

For Immediate Release:
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Tredyffrin Democrats Announce Candidates for 2009 Local Elections

(Wayne, PA) – The Tredyffrin Township Democratic Committee has voted to approve a slate of candidates for the Township Board of Supervisors and TE school board Directors this fall. All candidates were approved by a unanimous vote of Committee members.

Tredyffrin Township Democrats (TTDEMS) have worked over recent election cycles to strengthen the local party organization. They have successfully put two Democrats on the Tredyffrin Board of Supervisors since 2005, and in 2008 they elected a Democrat to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the first time ever. Party registration in the Township is also trending in their favor with the number of registered Democrats up 40 percent since 2004.

"We are very excited to have a group of highly qualified candidates this year who will bring their experience and perspective to the challenges facing our community, from responsible financial management to protecting homeowners from problems caused by the Turnpike expansion," said Jayne Yockey, Chair of the Tredyffrin Township Democrats. "This region thrives because we elect moderate leadership, and this year's Democratic candidates will continue this tradition of bipartisan governance on these and other important issues."

Tredyffrin Township Democratic Slate for 2009

Board of Supervisors, At large

Patty Benson – Patty Benson is the current owner of the Great Valley House of Valley Forge, recently named one of the dozen longest-running bed & breakfasts in the country. She is the current president of the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust and current Secretary of Historic Duportail House in Chesterbrook. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Paoli Business & Professional Association, and is involved in a variety of other civic and community organizations and events. She is a current member of the PA Turnpike Commission design committee. She has a BA from Salisbury University in Maryland, and MPA from California State Fullerton and did post-graduate studies at the London School of Economics.

Sean Moir – Sean Moir is a computer analyst who currently works for Chester County, where he does mapping projects for municipalities, school districts and volunteer organizations. He has worked for a number of companies as a computer and software engineer. He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys camping, hiking and bike riding. He is active in his church, St Luke Lutheran, where he serves as the Chairman of the Social Services Committee and led efforts to re-settle a Russian refugee family and rebuild the home of an elderly couple in Biloxi, MS after it was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. He is also active at the Township level, serving on two Township committees – the Sidewalk, Trails and path Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee and also served on the Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). He has a degree in Computer Technology from Penn State University. Moir lives in Berwyn with his wife and two daughters, both of whom attend Hillside Elementary School. He is cookie manager for both of his daughter's Girl Scout troops, as well as coach for his oldest daughter's Odyssey of the Mind team.

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Board of Supervisors, District 2 (Middle)

Eamon Brazunas – Eamon Brazunas has a decade long record of dedicated public service to the citizens of Tredyffrin Township. Mr. Brazunas’ professional background includes experience in the non-profit sector as an emergency planner and business manager. He also has served as Vice-President on the Berwyn Fire Company Board of Directors and has contributed his skills to fire companies across the Commonwealth as a public relations specialist and first responder. Brazunas interned for U.S. Rep. Jim Gerlach in 2001, and served as a Precinct Committeeperson in M-7 for the TTDEMS for three years. He is a volunteer lieutenant with the Berwyn Fire Company and recently joined an area All-Hazards Incident Management Team. He is nationally certified in firefighting, incident management, and as a fire officer. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and is a minister of hospitality at his church. He has a degree in public relations-advertising from Penn State University. He has lived in Tredyffrin for 20 years; he and his wife live in Chesterbrook.

School Board Director

Region 1

Kevin Buraks – Kevin Buraks is a lawyer with the Norristown firm of Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd., where he represents municipalities in collecting taxes. He currently represents 75 municipal clients, including 31 school districts throughout Pennsylvania. Prior to that, he represented borrowers and lenders as they worked through their legal problems in Bankruptcy Court or outside of Bankruptcy Court. He is an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Business Law Section and is the vice chair of the Montgomery County Bar Associations’ Bankruptcy Committee. In addition, Buraks is the immediate past chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Bankruptcy Committee. He is also on the board of editor’s of Pratt’s Journal of Bankruptcy Law and is the author of numerous articles published in a variety of legal publications and journals. Burkas has also taught continuing legal education classes to other attorneys. Buraks is a volunteer soccer coach for both Tredyffrin East town Youth Soccer Association and Rocket Sports. He is a volunteer attorney for the Montgomery County Child Advocacy Project and at the Support Center for Child Advocates, where he provides free legal representation to children who are the victims of abuse and neglect. Buraks is a graduate of Haverford College and Rutgers School of Law. Raised in the Philadelphia suburbs, Buraks resides in Tredyffrin with his wife and three small children.

Region 2

Julia Hanson –Julia Hanson is a retired social worker who remains an active member of her community through numerous volunteer activities and through her church, Radnor Meeting. Prior to her retirement, Hanson spent 30 years working in social services in Philadelphia, PA and Pittsburgh, PA. Hanson began her career at the Department of Welfare in Pittsburgh and then Philadelphia. She then worked at the Anti-Poverty Center in Philadelphia, and moved from there to the Department of Child Welfare in Philadelphia. Hanson also served as a social worker for Family and Children’s Services, and for a hospital, and did counseling work for Hospice patients with Forbes Hospice. She is active in the Interfaith and Hospitality Network, which is a joint effort among various churches and synagogues in the area to provide food service to homeless families. Hanson is also an active CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for the Philadelphia Family Court system. Raised in Germantown and Clearfield, PA, Hanson received her bachelor’s of arts with a double major in history and political science from Chatham College in Pittsburgh. Hanson did graduate work in political science at The University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, and received her masters in social work from The University of Pittsburgh.