 9:00 am and noon

Monday, June 6, **Wrap-up Legislative Breakfast**, Bridport Grange, 7:00 am

Monday, June 13, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Monday, July 4, **Independence Day parades** in Bristol and Brandon, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Sunday, September 18, **Food and Agriculture themed event** with Rep. Peter Welch (tentative)

Please review and send back to me. Check to see if the link in Shap Smith's letter works. I have not proofread.

## **Addison County Democratic Newsletter**

May 25, 2011

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**Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>**

### **MEMORIAL DAY PARADES IN MIDDLEBURY AND VERGENNES--PLEASE COME JOIN US**

There will again be a Democratic delegation in the Memorial Day parades in Middlebury and Vergennes, and you are welcome to join us. This is traditionally a low-key political event with no signs except our banner. It is mostly to show support for elected representatives, including local, statewide and federal officials. We expect Governor Shumlin and Senator Sanders to join us, among others. The Middlebury parade forms in the parking lot northeast of the Middlebury College Arts Center. Gather before 9:00 am, which is when the parade begins. The Vergennes parade forms on the east side of the High School between 10:00 and 11:00 am and begins at 11:00. Bring good shoes, water, and sunscreen (*we know you'll need it*).

### **NEXT COUNTY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JUNE 13**

The Addison County Democratic Committee will hold its next meeting on Monday, June 13, at the Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm. We will hear reports on the recent legislative session from our representatives, and we will discuss plans for

the rest of the year. These include July 4th parades, an ice cream social, the biannual process of party reorganization, plans for redistricting, and a fall harvest event featuring Congressman Peter Welch. In addition, the executive board has completed a draft revision of our bylaws. We will have time to discuss these and either approve the changes or plan another session if further revisions are suggested. Anyone interested in a copy of the current and proposed bylaws may request them by return email.

### **FINAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SCHEDULED: JUNE 6 WRAP-UP**

The final legislative breakfast will take place on Monday, June 6. It will be a wrap-up of the session's work. Breakfast starts at 7:00am. Program begins at 7:30 am and ends at 8:45 am. Purchase of breakfast not required to attend but helps our hosts to defray the cost of opening their hall.

Sponsored by Bridport Grange # 303 and Addison County Farm Bureau

### **GOVERNOR SUMLIN TO APPEAR AT VERMONT DEMOCRATIC HOUSE CAMPAIGN EVENT ON JUNE 14**

Governor Peter Shumlin (has a nice ring to it, right?), Speaker of the House Shap Smith, House Majority Leader Lucy Leriche, and Assistant House Majority Leader Willem Jewett will be hosting a reception and community discussion in Middlebury on Tuesday, June 14. It will take place at 51 Main Street in Middlebury at 5:30 (Host and Sponsor Reception) and 6:30 (Community Discussion). The theme will be "an evening of conversation about the path towards universal health care and the legislative accomplishments of 2011." To RSVP contact N

ick Charyk, the new political director of the Vermont House Democratic Caucus, at 802-917-2012 or at <[nick@vthouse.org](mailto:nick@vthouse.org)>. Proceeds from this event will support Democratic House candidates in 2012.

### **TIME TO GEAR UP FOR SUMMER/FALL ACTIVITIES**

Fran Putnam and Joseph Watson of the ACDC Events Committee will report at our next meeting on upcoming events, and they will be looking for volunteers to help with planning and carrying out these activities. We are still in the planning stages of a September event with US Representative Peter Welch. This event will showcase local foods and agriculture and is tentatively planned for a weekend day at the end of September. Please let us know if you are aware of possibly conflicting events. Other upcoming events are the Memorial Day parades, the Independence Day parade, and the Ice Cream Social, which is tentatively planned for August 21, 3-5 pm.

## **MESSAGE FROM SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SHAP SMITH**

As we wrap up the 2011 legislative session, I want to thank you for all of your work and support. Without you, the Vermont Democratic House members could not have been so successful this year. Because of your help, we were able to take the first important steps towards creating universal access to affordable Health Care, a Statewide Broadband Network, and a Clean Energy future. At the same time, we passed a balanced budget with the first ever 2-year capital bill, and stood up for workers' rights, even as much of the rest of the country was leaving workers behind.

Although we accomplished a lot in the first year of this biennium, there is still much to do, and we hope you will be there with us, working to keep our state strong and healthy. We need YOUR help to make sure what has been happening in other states (like Wisconsin) will not happen here. We are starting a new effort to keep our constituents more informed about what is happening in the House, and I hope you will ask your friends to sign up and get involved.

Please forward this email to five friends and ask them to [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES](#).

