

In This Issue:

W.P.Lunch.....1&3	Problem w/ Women.10
Congress Watch.....1&2	C. C. Corner.....11&12
Envy, Mitt4-5	Wheeling Town.....13
N.S. Gunslinger.....6&7	Yes we Did.....14&15
R&R and H. of A.....8&9	Botterman Award.....16

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Ultimate Women’s Power Lunch and the Power of Reproductive Rights by Terry Wrem Jones

When *Tenth News* editor Barbara Altman approached me at Jan Schakowsky’s Ultimate Women’s Power Lunch and asked me to write an “impressionistic” piece about the event, I wondered if it was because she had noticed me fighting back tears.

The fact is, I do cry easily, often at the strangest things. Don’t ask me why, but I always cry at parades. I’ve cried at the circus, but maybe I have some deeply buried clown-related childhood trauma.

And I cry when an ambulance speeds by with its lights flashing and sirens

blaring. Not because I worry about its critical passenger. But because I’m moved by the sight of my fellow motorists performing their civic duty as they pull over to clear the way.

I think that last example is pretty close to what I felt as I listened to the speeches of these inspiring women—Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-9), Senator Amy Klobuchar, (D-MN) and Congresswoman Gwen



continued on page 3



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Tenth News

June 2012 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 9, Edition 6

Robert Dold Supports Immoral Ryan Budget

With support of 10th District Congressman Robert Dold, the House of Representatives passed by a mostly party line vote the GOP’s fiscal year 2013 budget resolution (H. Con Res. 112) on March 29. The bill, which was crafted by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan and ironically dubbed by Republican spinmeisters the “Path to Prosperity,” epitomizes the reverse Robin-Hood logic guiding today’s Republican policies. It enriches only the ultra-wealthy at the expense of the neediest.

Under the false pretense of reducing the deficit, the fiscal year 2013 budget resolution furthers its true aim of diverting tax dollars away from government programs serving the most vulnerable Americans—senior citizens, low-income families, people with disabilities, the jobless, and

the uninsured—and into the private coffers of the wealthiest corporations and individuals. It cuts nondefense discretionary spending (as agreed to in last year’s Budget Control Act) by \$19 billion, with 62 percent of the savings coming from cuts to programs that provide essential services to low-income Americans, including children.

The resolution effectively guts Medicare and Medicaid, repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare), and makes draconian cuts to education and safety-net programs like food stamps and Head Start.

A brief summary of how the Ryan budget resolution impacts the major government programs follows:

Medicare: The Ryan budget resolution raises the Medicare eligibility age to 67 and eliminates for Americans now under age 55 the guarantee of Medicare. It replaces the time-tested government health insurance program with a system of “premium support” vouchers that would fail to keep pace with increased medical costs, leaving the program less viable for future participants.

continued on page 2



Robert Dold Supports Immoral Ryan Budget *(continued from page 1)*

Medicaid: The resolution turns the healthcare program for people of limited means into a block grant to states. And The Urban Institute analysis of a similar block grant proposal contained in last year's House budget resolution found that it would have caused 14 to 27 million low-income Americans to lose healthcare coverage by 2021.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):

The GOP budget resolution cuts funding for the program formerly known as Food Stamps by \$134 billion over the next ten years, converting it into a block grant and imposing work requirements. The restructuring has the potential to cause millions of low-income adults and their children to experience drastic benefit cuts or lose the vital assistance altogether.

