

May 2006

Volume 2, Issue 4

GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA

At Last - Primary Time... May 16th

"My political ideal is democracy. Let every man be respected as an individual and no man idolized. ... I am quite aware that for any organization to reach its goals, one man must do the thinking and directing and generally bear the responsibility. But the led must not be coerced; they must be able to choose their leader.... The really valuable thing in the pageant of human life seems to me not the political state, but the creative, sentient individual, the personality; it alone creates the noble and the sublime, while the herd as such remains dull in thought and dull in feeling.

"This topic brings me to that worst outcrop of herd life, the military system, which I abhor... This plague-spot of civilization ought to be abolished with all possible speed. Heroism on command, senseless violence, and all the loathsome nonsense that goes by the name of patriotism -- how passionately I hate them!"

--Albert Einstein

("The World As I See It",
www.aip.org/history)

Dear Friends of DFA,

When the Adams County Democratic Committee sent me a thank-you letter (see insert), I was gratified and embarrassed. The letter is clearly meant for **ALL OF YOU** who have changed politics forever in Adams County. Not only did you demonstrate "outstanding public participation" in collecting more than 4000 signatures for local candidates, but you are helping to transform the Democratic Party here into a vibrant organization that is demanding respect and reform, and has the resources to make it happen.

On April 8th, the Gettysburg Hotel Ballroom was filled at 8:30 AM for the annual Democratic breakfast and raised a net profit of \$4150, exceeding all expectations. At the April meeting of the Adams County Democratic Committee (ACDC) the treasurer announced a balance on hand of \$17,000, which everyone present agreed was a record for funds-on-hand at this point in the election cycle. There are also 40 Democrats on the ballot for precinct leaders representing most of our county's 48 voting districts.

Will all this effort make any difference at the polls? May 16th is the PA Primary Election and the number of Democrats who vote in a non-Presidential primary is typically very low. Our next task is to turn out more voters than last year.

This year we have real choices on the May ballot – including all those running for a seat on the Democratic Committee and candidates vying for the opportunity to challenge Republican incumbents in the November election. At our last meet-up we endorsed three of these regional candidates, Phil Avillo, Patrick Naugle, and Roger Lund.

Remember the words of DFA founder Howard Dean:

At every turn when there has been an imbalance of power, the truth questioned, or our beliefs and values distorted, the change required to restore our nation has always come from the bottom up from our people.

Elaine L. Jones, Chair



April 1, 2006

Dear Elaine,

On behalf of the Adams County Democratic Committee I would like to thank you and the Democracy for America organization for the outstanding public participation and involvement in our county. Through your efforts, and that of the DFA, the number of candidates seeking public office on the Democratic ticket has increased by a considerable amount. As Chairperson of this organization, you help raise the interest of many to seek elected office. I wish you and members of the DFA continued success as we work to secure the best representation at all levels of government for the citizens of Adams County.

Thank you,

Sam Giardullo
Adams Democratic Chair

The Iraq Task Force Needs Your Help! Let's Get Todd Platts behind the "Discharge Petition"

--Lou Hammann

At the national level, Democracy for America has launched a project to move members of the House of Representatives in the direction of a "discharge petition." What does this mean?

A bi-partisan group of lawmakers have begun a new effort to attract support for the idea of holding a lengthy debate on Iraq policy on the floor of the House of Representatives. In practical political terms this means that six congressmen (three Republicans and three Democrats) have encouraged their colleagues to sign a discharge petition for H.Res. 543, a rule that would allow floor consideration of a resolution introduced by Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii) in 2005. H. Res. 543 would require President Bush "to develop and implement a plan for the withdrawal" of American troops from Iraq. If passed, the House would require **itself** to engage in up to 17 hours of debate on Abercrombie's Iraq resolution.

So, what can the Gettysburg Area DFA do to aide and abet this parliamentary maneuver? The strategy requires 218 Representatives to sign a petition that would bring 543 to the floor. And that resolution is what would set in motion the 17 hours of mandatory debate by the House. As we all know, Todd Platts is our man in Washington. We must do

what we can to persuade him at least **to sign** the petition that would bring the Discharge Resolution to the floor for debate. We may want to "advise" him what he should say if he enters into the debate. **But the immediate task is to encourage Congressman Platts to attach his name to the petition.**

During the debate, the expectation is that Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) will introduce her "no permanent bases" resolution as an amendment. This is meant to stop the building of facilities that would allow the U.S. to station troops in Iraq "permanently." Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) would introduce his "end the war in Iraq Act" that would cut off funding for the war. And Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) would offer his bill setting withdrawal schedules for U.S. troops. Other amendments are possible—on either side of the debate.

Other DFA chapters across the nation are organizing themselves to urge their Representatives to sign the petition that would launch for the first time in three years a serious and public discussion of Iraq policy in the Halls of Congress.

