



NEWSLETTER

Coming to You from the Left Side of the House and the Senate

Matt Heim of Oceana to Speak at February Meeting

*February 28 at 7:00 pm in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center
Social Hour begins at 6:30 pm.*



Photo Credit: Gwen Lehman

The February meeting of the Democratic Club of Worcester County will be held on Thursday, February 28 in the Assateague Room of the Ocean Pines Community Center. Social hour begins at 6:30 in the evening. The General Meeting will follow at 7.

Guest Speaker is Matt Heim of Oceana. According to the non-profit's website, Oceana was established by a group of foundations that include The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, among others. Oceana was formed after a commissioned study revealed less than 0.5 per cent of all resources being spent by non-profit environmental groups was spent to support ocean advocacy. To address this lack, Oceana's founders

set up an international organization that would focus solely on protecting the world's oceans. Oceana conducts "specific, science-based policy campaigns with fixed deadlines and articulated goals."

Oceana has absorbed into its non-profit both The Ocean Law Project and American Oceans Campaign, a non-profit founded by actor and environmentalist Ted Danson. Oceana "has won more than 200 victories and protected more than 4.5 million miles of ocean."

As residents of a coastal community, it is incumbent upon us to learn as much as we can about their efforts to protect our shores.



A Message from Your President

Steve Cohen, President, DCWC

THE WALL MYTH

Border walls have become a central issue to the 2020 presidential race with the current president still promising to build a “beautiful wall” for the purposes of national security. “The Wall” is meant to clamp down on unauthorized entries, stem the fear of terrorism, and stop the flow of illegal drugs into the country. **BUT DO WALLS WORK? LET'S EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE.**

Evidence is mixed on whether walls are effective at preventing large movements of people across borders. Fortified walls often shift flows of migrants to other less fortified locations. The funneling of migrants to alternative routes can increase the number of migrant deaths as they choose more dangerous paths in crossing borders.

Despite these formations, or walls, millions of people continue to cross borders without authorization, which means walls are relatively ineffective at preventing the movement of migrants across borders. Walls are extremely expensive and difficult to adequately guard. Walls have proven ineffective in halting the smuggling of drugs, which usually arrive through legal ports of entry. Today, known terrorists are stopped at international airports, not at our borders. The most significant share of unauthorized immigrants enter the U.S. with valid visas and never leave, even after their visas have expired.

So, if walls have not worked in the past why is there such an outcry to build one? Walls can be effective political symbols that demonstrate that a government is doing something to address *perceived*, though not actual, threats, such as those attributed to unauthorized migrants.

The words on the Statue of Liberty:

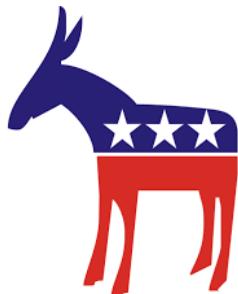
**“GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO
BREATHE FREE, THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF THE TEEMING SHORES. SEND THESE,
THE HOMELESS TEMPEST TOSSED TO ME:**



Tee-shirts, Sweatshirts, and Polo Shirts for Democrats

Anyone interested in a tee-shirt, sweatshirt, or Polo shirt in royal blue with white lettering, please contact Thomas Butler at 410-299-7306 or email Tom at thomasbutler11@mediacombb.net.

These are great to wear at Democratic meetings and other gatherings and when participating in the RESISTANCE at marches. Get yours today!



Dr. Maya Rockeymoore-Cummings

Maya Rockeymoore-Cummings Visits Berlin

Maya Rockeymoore-Cummings, the newly elected chairperson of the Maryland Democratic State Central Committee joined the Worcester County State Central Committee at its meeting on February 9 in Berlin's Town Hall. In her remarks, Rockeymoore-Cummings introduced a new "rural equity strategy." She acknowledged that the state Democratic party has long ignored Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore, ceding those parts of the state to Republicans. The realization has set in that Democrats can no longer pursue that strategy if they want to win. A new 24-county strategy has to take its place. Strategic attention needs to be paid to the "forgotten" parts of the state.