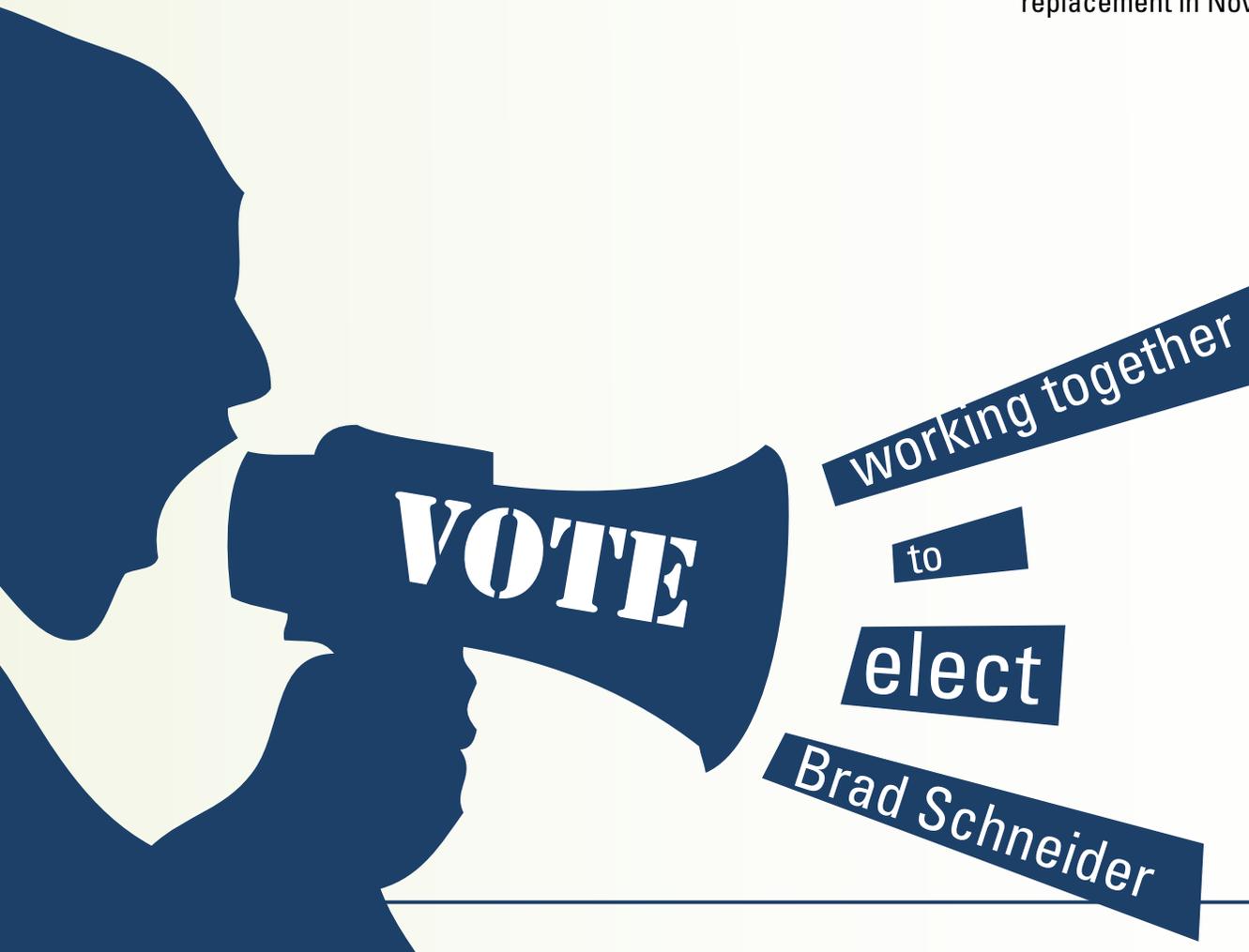
Education: The resolution groups into one budget function education, training, employment, and social services funding, which it then cuts by about 20 percent. This is in addition to the eight to nine percent cut included in the 2011 sequestration agreement. Pell Grant funds also face huge cutbacks under the Ryan plan, potentially denying college access to millions of students.

Most unconscionably, while depriving the neediest Americans of basic necessities like healthcare and food assistance, the Ryan budget revamps the tax code to benefit the wealthiest Americans. It creates just two tax rates, 10 and 25 percent, and reduces the top corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. It also establishes a territorial system in which profits earned outside the United States would not be taxed.

This favorable treatment for the wealthy is in addition to the \$125,000 average annual tax break that would be given to individuals earning more than \$1 million if, as the Ryan budget proposes, the Bush tax cuts were made permanent.

The Ryan budget also allows funding for defense to grow with inflation over the 10-year period.