The letter of the six Congressmen that set this parliamentary maneuver in motion declares:

"While we represent different constituencies, belong to different political parties and have differing views on what U.S. policy in Iraq should be, we are united in our conviction that it is time for the House of Representatives to debate

the war in Iraq. Anything less would be a disservice to those who sent us here and to those who serve their nation in Iraq."

The intention is simply to re-start public discussion on the best strategy for coping with this crisis in our national life. Since assigning their constitutional power to decide matters of war to the President in November of 2002, the Congress has remained silent on what to do and who should do it. Even the media reports on the real world in Iraq, and the confusion that haunts our national conscience reveals a discontent that is reflected in the sinking approval ratings for the Republican administration in the polls.

For your information, our options are several: Phone calls, e-mail, paper mail, a visit to Platts' offices in Gettysburg, or some combination of the four tactics. Local contact,

Representative Todd Platts
22 Chambersburg St.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
338-1919

www.house.gov/platts

(And click on "Contact us")

The Iraq Task Force has been trying to arrange a visit that would allow face-to-face discussion of the "signing" option. We invite others to do the same. The request to Mr Platts is simple: Sign the petition that releases H.Res 543 so that debate can begin.

**Tell Congress it's Time
to hold an Open
Debate on the
Occupation of Iraq**

Election / Campaign Calendar

Saturday, April 29th:

Door-to-Door Canvass, ACDC -This is a door-to-door canvass of Adams County. We would like to hit all precincts if possible. The Democratic Party will be providing door hangers and candidates will be providing their own literature. Come out and support the canvass and the Democratic Party. It is a great way to touch base with your neighbors. Please sign up at www.dnc.org.

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Tuesday, May 9, Last day to apply for Absentee Ballot for May 16th Primary

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Casey Organizers

Wednesday, May 10

62 Chambersburg Street

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**TAKE BACK AMERICA
CONFERENCE 2006
Washington, DC, June 12, 13, 14**

Join thousands of progressive activists, thinkers and leaders to discuss our vision, unite our groups, and train our campaign organizers. Be part of the largest progressive gathering of the year. Last year's speakers included Howard Dean, Antonio Villaraigosa, John Edwards, Jesse Jackson, Arianna Huffington, Bill Moyers among others. **Early registration is \$199 until April 28, \$260 after April 28.** Alan Olson attended in 2005, and Roger Lund attended in 2004. More information can be found at www.ourfuture.org or talk to Alan or Roger.

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Saturday, June 3, Yard Sale to benefit Phil Aвило, contact Sue Knight.

Endorsement Voting

At the General Meet-up on April 5th, 44 people were present to vote on endorsing regional candidates. The results were as follow:

	Yes	No	no vote
Phil Aвило	44	0	0
Alan Henry	22	16	6
Pat Naugle	40	3	1
Bill Panebaker	23	16	5
Roger Lund	44	0	0

Although all 5 candidates received a simple majority, DFA endorsement required a two-thirds super majority. Phil Aвило (candidate for US Congress), Patrick Naugle (candidate for State Legislature), and Roger Lund (candidate for State Democratic Committee representative) received the endorsement of Gettysburg Area DFA.

A Big Thank You to Gettysburg Area DFA

I want to express my gratitude to Gettysburg Area DFA for endorsing my campaign for the 9th Legislative District. This means a lot to me personally because of the high regard I have for DFA and the guiding principals of the organization. My gratitude extends far beyond the endorsement. I thank you for providing an outlet for political activism. Activity breeds enthusiasm. Enthusiasm leads to motivation. Motivation, when properly focused, results in accomplishments. Of course, energy is quickly diffused without leadership, and special thanks go to Elaine Jones and Roger Lund for providing that leadership. I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of you for the support I have already received, including petition circulating, donations, accepting campaign positions, and, most importantly, personal encouragement. The good news is I'm going to need more support, so I'm thanking you in advance. Thank you.
Pat Naugle

Gettysburg Area DFA Newsletter is published each month via mail, e-mail and website posting. To add your name to the mailing list, contact EvelynASteen@aol.com or Elaine Jones at (717) 677-9442. Submissions should be sent to JoAnn Udovich, editor, udovich@cvn.net, (717) 642-8311.

GETTYSBURG AREA DFA

P.O. Box 489

Arendtsville, PA 17303

Task Force Meetings

PA Watchdog Task Force

2nd Thursday
7 - 8:30 PM, Ragged
Edge

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Environmental Task Force

3rd Thursday
7 - 8:30 PM, Ragged
Edge

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Iraq Task Force

Last Wednesday
7 - 8:30 PM, Ragged
Edge

www.gettysburgareadfa.org

Gettysburg Area DFA General Meet-Up

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

**Where Do We Go From Here?
An Open Discussion of the Agenda of Gettysburg Area DFA**

**As we pursue the elections,
What Issues do you think are important?
How shall we address them?**

*** Also, Final Primary Planning for Endorsed Candidates ***

**Room 206, Valentine Hall
Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary, 7- 9 p.m.**