

July 2006

Volume 2, Issue 6

GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY FOR AMERICA

Join us at the Seminary
(Valentine Hall 206)
on
Wednesday July 5

when we discuss

**“Immigration Issues
and Their Impact On
Adams County”**

Our invited panel of
community leaders will help
us explore immigration
issues in Adams County.

Just who are the
“immigrants”? Are they
“legal” or “illegal?”

How do they impact our
County businesses and
economy? How has the
debate affected the
established immigrant
population? What is the
expected impact of current
proposals for dealing with
undocumented immigrants?

**In order to begin the
program promptly,
the Hospitality Committee
(Evelyn Steen, chair),
INVITES**

**DFA affiliates and friends
to gather at 6:30
for refreshments and
socializing.**

**Gettysburg Area DFA
meeting begins
at 7 p.m. sharp.**

Setting the Stage for the Fall

Dear Friends,

I was pleased to see so many new faces at the Adams County Democratic Committee post-election reorganization meeting on Monday, June 19. More than fifty people were in attendance, including many newly-elected members recruited from the ranks of our DFA. At the meeting new leaders were elected including Mike Pavlovich (Chair) and Elaine Jones (Vice Chair). Stephanie Roelker was re-elected Treasurer and Marcia Wilson was re-appointed as Secretary. Also, elected to the Executive Committee were Roger Lund, Susan Naugle, Warren Steen, and Marianne Crouthamel. Four additional positions on the executive committee are appointments, and Chair Mike Pavlovich appointed three persons to these positions thus far: Sam Giardullo, Patricia Manning, and Mark Berg. ACDC has a record amount of funds on hand at this point in an election cycle, and discussion was held about moving quickly to make recommendations on candidate contributions.

In lieu of our regular meeting in August, members of Gettysburg Area DFA will support the **PROGRESSIVE DINNER** on **Saturday, July 29** to help our endorsed candidates. For particulars on this event, see page 3. Please note, that both Pat Naugle and Phil Avillo will be in attendance at these events, so be sure to come and let them know your views and concerns as we kick off the fall campaign.

Another important event: Bob Casey plans to tour Central PA in an RV with his whole family in July – and we can meet them HERE at another fantastic event at the home of Gerald and Helen Sajer. You will get a written invitation soon, but **SAVE THE DATE : JULY 21ST FROM 5 TO 7 PM.** Tickets are \$100 per person – and you will be doing your part to “Take Back Our Country” from Rick Santorum, the Junior Senator of Pennsylvania who has been proclaimed one of the five most vulnerable senators in 2006.

I will miss seeing you at the July Meetup, but I promise to send you good vibes from Silver Sands in Jamaica! While I am “Not Worrying About a Thing” I hope you have a great discussion on the immigration dilemma, and help our local candidates develop their own positions on this topic of major concern to Adams County.

Elaine Jones, Chair

Proposal for a New Task Force

--Lou Hammann

*Corporations decide how our food is grown and distributed,
"They" decide how we heat and light our homes,
... how we travel,
--- what toxins we breathe and drink and eat.
They decide who works, doing what, how wealth is shared,
... what controversies get attention,
... what analyses and solutions are acceptable,
... who gets elected to public office,
... how this nation treats other nations. WHY?*

At our last DFA meeting, I heard a voice from somewhere asking if there might not be other task forces that we should form. I have been thinking the same question for quite some time and here offer a suggestion.

For several years I have been a member (even, a co-chair of the National Council) of The Alliance for Democracy. This is an organization dedicated to education and action aimed at challenging corporate dominance in our society and government. One of its projects a couple of years ago was a series of demonstrations in the Capitol Rotunda to call attention to the abuses in financing political campaigns. Based on this experience, I would like to raise the possibility of a DFA Task Force that would take its lead from the Alliance for Democracy. But what sorts of projects is the AfD involved in?

Two Alliance friends of mine, committed to resisting the privatization of our water resources, drive one of the projects of the AfD. Every time you buy a bottle of commercial water you play into the hands of some of the worst giant corporations in the world—and pay more for a substance that is available free at every water fountain and faucet than you would pay for gasoline. But that is only the tip of an iceberg--all of which, by the way, some devious corporations wants to capture and melt down so they can sell it back to an unsuspecting public.

Need I point to the likes of Enron, Haliburton, Wal Mart, and the other scandalous examples of corporate abuse of the public interest? The cat is out of the bag. We now know that the giants that control the economy and the government are predators. For them, public resources are simply carrion to be eaten at their will.

A first step in the direction of a Task Force concerned with this aspect of our public life would be to go to this website: www.responsible shopper.org. There you will find details

of corporate predation that will surely provoke you. We may then want to explore the possibility of a DFA task force. Such a task force would try to find ways to respond to local, national and international corporations that simply want to consume us consumers. The group could start out getting the drift of the realities of corporate rule in this country. And then, if we survive for a couple of months, we would find ways to register and express our reactions to this "elephant in the living room"—or is it an 800 pound gorilla? Whatever!