It's unlikely the Ryan budget resolution will be considered, let alone that it will pass, in the Democratic-led Senate. Nevertheless, Dold's willingness to serve as an accomplice to his party's radical agenda to dismantle government programs providing basic life necessities like healthcare and food demonstrates his lack of moral compass and makes him unfit to continue to represent our district. We urge 10th District voters—moderates and progressives and liberals, alike—to work together to elect Brad Schneider as his replacement in November.



Ultimate Women's Power Lunch and the Power of Reproductive Rights

(continued from page 1)

Moore (WI-4). Here I was, in the midst of 1500 or so attendees, most of them women, all of us having gathered because we care deeply about the future of our country. And we're deeply concerned about what's being aptly referred to as the "War on Women" and want to know what we can do to stop it.

In case you haven't been paying attention, many of the rights women have fought long and hard to gain are under assault in America. It's certainly no surprise to see access to safe and legal abortions being curtailed in states with majority Republican leadership. Despite *Roe v. Wade* being settled law, the battle over abortion will likely go on. The issue of abortion rights is seemingly without compromise, generating tremendous passion on both sides.

But who could have foreseen the broad and pervasive movement to roll back access to contraception? You may have watched the absurd video footage of the all-male panel at a congressional hearing on whether employers with a religious affiliation—such as a Catholic hospital or university—have the right to deny coverage for birth control under their health insurance plans. A woman who was denied the right to speak before this panel, Sandra Fluke, was loudly and crassly derided by Rush Limbaugh, leading voice of the Republican Party, as a slut.

Defunding of Planned Parenthood is another front in this assault, as are various laws and constitutional amendments being introduced at state and federal levels to define "personhood" in terms that would have the effect of making most birth control illegal.

Of course, reproductive rights aren't the only rights we must fight to protect. Sadly missing from the

Ultimate Women's Power Lunch was Lilly Ledbetter, the woman who became the public face in the fight for the right to equal pay for women. Scheduled to be a featured speaker at the luncheon, Ms. Ledbetter was unable to attend due to a family emergency. But in her absence we viewed a powerful video detailing the story of her court case against employer Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and how it inspired the first bill President Obama signed into law after taking office.

Reproductive rights, however, are really key to the point of my story (yes, I actually do have a point). Many of the attendees at Congresswoman Schakowsky's luncheon were current and former—or aspiring—elected officials. Most of them were women, though Democratic candidate for Congress in the 10th District Brad Schneider was there, as were others of the male persuasion who similarly support Schakowsky's ideals.

The current statistics of women in power in the U.S. are rather astoundingly lopsided. Women hold 90, or 16.8 percent, of the 535 seats in the 112th U.S. Congress; 17, or 17.0 percent, of the 100 seats in the Senate and 73, less than 16.8 percent, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives.

Remember, women make up slightly more than half the U.S. population. So while we have continued to see incremental improvement in these statistics since the first woman was elected to national office in 1917, we certainly can't consider that we have "representative" government gender-wise. And I, for one, believe we'd be a kinder, gentler, and fairer nation if this representative gender imbalance were corrected.

I had an epiphany driving home

from the event, which was held in an enormous ballroom at the Hilton Chicago downtown to accommodate the many politically engaged women who paid from \$75 to \$5000 to attend. **Reproductive rights, the ability to control the number and timing of our offspring, are critical to women's ability to serve as leaders.** Only when we women have this control over our own bodies are we free to pursue leadership roles, in business or in politics. Otherwise, we are subject to being held "barefoot, pregnant and in the kitchen."

The platform of far right Republicans, who seem to hold sway over their party, would have us rolling back reproductive rights. This is nothing to take lightly. In spite of, or perhaps because of the impact of technological advancements, there seems to be deeper and stronger religious fundamentalism taking root across the world. We can easily see Muslim women in the Middle East hidden under burkas and think there's something fundamentally wrong with that (pun intended). But we may not as easily see, or at least take as seriously, the creeping fundamentalist movement right under our noses here in the U.S.

