



Capital Eye

Volume 8, No. 10 ~ October 2008

Citizen Action's New PAC Releases Endorsements

by Gary Zuckett, garyz@wvcag.org

Earlier this month, WV-CAG set up a new political action committee (PAC), the Citizen Action Fund, in order to endorse and support candidates. Below is its list of endorsements.

Remember that early voting is taking place until Saturday, Nov 1st at your county courthouse during normal business hours and Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. Be sure to check with friends and neighbors to see if they need a ride to the polls! Unsure about your polling place? Visit www.wvvotes.com.

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Obama | Barack | President (D) | | |
| Rockefeller | Jay | U.S. Senate (D) | | |
| Mollohan | Alan B. | U.S. House (D) | | |
| Barth | Anne | U.S. House (D) | | |
| Rahall, II | Nick Joe | U.S. House (D) | | |
| Johnson | Jesse | Governor (M) | | |
| Tennant | Natalie | Secretary of State (D) | | |
| Gainer III | Glen B. | Auditor (D) | | |
| Perdue | John D. | State Treasurer (D) | | |
| Teets | J. Michael | Agriculture Commissioner (R) | | |
| McGraw | Darrell | Attorney General (D) | | |
| Ketchum | Menis | Supreme Court (D) | | |
| Workman | Margaret L. | Supreme Court (D) | | |
| Yost | Jack | State Senate (D) | 1 st | Brooke |
| Kessler | Jeffrey V. | State Senate (D) | 2 nd | Marshall |
| Fanning | John Pat | State Senate (D) | 6 th | McDowell |
| McNeely | Jim | State Senate (D) | 10 th | Monroe |
| Laird IV | William R. | State Senate (D) | 11 th | Fayette |
| Waddell | Andy | State Senate (M) | 11 th | Clay |
| Barnes | Clark | State Senate (R) | 15 th | Randolph |
| Snyder | Herb | State Senate (D) | 16 th | Jefferson |
| Foster | Dan | State Senate (D) | 17 th | Kanawha |
| Klempa | Orphy | House (D) | 3 rd | Ohio |
| Hutchins | Tal | House (D) | 3 rd | Ohio |
| Ferro | Michael T. | House (D) | 4 th | Marshall |
| Nichols | Ron | House (D) | 7 th | Pleasants |
| Marion | Jim | House (D) | 9 th | Wood |
| Brum | Brenda | House (D) | 10 th | Wood |
| Paxton | Brady R. | House (D) | 13 th | Putnam |
| Coria | Karen | House (D) | 14 th | Putnam |
| Martin | Jeff | House (D) | 14 th | Putnam |
| Eastham | Carl L. | House (D) | 15 th | Cabell |
| Herrenkohl | Amy | House (D) | 16 th | Cabell |
| Reynolds | Doug | House (D) | 16 th | Wayne |
| Stephens | Dale | House (D) | 16 th | Cabell |
| Thompson | Richard | House (D) | 17 th | Wayne |
| Perdue | Don | House (D) | 17 th | Wayne |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Barker | Larry | House (D) | 18 th | Boone |
| Butcher | Greg | House (D) | 19 th | Logan |
| Eldridge | Jeff | House (D) | 19 th | Lincoln |
| White | Harry Keith | House (D) | 21 st | Mingo |
| Hall | Daniel J. | House (D) | 22 nd | Wyoming |
| Phillips | Linda Goode | House (D) | 22 nd | Wyoming |
| Moore | Cliff | House (D) | 23 rd | McDowell |
| Vinciguerra, | Mike | House (D) | 24 th | Mercer |
| Frazier | John | House (D) | 27 th | Mercer |
| Moye | Rick | House (D) | 27 th | Raleigh |
| Susman | Sally | House (D) | 27 th | Raleigh |
| Wooton | Bill | House (D) | 27 th | Raleigh |
| Campbell | Thomas | House (D) | 28 th | Greenbrier |
| Canterbury | Ray | House (R) | 28 th | Greenbrier |
| Louisos | Tom | House (D) | 29 th | Fayette |
| Staggers | Margaret Anne | House (D) | 29 th | Fayette |
| Guthrie | Nancy | House (D) | 30 th | Kanawha |
| Hunt | Mark | House (D) | 30 th | Kanawha |
| Hatfield | Bobbie | House (D) | 30 th | Kanawha |
| Brown | Bonnie | House (D) | 30 th | Kanawha |
| Wells | Danny | House (D) | 30 th | Kanawha |
| Webster | Carrie | House (D) | 31 st | Kanawha |
| Cain | Jon | House (D) | 32 nd | Kanawha |
| Ryan-Thompson | Carmella | House (D) | 32 nd | Kanawha |
| Walker | David | House (D) | 33 rd | Clay |
| Boggs | Brent | House (D) | 34 th | Braxton |
| Argento | Sam | House (D) | 35 th | Nicholas |
| Talbott | Joe | House (D) | 36 th | Webster |
| Proudfoot | Bill | House (D) | 37 th | Randolph |
| Smith | Peggy Donaldson | House (D) | 38 th | Lewis |
| Hamilton | Bill | House (R) | 39 th | Upshur |
| Poling | Mary M. | House (D) | 40 th | Barbour |
| Fragale | Ron | House (D) | 41 st | Harrison |
| Iaquinta | Richard J. | House (D) | 41 st | Harrison |
| Miley | Tim | House (D) | 41 st | Harrison |
| Manypenny | Mike | House (D) | 42 nd | Taylor |
| Caputo | Mike | House (D) | 43 rd | Marion |
| Longstreth | Linda | House (D) | 43 rd | Marion |
| Manchin | Tim | House (D) | 43 rd | Marion |
| Fleischauer | Barbara | House (D) | 44 th | Monongalia |
| Shook | Alex | House (D) | 44 th | Monongalia |
| Marshall | Charlene | House (D) | 44 th | Monongalia |
| Shaver | Stan | House (D) | 46 th | Preston |
| Kuhn | Donna Brake | House (D) | 48 th | Grant |
| Saville | Royce B. | House (D) | 50 th | Hampshire |
| Roberts | Mike | House (D) | 52 nd | Berkeley |
| Tabb | Bob | House (D) | 56 th | Jefferson |
| Doyle | John | House (D) | 57 th | Jefferson |
| Lawrence | Tiffany | House (D) | 58 th | Jefferson |

