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Cape political season off and running

Posted on March 29, 2010 by mark.skala

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The calendar says it's March and early spring, but the political season on Cape is already heating up. There's no waiting until fall for it to kick into high gear.

I saw this first-hand last Thursday when I attended the Creative Collaborative conference sponsored by the Arts Foundation of Cape Cod at the Cape Codder Resort in Hyannis. The final session of the day involved a panel discussion with our region's representatives on Beacon Hill. It wasn't what they said that stood out to me, but what went unsaid. With Congressman Bill Delahunt not seeking re-election in the 10th district, the floodgates have opened. The Cape's state senator, Rob O'Leary, is one of the candidates declaring intentions to run for the seat. Republican Jeff Perry is also seeking his party's nomination for this race.

O'Leary's announcement has brought more people to the table vying for his seat. Among them right now are Democrats Dan Wolf, owner of Cape Air; County Commissioner Sheila Lyons; and long-time 10th congressional district aide Mark Forest. Lyons served on the panel discussion, as it was open to all current elected officials. But Forest and Wolf made their presence known at the conference, working the room and the attendees present.

It was interesting watching them jockey for position and press the flesh. Though no one was saying it — it sure felt like campaigning is well underway. It is going to be a pretty exciting season from my point of view. First of all, there are so many stories and issues to cover. The contested races should bring out lots of potential voters and that is exactly what we need. Races with multiple candidates always serve the electorate well. I'm not one who wishes away the time, but the late summer and fall should prove to be very interesting on the political front.

One final note: Interestingly, O'Leary never made it on time for the panel discussion. He was scheduled but was a no-show for that portion of the conference. He did show up in time to receive an award from the arts foundation, though, for all his support of arts and culture on Cape.



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