

December 2023

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Next Membership Meeting

The next membership meeting will be folded into a January Discussion Forum on **Tuesday**, **January 16th at Kent Island Public Library**. The broad topic will be focused on **Focusing on Learning in Public Schools: How to Avoid Political Conflict**. Stay tuned for more information about the panel participants. This will be the first of a 3-part forum series.

If you would like to help brainstorm and plan for one of the following forums, please contact Merle Schwartz, merleschwartz@me.com. These small planning teams will be minimal time commitments for a short period of time. They will be fun and important!



Evening forums meant to inform and involve voters on today's important topics!

January 16th, 7pm
 Focusing on Learning in Public Schools:
 How to Avoid Political Conflict

Coming in March Uniting Voices for Women's Health

Coming in May
 Preserving Paradise: Saving the
 Chesapeake Bay

Join us! All are welcome. More info at: qacdems.org

Let's Meet Up!

Coffee Social

December 16th at the Lovely Little Coffee Shop, 10 am to noon, 430 Outlet Center Dr., Queenstown, MD. This is near the Gap outlet store. Conversation with fellow Democrats. Wear something BLUE!

Trivia Night Dem Fun

December 21st at Rams Head Shore House, 7 pm, 800 Main St., Stevensville, MD. This is an informal drop-in event

Holiday Party December 6th!



Don't miss your chance to join your fellow club members at a holiday party on December 6th at 6:30pm at the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center in Centreville! It is a free adult-only event, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

https://www.qacdems.org/2023_holiday_party to reserve your place.

Please contact **Andrea Alduino** 410-310-0573 or <u>4hgsleader@gmail.com</u> for questions or additional information.

Lend a Hand

2023 Migrant Families Holiday Giving Project



As you and your family prepare for the upcoming holiday season, we invite you to open your heart and consider participating in the Club's 2023 Migrant Families Holiday Giving project. This is our third year for the program, which supports the Migrant families living here in Queen Anne's County. We have nearly double the number of children to help this year, so we really need your help!

This year we have 44, school-aged children who attend Sudlersville Middle School, Sudlersville Elementary School, Grasonville Elementary School, and Queen Anne's County High School as well as four Out of School Youth (18 to 21 years old).

The good news is we are halfway there. Thank you to everyone who has selected a child. We still have 23 children and youth to help. This is a wonderful opportunity to "adopt" a child or two as a family holiday giving project to demonstrate the true meaning of the holiday season. Please join us!

We encourage everyone to select a child or youth from the list at Signup Genius https://shorturl.at/cBCX1 and consider purchasing an article of clothing like pajamas, a book and a toy, if possible. Don't feel as though you have to purchase multiple gifts for a child. Any gift or gifts are greatly appreciated.

Wrapped gifts should be marked with the child's/youth's name and grade (or OSY for Out of School Youth). Gifts can be dropped off at the holiday party on December 6th.

For more information or to arrange pickup/delivery if not attending the holiday party, contact Carol D'Agostino (410) 604-2319 or caroldag1@atlanticbb.net or Dorotheann Sadusky at (410) 490-0361 or Elaine McNeil (443) 262-1310. The deadline to return wrapped gifts is December 17.

It's Political!

Maryland Democratic Party Event: Rural Urban Divide Training with Anthony Flaccavento of RUBI, Inc.

Join this ZOOM event on January 6th from 10am - 12:30pm EST

This training is sponsored by the Maryland Democratic Party and coordinated by its Rural Communities Committee. It is available at no charge to any rural Maryland Democrat.

The Rural Urban Divide (RUD) training provides a concise but deep dive into the underlying causes of the rural urban divide and what progressives, liberals and Democrats can do to begin to overcome it. Developed by the Rural Urban Bridge Initiative, or RUBI, the RUD training brings together extensive research and a wide range of hands-on experience that enables participants to engage with rural people more productively and effectively. The RUD training has been done more than 50 times with nearly 3000 participants, from local Democratic Committees to state-wide and national progressive organizations.