The bottom line message from Congresswoman Schakowsky's luncheon speakers: Get Involved—for ourselves, for our daughters, for our granddaughters and beyond. Each of us can make a difference in the 2012 elections. Whether that means opening up our wallets in support of Democratic candidates, male and female, or putting our "boots on the ground" canvassing for these candidates, or simply spreading the word to friends, family, and neighbors, this election matters for so many reasons because there really is a difference between the two parties, particularly in regard to women's rights.

It Isn't Envy, Mitt by Jack Altschuler

Mitt Romney says that the anger of the 99 percenters is based upon envy of the one percenters, but like so many other things he believes about "the rest of us," he has it wrong. We don't hate rich people because they are rich; there is a critical differentiation that Romney and so many others simply refuse to see.

We want our kids to have it better than we did, so we believe in the American Dream and applaud those who have lived it and prospered and earned their wealth and success. These people are models for our kids who will inspire them to break through barriers to create the cures for diseases, the next great technologies, and the products that will make all our lives better. No, we don't resent those who have followed that path and succeeded. We admire them.

The people who are resented by the American 99 percent are those who have become wealthy and continue to get even wealthier by keeping others down. And we resent the politicians who suck up and sell out to these people for their own interests at the expense of everyone else.

Be clear that these are people who have rigged the game, tilted the table against the poor, the middle class, and even the upper-middle class. They have spent every waking moment since the inauguration of Ronald Reagan incrementally inching America toward a new economic and military feudal state and have done so by impoverishing all but the top one percent. They are creating an America of subsistence and poverty that is devoid of the American Dream for everyone but themselves.

Paul Ryan's twice-proposed budget is designed specifically to throw more money to the one percent at the expense of our most needy people and tilt the game still further. The Catholic Bishops weighed in against Ryan's budget, saying that it hurts the very people—our most vulnerable—that the church seeks to protect. They are right and he is not, regardless of the sweet face he puts on his proposal and the dismissive things he says about his detractors.

The way to reverse the upside-down world that Ryan and the one percent want to create and to stop the theft of the American Dream is to vote for candidates who will make that happen. It is about electing people who will put a stop to the glut of influence money in politics that makes guys like Ryan propose

continued on page 5



It Isn't Envy, Mitt *(continued from page 4)*

such regressive budgets. It is quite likely that your Democratic candidate answers that description.

So, the way to make a difference is to help the D candidate win, not because s/he's a Democrat—that would be a dumb reason—but because s/he will vote in Congress the way that makes sense to you. So, volunteer in Democrats' campaigns. Hold an informational meeting for friends and neighbors at your house for your candidate. Election staff will tell you how to do that and will help. Volunteer at a phone bank. Put out a lawn sign and slap a bumper sticker on your car.

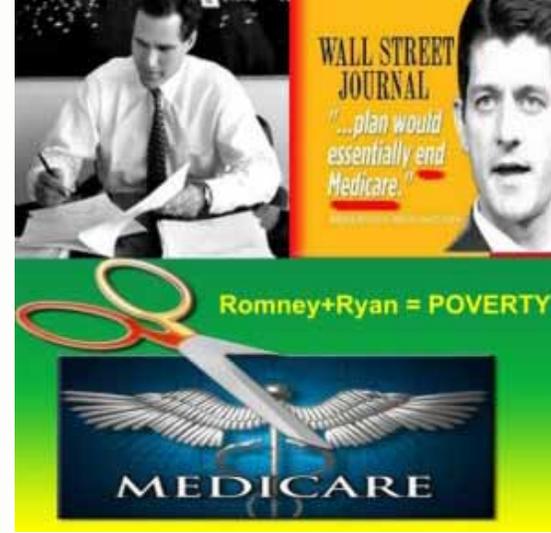
The issue is to be active because passivity will breed more of the same as we are seeing now, and our children and grandchildren will inherit an America that you couldn't possibly recognize. I do not mean that as hyperbole; my own grandfather would not recognize America today, even as he was an ardent anti-New Deal guy and thought both the income tax and Franklin Roosevelt were the worst things on the planet.