Volunteers Needed!

Over the past several months we registered almost 3,000 voters as part of our nonpartisan voter registration drive. Now it's time to get them to the polls! Can you help make phone calls and/or drive voters to the polls? Phone calling is easy and can be done from your home or here at the office. Just contact Linda at 346-5891 or linda@wvcag.org for more info. WE NEED YOU! Thanks!

Health Care Campaign Gathers Steam

by Gary Zuckett, garyz@wvcag.org

Health Care for America Now (HCAN), the national campaign rolled out this summer to put health care reform at the top of the next Congress's agenda, is gaining momentum and is supported by the AFL-CIO, Citizen Action, National Association of Social Workers and over two hundred state and national groups.

One of the campaign's goals is to sign on Congressional members who agree with the HCAN "which side are you on" statement of principles, the campaign's core organizing statement. Elements include:

- Coverage that meets our families' health care needs and is affordable, based on a sliding scale;
- Government as an advocate to set and enforce the rules so insurance companies put our health care before their profits;
- The ability to keep our current health care or choose a public plan so we're not left at the mercy of the same private insurance companies that have gotten us into this mess;
- Quality, affordable care we can count on.

WV Congressman Nick Joe Rahall is one of the 115 members who have signed on to the HCAN principles. All other WV Reps have been asked, but with campaigns in full swing we may not hear back from them until after the big day.

Your calls to Congress are needed to show support for HCAN. Call in using the campaign's click-through web page (<http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org>) or toll-free number (1-888-436-8427).

The HCAN webpage is filled with great info on why we need a total reform of our broken health care system, such as the fact that half of the bankruptcies (and home foreclosures) in this nation are due to medical expenses!

Our WV HCAN coalition is seeking new in-state partners to build the excitement and momentum on this once-in-a-generation chance to truly reform our nation's ailing health system. Call or e-mail garyz@wvcag.org for more information.

