



Bonnie Luna *for Delegate Committee*

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WHO IS BONNIE LUNA?

She was born Bonnie Jane Nelson in a house clinic in the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, the middle of three girls born to Paul and Dessie Nelson. She grew up in a hamlet called Glady, where perhaps 120 persons lived a meager lifestyle. While her father worked as a gandy dancer (a railroaders' term for track maintenance workers) for the Western Maryland Railroad, her mother ran a subsistence farm and kept house. Through the 8th grade, Bonnie attended a two-room schoolhouse heated by a cast iron pot-bellied stove. After graduating from Elkins High School, she attended Potomac State College, becoming the first member of her family to ever go to college.

In the early 1970s, Bonnie found a summer job in Ocean City, Maryland, fell in love with the Eastern Shore, and never left. She went to work for Boise Cascade Corporation, the developer of Ocean Pines. She became a Realtor, attended (then) Salisbury State College, and eventually managed and owned her own construction company. She is currently an associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Properties in Ocean Pines.

Over the years, Bonnie's organizational skills and desire for service have led her to volunteer her support for a number of charitable and community organizations. She has long been a part of the leadership of the Berlin Heritage Foundation, which preserves the history of the town, and originated such ongoing events as the Calvin B. Taylor House Museum's Concerts on the Lawn series and the Classical Christmas candlelight concerts. She has also participated in capital campaigns for the Atlantic General Hospital and the Salisbury Zoo's Fun(d) for Kids, served on the Board of Directors of the Deer's Head Foundation, been an active fundraiser for the Boy Scouts of America Tri-County District, and founded and still organizes the monthly Spiritual Leadership Breakfast Series that invites Lower Shore civic leaders to share before audiences how God is working in their lives.

Bonnie's most time-consuming endeavor has been chairing The Magi Fund, a nonprofit organization she founded in 1993 to benefit two Salisbury-based charities that serve the poor and homeless of the Lower Shore. Through its annual Magi Choral Festival, this all-volunteer organization has raised over \$500,000 in cash, divided equally between the Joseph House Center and the Christian Shelter. It has also created at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore a perpetual endowment for the two groups, now valued at over \$375,000.

Her awards include the Boy Scouts Tri-County District Distinguished Citizen Award, the Maryland You Are Beautiful Volunteer Award for Wicomico County, the Bray-Tubman

Award for service to the Eastern Shore, and the Wicomico County Commission for Women's recognition for outstanding leadership. She is a graduate of the Shore Leadership program and Salisbury University's Civic and Government Leadership Academy.

Bonnie has been active in local politics since 1990, when she first volunteered in the congressional campaign for Luis Luna (whom she would later marry). She subsequently served as campaign coordinator for state Senator Lowell Stoltzfus, regional coordinator for gubernatorial candidate Ellen Sauerbrey, and regional coordinator for George W. Bush during his two presidential campaigns. Bonnie was elected by First Congressional District voters to attend the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia as a Bush delegate.

In 2003, Governor Bob Ehrlich appointed Bonnie as a member of the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission. The commission is a 17-member panel that interviews potential candidates for appointment to the State's two high courts: the Court of Special Appeals and the Court of Appeals.