Actually, I take that back; he would recognize this because the unregulated greed that hurts Americans and led to the meltdown in 2008 and the continuing decline

of the middle class is exactly what he saw as a young father in the 1920s. He'd recognize the influence peddling in Washington, the dumb bubble economy, the spinelessness in Congress and more. He would be waving a red flag and yelling "DANGER" because he would have seen what happens when we do dumb stuff like we've done, and he would be asking whether there is anybody who remembers history because Santayana was right—in our refusal to remember history we were doomed to repeat it, and we have done just that: we've repeated it. The difference is that after Herbert Hoover, we learned our lesson and started to make things better.

Today the righties want to do things that will make things worse. The real question is why they would want that. The one percenters want that because it makes them richer and keeps them in control. The politicians want that because that way the rich people continue to throw money to them and that perpetuates their careers and their wealth-building and keeps them in control, too. As for why any Tea Partier would want that—more on that another time.

For now, just be clear that things will get worse unless we make them get



better. It is up to those with a ballot awaiting us in November to stop the theft of America. If we fail to show up, if we fail to man the barricades against this assault on the America we believe in, then the American Dream, that future we want for our children and grandchildren will be lost for generations. Tag, you're IT.





Midway through the film, *Unforgiven*, Clint Eastwood's character, Will Munny, and a near-sighted gunslinger called the Schofield Kid track down and shoot a man. Afterwards, the two men have this exchange:

Will Munny: Hell of a thing, killin' a man. You take away all he's got and all he's ever gonna have.

The Schofield Kid: Yeah, well, I guess he had it comin'.

Will Munny: We all got it comin', kid.

This exchange offers two different world views. The Schofield Kid sees his opponent as the other, an enemy who deserves to die. There is a sense of superiority, even though the Kid is near-sighted and understandably poor at his trade.

The image of a near-sighted

gunslinger is a fitting metaphor for the history of U.S. foreign policy. The idea that America has a special world mission began with the Massachusetts Bay Puritans' "city on a hill" in the early seventeenth century, continued through nineteenth century Manifest Destiny, and remains with us today with the concept of American exceptionalism. We saw the harm it did with the Vietnam and second Iraq wars.

Such a world view assumes that the earth was made for man to do with as he pleases. As environmentalist Terry Tempest Williams wrote recently in *Progressive Magazine*, "Santorum, Mitt Romney, and Newt Gingrich speak of not only American exceptionalism but the specialness of man himself.... One inequality creates another because the system is never viewed as a whole. ... We need a collective mind capable of looking outward with humility and empathy as we see ourselves belonging to part of something much larger than ourselves."

Why is this important? Take one foreign policy decision from our history—one that literally could have destroyed the world. In October 1962, President Kennedy met with his closest advisors to determine how to respond to the Soviet Union's intention of installing nuclear missiles in Cuba. According to Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, in his book, *Wilson's Ghost* (co-authored with historian James Blight), at one point Khrushchev sent two conflicting letters to Kennedy, a private one more conciliatory than the public one.

In this private letter, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev wrote, "Armaments bring only disasters. When one accumulates them, this damages the economy, and if one puts them to use, then they destroy the people on both sides. Consequently, only a madman can believe that armaments

are the principal means in the life of society.... If people do not show wisdom, then in the final analysis they will come to a clash, like blind moles, and then reciprocal extermination will begin. Let us therefore show statesmanlike wisdom."

Kennedy didn't take this letter seriously until Llewellyn Thompson, former Ambassador to the Soviet Union, convinced him otherwise. Thompson knew Khrushchev personally and empathized with his position, believing the Russian truly would compromise. At the time, unknown to the Americans, the Soviets had already installed tactical nuclear weapons that they planned to use against invading U.S. forces. That, in turn, might have escalated into a nuclear world war.

What would have happened if, instead of John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush had been president?

In its early stages, the 2012 presidential campaign understandably has focused on the economy. Yet, foreign policy is at least as important, because diplomatic errors can lead to devastating loss of life and, in the case of nuclear weapons, even destruction of the planet. Also, money spent on military defense could be used for healthcare, education, infrastructure, and job creation. The Friends Committee on National Legislation estimates that holding Pentagon spending to 2007 levels plus inflation would result in a savings of \$100 billion per year over ten years and cut poverty in half. Therefore, it's important to compare Governor Romney's foreign policy views to President Obama's.