The basis of much corporate behavior is simply a California court ruling (not a *bona fide* legal decision) in the last decade of the 19th century that corporations are "legal" persons. That has come to mean that they have all the rights and privileges of real persons like you and me: Except that the ruling does not insist that corporate persons have the same responsibilities even faintly resembling what we have as citizens. And, unlike us mere mortals, they are eternal, their charters virtually inviolable.

Anyone game to test themselves in such an experimental venture? Let Lou know!

Eyes on South Dakota

On June 19th, a grassroots drive in South Dakota succeeded in putting the new law that would have banned all abortions on the November ballot, delaying the July 1st date for the implementation of HB-1215. In the small, rural state of South Dakota (population 700,000), where fewer than a thousand abortions are performed yearly, the petition drive collected 38,416 signatures, more than twice the number necessary for a ballot initiative.

Besides establishing abortion law in South Dakota, this election has national significance since this will be the first time since the Supreme Court issued the Roe decision in 1973 that voters (rather than the courts or state legislatures) will have a chance to register their view on the matter directly. Given the importance of this particular law (which will receive a court challenge that should go to the Supreme Court if implemented), both sides of the abortion battle will make a massive stand in South Dakota this November.

A national effort to support those opposing the ban on abortion in South Dakota has been organized as the Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund. Financial contributions are urgently sought to aid in their effort to strike the law banning abortions. To contribute or learn more see StandUpSD.com.

**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.**

YOU ARE INVITED!

**Progressive Dinner for Naugle & Avillo
Saturday, July 29**

You will begin the evening’s festivities at either of two locations—Kerr Thompson’s or Ruthe Craley’s. The first course (appetizers) will be in support of Pat Naugle, democratic candidate for the PA legislature in the 91st district. The second course (dinner) will be in support of Phil Avillo, candidate for Congressional District 19. The cost of each event is paid for by the hosts. Your checks must be made out **directly to the candidates, Friends of Patrick Naugle, and Avillo for Congress.***

5:30 Appetizers to support Pat Naugle (\$20 per person)
Home of Kerr and Susan Thompson
230 Old Mill Road, Gettysburg

OR

Home of Ruthe Craley
425 College Avenue, Gettysburg

7:00 Dinner to support Phil Avillo (for up to 100 people!)
Kellett Cook-out – All you can eat for \$30 per person
72 Gordon Road, Fairfield

9:00 Dessert for Casey? (TBA)

*If you cannot attend the event, but would like Elaine to deliver your contributions, please send your check(s), made out to the appropriate campaign, to Elaine Jones, at the address below.

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Please RSVP by **July 15**. Either return the tear-off form to Elaine L. Jones, Box 489, Arendtsville, PA 17303 or e-mail Elaine at ejones@blazenet.net or call her at 677-9442. You may deliver your contributions at the event(s).

Yes, I (we) will attend the July 29 Progressive Dinner Fundraiser!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number in your party: _____

I (we) will attend the following events:

- Kerr & Susan Thompson (\$20/person for Friends of Patrick Naugle)
- Ruthe Craley (\$20/person for Friends of Patrick Naugle)
- No Preference on location for appetizers
- Kellett dinner (\$30/person for Avillo for Congress)



July Conference at Gettysburg College: Challenging the Corporate State, Claiming our Rights and the Rights of Nature

A local organization is teaming up with a national organization to stage a conference on "Legalizing the Rights of Earth and Community." The North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology is cooperating with Tom Linzey's Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund for a three day event (July 7, 8 and 9) at Gettysburg College. Speakers and consultants will include: Rosemary Ruether, Richard Grossman and Tom Linzey.

The basis of this conference is the Democracy School movement. "Democracy Schools are a strategic advance in the struggle for real community self-governance." All state constitutions declare that all power is inherent in the people and all free governments are founded on that authority. This July conference provides strategies for recovering this democratic basis in the battle to preserve the environment.

If you are interested, call Lou Hammann for details.

Gore in the Movies

The film, "An Inconvenient Truth," opened to a near-capacity crowd, including many DFAers, at the Majestic Theater on Friday, June 23. The movie is scheduled to continue at the Majestic through at least June 29. Since the 2000 election, Al Gore has been touring the world, giving a "slide show" on global warming. The movie is a montage of the "slide show" as it was given in a variety of locations, and makes a sobering case for the complex repercussions of global warming. Interspersed within the "slide show" are Gore's biographical reflections on events in his life: his childhood, the serious injury to his then six-year-old son, the death of his sister to lung cancer, and, of course, the loss of the presidential election in 2000. As Gore says to an audience in the film, "I used to be the next president of the United States." The designation "slide show" significantly understates the sophistication of the cinematographic technique. As movie making, the film, unquestionably, will be a contender in its category for an Academy Award. As a vehicle for educating ourselves and our fellow citizens on this global, even existential issue, we all gave "An Inconvenient Truth" a group thumbs-up. DFAers were especially encouraged to hear Gore's assessment that "political will is a renewable resource."

