



# Gettysburg Area DFA

Progressive Values/Fiscal Responsibility  
**DEMOCRACY for AMERICA**

Energizing democracy  
at the grass roots

August 2008

## Candidates to Address August 6 Meet-up

—Bob Knight—

Two congressional candidates—one Democrat, one Republican—head a list of legislative candidates who plan to address a Candidate Forum on August 6 sponsored by Gettysburg Area Democracy for America.

Democrat Phil Avillo of York, who is challenging U.S. Rep. Todd Platts (R-19<sup>th</sup>) has accepted an invitation to talk with Gettysburg area DFA members, as has Congressman Platts. Other candidates participating in the forum include Bruce Tushingham, a Democrat running for the 91<sup>st</sup> District of the Pennsylvania Senate and Democrat Neil Clifford, running for the 193<sup>rd</sup> District of the State House of Representatives.

"As a leading progressive organization in Adams County, we are delighted to have a wide range of viewpoints presented to us," said Elaine Jones, chairwoman of the local DFA. "We are already guaranteed a lively presidential race, but these races are just as important to people living here."

The DFA Meet-Up begins with a short business meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 6 at Valentine Hall at the Lutheran Theological Seminary on Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg. The Candidate Forum follows at 7:30 p.m. A question and answer session will follow brief remarks by each candidate. For more information and short bios of the candidates, please go to the Gettysburg DFA web site at [www.GettysburgAreaDFA.org](http://www.GettysburgAreaDFA.org).

### Inside this issue:

<i>Iraq Task Force Report</i>	2
<i>Summer Reading?</i>	2
<i>Letter from the Chair</i>	3
<i>What You Can Do</i>	4

**WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Sign up to get involved on our website today!**

## Report from the "Single Payer" Task Force

—Lou Hammann—

Six of us traveled to Harrisburg—to the Capitol Steps—on May 27<sup>th</sup> to participate in a demonstration aimed at speaking the truth about the failure of our current healthcare system. Altogether, there were more than 30 people there, several of whom gave personal testimonies about that failure. It was enough to catch us all between outrage and a wave of bona fide sympathy for the victims.

The next event being organized by the group dedicated to "Healthcare for all Pennsylvania" is scheduled for Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. The location is F&M College in Lancaster. The array of consultants is, to say the least, impressive. It includes economists, doctors, journalists, and maybe even Michael Moore. We have met the real people behind this movement and the organizers of this conference—and they are committed, well-informed and savvy about strategy. The conference will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. If interested, contact Patricia Hammann (334-4488)

In the meanwhile, the members of the task force wait for news about the availability of the \$100,000 assigned by the legislature to study the impact of a single-payer healthcare program. The next meeting of the task force is set for Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hammann's.

More info on the single-payer bill? Visit <http://www.healthcare4allpa.org/home.php>

## Report from the Iraq Task Force: Three Veterans against the War

—Alan Olson and Sandra Mackie—

As promised in our last newsletter, on Wednesday evening, June 4, Iraq veteran Nick Morgan came to provide us with "The Iraq Experience, A Veteran's View." After serving in the Army for four years and three months including twelve months in Iraq, Morgan left military service as a sergeant deeply concerned about the effect of the war on all its participants. He not only observed death and injury within his own unit while serving in Baghdad, but also lost a cousin who was killed while on a tour of duty in Iraq.

Nick surprised us by bringing two fellow vets along, also from Iraq Veterans against the War (IVAW). The fact that three people from three different branches of the military--Army, Air Force, and Marines--were in front answering questions added greatly to the impact of the program. It was also significant that one woman and one person of color were included. Their testimony showed in a quiet but powerful way that the problems in Iraq are universal and not confined to one particular group. For people who had eyes to see and ears to hear, the message was that the system is broken and will not fix itself.

At the end of the evening, we suggested that audience members support the efforts of Nick and the IVAW by sending them all or some portion of the recently mailed government "re-bait" stimulus checks, and many people pledged to do so.

We may have the opportunity to present another aspect of the Iraq War at the September or October general meet-up. The next meeting of the Task Force is Wednesday, July 30th, 7:00 PM at the Ragged Edge.

## Summer Reading Anyone?

—Will Lane—

Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future. Bill Mckibben.  
Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution. Paul Hawken and Amory and L. Hunter Lovins.  
Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things. William McDonough and Michael Braugart  
Nature's Operating Instructions: the True Biotechnologies. Edited by Kenny Ausubel and J. P. Harpignies.

Over the summer, I've been preparing to teach a new writing course on *Garbage*, on where things go when we throw them away and why it matters. I've read about landfills and the limitations of recycling. I've pondered global warming and the who-knows-what foaming up in our local creeks. In short, I have been living on the dark side these last two months. But since the course is meant to deal with solutions as well as problems, I have also turned to more hopeful texts, some of which are listed above. I recommend them all. These books are all doggedly practical and guardedly optimistic about the future, but they all also call for a complete rethinking of the relationship between human beings and the earth that sustains us. They assert that human well-being and the health of natural systems are intimately entangled and that social justice and human rights are critically important to environmental balance and economic sustainability. For these authors "everything is connected to everything else" and there is no way to live, work, or make money for that matter, apart from nature. The really good news here, though, is that all these authors believe we can rethink and redesign the way we make things and the systems through which those things are delivered. In fact, they argue that this global re-design project is already underway. All four books are packed with practical examples of successful innovations already in progress. But these authors also tell a radically new story about the human project and our relationship with nature, one it would behoove us, as citizens interested in changing things for the better, to learn how to tell and share effectively with others. For more info on these issues, write me at [wlane@gettysburg.edu](mailto:wlane@gettysburg.edu).



## **GETTYSBURG AREA DEMOCRACY for AMERICA**

### **Candidate Forum (details on page 1)**

**Who:** Candidates for congressional and state legislative offices

**What:** Candidate Forum of Gettysburg Area Democracy for America

**Where:** Valentine Hall, at the Lutheran Seminary on Seminary Ridge, in Gettysburg

**When:** 7:30 pm, Wednesday, August 6 (following light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and a 7:00 p.m. business meeting)

**Why:** to provide a range of views and candidates in preparation for the November election.

**What you can do:** bring you colleagues, family and friends! Make some phone calls! Help us grow our audience for this worthwhile event!!

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