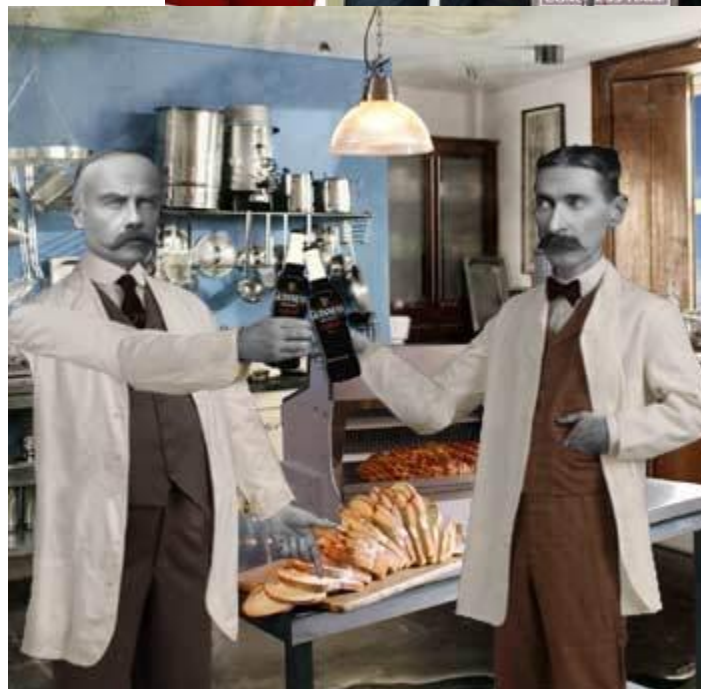


## *Cape May County Page*



### **MIDDLE DEMS PULL OFF REORG OKEY-DOKE**

Many people I have encountered think that politics is often the art of stealing credit to make yourself look like you did something you did not. I believe you gotta give credit where credit is due. The Middle Township/Cape May County Democrats\* pulled off a brilliant tactical maneuver at the Township of Middle reorganization meeting on the evening of January 5, 2010. It is not going too far to say that this was a jaw-dropping moment. One that was not, but should have been anticipated by Republicans. I can't help but think of the commercial for my favorite beer: BRILLIANT!

The headline in local papers should have been this: **LOCKWOOD TAKES OFFICE AS FIRST REPUBLICAN ELECTED TO MIDDLE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE IN OVER**

**FIFTY YEARS. Think about that for a moment. Although there has been a Republican or two on Township Committee over the past five or six decades, none of them were elected as Republicans. In November 2009, Dan Lockwood capped a two year relentless quest by becoming the only Republican candidate to be elected to the Middle Township governing body since before Lockwood was even born! This is a huge story. With a three member governing body, this puts the Republican Party one seat away from wresting control of the town from the Democrats. Lockwood's election may be a bellwether indicating a larger trend in the electorate away from Democratic candidates in the age of Obama. But the story got almost no play. Instead, the headlines read like this: DELANZO BECOMES FIRST FEMALE MAYOR OF MIDDLE TOWNSHIP. The Lockwood story was reduced to an inch or so of text after the jump. BRILLIANT! When outgoing Mayor (now Deputy Mayor) Nate Doughty made the motion to declare Susan Atkinson-DeLanzo Mayor of Middle Township \*\* a pin dropping in the room would have sounded like a gong. DeLanzo herself seemed to be gasping for oxygen as she accepted the nomination. (As a Middletonian I have to say that I felt some pride that Middle Township had taken this step, especially after [our recent GOPLOG post pointing out the ascendancy of women in Cape May County politics](#)) . This move tells a lot about the political situation in Middle Township. The day before the meeting, the Middle Township Democrats informed State Senator Jeff Van Drew (D) of the decision to install DeLanzo as Mayor, but did NOT inform Lockwood. If this was not a political decision designed to step on the Lockwood story, why inform the Senator and not the incoming Committeeman duly elected by the voters of Middle Township? This puts Lockwood on notice that, despite the warm and fuzzy reorganization meeting, he is on the outside looking in on a Democratic majority. This also puts DeLanzo in the position of running for re-election as the incumbent Mayor. BRILLIANT! A Mayor can mask a great deal of campaigning as "official events" like ribbon cuttings and award ceremonies. Lots of little 2 inch by 3 inch pictures in the Herald and Gazette. All of that adds up. This town is now ground zero in the traditional Democrats vs. Republican struggle for local political control that has raged since Lincoln put the Republican Party on the map. The orchestrated political theater that took place on January 5<sup>th</sup> was designed to state clearly that the Democrats intend to defend Mayor DeLanzo, and in the process, their majority control of the Township. BRILLIANT!**

**\*\*\***

**\*Can't really distinguish these groups since the County Democratic Chairman is**

the Middle Township Municipal Attorney.