A recent Reuters article, "Romney defines hawkish yet murky foreign policy," mentions Romney's criticism of Obama's inclination to "lead from behind" in dealing with Libya, his

Near-Sighted Gunslinger (continued from page 6)

failure to “reset” relations with Russia, and his support for military cuts that may compromise our dealings with China and Iran. Richard Williamson, an advisor to Romney, states, “Governor Romney believes in American exceptionalism, that we are great not just because of our military and economic power but also because of our values. ... The current President is not. ... He believes in engagement—which has often not worked—while the governor believes we should say what we believe and work from a position of strength.” A Romney presidency, Williamson argues, would bring a “more aggressive” approach to China, Russia, and the Middle East. And Romney gives the impression that he would be more willing to use a military option against Iran.

Romney is the Schofield Kid, a near-sighted gunslinger who believes that anyone against him has it coming and refuses or can't see our shared humanity. In the above-mentioned *Wilson's Ghost*, McNamara warns against just such a foreign policy—unilateral and lacking both morality and empathy. Instead, MacNamara

calls for a foreign policy based on two imperatives. One is to avoid carnage whenever possible (an estimated 160 million people were killed in 20th century wars). Second, with the exception of defending a direct attack on one of the 50 states, to avoid acting unilaterally.

McNamara gives many examples of the need for empathy, which means not necessarily sympathizing or agreeing with another nation, but understanding it. He refers to Canadian journalist Michael Ignatieff's description of a nation that does not try to understand the mindset of a potential or real adversary as engaging in a form of autism. For example, McNamara points out how Russia's history of being invaded several times in the 20th century could well make Russia feel constricted and threatened by the addition of Eastern European nations to NATO.

According to political scientist Samuel Huntington, the U.S. is frequently viewed by other nations as a “rogue superpower” interfering with nations that don't support American political and economic goals (Noriega, Saddam Hussein, and Mubarak were considered friends until they stopped cooperating with our nation). The United States can no longer run rampant through the world without encouraging other nations to do as North Korea has done—arm themselves with nuclear weapons.

As reported by Carnegie's Commission on

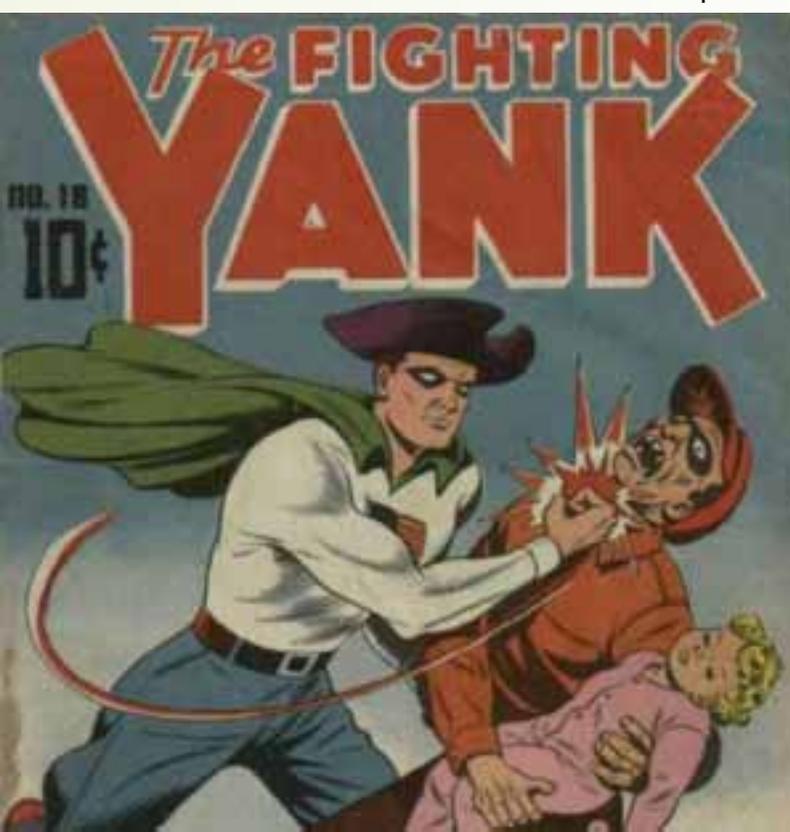
Preventing Deadly Conflict, “Peace will require understanding and respect for differences within and across national boundaries. We humans do not have the luxury any longer of indulging our prejudices and ethnocentrism. ... The worldwide historical record is full of hateful and destructive behavior based on religious, racial, and political, ideological, and other distinctions—holy wars of one sort or another. Will such behavior in the next [21st] century be expressed with weapons of mass destruction?”

