

Demetra DeMonte

Demetra DeMonte has spent her life participating in the political arena. Born and raised in Chicago, her father served as a Democrat precinct captain and secretary to a Chicago Alderman and Ward Committeeman until his death in 2003 at the age of 88. Choosing a different path, in her twenties, Demetra switched her allegiance and energy to the Republican Party, when she realized how much the words of **Ronald Reagan** rang true to her: **“I didn’t leave the Democrat Party, the Democrat Party left me.”**

Despite her switch, her father was excited about her political involvement and proud of all her accomplishments. Demetra believes *“that people who are passionate about politics—those who are interested in making a positive difference—must get involved. Talking about the issues is not enough.”*

On January 14, 2011, Demetra was elected **Secretary of the Republican National Committee**. The position comprises one of four elected positions of the Republican National Committee. Demetra is a member of the RNC Executive Committee. She was also appointed to the transition team of RNC Chairman Reince Priebus.

In June of 2008, Demetra was elected **Republican National Committeewoman for Illinois** at the State Convention in Decatur. In January 2009 she was elected **Secretary of Midwest Region of the RNC**. **She also represents Illinois on the Rules Committee.**

Demetra understands the importance of reaching out to the Tea Party Movement and rallying all grassroots efforts. As Director of Coalitions for Illinois, she was successful in coordinating and communicating with active leaders using her conservative principles and leadership skills.

Demetra is involved in important policy matters on the RNC. **She is the author and chief sponsor of the RNC Resolution Concerning Freedom from Communist China’s Internet Threats. The resolution was adopted by the RNC on August 5, 2011. She is also the author and chief sponsor of the RNC Resolution Urging Members of Congress to Abandon Earmarks. The resolution was adopted by the RNC on May 20, 2009. She co-sponsored several other resolutions which were also adopted: RNC Resolution Opposing the “National Popular Vote Compact”; RNC Resolution to Reform the Obama Administration’s Policy of Appointing Czars (co-author); RNC Resolution Recognizing the Democrats March to Socialism; RNC Resolution Commending Republicans for Opposing Bailouts; RNC Resolution on Obamacare: Marching Further Toward Socialism; RNC Resolution on Cap and Trade.**

Since being elected, Demetra **has traveled all around the state** speaking, recruiting and assisting candidates and attending events. **Her message is one of optimism.**

Her other political leadership in Illinois has included her role as the **State Central Committeeman**, a position to which she was unanimously elected by the 20 county chairmen in her district, in March 2008, and **Tazewell County Republican Chairman**, a position she has held since 2004. Demetra resigned from both of these positions after being elected National Committeewoman.

Tazewell has been well served by her strong organizational and leadership skills. Upon being elected chairman, Demetra immediately moved the party headquarters from the Republican stronghold of **Morton** to Democrat **Pekin**. She did this because she believes *“you must take the message and messengers where most needed.”*

Despite being a considered a “swing” county, in 2006 Tazewell Republicans picked up the only judgeship in Illinois. They also defied the negative statewide trend by electing a new county board chairman and board member. The Peoria Journal Star ran an article on the election with the headline: **“Republicans deflect Democrats in Tazewell County”**.

Demetra is an effective fundraiser and chairs successful events. Her last Lincoln Day Dinner as County Chairman, held on February 2, 2008, was a sell-out with 1200 people attending.

During her tenure as Chairman, Demetra has been recognized for her innovative ideas and hard work. An active member of the **County Chairman’s Association** including her roles as the **Vice President for the Central Zone and Regional Coordinator** she has developed and presented a program entitled *“So you’ve been elected County Chairman... Now What?”* This program underscores her commitment to training and mission of revitalizing the grassroots. In 2007, State **Republican Chairman Andy McKenna** appointed her to the nine-member **Illinois GOP Chairman’s Task Force**.

As an active participant in Presidential politics, she chaired the 2000 **Peoria “W Stands for Women”** event attended by over 1,000 women which was heralded as contributing to Bush’s winning margin in Central Illinois. In 2004, she was elected as **Bush Delegate** to the **National Convention in New York City** for the 18th Congressional District. In 2008 she was a **delegate to the National Convention in Minneapolis**.

Demetra maintains a good relationship with the media and is contacted regularly for interviews. She has been on television, radio, and in newspapers numerous times.

Since 1978, Demetra has served as the **chief business-operations manager** of the orthodontic practice she and her husband built from the ground up. She is **responsible for managing all aspects of the business including strategic planning, operations, finance, accounting, human resources and marketing**.

She also has served as an **Analyst with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals**, where she **assessed hospitals nationwide, to determine whether or not they merited receiving accreditation, which would enable them to operate as an approved entity**; and as **Administrative Assistant with the National Safety Council**, where she served as the administrative assistant to the Traffic Department Director, supporting him in all aspects of his management position.

Demetra and her husband, **Dr. Anthony DeMonte**, an orthodontist, have lived, worked and raised their family in Pekin since 1978. They have two daughters **Alexandra**, a doctoral candidate at **Loyola University of Chicago**, and **Elizabeth**, studying for her MBA, who is also a May 2008 graduate of **Illinois Wesleyan University**. Both daughters were married in 2008. Demetra graduated from **Loyola University of Chicago** with a Bachelor of Arts in history, with an emphasis in American history.