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## Fall 2003 ACTION Newsletter

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## Who is Lancaster County ACTION?

By Kirk Radonovic, *Vice President*

Several months ago a few “un-named sources” charged Lancaster County ACTION with being discriminatory when it comes to church attendance. We were accused of supporting only candidates that attended the “correct” churches. As Vice President of Lancaster County ACTION I know who we are and in what we believe, but some people in our county may believe the article and take its accusations seriously. Therefore, I thought it would be helpful to answer the question, Who is Lancaster County ACTION?

As our brochure states, Lancaster County ACTION is a group of concerned citizens who have joined together in order to help elect candidates who will support Judeo-Christian values. The organization consists of many individual members who attend various churches throughout this county. Moving beyond these individual members, I decided that it might be a good thing to take an inventory of the Board of Directors and Advisors to see just how diverse we really are. I found out that the 21 members of the greater Board represent a total of 14 different houses of worship. Although attending a church doesn't mean that the church as a whole endorses LCA, it does indicate a certain level of diversity of perspectives.

I, myself, attend DOVE Christian Fellowship, but also remain close to the church of my family, the Serbian Orthodox Church. Yes, we do have advisors that attend Calvary Church and The Worship Center, however the vast majority attend other churches. Some of these include Catholic, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Brethren congregations, as well as several Independent churches.

So I asked myself, if we represent such different views on church, what is our common denominator? This I knew the answer to, without question. We firmly believe in the Judeo-Christian heritage and foundation of our country. We believe for America to remain free and strong we must elect men and women who understand and support these basic Judeo-Christian values. These are time-proven Biblical values and although the attacks against them seem relentless, yet, we are encouraged because we are seeing many victories. We have helped to elect our U.S. Congressman Joe Pitts, who believes in and works hard to promote these values. We have helped elect State Senators and State Representatives who share these values, and as we head into this fall election we expect to elect County Commissioners who wholeheartedly believe in these values. So thank you to all the members and friends of Lancaster County ACTION. This is who we are, and as we continue to work together, we will continue to make a difference!

*“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”*

Edmund Burke

## The Problem with Specter



by Robert Kettering, *President*

Arlen Specter is in fall campaign mode! That means from now until election day, when you hear his radio and TV spots or when you read his campaign literature, he will actually sound like a conservative! For the next 6 months anyway, you will not hear any speeches from Arlen about “the intolerant right!” His voting record will also be effected and will turn sharply to the right. Recently, Senator Specter wrote a letter to the editor of our Lancaster Newspaper. In it he touted his support for some GOP justices. Obviously, no Republican questions his support for these candidates, indeed, that is what is expected of a Republican Senator. The problem with Specter is that he can not be counted on to support all GOP justices, especially conservatives, when the balance of power is on the line. Remember Judge Bork? The confirmation of Judge Bork could have corrected the left leaning direction of our Supreme Court. This was a critical vote when the balance of power was on the line and even though Specter promised us that he would support President Reagan’s appointments, he didn’t. Now Specter is asking for our support again. Everyone is asked to support a Republican incumbent, but this particular Senator has a history of turning around and working against the people that voted for him as soon as election day is over. He is a masterful politician, throwing a few votes to conservatives, especially the year before re-election in order to win their votes for another term. A look at his record will give a clear indication of what we can expect if Specter is re-elected.

In 1987, the first year of his third term, Specter voted against Bork. He knew at that time that he would not have to face Pennsylvania’s electorate for five more years. In 1992, the last year of that same term, he backed Clarence Thomas. This was also the same year when he was being challenged in the primary by a pro-life conservative, Steve Freind. After he won that primary in 1992, while running against Lynn Yeakel, in the general election, Specter’s campaign boasted that he “had voted against both presidents Reagan and Bush more than most democrats.” Indeed he had. Then in 1993, once re-elected, he was the first Republican to cross the line and vote for Clinton’s “largest tax increase in United States history.” Finally, in the opening months of President George W. Bush’s administration, Specter voted against the Bush budget.