Thank you. I look forward to seeing you at Vermont Democratic House Campaign events this summer – we'll be sending out details soon.

Sincerely,

Shap Smith, Speaker of the House

**If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this newsletter, please reply to the address below.**

Spence Putnam  
<spencerp@sover.net>  
388-1644

### **CALENDAR**

Monday, May 30, **Memorial Day parades**, Middlebury and Vergennes, 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Monday, June 6, **Wrap-up Legislative Breakfast**, Bridport Grange, 7:00 am

Monday, June 13, **Addison County Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 14, **Reception and Community Discussion** with Gov. Shumlin, et al, Middlebury, 5:30 & 6:30

Monday, July 4, **Independence Day parades** in Bristol and Brandon, 10:00 am

and 1:00 pm.

Sunday, August 21, **Ice Cream Social**, Middlebury Green, 3:00 to 5:00 pm  
September Date TBA, **Food and Agriculture themed event** with Rep. Peter Welch (tentative)

## **Addison County Democratic Newsletter**

June 30, 2011

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**Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>**

### **JOIN US IN THE BRISTOL JULY 4TH PARADE**

As usual, Bristol has a complete line-up of events for the Independence Day celebrations. The fireworks in Bristol are on the 3rd and the outhouse race and the parade are on the 4th. Dave Sharpe has reserved a spot for the Addison County Democrats in the parade, which starts at 10:30 am. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the float in the Mt. Abe HS parking lot. Bring staplers, banners, signs, hammers, etc. to the parking lot at 8:00 am. We also welcome people to march with us--you can join at any point along the parade route. Be sure to bring water to drink, comfortable shoes, and sunscreen.

### **TIME TO GEAR UP FOR SUMMER/FALL ACTIVITIES**

Fran Putnam and Joseph Watson of the ACDC Events Committee are looking for volunteers to help with planning and carrying out our summer and fall events.

Our traditional Ice Cream Social is planned for Saturday, August 21, on the Middlebury Green. We are still in the planning stages of a September event with US Representative Peter Welch. It will showcase local foods and agriculture and is tentatively planned for a weekend day at the end of September in Cornwall.

Please let us know if you are aware of possibly conflicting events. Other upcoming events include the Independence Day parade and Field Days in New Haven, which will be from August 9-13. As this is an election off-year we will not have a booth at the fair, but we usually try to have a contingent in the opening day parade. Stay tuned for details.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.**

Items to put on your calendar: Paul Forlenza has scheduled county meetings, all at 7:00 pm at the Ilsley Library in Middlebury, for the next few months on the

following schedule:

- Aug 4th - full county committee (prepare for Town re-org)
- Sept 8th - executive committee (town reorganization could be between Sept 10-30)
- Oct 13th - full county committee (county reorganization)
- Nov 10th - executive committee

## **REDISTRICTING PROCESS UNDERWAY. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR ADDISON SENATE DISTRICT POSSIBLE**

Our own former senator, Gerry Gossens, was appointed a member of the Legislative Apportionment board, which is appointed every ten years to adjust voting districts for the House and Senate according to population changes.

Generally the board is charged with making districts as equal as possible in terms of population while respecting community and economic affiliations. It has been convention, if not law, to keep changes as minimal as possible and to avoid pitting incumbents against each other in newly-drawn districts. The board's work is advisory only, as the legislature has the final word.

There has been a great deal of publicity about the effort by Progressives and Republicans to create as many single member districts as possible (as opposed to Middlebury's two-member district, for example). Accomplishing this would require drastic changes to the legislative map and would, in many instances, pit incumbents against each other. The majority of the board backed this idea, but Gerry and two other members of the board submitted a "minority report" suggesting much more minor district boundary changes that would keep most of the state's districts the way they are. The majority report is expected to get short shrift when it reaches the legislature.

On the Senate side there is a very significant change proposed for Addison County. The board suggests returning Brandon to Rutland County and adding Charlotte to the Addison County district. This is among changes that would address the shift in population toward the northwestern corner of the state. This change is likely to be controversial but will probably get more serious attention from the legislature.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

At the June Meeting of the County Committee Peter Ryersbach was elected to the office of Assistant Treasurer and Chuck Burkins was elected to the office of Secretary. These elections fill vacancies for the current committee. The executive committee now consists of these two individuals plus Paul Forlenza, Chair, Barbara Hofer, Vice Chair, John Meakin, Treasurer, and Fran and Spence Putnam, at-large members. All of these offices are up for grabs during the party reorganization process (see item below). Another pending item of business is

adoption of new bylaws for the county committee. Anyone interested in seeing a copy of the proposed changes may request them by return email.

