

This month at the Political Committee Meeting

November 2003

The November Political Committee meeting was the best attended I can remember, with well over twenty people showing up. Tim opened the meeting by encouraging people to vote in the Chapter and Group elections. Carol and Ann Kerwin announced a program and movie on Bhopal, to observe the Global Day of Action on Corporate Crime. Ed McArdle had good news on the Central Wayne Incinerator, this mismanaged pollution-generator is in trouble again, with another hearing coming on Dec. 12th.

Rep. Dan Paletko was our speaker for the evening. We endorsed him in his first successful campaign last year, and he assured us he is with us on the great majority of issues. He covered a wide range of issues facing the Legislature and talked about how the system is working under Republican leadership. He singled out GOP Rep. Pastor as an active opponent of the DNR, because they once made him abide by environmental law. He mentioned the trick of killing Democratic legislation, then substituting a nearly identical bill by a Republican member to make them look good. He was impressive in his knowledge of environmental legislation and I look forward to voting to re-endorse him next year.

Dave Llewellen announced that our fundraiser with Senator Stabenow collected over \$4,400 and netted us over \$3,300 for future projects. The best we have ever done.

We discussed a District Coordinator program to coordinate our efforts at the State House District level, giving us a grass-roots presence in important races. We brought up the Building Environmental Communities program and the need for a contact person who can help in setting up our outreach programs in as many local communities as we can. This work can insure we expand on the successes we had in last year's elections.

We are working on our early endorsement process. The votes on re-endorsements will be held in January and we are working on a vote chart for the last year's important votes. We decided that several members deserve support by our current understanding of their environmental efforts, before an actual vote chart: Reps Tobocman, Palatko, Anderson, Hopgood, Law, Bieda, Meisner, Condino and Vagnozzi.

We hope to see as many at our next meeting. To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln: "Evil will flourish when good people do nothing." You are the good people doing something, keep it up.