Arlen Specter is a liberal Republican who throws a few votes to conservatives just before election time. He has done this for the past four terms, and if conservatives elect him for a fifth term, we can expect more of the same. Furthermore, if Specter does win a fifth term, he’ll be 80- years old in 2010 and perhaps ready to retire. If he knows he doesn’t have to face voters again, conservatives may not even get the one or two years of leverage over him they’ve come to expect. Yet, even more important is that in 2004, Specter is scheduled to become chairman of the Judiciary committee. In that role, we can expect him to “Bork” conservative nominees as he has done before, and then promote justices that lean to the left. For more information about the awful SPECTER of yet another term, every Republican should read the article by National Review (9/1/03) “The Worst Republican Senator”.

Bringing a fresh, dynamic, smart conservative like Pat Toomey into the Senate now, “along with Senator Rick Santorum” could establish a strong conservative base in the East for the next 30 years. This election will be a tremendous opportunity for PA Republicans. Let’s not miss it.

## Lancaster County ACTION Quarterly Breakfast Meeting

**Saturday, October 11, 2003**

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Leola Family Restaurant, 2491 New Holland Pike (Route 23, Leola)

**Speaker: Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Joan Orie Melvin**

Endorsed Republican Candidate for Pennsylvania Supreme Court



Please reserve your seat at the quarterly breakfast by calling the ACTION office (717-653-6605) by Wednesday, October 8, 2003.

The cost is \$7.00 per person for those pre-registered.

Non-registered persons will be charged \$9.00 at the door.

### About Our Speaker - Joan Orie Melvin

- Currently serves on PA Superior Court
- Endorsed Republican candidate for PA Supreme Court
- Judge Melvin has served 18 years in the judiciary as a conservative judge
- She has received the highest recommendation from the PA Bar Association
- Judge Melvin is one of 9 children and the mother of 5 girls and 1 boy
- Judge Melvin is the sister of Senator Jane Clare Orie, the only female member of the Pro-Life Caucus in the PA Senate.
- She is endorsed by Life PAC and the PA Pro-Life Federation

**Voter Guides** will be available at the October Quarterly Breakfast or by calling the ACTION office at 653-6605. There is no charge for Voter Guides.

## LCA Stands by Endorsements of Shaub & Shellenberger

Much has been said in the news media regarding an endorsement by Lancaster County ACTION of Jim Clymer for County Commissioner in the General Election in November, 2003.

If the voters were permitted to vote for all three positions, ACTION would eagerly support Mr. Clymer, since he holds many of the same moral principles as we do. Certainly, he represents

Lancaster County values better than the other minority party candidates in this election. Since, however, the voters may vote for only two candidates, we reaffirm our earlier endorsements of Dick Shellenberger and Pete Shaub. We believe that the Shaub/Shellenberger team will provide excellent leadership for Lancaster County in the years ahead.

# School Choice is a Civil Right

excerpts from George Will

Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, who understands the patience of politics, began championing school choice as a state legislator two decades ago. Last Tuesday the House passed a small (\$10 million) experimental school choice voucher program for at least 1,300 of D.C.'s 68,000 students. Boehner understands the privations parents often must endure to give their children educational opportunities.

He knows that D.C. parents are motivated by research showing that the longer a child attends D.C.'s schools, the worse are the child's life-chances. Also, the D.C. teachers union, a tentacle of the national unions fighting to prevent what they disapprovingly call the "flight" of parents to better schools, has been looted of millions of dollars, much of it allegedly spent by some union officials on personal purchases of luxury goods.

For years, opponents of school choice for poor children have leapt from one sinking argument to another. All their arguments have now sunk:

- Choice programs that empower parents to choose religious schools are unconstitutional? Seven consecutive Supreme Court decisions say otherwise.
- Choice programs take money from public schools? The D.C. program takes not a penny - \$10 million would be new money.
- Choice programs skim the best students from the public system? Davis' bill gives priority to students in D.C.'s 15 worst-performing schools.

- Choice programs lack accountability? The academic progress of participants in the program will be measured against the progress of the students who sought but failed to get any of the 1,300 scholarships.

Pennsylvania's Arlen Specter, recently selected by National Review as "the worst Republican senator," showed why by opposing the D.C. program. His challenger in Pennsylvania's Republican primary, Rep. Pat Toomey, says he "definitely" expects conservatives around the country to increase their support for him because of Specter's obedience to the teachers unions that are already campaigning for him.

