

Editor:

The last Wednesday of each month in Mea's Restaurant at the Markle Building in downtown Hazleton, a group of us have met to reform the Republican Party of Lower Luzerne County.

While this task seemed daunting to the handful of us who showed for our first meeting, we reminded ourselves of the small group of patriots who met in Philadelphia and managed to create the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and founded this great nation. And, this small group accomplished all of that without the advanced technology that exists today! Considered in that context, we realized a rebirth of the GOP in our region (designated as "District One") was absolutely possible.

As the District One Committee chairman, I am pleased to report our tremendous progress thus far to our community. We have many active committee members (though some slots are still open), we established bylaws and have a rather healthy bank account. We have created numerous subcommittees as well, among them Web development, fundraising and election/candidate committees.

We are hosting "The First Annual Red Party Cocktail Bash" on Oct. 8 at Valley Country Club (more information on that this fall) with a surprise, high-profile keynote speaker to be announced. This event is intended to both raise additional funds for GOP activity in Lower Luzerne County and gather regional citizens with shared ideologies in an enjoyable social setting. Our overall intent is for the District One Republican Committee to be seen as a new model of how concerned, engaged citizens can revive a great political party, a party that was that of Abraham Lincoln.

Our region has unfortunately become infamous for corruption. But if we can cease political indifference and passivity, we can change this! The District One Republican Committee encourages those in our region, from college students to senior citizens, to reclaim our honor and civic responsibility.

To get involved, please let our community know the next meeting is Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. on the Mezzanine Level above Mea's Restaurant. Thank you and God Bless the tremendous citizens of District One.

Sean Shamany,

District One Republican Committee chairman