## **POLITICAL REORGANIZATION PROCESS HAPPENS THIS FALL**

By state law, every two years major parties go through the process of reorganization. This forms the building blocks of party participation in the political process. Towns form committees which elect delegates to the county committee.

The county committee carries on the work of the local Democratic committee and elects delegates to the state committee. If you are a town chair you should prepare to run your town's reorganizational meeting between September 10 and 30. If you are in a town that does not have a committee, we urge you to help get one organized. Please respond by return email if you would like more information. County reorganization will happen at the October 13th meeting.

**If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this newsletter, please reply to the address below.**

Spence Putnam  
<spencerp@sover.net>  
388-1644

## **CALENDAR**

Saturday, July 2, **Independence Day parade** in Brandon, 1:00 pm.

Monday, July 4, **Independence Day parade** in Bristol, 10:30 am (help prepare float at 8:00 am, MAUHS parking lot)

Thursday, August 4, Addison County **Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

August 9-13, **Addison County Field Days**, New Haven, parade on Tuesday evening

Sunday, August 21, **Ice Cream Social**, Middlebury Green, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Thursday, September 8, Addison County **Democratic Executive Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

September Date TBA, **Food and Agriculture themed event** with Rep. Peter Welch (tentative)

Thursday, October 13, Addison County **Democratic Reorganizational meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 10, Addison County **Democratic Executive Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

# **Addison County Democratic Newsletter**

August 1, 2011

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**Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>**

## **NEXT COUNTY MEETING SET FOR 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 4. ILSLEY LIBRARY**

The August meeting of the Addison County Democrats will be this coming Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Ilsley Library. We will be discussing summer events (see item below), including how we will participate in Addison County Field Days. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the ice cream social scheduled for August 21. We also plan to vote on proposed changes to the committee's bylaws. Anyone interested in a copy may request it via return email. This meeting will also be the kick-off for our biennial reorganization process (see item below).

## **TIME TO GEAR UP FOR SUMMER/FALL ACTIVITIES**

Fran Putnam and Joseph Watson of the ACDC Events Committee are looking for volunteers to help with planning and carrying out our summer and fall events.

Our traditional Ice Cream Social is planned for Saturday, August 21, on the Middlebury Green. We need volunteers to bake cookies, set-up, serve and clean up at the event. The 2009 Social attracted 220 people where they ate delicious ice cream and treats, listened to the Ridge Runners, and heard from local and state Democratic officials. Please email Fran at [<fcspu@sover.net>](mailto:fcspu@sover.net) or Joseph at [<halcot@comcast.net>](mailto:halcot@comcast.net) to volunteer.

We are still in the planning stages of a September event with US Representative Peter Welch. It will take place at the historic barns at the home of Jack and Judy Watts in Cornwall and showcase local foods and wine. This fund-raising event is tentatively planned for a weekend day at the end of September. We are looking for help sourcing local foods for hors d'oeuvres for that event, as well as volunteers to prepare the food, set up the site, and serve food.

Field Days in New Haven takes place August 9-13. As this is an election off-year we will not have a booth at the fair, but we usually have a contingent in the opening day parade on Tuesday night. Come join us at 8:00 PM for the shortest parade of the summer--about 15 minutes in all.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.**

Items to put on your calendar: Paul Forlenza has scheduled county meetings, all at 7:00 pm at the Ilsley Library in Middlebury, for the next few months on the following schedule:

- Aug 4th - full county committee (prepare for Town re-org)
- Sept 8th - executive committee (town reorganization could be between Sept 10-30)
- Oct 13th - full county committee (county reorganization)
- Nov 10th - executive committee

## **POLITICAL REORGANIZATION PROCESS HAPPENS THIS FALL**

The legally mandated process of party reorganization forms the building blocks of party participation in the political process. Towns form committees which elect delegates to the county committee. The actual organizational process is simple and takes less than an hour, but it forms the basis for what the county committee does for the next two years. Materials will be sent out from the state Democratic committee which will explain the entire process. The county committee carries out the work of local Democrats and elects delegates to the state committee. If you are a town chair you should prepare to run your town's reorganizational meeting between September 10 and 30. The preferred date is Tuesday, September 27. If you are in a town that does not have a committee (Addison, Orwell, Shoreham, Granville, Hancock), we urge you to help get one organized. Please respond by return email if you would like more information. County reorganization will happen at the October 13th meeting.