School choice for poor children is, Boehner says, today's principal civil rights field. The lottery of life, not choice, determines a child's parents and family situation. There should be choice about schools for children placed by life's lottery in difficult conditions. Otherwise, Boehner says, "It's like saying you can only buy bread in the grocery store closest to your house - and the government will run the grocery store."

It is a pity that "pro-choice" Democrats do not remain pro-choice when poor children make it past birth and reach school age.

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*clip and send*

**I would like to begin/renew (\$20.00 per household) my membership in Lancaster County ACTION.**  
(Please make check payable to **Lancaster County ACTION.**)

I'd like to volunteer for the following ACTION Committee(s):

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Contact/Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Breakfast         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education             | <input type="checkbox"/> Library            | <input type="checkbox"/> School District Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising          | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter         | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Guides                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growth/Membership     |   |  |

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Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Polling Place: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please clip and return to Lancaster County ACTION, 849 Valley Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Thank you!

## California, Here We Come!



By Michael Geer, President,  
Pennsylvania Family Institute

Late-night comedians and political cartoonists have been taking a lot of shots at California these days, thanks to the circus atmosphere surrounding the upcoming gubernatorial recall vote and election. Nearly 200 candidates will appear on the ballot, including of course, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, pornographer Larry Flynt, and scores of other serious and comical candidates.

California is in deep trouble, plunging in short order from a budget surplus to huge deficits nearly as large as Pennsylvania's entire state budget. Prof-ligate spending on massive government social programs, and business-choking taxes have sent the Golden State's finances into a free-fall that will be hard to reverse. Many other states are taking note, and are at least talking about how to avoid repeating California's financial calamity.

**But the root causes of California's woes are much deeper than taxing and spending.** In the past decade, California has charged headlong into a radical agenda that is tearing apart the social contract. Marriage is under attack, schools are incubators for a new social order, and religious freedom is seriously challenged.

Children in California public elementary schools are now subject to teaching on homosexuality as part of their mandate curriculum. New legislation will force foster parents to receive training and sign agreements certifying their acceptance of homosexual and "transgender" behavior among foster children. I could go on about this at length. Employers (including religious institutions) will be forced to hire people whose behavior is openly and blatantly sinful.

**The reason I'm writing about California is because our Commonwealth's leaders are embracing much of what has led to California's decline.** Our governor is pushing for huge increases in government spending, borrowing and taxing. He's proposing an expansive new government-funded universal pre-school program. Gov. Ed Rendell has enthusiastically embraced a "gay-rights" agenda, and is using the power of his office to advance it. Republican leaders in the State House actively advanced the nation's most radical hate-crimes law at the end of last year, setting the stage for what Rendell is doing today.

**And a Republican senator, Joe Conti, is the prime sponsor of legislation that would make Pennsylvania the California of the east in terms of "gay rights."** Senate Bill 706 would impose non-discrimination language for all employers and landlords (including religious organizations), that would prevent them from choosing not to hire or rent to people based on their "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression." A companion bill, SB 707, would prevent colleges and universities (including Christian colleges) from having admission or educational policies that discriminate based on those same criteria. As a result, for example, a Christian college would be prohibited from expelling, sustaining, punishing or denying facilities or otherwise discriminating against a student based on his or her sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

So, should a 21-year-old senior male show up in class at Messiah College dressed as a woman, the school would have no recourse. A professor who decides to encourage homosexual relations in the dorm could not be prevented from doing so.

There are also efforts underway in Pennsylvania, under the guise of "safe schools" to bring endorsement and acceptance of homosexual behavior into public school classrooms. Another California trend heading east.

Actions have consequences, and California is encountering them today. Should Pennsylvania head down that same road, we will be paying the piper in short order. California, here we come? Boy, I sure hope not.

## A Prayer For Our Elected Officials

Dear Heavenly Father,

“Your Word says, “A ruler’s heart is in the hands of the Lord.” (Proverbs 21:1)

I ask you to guide the heart of our President, George W. Bush.

Keep him faithful to Your leading, both in his own life and in his duties as our President.

I pray that you will strengthen him in his commitment to nominate judges of integrity and moral principle, and his determination to see them confirmed to the federal bench.

I pray also for the United States Congress. Please help them remain faithful to their oath before You to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States,” and guide them to vote for these judicial nominees in a way that honors that oath, so help them God.

In all things, “Thy will be done.”

In the Name of Your Son,  
Jesus Christ, AMEN.



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