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Conference Report: Take Back America

Virginia Schein and Marianne Crouthamel attended the first two days of the "Take Back America" conference at the Washington, DC Hilton on June 5th and 6th. The Monday opening session featured Katrina Vanden Heuvel, editor of The Nation, and pollster Stan Greenberg. Greenberg presented the results of a national survey that showed Americans are more in tune with the Democratic agenda and values than the Republican agenda. The Tuesday- morning session featured, in succession, all-stars Hillary Clinton, Nancy Pelosi and John Kerry. Although the national press reported that Hillary was roundly booed for her position on Iraq, Marianne says that, in fact, the protesters left the hall as soon as that portion of her speech was finished, and that her views on domestic issues were well received. Kerry, also, was greeted by demonstrators; in this case, however, the demonstrators supported his call for withdrawing the troops. DC Police required those with large banners to leave the hall.

Virginia and Marianne also attended break-out sessions on the issue of labor unions. Marianne reports that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) is actively involved in organizing hotel workers, an issue that is important to a tourist location such as Gettysburg, and an issue that will become even more important if Crossroads receives its gambling license and constructs the largest hotel in the area. Marianne learned that Senator John Edwards has been very active on this issue since the end of the presidential season in 2004. Another interesting development on this front is the Apollo Project, which unites the steelworkers' union with the Wildlife Federation in an effort called "Environment for Jobs."

Marianne brought home tons of literature, which she is sharing with

everyone and anyone she can corner for five minutes. Marianne especially recommends a thick booklet entitled, "Straight Talk our Future." This book was so highly recommended to the Steering Committee that it was agreed that Gettysburg Area DFA should purchase a number of copies to resell (approximately \$6 per copy) to our affiliates. Participants also received a copy of the new DVD, "The Big Guy, Tom Delay's Stolen Congress." Virginia and Marianne would be happy to loan out their copies to anyone interested.

This annual conference is an important event for progressive Democrats and Virginia and Marianne hope that more DFA members will put it on their calendars for next year.

From the Campaigns.....

Even as the **Naugle** campaign has been organizing their strategy for the November election, Pat has already been out shaking hands with Republicans. The Naugle website will launch shortly, so be on the lookout for PatNaugle.com.

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The **Avillo** campaign reports: Thank you to all who voted for Phil at the DFA site. As many of you know, he was in the top 5 and received a \$2,000 donation from national DFA. That happened because of YOU! As this newsletter goes to print, we are embroiled in another web competition. Former-Governor Mark Warner, of Virginia, has a PAC named Forward Together. That PAC is giving \$5,000 to the top 10 vote getters on their website. Five of those donations will go to candidates from the East Coast. We are in contention. Vote at forwardtogetherblog.com, and click on "map changer." The contest

ends June 29th at 5 PM EST. You will need to register on the Warner site to be eligible to vote. NOTE: This is an interesting vote structure. You may make your top several choices when you vote. As a strategy, we ask you to vote only for Phil with your East coast vote.

The Avillo Yard Sale was a great success!. A terrific time was had by all who attended, plus, many of you got to clean up the garage and basement. We netted over \$2,300 with this one day event - far more than we anticipated.

Federal deadlines for reporting donations drive a lot of actions in Congressional politics. This next deadline, 6/30, is very important to us. This deadline is the last one where national PACS assess the viability of a candidate. They feel that unless a candidate has \$100,000 in the bank at that time, they won't have the money necessary to raise the money needed for the home stretch. We are happy to report that the Avillo campaign is narrowing in on that goal. But, we still need help. If you, or any friend or family member can, please go to www.AvilloForCongress.com and make a contribution. This is a critical time for this campaign and your efforts can make others around the country sit up and take notice.

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Good news for the **Casey** campaign: The Associated Press reported on June 21st that Sen. Rick Santorum's approval rating has reached a four-year low. Only 38 percent of respondents said they approved of the way Santorum is handling his job. Forty-five percent said they disapproved and 16 percent did not have an opinion. According to the Quinnipiac University poll, Bob Casey leads Santorum by 52 percent to 34 percent.

GETTYSBURG AREA DFA

P.O. Box 489

Arendtsville, PA 17303

Task Force Meetings

**PA Watchdog Task
Force**

on hiatus

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**Environmental Task
Force**

3rd Thursday

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Ragged Edge

•••

Iraq Task Force

Last Wednesday

7 p.m., Ragged Edge

www.GettysburgAreaDFA.org

Gettysburg Area DFA Monthly Meet-Up

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

“Immigration Issues and Their Impact On Adams County”

**Susan Naugle will lead
a Guest Panel of Community Leaders with experience with immigrants and the
immigration issues as they affect our County**

Join us for a lively discussion of this timely issue

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

Refreshments at 6:30 – Meeting starts promptly at 7:00