



MMN – Monday, March 8, 2010

Mission: The purpose of the Democratic Women's Caucus is to fund, inspire, recruit, support, and train progressive, pro-choice women to increase the numbers of women in the electoral process and in elected and appointed positions

Dear Pamela ,

Monday
Morning News

March 8st

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MEET OUR ENDORSED CANDIDATES!

Congratulations to our candidates who are now endorsed for the Primary Election! After a rigorous process that included presentations to, plus identical questions by, a group of Steering Committee and members at large, recommendations by the group to the membership, and “stump” speeches at last Friday's breakfast, the full membership was eligible to vote for whom should receive the Caucus endorsement. Those who were selected include **Linda Robbins**, Clerk candidate; **Cheryl Munson**, County Council District 2 candidate; **Linda Sievers**, Bloomington Township Trustee incumbent; **Vicky Sorensen**, Indian Creek Township Trustee candidate; **Meri Reinhold** and **Amy Swain**, Indian Creek Township Board candidates; and **Barb Sturbaum**, Perry Township Board incumbent. (Please note that Linda Robbins made the Endorsement Committee aware of the now-public personnel action at her job; the Committee acted on the merits of the resume, interview, and answers to its questions. In this political season, it is not unusual to have politically motivated terminations – as always, the voters will decide!)

The Steering Committee will now meet to decide upon funding for the candidates, according to need and funds available. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer to help one of the “vetted” candidates, please let us know at dwcaucus@gmail.com. We will be sure to put you in touch with the campaign of the candidate(s) of your choice!

Many thanks to everyone – membership, Endorsement Committee volunteers, and especially candidates – for your hard work. Let's get these women elected!!

DWC WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH DINNER IS MARCH 23!

Rise Up Women!

By now you've received your invitation to our annual March event – and what an event it will be! The featured speaker is Kate Coyne-McCoy, the regional director for EMILY's List. She is known as a dynamic speaker, is highly recommended by our members, and is also a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Dinner (6:30pm) tickets are \$60 per person; the reception (5:30pm) only is \$20, or dinner and the reception are available for \$70. The dinner will be held at Terry's Banquets and Catering. Contact dwcaucus@gmail.com for more information.

EMILY's List is a national organization that raises funds for progressive, pro-choice

women candidates for political office. EMILY actually stands for Early Money Is Like Yeast (it helps the dough rise).

If you would also like to be a sponsor, we offer various levels of sponsorship with benefits and recognition. Sponsors will be invited to a private reception to meet Kate Coyne-McCoy, will have their names in the program, and will be announced.

- \$1,000.00 Four tickets
- \$500.00 Four tickets
- \$250.00 Two tickets
- \$100.00 One ticket

Checks for sponsorships should be made payable to DWPAC and mailed to P.O. Box 2373, Bloomington, IN 47402 and are **due March 18**. If you have questions, please call Kristina Simmonds at 812-322-8821. You may use a credit card to make a reservation or become a sponsor for the event. Click <http://www.actblue.com/page/march232010> to pay with a credit card.

So much is going on this month, as campaigns energize; take a break to have a wonderful dinner with us, all the while helping our endorsed candidates to win office!

DEMOCRACY FOR MONROE COUNTY CANDIDATE FORUMS BEGIN!

D4MC will host several candidate forums in March; the first is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 7pm, at the Auditorium in the Monroe County Public Library and will feature trustee candidates. See you there to learn about the issues and those who are running!



He's back and we need your help to stop him again.

Even though the Senate rejected Cong. Bart Stupak's initial language to prohibit millions of women from getting coverage for abortion in their health insurance, he's making one last ditch effort to get his provisions into the final health care bill. And, if he doesn't get his way, he's planning to derail health care reform altogether.

Stupak says that he and 11 other members of Congress will hold health care hostage if they don't see more restrictions made on women's rights -- restrictions that, like his earlier proposal, could go further than any previous federal law to restrict access to abortion. But we can't let that happen.

We must fight back against Stupak's repeated dangerous assault on women's reproductive rights.

[Click here to join the pro-choice Democratic women in Congress and say, loud and clear: Stop Stupak! New restrictions on women's rights must not be included in the final health care bill!](#)

When Stupak tried this the first time, we were proud of the women in Congress who stood up to him. One by one, they rose on the floor to fight for women's reproductive rights. Anyone who asks why we need more women in Congress need only remember that debate

and how it was the EMILY's List supported members of Congress who stood up for what was right.

We need to continue to show our women we're standing right beside them, ready to tell Stupak and his anti-choice colleagues that we won't compromise when it comes to our rights.

[Join with us on StopStupak.com to tell our women in Congress we're standing with them and, together, we must stop Stupak's attack on women's rights!](#)

During the debate this fall, we mobilized and, together, made our voices heard on this issue. That's exactly what we must do again today -- because there's too much on the line to sit this one out.

Thank you for all you're doing to make sure health care reform makes women's lives healthier and safer.

ONCE AGAIN, DAWN JOHNSEN NOMINATION MOVES FORWARD!!!!

Johnsen's nomination to lead the Office of Legal Counsel was approved 12-7 along party lines by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and was sent to the full Senate for a vote. Do you think they will get it done this time? Stay tuned! And GOOD LUCK DAWN!!!!

THE CENSUS IS IMPORTANT TO MONROE COUNTY!

Our ability to fund public-works projects and local government budgets depends on an accurate Census count! County Commissioner Iris Kiesling is a member of the U.S. Census Complete Count Committee and urges everyone to fill out Census questionnaires when received and to place them in the return mail right away. The forms are to be mailed March 15-17. All students should fill out their forms using their residence hall or school domicile. "**Ten questions - ten minutes**" is the motto. The Census is required by our Constitution and determines Congressional and legislative districts, as well as how much Federal money returns to our communities. When you receive yours – do it now!