WV Surface Owners' Rights Organization (WV-SORO) Update

By Norm Steenstra III, norm@wvsoro.org

Simply put, we have been busy. We have had several more successful meetings throughout the state, from Morgantown to Elkins to Belington (see photos at www.wvsoro.org). These information meetings were focused on leasing, as well as surface owners' rights. We have worked with the WV Farm Bureau and several legislators, including

Senator Clark Barnes (Elkins and Moorefield meetings), Delegate Mary Poling (Belington) and the Delegates of the 44th District (Morgantown), in setting up and conducting the meetings. Many thanks to Dave McMahon, who has criss-crossed our state in order to provide information to WV's besieged surface and mineral owners.

Our next meeting is planned for Thursday, October 30 in Doddridge County and is organized by local WV SORO members. (Call or e-mail for more details or visit www.wvsoro.org.)

On the legislative front, we are hoping to convince Senator White and Delegate Miley to take up the Surface Owners' Bill of Rights during the November interims. The goal is to get a public hearing and allow surface owners the chance to voice their concerns. We'll be sure to keep everyone updated, but in the meantime, keep talking to your legislators and keep surface owners' rights fresh in their minds.

Want to know where they stand on surface owners' rights? Prior to the primary election, WV SORO sent out a questionnaire to legislative candidates and officeholders asking their position on specific issues addressed in the "Surface Owners' Bill of Rights." We also asked members to send a copy of the survey to county commissioners and commission candidates. Candidate responses are at www.wvsoro.org/newsletters/2008/response.html.

Finally, if you did not receive our fall WV-SORO newsletter, check it out at www.wvsoro.org.

Peace Movement Victory – Public Outcry Works



Falling from shoo-in status to widely rejected legislation within the space of four months, a resolution that would have opened the door for a naval blockade on Iran was officially shelved at the end of September, after several of its cosponsors withdrew their support. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman has promised not to bring the bill, House Concurrent Resolution 362, before the committee until concerns about its text are addressed. Thank you for contacting your representatives on this issue. Banking Chairman Barney Frank, after realizing that the resolution could lead to war with Iran, has vowed to oppose the bill until its aggressive language is changed. (Photo: AFP / Getty) Given the scare-tactic-laden climate of the past eight years, 362's journey is remarkable: it represents a forceful effort by members of Congress - prodded by grassroots groups - to turn back the tides of impending war. See <http://www.truthout.org/100908A> for details.

West Virginia's Electioneering Disclosure Law Under Attack

by Julie Archer, Julie@wvcag.org

In April 2008, West Virginia's electioneering communication disclosure law was challenged by the Virginia-based Center for Individual Freedom (CFIF), an organization that wanted to run ads in this year's West Virginia Supreme Court elections without reporting who is funding it or how much it is spending. The law, which came in response to millions of dollars spent on negative political advertising during the 2004 Supreme Court race, regulates 527 committees and other groups that engage in electioneering that masquerades as "issue advocacy" and requires disclosure of financial contributors with the Secretary of State.

In May, U.S. District Court Judge David Faber granted CFIF a preliminary injunction barring enforcement of the law as it applied to non-broadcast media. WV-CAG and many of our Clean Elections coalition partners filed a "friend of the court" brief with Judge Faber in support of the law. We also co-signed a letter to the governor urging him to give the legislature the opportunity to modify the law during a recent special session. This effort had the support of key legislative leaders, including the chairs of the House and Senate Judiciary committees, and the governor agreed to put it on the agenda.

The special session was surprisingly contentious given that the original bill had overwhelming bipartisan support - receiving unanimous approval in the Senate and passing 91-4 in the House - a decisive acknowledgement that allowing independent groups to spend millions of undisclosed dollars had a corrupting influence on the electoral process. This time, most Republicans and a few conservative Democrats opposed the revised legislation, glossing over the fact that it was simply clarifying the intent of the original legislation and those provisions that Judge Faber deemed vague.

The opposition tried to portray the bill as a significant change of election law in an election year aimed at helping Attorney General Darrell McGraw win re-election and keeping Republican Beth Walker from being elected to the WV Supreme Court. Although some procedural votes that would have allowed the bill to advance more quickly were blocked, in the end the bill passed both chambers and was signed by the governor.

