

Last Month at the Political Committee April, 2005

As usual, Tim Killeen, SEMG Political Chair, brought the meeting to order as we selected our dinners at Jimi's Restaurant. Previous minutes were reviewed and approved, and the agenda was finalized. Fourteen members were in attendance.

Ed McArdle gave the Legislative Committee report and the Conservation Committee report. The Legislative Committee is looking for more members and is easy, since most meetings are by conference-call. The Conservation Committee is concentrating on Public Transportation (especially AMTRAK). An AMTRAK event is being planned to gain attention for the need for Federal funding, especially since Rep. Knollenberg is head of the transportation appropriations committee.

Tim Killeen and Anne Kerwin reviewed a proposal for Detroit Mayoral Forum on June 22, 2005 at Barth Hall on Woodward and Warren. This will be a BIG job, especially considering the large number of candidates expected. Lots of help will be needed from committee members and others.

The local election endorsement process was discussed in detail. All city and village councils are up for reelection this year. SEMG has established local community committees for the following communities:

- Detroit
- Hamtramck
- Grosse Pointe Park
- Southfield
- Harper Woods
- Royal Oak
- Farmington Hills
- Berkley/Huntington Woods

The club's endorsement strategy was discussed extensively. This will be increasingly important with next year's elections of House, Senate, and Governor. There was also extensive discussion of the possibility of SEMG having its own Political Action Committee. Steve Walker and Tim Killeen will write a proposal for establishing a PAC.

Many Political Committee members participated in the Spring Lobby Day in Lansing last week. The primary lobbying issue was CAFO's and we were impressed by the positive response which we received from Rep. Fran Amos when she was asked if she would support legislation to control CAFO's. GO TEAM! One of the first-time Lobby Day participants described the experience as "cool".

The next meeting will be on the last Thursday (as usual), but will **not** be at Jimi's. Please watch the SEMG website to learn where the May 26 meeting will be.