\*\* The Mayor in Middle is not elected by the voters, but chosen by the three members of the governing body from amongst themselves.

\*\*\*I'm thirsty.

## *The New Jersey Page*



### BROTHERS IN ARMS – CHRIS AND TODD CHRISTIE

The New York Times last week published a feature on the Christie Brothers, Todd and Chris. Chris, as you may have heard, will become Governor of New Jersey next week. Todd, the younger brother, will continue to be the Brother-in-Chief. The Times piece spent a great deal of ink on allegations that Todd was involved in securities transactions that defrauded customers. He was never convicted of any offense. In fact, even when a civil action was brought

by the Federal government against him and other traders, Todd was never subject to any penalty or found to have done anything wrong.

Here is the interesting part of the story for me: Prior to running for Governor in 2009, Chris Christie knew all the details of this story. He knew that if his brother Todd was in any way associated with his campaign, that the matter would be an issue. In fact, Chris Christie had to know that in the very rough world of New Jersey politics, this story would become a two-by-four that the Democrats would use to bash him over the head with.

So what did Chris Christie do? Did he send his brother away to hide during the campaign? No, he featured him. But let's go back even a little further.

At the 2008 Republican National Convention, gubernatorial hopefuls roamed the hotel and convention center, hoping to get the lay-of-the-land of New Jersey Republican politics. John Crowley was said to be mulling a run.

There is a major motion picture starring Harrison Ford out right now about Crowley's quest to find a treatment for his children's rare disease. Todd Christie was there as well. Obviously, he was not running for Governor. But his brother Chris, the U.S. Attorney for New Jersey, was being talked about as a possible candidate. Chris, however, was precluded from political involvement. Todd was not. In contrast to a great number of the political figures at the RNC, Todd Christie was humble and genuine. He was engaging without being pushy. He listened more than he spoke. He was gracious to the most high-level elected official and the lowliest delegate.

Now, fast forward to the 2009 campaign. The two-by-four came out. Todd Christie was at the forefront of his brother's campaign for Governor. It seemed like every day on Facebook, Todd had something new to say in support or defense of his brother. When the accusations started flying about stock fraud, I fully expected Todd's online discussions to cease. But they didn't. He kept up the fight. And on the trail, Chris Christie defended his brother. The shots were fast, furious and ugly.

Standing next to Chris on the stage at the Historic Old Court House in Cape May County during the primary, I was impressed when he verbally charged straight-on at an opponent's supporter who started hurling mud about Todd all over the room. He made it clear that he was not going to deflect or spin; he was going to defend his brother. I get it. I have three of them.

This story tells us perhaps all we need to know about Chris Christie. He clearly values family and loyalty over the advice of political consultants.

Though I have no inside knowledge, there can be no doubt that some adviser (or several) told him he had to disown his brother for the duration of the campaign. He had to have been advised to say, "I am not my brother's keeper and he is not part of our campaign." But he didn't. He stood by his brother.

He took all the shots and endured all the headlines. He was loyal, a very rare trait in politics, even where family members are concerned. Chris Christie risked his shot at becoming the Governor of New Jersey rather than set his bother adrift.

On the Christie campaign bus, Todd and Chris spoke in a brothers' code. Veiled references and one-liners brought out the kind of knowing laughter that only brothers can share. And on January 19, 2010, they get to share the last laugh.

*National Page*



## **RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRIES UNDER PRESSURE FROM FEDS**

2010 will see complex fights over commercial and recreational fisheries, including the institution of the dreaded salt-water fishing license. [This piece from ESPN does better justice to these issues than I could.](#) Cape May County, especially, could be negatively impacted by these overreaching federal policies. This will be an active political battleground this year.