Although we were guardedly optimistic that this attempt by legislators to address the Faber ruling would help prevent organizations and wealthy individuals from having an unhealthy impact on the November elections, new challenges have been issued by CFIF and West Virginians for Life.

WV-CAG is proud to have played a role in

passing and defending this groundbreaking legislation and we will continue to work with our coalition partners to determine the best way to address these challenges to ensure that voters know the identity of those who are trying to influence our elections.

Voters can decide for themselves whether they want to believe or disregard the claims of groups like CFIF. From our perspective, however, if a group will not identify who is providing the funding for their attacks on West Virginia candidates, the public should question why these people want to keep us in the dark.

Post-Election Canvass Observation Project -- Can You Help?

Verified Voting, along with a core group of state-based organizations like Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota and Florida Voters, has been working to develop a multi-state project to collect data and publish a report on post-election audits. This project's purpose is to make sure that as many audits as possible have robust public observation, and to increase our knowledge of best audit practices. Verified Voting has asked WV-CAG to participate and we are looking for volunteers to observe the canvass of election returns in their county. While having observers in all 55 counties is the goal, any participation is valuable.

Given the recent reports of problems with touch-screen voting machines here in West Virginia, these post-election audits could be more important than ever. You can read more about these problems at:

<http://wvgazette.com/News/politics/200810220659>
<http://wvgazette.com/News/politics/200810200711>

To help with this project contact Julie at (304) 346-5891 or julie@wvcag.org.

New Staff To Launch Generics Campaign

WV CAG is launching a new campaign with our sister group, Mountain State Education & Research, called Generics are Powerful. Lisa Diehl will coordinate this effort to encourage consumers to save money by requesting generics instead of more expensive brand-name drugs. Lisa returns to Citizen Action after a 20-year hiatus. She worked with us back in the 80's in our Morgantown and Charleston offices. Please join us in welcoming back Lisa to Citizen Action! To learn more about the benefits of generics see the campaign's web page at www.genericsarepowerful.org.

Capital Eye comes out weekly during the Legislative Session and bi-monthly throughout the rest of the year. If you have questions or comments about its content, please contact us. If you'd rather receive the *Eye* online, or would like to send us your comments, e-mail linda@wvcag.org or call us at 346-5891 or 1-866-WVB-FAIR.

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Kanawha Valley Sustainability Initiative (SKVI) – Want to help?

In May 2009, downtown Charleston will host a Sustainability Fair on Capitol Street. We plan to have speakers, films, workshops, and drama-building skills to show how we can transition to a sustainable environment, economy, and society. In the process of building excitement for the fair, we will collect “green dots” from across West Virginia for a networking website to give people a quantum leap to speed up this transition.

“Kanawha Valley Green Team”, another SKVI green project, will help people conserve energy, water, and recycle. Youth interns will do public education outreach and home energy audits.

Both projects have some grant money, a planning committee, and a VISTA but need more ideas and more people to maximize their potential. Please contact Robin Wilson at robin@wvcag.org or 346-5891 to help out.

Upcoming Event! Elements of Strategy - Applying Martial Arts Insights to Social Change Action

Join Rick Wilson of the WV Economic Justice Project, assisted by Rob Jenkins on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 520 Kanawha Boulevard W, Charleston.

Sponsored by WV Economic Justice Project, WV Citizen Action. For more information, contact 346-5891.

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

Appalachian Power now offers a way to encourage renewable electric power usage. While working for a policy change to require our electric power to be 20% renewable by 2020 and taxes on carbon emissions, we can buy green energy now. RECs are purchased from the producers of sustainable energy sources like waterpower from the Sutton Dam and wind power from the Midwest. West Virginia wind power will also be a source when more is available. Appalachian Power does not make a profit on these sales and the \$1.50/100 kW hours you purchase helps make renewable energy more economically viable. To check your electric usage, or learn more about RECs go to www.appalachianpower.com and click on the “green energy pricing option” at the top of their web page.



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Clip and mail with your check to West Virginia Citizen Action Group, 1500 Dixie St., Charleston, WV 25311 -
THANKS!

Donate quickly & securely at www.wvcag.org!