



# Gettysburg Area DFA

Progressive Values/Fiscal Responsibility  
**Democracy for America**

Energizing democracy  
at the grass roots

February 2008

## **Meet-up February 6: Single Payer for PA HealthCare?**

Is "Single-Payer" health care coming to Pennsylvania in the near future? Chuck Pennachio, the Executive Director of Health Care for All Pennsylvanians, will be the featured speaker at our February 6 Meet-Up at 7:00 p.m. in Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. Pennachio is the founder of Citizen Solutions for Pennsylvania and a recent United States Senate candidate (2006). (See the Letter from the Chair on page two for more details.)

Another highlight of the February meeting: an opportunity to sign petitions for candidates for office and those running to be delegates to the Democratic convention. (See the articles below and inside for more on delegate petition signing.)

Please joins us and bring a friend!

## **Delegates for Obama Seeking Signatures**

The Barack Obama For President campaign in Pennsylvania just announced their slate of candidates for delegate to the Democratic National Convention in August. Of the four delegates chosen for the 19th Congressional District, 3 are from Adams County. Of these, all are Gettysburg Area DFA members.

Our former DFA vice-chair Roger Lund has received a slot and is the coordinator for the 19th Congressional District effort. In addition, Marianne Crouthamel and Patricia Manning were chosen to be on the slate.

Beginning January 24, the three delegate candidates will be working to get the signatures they need to get on the ballot. This is being handled in a coordinated manner between the all on the slate, including the fourth member of the delegation, Mike Reed, an attorney from Carlisle. The delegate candidates ask that all petitions be returned to the delegate candidates, fully notarized, by February 9. The deadline for submission to the Secretary of State is February 12.

"As always, we look to our DFA community to support our grassroots effort," said Roger Lund, 19th Congressional District Coordinator. "We are working to represent a terrific progressive candidate for president and know that his consistent opposition to the war in Iraq is of fundamental concern to our DFA friends. We hope they will step forward to help us."

Those willing to help pass petitions should contact Roger Lund (624-4860 or [RogerLund2@Suscom.net](mailto:RogerLund2@Suscom.net)) immediately.

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### **Website, Blog Offer New Opportunities**

Sandra Mackie has set up a chat room for progressives on Yahoo where interested people can exchange information and express their views. The group name is gettysburg\_progressives. To join email Sandra at [smackie8@embarcmil.com](mailto:smackie8@embarcmil.com).

Meanwhile, Clodius Willis has been updating our website at <http://www.gettysburgareadfa.org/>. Announcements, back newsletters, useful links and a calendar of events are available on the site along with our Statement of Purpose and other documents.

## **A Letter from the Chair**

Dear Friends,

We celebrate February as a month for gifts of love to one another. At DFA we will begin February by considering the gift of universal health care for ALL Pennsylvanians. Our special guest, Chuck Pennacchio, is the Executive Director of "Health Care For All Pennsylvania," a citizen-based non-profit committed to bringing universal single-payer health care to the 1.4 million Pennsylvanians who have no health insurance.

It sounds too good to be true, but this is a growing group of scholars and patients and doctors and legislators who are serious about replacing our broken Medical-Industrial-Complex. The plan goes much further than Governor Rendell's proposal for universal health care, but already has 29 co-sponsors in the PA House and Senate, compared to only 11 for Rendell's plan. And the Governor himself has stated that PA would be well-served" by a single-payer plan and has pledged that if the legislature passes it he will sign it into law. For more details, check out their web site at [www.healthcare4allpa.org](http://www.healthcare4allpa.org).

Join us on February 5 at 7 pm to participate in the program on "The Single-Payer Health Care Solution: Is PA Ready?"

We don't have to wait until we see who becomes our next President to push for radical reform of our health care system. We can work in Pennsylvania, a state symbolized by the Liberty Bell and Willam Penn's crusade for brotherly love, and make universal health care a primary topic for debate and action in this critical year. Bring your friends!

Elaine Jones, Chair

## **DFA Backs Impeachment of Cheney**

Gettysburg Area Democracy for America recently endorsed a resolution before the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee calling for the impeachment of Vice President Richard B. Cheney. In a lengthy discussion, DFA members debated whether the vice president should be impeached for willfully violating the Constitution. According to the House proposal, H. Res. 799, Vice President Cheney deceived the American public into believing that the regime of Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction. No evidence has ever surfaced to back that contention. In addition, the House resolution says Cheney deceived voters into believing that the Iraqi regime had a continuing relationship with Al Qaeda.