For more information: call the City of Bloomington, 349-3430, or Iris Kiesling, 325-4348

GIRLS INC. TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR STAFF AND INTERNS FOR SUMMER SUNSHINE DAY CAMP!

We are seeking motivated individuals who are dedicated to empowering girls and have experience in planning and implementing programs and working directly with youth. Applicants can review descriptions at www.girlsinc-monroe.org and should send a cover letter and resume to Lucy Berger at lberger@monroe.girls-inc.org.

HOOSIERS FOR A COMMONSENSE HEALTH PLAN MEETING, NEWS!

From Rob and Karen Stone: The monthly meeting of Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan is **Wednesday, March 10 @ 5:30 PM** in the Auditorium of the Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood, Bloomington.

Save the date of Tuesday, May 18, 2010 for a rally in Indianapolis to coincide with the WellPoint Annual Shareholders Meeting from 11:00AM to 1 PM on Monument Circle followed by HCHP 1st Annual Statewide meeting at the Marion County Public Library, 400 E. St. Clair St., Riley Meeting Room from 2 - 6 PM.

On Wednesday December 2, 2009, Rob Stone, Karen Green Stone, and Julia Vaughn, shareholders in WellPoint Inc., submitted a resolution at the corporate headquarters. It will go out in the proxy information to all WellPoint shareholders in early April and will be voted on at the annual meeting in Indianapolis on May 18. Ask your church or fraternal organization to support this resolution. Ask your pension fund to vote in favor. Ask your

union to become involved. Here is the exact wording that will be included in the proxy materials:

WellPoint Shareholder Resolution for the 2010 Annual Meeting

Whereas, the United States allows too many people to suffer and die due to lack of adequate health insurance and this is threatening the economic stability of the country; and

Whereas, no country has achieved universal healthcare through for-profit health insurance; and

Whereas, in written statements WellPoint supports “the best healthcare value for our customers” and promises “to advocate for responsible healthcare reform”; and

Whereas, WellPoint has actively opposed President Obama’s healthcare reform efforts; and

Whereas, WellPoint was a nonprofit insurance company before it demutualized, raised capital through stock offerings, merged with, acquired, and demutualized other nonprofit Blue Cross/Blue Shield companies; therefore be it

Resolved, that the shareholders of WellPoint urge the board of directors to launch a feasibility study for returning to nonprofit status. This study, conducted at reasonable cost, with results made available to the stockholders, omitting any proprietary information, should be completed within nine months of the 2010 shareholder meeting.

Supporting Statement:

Investors are concerned about the effects of runaway health costs on the economy, and the crisis of over 46 million uninsured. Recent studies show 45,000 people a year die because they lack health insurance (American Journal of Public Health 9/17/09). Tens of millions more are underinsured, able to afford coverage only through policies with huge deductibles and out-of-pocket expenses. The impact of high-deductible policies is seen in recent bankruptcy data showing 62% of personal bankruptcies caused by illness and medical bills, but 78% of those declaring bankruptcy for medical reasons had insurance when they became ill (American Journal of Medicine 8/09). WellPoint has been a leader in marketing high-deductible policies, specifically under the Tonik label.

From 1999 to 2008 American health insurance premiums increased 119% while workers earnings and overall inflation rose 30% (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Businesses cannot continue to afford covering their employees. The Hewitt Associates study “The Road Ahead: 2009” found 1 in 5 employers are planning to drop health benefits in the next 3 to 5 years. This system is unsustainable.

Studies show 31% of US healthcare spending is attributed to overhead. In comparison, Medicare runs 3.1% overhead. Most other developed nations spend less than 10% on overhead (New England Journal of Medicine 8/21/03). Nations with universal systems spend about half what we spend on a per-capita basis and have better health outcomes (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).

WellPoint reported its third quarter 2009 medical loss ratio at 81.1%. Medical loss ratio is the percentage of premiums that actually pays for care, and thus corresponds to 18.9% of premiums for overhead and profit. Although this is good for WellPoint’s profitability and share price, it supports the argument that for-profit health insurance is a major reason for the discrepancy in overhead expenses between the US and other countries.

WellPoint's reputation has suffered as a consequence of the negative publicity surrounding its efforts to oppose healthcare reform. This resolution could change that.

DEMOCRATS AT DISTRICT 4 MEETING ON MARCH 7 – REPORT

The Congressional District 4 meeting was held in Bloomington Sunday for County Chairs and other officers to meet for business and to hear statewide candidates give their “stump” speeches. Candidates present included Congressman Brad Ellsworth and Lake County School Board Member Darren Washington, both of whom are vying for US Senator; Vop Osili and Tom McKenna, who are both running for Secretary of State; Sam Locke, who is running for State Auditor, and Pete Buttigieg for State Treasurer. The afternoon was closed by Dr. David Sanders, who is the only Democrat running for the 4th District Congressional seat being vacated by the Republican. (Long story short: Two Republicans have filed as Democrats for the seat because one couldn't get endorsed by the Republicans and the other is part of Operation Chaos.)

Monroe County has 4 townships in the 4th District: Indian Creek, Van Buren, Richland, and Bean Blossom. Several local candidates were there; the only DWCaucus-endorsed person present was Indian Creek Township Trustee candidate Vicky Sorensen.

ARIANNA HUFFINGTON TO SPEAK AT IVY TECH ON APRIL 9!

The founder of the Huffington Post will be the capstone speaker during Ivy Tech's annual O'Bannon Institute this year. If you have never heard Arianna speak, you are in for a treat. Please hold the date and watch the MMN for more information soon!