



Gettysburg Area DFA

Progressive Values/Fiscal Responsibility
Democracy for America

Energizing democracy
at the grass roots

November 2007

Meetup November 7: Elections and the Year Ahead

Fasten your seat belts, and be ready for a roller coaster ride as we assess the election results and decide on our DFA issue priorities for the Presidential election year. Please join us on Wednesday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 206 of Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg.

At our September and October meetings, we identified a number of issues and strategies of importance for DFA:

- How can we expand our influence through Gettysburg Conversations?
- Will we focus on Impeachment of Bush & Cheney?
- Where do we stand on getting out of Iraq and staying out of Iran?
- How important is universal health care for Presidential candidates?
- Should the global warming be seen as a crisis that drives everything we do?
- Can we encourage local leaders to tackle the Immigration issue with realism and compassion?

Your input is needed as we translate these questions into actions and programs! Please join us and bring a friend!

Get Out and Vote on Nov 6th: Help Progressives Win!

—Marianne Crouthamel—

The two Democratic Candidates for County Commissioner – Lisa Moreno and Marty Qually – have created a wonderful opportunity for the citizens of Adams County to elect two highly qualified, problem-solving, competent and well-informed leaders. They are both dedicated to preserving our County's character while enhancing its position for the future.

To elect both Lisa Moreno and Marty Qually, it is imperative that all the Democrats get out and vote; that all the Democrats vote for BOTH of these strong candidates; and that all the Democrats urge their Republican and Independent friends and neighbors to do the same.

Without the solid voting support of the Democrats and significant cross-over voting from Republicans and Independents, Lisa Moreno and Marty Qually cannot BOTH win a County Commissioner seat. There will be four ballot choices for County Commissioner on November 6th and three candidates will be elected. Each of us will be able to vote for two of these choices. Please help Lisa Moreno and Marty Qually beat the odds!

Other Dems needing to beat the odds are: Denis Sullivan & Dan Hellman for County Auditor; Patty Funt for County Prothonotary; Marcia Wilson for County Register and Recorder.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Letter from the Chair</i> | 2 |
| <i>ITF in D.C. on 9/11</i> | 2 |
| <i>Accountability for Bush and Cheney?</i> | 3 |
| <i>Artic Melting</i> | 3 |
| <i>DFA State Meet-Up</i> | 4 |

Book Swap Begins in November

—Wendy Mizenko—

Bring a book to our November meeting, pay \$3.00, and exchange it for a new one! We're looking for books, of course, that you would encourage others to read, on politics, the environment, the issues we all care about.

By exchanging a book, you enable DFA members to keep up on the issues and find new reading material of your own.

Books are intended to circulate for one month and then be re-exchanged. The \$3.00 fee goes to support DFA's many worthwhile activities in the community.

A Letter from the Chair

Friends,

I received a letter from Rep. Todd Platts expressing his strong support for the expanded health insurance program for children, the SCHIP bill that President Bush vetoed. He assured me that he would also vote to override the President's veto which was then scheduled for October 18.

What is amazing about that letter is that Platts had done a complete reversal on SCHIP since his town meeting in Bendersville on September 21st where he began the meeting by expressing his opposition to the House Bill to reauthorize SCHIP. I'm convinced that our citizen lobbying helped to change his mind.

In Bendersville I questioned his assertion that the expanded program allowed well-to-do families to enroll their children in CHIP. When I asked whether the Children's Health Insurance Program was limited to children WITHOUT health insurance, he conceded that it was, but that people making over \$80,000 would be encouraged to drop their insurance coverage for their children for six months so they could be eligible for SCHIP. Really? I did get Mr. Platts to state that if the House and Senate agreed on only a \$35 billion increase, he would reconsider his position.

Many of us contacted Mr. Platts asking him to support the expanded SCHIP program, and questioning the claims by President Bush about the eligibility of wealthy families to participate. Susan Naugle visited the local office and talked to his staff. And on September 25, Mr. Platts voted with a majority of Republicans and Democrats in favor of the nation's children.

While the override vote fell 13 votes short, the Democrats have vowed to continue to fight, and we all need to thank Representative Platts for standing up to the President. Now we need to continue our efforts and ask him to bring 13 more of his colleagues around to pass this program. He has become the moderate Republican leader on several environmental votes, and he can lead on health care as well.

Citizen lobbying works, and I thank you all for your commitment to holding our leaders accountable to the people.

Elaine

Iraq Task Force Participates in D.C. March

—Alan Olson—

On September 15 our Iraq Task Force sent eleven members to the demonstration in Washington, against the war and occupation in Iraq. The event was organized by A.N.S.W.E.R., Iraq Veterans Against the War and many other groups. There were about 100,000 demonstrators from around the country in attendance. Judging from the posters, I would estimate that about 75% of the message was against the war, and about 25% for the impeachment of Bush and Cheney.