The proposed House resolution also says Cheney willfully manipulated intelligence to declare that Iran was developing nuclear weapons. Since the resolution was introduced, a National Intelligence Estimate has gone on record saying Iran was developing no such weapons. In a two hour debate, most members of the DFA argued that the issue is not whether impeachment is likely, but rather that it is our moral obligation to stand up against the contempt of the constitution and the rule of law.

The resolution does not list reported additional abuses of power such as the use of torture on those we perceive to be U.S. enemies and even spying on U.S. citizens. During the discussion, some members expressed regret that focusing on the Vice President and the Iraq war leaves out a lot of the other damage to our Constitution and our image in the world that has occurred during the Bush administration including the widespread practice of torture, the illegal surveillance of American citizens, the use of so-called "signing statements" to avoid implementing laws passed by Congress.



## 2008 PA Election Update Alert

— Marianne Crouthamel —

The PA Primary Election will include the only opportunity to elect delegates to represent the Presidential candidates at the National Conventions of both parties this summer.

The Democrats of the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District will be sending a total of 4 delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Denver (August 25-28). Delegates will be awarded to the presidential candidates on a proportional basis as a result of the primary voting. There will be 2 women and 2 men. PA election law and state Democratic Party rules control the primary process. When people vote for a presidential candidate on April 22, they will also be selecting delegates who will later attend the 2008 Democratic National Convention. There will be a total of 4,360 delegates from across the nation at the Convention and a candidate must have 2,181 to win the nomination.

The goal of the petition process is to make sure all the presidential candidates and their delegate candidates are on the ballot. PA rules require that each candidate for President have at least 2000 signatures in each of PA's 19 Congressional Districts. The rules require that we must collect at least 250 signatures of registered Democrats within a Congressional District to get each delegate candidate on the ballot of that District.

Signing a petition is **NOT** a vote or endorsement of a candidate; it just places the candidate's name on the ballot.

**The Obama campaign has chosen 3 of its 4 candidates for delegates from Adams County and they are also GADFA members: Marianne Crouthamel, Roger Lund and Patricia Manning. Their nominating petitions will be available to be signed at the Feb.6 DFA meet up.**

Additional opportunities to sign petitions will be available on Super Tuesday, Feb 5 in the downstairs meeting room of Ventura's Restaurant on Main Street in Fairfield. Folks will gather to socialize and watch the results of the Super Tuesday Primaries, from 8:00 to ????. Please consider joining in....open to all.

### Additional offices up for election this year:

PA State House of Representative:

193<sup>rd</sup> District: Republican incumbent, Steve Nichol, **NOT** seeking re-election.

93<sup>rd</sup> District: Republican incumbent, Dan Moul, seeking re-election.

PA State Senate: 33<sup>rd</sup> District: Republican incumbent, Terry Punt, **NOT** seeking re-election.

US Congress: 19<sup>th</sup> District: Republican incumbent, Todd Platts, seeking re-election.

**DEMOCRAT PHIL AVILLO is circulating petitions to be a candidate again!**

### Key Dates to Remember

January 22: First day to circulate and file nominating petitions.  
 January 24: First day to circulate nominating petitions for delegate candidates for Democratic Convention  
 February 12: Last day to circulate and file nominating petitions.  
 March 24: Last day to register before Primary election.  
 April 15: Last day to apply for civilian Absentee Ballot.  
 April 18: Last day to receive voted Absentee Ballots.  
**April 22: Primary Election Day.**

## **Calendar of Events**

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|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday, February 6</b> | <b>Meet-up featuring Chuck Pennachio on the Single Payer Option for Health Care in PA (details on pages one and two.)</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday, March 5</b>    | <b>Meet-up with Kathleen McGinty, longtime environmental advocate and Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (time and location TBA)</b> |
| <b>Wednesday, April 2</b>    | <b>Gettysburg DFA brings Doris "Granny D" Haddock to speak on Making Government Work, time and location TBA</b>  |
| <b>Tuesday, April 22</b>     | <b>Primary Election Day</b>  |

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