

THIS MONTH AT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

This month Representative Aldo Vagnozzi D-Farmington Hills was our guest. He updated us on the current status of the water discharge permit fee bills and the out-of-state trash bills. He emphasized the need for grassroots help on environmental issues.

The District Watchdog program needs people to contact their legislators when votes on environmentally important bills are imminent. If you are interested in this essential task, please contact Gayle Miller at gayle.miller@sierraclub.org.

The Political Committee is having a fund-raising dinner on November 14 at 6:30 at Northwest Unitarian Church in Southfield. Senator Debbie Stabenow will speak on "Clearing the Air on Bush." The Political Committee uses the money to support candidates we endorse. See registration form on this website.

In October many of our members participated in Lobby Day in Lansing. We visited with state legislators to discuss important environmental issues. We will have another Lobby Day in the spring. One member went to a political training conference in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Sierra Club. She brought back lots of ideas for grassroots politicking.

Our endorsement process for the November 2004 elections will begin soon. The SEMG Political Committee recommends endorsements to the Chapter (state of Michigan) Political Committee. The Chapter Legislative Committee is currently compiling a scorecard on current legislators. Previously endorsed candidates with good voting records can be endorsed in January. After the filing deadline in May, we will send questionnaires to all candidates in the primary, and SEMG Political Committee will recommend endorsements to the Chapter Political Committee. We will try to do whatever we can to ensure that the candidates we endorse win. Local Sierra Club members can help.

Next meeting: November 20, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at Jimi's Restaurant on Washington in Royal Oak.

Jean Gramlich