

## **Last Month at the SEMG Political Committee Meeting April 22, 2004**

This month at Jimi's we discussed the upcoming June membership meeting being hosted by David Bonier. Representatives from the Kerry and Bush campaigns are invited to participate. The theme is "What's at Stake for the Environment in This Election". Invited speakers also include Pirgim, Brian Imus, and Lana Pollock.

Kathleen Law is plugging ahead and needs help on fundraising. She will be using the Sierra list. Aldo Vagnozzi met with supporters at an open house for him on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Aldo has a 100% environmental voting record.

Potential support for the following candidates was discussed: Donnegan in the 26<sup>th</sup> District, Jim Whitaker in the 43<sup>rd</sup> District, and Steve Bieda in the 25<sup>th</sup> District. In addition we will be looking at the 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Districts with open seats.

Everyone was encouraged to go to their city or township clerk and fill out the requisite form and have it notarized to be on the local ballot to serve a two-year term as Precinct Delegate. We need the foot soldiers!

Steve and Gene are meeting with Kilpatrick on May 3.

The County Commission Endorsement Questionnaire was discussed and accepted with minor change to the Public Transportation question. For purposes of distribution to all candidates in West Bloomfield and Brownstown Townships, the Environmental Health question will be replaced with one relating to Zoning and Planning.

It is anticipated that there will be about 300 candidates for County Commissioner seats and volunteers stepped up to the plate to collect the lists from the Office of the Clerk in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties by May 13 at 4 PM.

Bev and Steve (and hopefully one or two more) will meet June 2 to screen the questionnaires – which will have an absolute deadline of June 1. Time and location are to be determined.

Our guest candidate was John MaGee. John is running for the 11<sup>th</sup> District Congressional seat. Thaddeus McCotter, who won with a 5% margin, currently holds this seat. The District covers Novi, Livonia, Milford, and Commerce Township (up to White Lake). John is an environmental educator originally from the Adirondacks. His particular interest has been in water issues, beginning with Lake George in NY. He worked as a canvasser for the Democratic Party in California before becoming an indexer. John has lived on Wolverine Lake for the last five years and was one of the original members (and former Chair) of their Water Management Board, which deals with water levels, watershed, and zebra mussels. The Board joined the Huron River Watershed Council as

the Village of Wolverine Lake. John has also served on the Village Board of Trustees for several years.

John is opposed to the EPA New Source Review, which lets utilities off of the hook, and want to restore legislative review –eliminating the sidestepping of Congress. He is very concerned about the reclassification of the toxicity of mercury. He advocates fair trade that addresses resulting environmental issues. NAFTA has led to severe environmental problems outside of the USA. He is very concerned about dead zones in the ocean particularly in the area of Mississippi in the Gulf of Mexico, and the Amazon water basin.

John was opposed to the Iraq war from the beginning and does not believe it is the way to fight terrorism. He believes we must deal with it by gathering intelligence, through first responders, and by protecting our ports. Further, he believes that injustice in the world promotes terrorism. With a brother (who has received a Bronze Star and is nominated for a second) serving with the Green Beret in Iraq, there is no question that John supports our troops.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting!

Bev Wolf