As we marched along Pennsylvania Avenue, there were a few pro-war demonstrators, standing in a single line behind a barrier with a policeman about every 15 feet along the barrier. I was on the edge of the march by the pro-warriors about 10 feet away, and they were referring to us as hippies and communists (still stuck in the 60's). When the chant of our marchers turned to "You've been LIED to! . . . You've been LIED to!" I looked directly at one pro-warrior for each chant, and they seemed genuinely taken aback. You may have heard that some of the marchers were arrested crossing the barriers at the Capitol for a planned die-in, but we left earlier to get back to Gettysburg for a fund-raiser.



Arctic Melting: Polar Bear Survival Tour

—Sue Bumbaugh—

Residents in Adams County and surrounding areas have a unique opportunity to hear firsthand about the massive impacts of climate change in the Arctic. Climate change threatens not only the polar bear, but humanity as well. Chad Kister, author and adventurer will be speaking about arctic melting and its solutions at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Gettysburg, 136 South Stratton St. at 7:30 pm on Friday, November 2.

The polar bear is the canary in the coal mine for climate change, and their rapid decline shows that we are in a serious crisis and in desperate need of political action. With Arctic ice continuing to decline, the US Fish and Wildlife Service predicts that the polar bear could be extinct in the wild as early as 2040, when scientists say the Arctic Ocean will likely be nearly ice-free unless massive changes are made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

With his Arctic Melting presentation, Kister shows the very latest of climate change's impacts to the Arctic and Alaska. The presentation shows the critical need to immediately begin reducing fossil fuel emissions and replace them with solar, wind, efficiency and other renewable resources.

For more information contact: Sue Bumbaugh at longpinelake@yahoo.com, 398 8829 or Bonnie Fox at bef@superpa.net, 677-9736 or visit uugettysburg.org

Impeachment? Accountability? Or Are We Going to Do Nothing?

--Bob Knight--

You might remember me as the guy who wrote "Why We Dither" in the last newsletter. For the past couple of months, the ad hoc task force on impeachment has been trying to cobble together a resolution which would tell someone—Congress, maybe—that we demand the impeachment of George W. Bush and Richard B. Cheney for malfeasance, lying and the abuse of executive power. This issue has not gone away since that newsletter came out a couple of months ago, not nationally, not locally. What has happened, at least locally, is that some DFA people have become convinced that we can't let history give this pair a pass. These DFA people would like the rest of the Gettysburg Area DFA to get a chance to express themselves on the matter as well. At the Oct. 17 meeting of the Steering Committee, we discussed making impeachment a major item at the Nov. 7 meetup. Some interesting alternatives arose.

Will Lane suggested that we should focus instead on *accountability*, a word with less bite than *impeachment*. (Even though impeachment merely brings charges forth; it does not convict.) Such accountability might manifest itself in the form of a pledge from the people running for President, requiring them to repudiate the abuses of the Bush years and to work to repair the damage to the Constitution of the United States. Perhaps accountability could also be an important theme in our series of forums on public issues next year.

Maybe all this can be woven into a DFA agenda for 2008, a year of some political import. That agenda would not only include accountability or impeachment proceedings, it would deal with the ever-deteriorating environment, health care and immigration. And did we mention the war?

Meantime, that resolution we cobbled together? We're still cobbling, and might have a new version available for the December meetup. In that sense, I'm still dithering.

DFA State Conference November 10

Jim Dean, brother of Howard Dean, and President of DFA will be a featured speaker at Pennsylvania DFA's State Conference in State College on Saturday, **November 10**. The daylong workshop starts at 11:00 a.m. For more information go to <http://www.dfalink.com/event.php?id=23984>. If you would like to share a ride, call Elaine Jones at 677-9442.

Calendar of Events

Friday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m.: **Arctic Melting** at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Gettysburg. Come hear author Chad Kister on the polar bear as canary in the coal mine of global warming. (Details on page three.)

Tuesday, November 6: Help progressives win! Work those polls! Get out and vote!

Wednesday, November 7: Gettysburg Area DFA Meet-up 7:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Seminary, Valentine 206. Come help us imagine 2008! (Details on page one.)

Environmental Task Force: contact Sue Bumbaugh at longpinelake@yahoo.com

Iraq Task Force: contact AlanOlson@earthlink.net.

Exploratory Committee on Impeachment: contact bruceneylon@embarqmail.com or sbknight@innernet.net.

Gettysburg Area DFA Newsletter
c/o Will Lane, Editor
1420 Russell Tavern Rd.
Gettysburg, PA 17325-8057