**If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this newsletter, please reply to the address below.**

Spence Putnam  
<spencerp@sover.net>  
388-1644

## **CALENDAR**

Thursday, August 4, Addison County **Democratic Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

August 9-13, **Addison County Field Days**, New Haven, parade on Tuesday evening

Sunday, August 21, **Ice Cream Social**, Middlebury Green, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Thursday, September 8, Addison County **Democratic Executive Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

September Date TBA, **Food and Agriculture themed event** with Rep. Peter Welch (tentative)

Tuesday, September 27 (or thereabouts), **Reorganizational Caucus**, in each town, times and locations to be announced

Thursday, October 13, Addison County **Democratic Reorganizational meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

Thursday, November 10, Addison County **Democratic Executive Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

# **Addison County Democratic Newsletter**

August 30, 2011

**If you do not wish to receive future editions of this newsletter, please respond with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.**

**Check out our web site at: <http://www.addisondems.org/>**

## **LABOR DAY CELEBRATION WITH SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS AND VERMONT LABOR UNIONS**

Senator Bernie Sanders will be the guest of honor at a Labor Day celebration on the Green in Middlebury. It will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and feature a free barbecue and music by Coba Stella. The event is free and open to the public. Rain location is the basement of the Episcopal Church on the Green.

Sponsored by the Vermont AFL-CIO, Vermont NEA, VSEA, UPV-AFT, and the Vermont Workers' Center. Join us to learn how we can address the needs of working families in Vermont and the rest of the country.

## **REPORT ON SUMMER/FALL ACTIVITIES**

Our traditional Ice Cream Social, held on August 21, was a great success, despite the onset of rain before we were quite ready for it. Over 200 people enjoyed Strafford Organic Creamery Ice Cream and music by the Ridge Runners. We also had a good contingent in the Field Days Parade. Many thanks to all who helped make these events so successful.

We are still in the planning stages of an October event with US Representative Peter Welch, which will showcase local foods and wine. We are looking for help sourcing local foods for hors d'oeuvres for that event, as well as volunteers to prepare the food, set up the site, and serve food. Stay tuned for more details. If you would like to help, please contact Joseph Watson <[jwatson@middlebury.edu](mailto:jwatson@middlebury.edu)> or Fran Putnam <[fcspu@sover.net](mailto:fcspu@sover.net)>.

## **COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SET FOR 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13. ILSLEY LIBRARY**

The next meeting of the Addison County Democrats will be on Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 pm at the Ilsley Library. This will be the biennial reorganization meeting. We will elect officers for the next two years as well as delegates to the State Democratic Committee. If you are interested in serving in any of these

capacities, please contact Paul Forlenza <[paul@forlenza.us](mailto:paul@forlenza.us)>.

## **TOWN POLITICAL REORGANIZATION PROCESS HAPPENS THIS SEPTEMBER**

Town chairs should by now have received information from the state committee about the party reorganization process. A caucus meeting needs to be held in each town between September 10 and 30. The preferred date is Tuesday, September 27. The actual organizational process is simple and takes less than an hour, but it is the basis for what the county committee does for the next two years. The county committee carries out the work of local Democrats and elects delegates to the state committee. If you are in a town that does not have a committee (Addison, Orwell, Shoreham, Granville, Hancock), we urge you to help get one organized. Please respond by return email if you would like more information. County reorganization will happen at the October 13th meeting.

## **TOWN CHAIRS NEED TO SUBMIT TIME AND LOCATION OF THEIR REORGANIZATIONAL CAUCUSES**

The County Committee will place a single ad for all town caucuses. This helps meet the legal requirement for public notification. If you are a town chair, please submit your time and location to Spence Putnam <[spencerp@sover.net](mailto:spencerp@sover.net)> asap, as the ad needs to be submitted in the next few days. Watch for the ad in the Addison Independent to learn when the caucus will be held in your town.

## **COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING SET FOR 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13. ILSLEY LIBRARY**

The next meeting of the Addison County Democrats will be on Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 pm at the Ilsley Library. This will be the biennial reorganization meeting. We will elect officers for the next two years as well as delegates to the State Democratic Committee. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please contact Paul Forlenza <[paul@forlenza.us](mailto:paul@forlenza.us)>.

**If you have events of interest to Democrats that you would like mentioned in this newsletter, please reply to the address below.**

Spence Putnam  
<[spencerp@sover.net](mailto:spencerp@sover.net)>  
388-1644

## **CALENDAR**

Thursday, September 8, Addison County **Democratic Executive Committee meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm  
Tuesday, September 27 (or thereabouts), **Reorganizational Caucus**, in each town, times and locations to be announced

Thursday, October 13, Addison County **Democratic *Reorganizational* meeting**,  
Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm

October Date TBA, **Food and Agriculture themed event** with Rep. Peter Welch  
(tentative)

Thursday, November 10, Addison County **Democratic *Executive Committee*  
meeting**, Ilsley Library, 7:00 pm