

## 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.”*

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

Demetra is involved in important policy matters on the RNC. She is the **author and chief sponsor of the RNC Resolution Urging Members of Congress to Abandon Earmarks. The resolution was adopted at a special meeting of the RNC on May 20, 2009. She co-sponsored two additional resolutions which were adopted at the special meeting: RNC Resolution Recognizing the Democrats March to Socialism; RNC Resolution Commending Republicans for Opposing Bailouts.**

Demetra also **co-sponsored three additional resolutions that were presented and approved at the 2009 Summer RNC Meeting:** RNC Resolution to Reform the Obama Administration’s Policy of Appointing Czars (Demetra assisted in writing the resolution); 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.** Republicans are engaged, understand why we lost and will do what is necessary to win in 2010 and beyond. She also talks of **the corruption and dysfunction of one-party rule.**

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 County 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.”* Tazewell County Republicans now have a headquarters which is manned by volunteers year round which is the center of activity for Republicans from around the county including the distribution of an informative quarterly newsletter.

Despite being a considered a “swing” county, in 2008 and 2006 Tazewell Republicans defied the negative statewide trends, maintaining all countywide and county board incumbents. In 2008 they elected a new county board chairman and board member. In 2006 they picked up the only judgeship in Illinois and elected a new county board member. The Peoria Journal Star ran an article on the election with the headline: **“Republicans deflect Democrats in Tazewell County”**. In 2004, Tazewell Republicans picked up a county office from the Democrats.

Demetra is an effective fundraiser. Within weeks of first being elected chairman she conducted a fund drive that raised over \$22,000 in six weeks. She also chairs successful events, with her Lincoln Day Dinners typically having 400-450 people in attendance. Her last dinner as chairman, held on February 2, 2008, was a sell-out with 1200 people attending. She has also held an annual fall fund-raiser, which attracts 250-300 plus attendees.

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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**, a design consultant, who is 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.