For more information on RUBI, please see it's website at https://ruralurbanbridge.org/

The Congressman from Maryland and Food Insecurity-Reflections from a QAC Democratic Board Member

The Congressman from Maryland's 1st Congressional District, Andy Harris, is the Republican Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. In a November 21, 2023 press release, the Congressman responded to an October 2023 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report that shows increased household food insecurity in the U.S. in 2022 (https://harris.house.gov/media).

According to the Congressman, "Bidenomics" and "reckless government spending that is driving food inflation and costing Americans more money at the grocery store"

is to blame. Harris' apparent solution – control spending and curb inflation – is as predictable as it is unhelpful.

Because facts matter, voters should look at the USDA report themselves (*USDA ERS - Household Food Security in the United States in 2022*). The USDA reports that the vast majority of U.S. households are food secure (87.2%). Food insecure households (12.8%) were those that had difficulty at some time during the year providing enough food for all their members because of a lack of resources. This included the 5.1 percent with very low food security. The 2022 prevalence of food insecurity was higher than the 10.2 percent recorded in 2021 and the 10.5 percent recorded in 2020. The report found that children were food insecure at times during 2022 in 8.8 percent of U.S. households with children, up from 6.2 percent in 2021 and 7.6 percent in 2020. This included the 1.0 percent of children deemed to have very low food security. The report stated that about 55% of food-insecure households participate in one or more of the three largest federal nutrition assistance programs from USDA: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the National School Lunch Program.

According to the report, the prevalence of food insecurity is determined by many factors, such as federal, state, and local policies, and household circumstances- not just inflation and prices. Importantly, the USDA report did *not* provide an analysis of possible causal explanations for the prevalence of, or trends in, food insecurity. Some suggest that the expiration of supplemental benefits for nutrition and children during the pandemic may be at least partially responsible. These included the expanded Child Tax Credit, universally free school meals, and, in some states, higher Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) benefits (*statement from Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on the Economic Research Service's 2022 Household Food Security in the U.S. Report* | *USDA*). Other root causes of hunger vary (*2023 Elevating Voices: Insights Report* | *Feeding America*).

Interestingly, the prevalence of food insecurity varied considerably by state. Food insecurity was statistically significantly higher than the national average in 6 southern states (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas). But in Maryland and 16 other states, food insecurity was lower than the national average. Indeed, in Maryland, very low food security declined statistically significantly during the period under review.

All Americans can agree that no one should go hungry – and certainly no child - in the richest country in the world. Voters have a responsibility to resist the political slogan blame game. They must demand that their elected representatives provide facts, reasoned analysis, and concrete and practical solutions. This should certainly be expected of Congressman Harris in his capacity as chair of the House committee that funds food benefit programs. Making sure that everyone in America has enough to eat is basic. As a representative and a physician, the congressman should do more than politicize hunger and fling slogans.

The Biden-Harris Administration has a national strategy for ending hunger (https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/09/27/executive-summary-biden-harris-administration-national-strategy-on-hunger-nutrition). Voters should read the Biden-Harris plan and vote

Support the Cause

Help Us Find New Members

Share our website with friends! http://gacdems.org

Renew Your Membership Today!

We still have much to do to turn the tide blue right here in Queen Anne's County. Let us continue the course TOGETHER to build a solid foundation for future elections.

We hope that you will continue to support our Democratic Club to fight for justice, equality, and opportunity by renewing your membership in the Democratic Club of Queen Anne's County or joining for the first time. Your dues help to cover the Club's outreach efforts, special events, materials, printing, and postage. Annual dues are only \$35/household, \$20/individual, or #10/student.

Renew at http://qacdems.org

Donate today.

Set up a recurring donation through ActBlue to help support the Queen Anne's County Democrats.

Recurring donations help us keep our county headquarters, lend support to local democratic activities, and maintain a presence in our community.

Any amount will help! Visit <u>qacdems.org</u>





Our Legislators

Ben Cardin

U.S. Senator

Chris Van Hollen

U.S. Senator

Andy Harris, MD

U.S. Representative

Steve Hershey

Maryland State Senator

Steven Arentz

Maryland State Delegate

Jefferson Ghrist

Maryland State Delegate

Jay Jacobs

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