Dr. Cummings went on to introduce a plan which will focus on training, resources, research and data analytics, and building a pipeline of campaign operatives. Thirty per cent of Democrats voted for Hogan in the last election. The Democratic party needs to expand its base of voters by at least 30%. The strategy is to convince independents to vote Democratic and to engage non-voters by getting them to register to vote and to follow through by voting, hopefully with support for Democratic candidates. Democrats also need to engage young voters and work to earn their trust and support.

Dr. Cummings reminded the audience that Marylanders need to be aware of efforts to decrease voting in Prince Georges' County where an insufficient number of ballots were available and long wait lines to vote. Voter suppression has been a problem in Maryland, as well as in other states, and can not be ignored.

A large audience attended the meeting and many questions were posed to Dr. Cummings. She is in the process of meeting with Democratic Central Committee members throughout the state. The effort to build a state-wide Democratic infrastructure is already underway. The state party is determined to make clear what Democrats stand for and why Democrats represent the best advocacy for working people throughout the state.



John Dingell @JohnDingell Tweet of the Month

The Titanic avoided icebergs, with few exceptions.

The Associated Press @AP

BREAKING: Trump lawyer: Tax returns from past 10 years show no "income of any type from Russian sources," with few exceptions.

It's Hard to Know Where to Begin

by Gwen Lehman

It is so hard to decide among all of the *worsts* in this current administration which is the worser of the worst, the absolute worstest of all the worst things that have happened, are still happening, that will continue to happen because this is the absolute worst administration in the history of worst administrations in what I used to comfortably call the United States, except we're not united.

Now I know you, as a reader of that opening paragraph-sentence, can legitimately say that is the worst sentence you have ever read. And you might be right. But it is still not as bad as this administration. How could it be? That sentence was not written by Stephen Miller for 45. Of course, we all know that 45 could never write a sentence that long himself. And even if I continued to write really terrible, and long, sentences, they would not be as bad as the SOTU speech drafted by White House vampire-in-residence, Stephen Miller. And let me assure you, that if you heard me reading that outlandishly long sentence, I would read it much better than 45 read that interminable address to Congress and the American people.

There were two omissions that stood out for me as being the worst omissions in a speech long enough to have touched on hundreds of actual perils the country faces, instead of so many fake ones. Those two are climate change and gun violence. The science in the first instance is conclusive: humans are destroying the planet at a faster rate than once predicted. The science in the second instance is non-existent because the government has blocked the ability of its own scientists and researchers to study the phenomenon. Two public health crises, actual threats to the security of our nation, our culture, ourselves, and we have an administration that chooses not only to do nothing about them, but to deny that they even exist. But yes, the climate is changing and gun violence is of epidemic proportions.

I have reached the point where I can overlook Trump. He is what he is and incapable of changing. He can not learn. He does not read, nor does he listen. He is thoughtless, cruel, delusional, small-minded, petty, vastly ignorant, taking great pride in the U.S.'s "abolition of civil rights," as just one example. An embarrassment, his administration is a disaster on its way to becoming a tragedy. What I have more difficulty overlooking is career politicians and government officials who are willing to let him undermine our institutions, contravene the tenets of our Constitution, threaten the world, bankrupt the nation morally and financially, and cozy up to dictators as he edges himself closer to dictator-status himself. What is wrong with them? What are they willing to sacrifice? The answer seems to be they're nuts and us.

Mini-Calendar

February 18

Women's Democratic Club
10 am (Social 9:30 am)
Assateague Room
Of Community Center

February 28

DCWC General Meeting
7 pm (Social 6:30 pm)
Assateague Room
OC Community Center
Speaker: Matt Heim, Oceana

March 16

St. Patrick's Day Parade Ocean City (Need walkers)

March 28

DCWC General Meeting
7 pm (Social 6:30 pm)
Assateague Room
OP Community Center
Speaker: James Fisher, Delmarva
Poultry Industry

