



Galloway Township Republican League

April 2008

www.GTRL.org

Volume VII Number 4

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Carl Crowley

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Financial Secretary:
Jennifer Heller

Sergeant-At-Arms:
Steve Moliver

Council Representative:
Keith Hartman

Directors:
Andrea Wescoat
John Forsythe
Rich Dase

Municipal Chair:
Terry Lucarelli

April 28th Meeting
7:30PM
Smithville Inn

2008 Membership Dues:
\$20 per person

Galloway Township
Republican League
PO Box 296
Oceanville, NJ 08231

From the President's Desk

Carl C. Crowley – GTRL President

"Get Action. Seize the moment. Man was never intended to become an oyster."
- Teddy Roosevelt

I love this time of year. It is getting warmer, the days are getting longer, and the NFL Draft signifies that football season is right around the corner.

As we speed into the summer it is easy to forget about all that needs to be done. Campaign season has already kicked off in Galloway and the next couple of weeks will prove to be very important for the GTRL. One of the best ways we can insure success in November is the participation we receive now. **GET INVOLVED!!** We are going to need plenty of help and participation over the next couple of weeks and months. Whether it is helping with the newsletter, volunteering for the campaign committee or helping with the July Fourth Parade; we need the support of our members to make our year successful.

Furthermore, don't keep the GTRL a secret, tell your friends about the GTRL and see if they want to become involved. We have been getting excellent coverage from the local media lately, and **more and more people want to know what we are doing, make sure you tell them.**

Everyone is busy, I can sympathize with that more than most, but if everyone helps out just a little, it will mean that much more in the end.

From Where I Sit

Terry Lucarelli - Municipal Leader



Well, spring is here and my thoughts are on warmer weather, flowers, my son's wedding and the NJ Primary.



Convention was, shall I say, interesting this year and we came away with a sense of unity on most fronts. Our endorsements were well received and we only have that little problem with our US Senate endorsement. So do your homework and research the candidates before you cast your vote on June 3rd.

On the Primary ballot will be candidates for US Senate (who knows who will win the primary), our candidate for US Congress, **Frank LoBiondo**, candidates for Freeholder-at-Large, **Manny Aponte** and **Tom Ballistreri** and **Frank Balles** for Sheriff.

Locally, we have our candidate to fill **Rich Dase's** unexpired term. **Councilman Jim Cox** was the GTRL's unanimous choice for the job. I am so happy that Jim has agreed to run for the seat that he was appointed to in January. He is doing an amazing job and he will continue to do so!

That being said it is the job of all of us to ensure that Jim holds this Republican seat. We need to do what we always do and that is spread the word. Point out to our family, friends and neighbors what a great job this Republican controlled Council is doing in spite of the roadblocks that the Democrat controlled state as put in our way.

It is not an easy task to have to run by yourself for council but I know that Jim Cox is up for the job and I know that **with the help of ALL of us he will succeed.**

I would like to thank all of our members nominated for County Committee for making the petition process an easy task for me. All petitions were accepted and I made sure that they were in a week early.

“One of the best ways we can insure success in November is the participation we receive now.”

- Carl C. Crowley

This month's meeting agenda:

4th of July Parade Planning & Campaign discussion

Coming in May:

Primary Run-Down

The Executive Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of every month. E-mail gallowaygop@yahoo.com for information on the location of the next meeting.

Council Corner

Municipal Budget Update from Councilman Keith Hartman

Council has been working diligently on the 2008 budget for nearly 3 months now. It was introduced in March at \$23,706,245. This represented a \$1,422,169 increase over the previous year which translates into a 7 cent tax increase. In an attempt to illustrate how this news is good news we need to go back to Accounting 101.

In any budget you have expenses on one side and income on the other. In 2008 our challenges were on both sides of this equation. On the income side we faced ever decreasing State aid in the amount of \$354,928. Construction fees were down as the housing market slowed. We needed to find long term solutions to fill those income voids. One of which was to increase the fees for certified copies in the clerks office. This resulted in approximately \$60,000 in additional income. This huge income void is the reason we said during the last campaign that **we NEED to increase the ratable base** since this is the Township's primary income source. Some people would suggest that we just sell the entire Township owned assets or land to fill that void. The problem with that solution is...What do you do next year when the land is all sold? You can not go back and raise taxes because the State has a tax levy cap that prohibits us from increasing the tax levy by more than 4 %. **Hence, long term recurring revenue is the only solution to the income side of the equation.**

The other side of the problem is the expenses. We faced several State mandated expenses including ...

State Employee and Police Pension System	+\$443,977
Tax Revaluation (spread over 5 years)	+\$240,000
Non mandated but uncontrollable costs...	
Gypsy moth suppression program	+\$116,032
Labor Union Related Payroll Increases	+\$903,687
Total expenses beyond Council's Control \$ 1,703,696	

As you can see we are being forced to increase spending in areas at the same time the State is cutting our aid. While a 7 cent tax increase does not sit well with any of us on Council getting much lower is a difficult task.

So how are we going to get out of this mess you ask?

First of all we are continuing to look for more areas to cut in the 2008 budget. Council requested the Manager to call a meeting with Egg Harbor City, Port Republic and Absecon to begin discussions on sharing services. The meeting was productive and attended by the County and State representatives who run the shared service programs as well as **Freeholder Rich Dase**. They will fund feasibility studies for municipalities who wish to enter into shared service agreements. Galloway is positioned as the largest of these communities to be the administrator of many of these services and generate income as a result. The director of public works was in attendance and will be working with the other communities to share equipment such as street pavers, vehicle wash bays, and recreation field maintenance. As a result of this meeting Galloway and Absecon Councils have both passed a resolution to seek grant money and research possibly sharing some public safety functions including dispatch and communication. We have met with Atlanticare and Stockton to ask them to make payments in lieu of taxes since these organizations are not fully taxable. Both have offered some options but talks continue.

The Economic Development Committee has met with CRDA, Stockton, Office of Smart Growth, Pinelands, and others to get assistance with our community visioning plan. This plan will help Galloway be positioned competitively during the next wave of development that is inevitable. This will allow us to increase our ratable base and help reduce taxes. This is the first time that these organizations seem willing to help and I believe it is largely due to the hard work of GTRL member Steve Moliver.

In summary, as bad as the situation is in our budget, Galloway is in better shape than most Atlantic County municipalities largely as a result of the Republican controlled Council and its hard working volunteers on the EDC, citizens' budget committee, planning/zoning board and the GTRL. We face significant obstacles in our paths but **we have the Right People Right Now and the Future of Galloway has never looked brighter.**