As Will Munny said to his sidekick, “Hell of a thing, killin' a man.”

Fortunately, President Obama has a much better understanding of how to conduct foreign policy. In April of 2009, *The Washington Post* quoted him as saying, “We exercise our leadership best when we are listening ... when we lead by example, when we show some element of humility and recognize that we may not always have the best answer.” When asked about American exceptionalism, he continued, “I see no contradiction between believing that America has a continued extraordinary role in leading the world towards peace and prosperity and recognizing that leadership is incumbent, depends on, our ability to create partnerships because we can't solve these problems alone.”

Under President Obama's leadership, the U.S. and Russia signed the New START Treaty in 2010 that calls for reducing by half the number of long-range or strategic nuclear weapons. Instead of threatening Iran with military action, he has worked with the United Nations and other nations to apply sanctions, while encouraging negotiations.

Unlike the near-sighted gunslinging of Romney, President Obama is right on the Munny.



Required Reading for Health Policy Wonks:

Remedy and Reaction by Paul Starr and *The Healing of America* by T.R. Reid

Reviewed by Mark Rosenberg, MD, FAAP

For those of us who are policy wonks or even followers of the debate on healthcare, this spring promises to be an interesting, if not frustrating, time. Most primary care physicians have supported healthcare reform, according to surveys by the American Academy of Pediatrics research department. Many hope that the promised changes of increased access to care and more comprehensive coverage will improve the lives of children and families.

For a course in health policy, one should begin with Paul Starr's 1982 book, *Social Transformation of American Medicine*, a comprehensive history of the progression of healthcare throughout the history of the United States. The first part details the profession of medicine and the beginning of the hospital system, while the second part covers the 20th century introduction of health insurance and early health system reform efforts. Paul Starr's second book, *Remedy and Reaction* reiterates some of the discussion of twentieth century reforms with a discussion of the Clintons' attempts to reform healthcare. It culminates with the introduction of the Affordable Care Act, Obama's healthcare legislation.

Noting the 15-year intermission between the two presidencies, Starr applies lessons learned during the Clinton administration to today's issues. Starr was a principal advisor to President Clinton. He blames the defeat of the Clintons' proposed reforms on the rabid partisanship that arose when the bill was introduced (sound familiar?), rather than on the complexity of the legislation. According to Starr, the famed "Harry and Louise" advertisements were more of a distraction than an influence on the overwhelmed public.

Without health reform during the 1990s (except the Bush administration expansion of the Medicare prescription drug coverage) a similar scenario emerged during the Obama administration. Concerns for the economic viability of healthcare costs approaching 20 percent of GDP, as well as the frustrations of physicians, hospitals, and patients over costs and coverage drove the demand for reform. Starr documents what he calls the health policy trap in which an increasingly complex and expensive health system keeps most people primarily satisfied with their current healthcare. The new legislation, the Affordable Care Act, largely leaves the employer-based health insurance system intact, largely for political reasons ("If you like your health plan, you can keep it.") and thus focuses on low-income families and individuals. Starr's book is strong on health policy and weak on the political aspects of the debate which continues to unfold as the U.S. Supreme Court considers the challenges to the Affordable Care Act brought by 26 states.

Traveling to a number of developed nations to seek multiple opinions about his injured shoulder becomes the backdrop for a tutorial in comparative healthcare economics by T. R. Reid, a *Washington Post* writer and commentator for National Public Radio. First published in 2009, *The Healing of America* was updated to include an afterword that in straightforward terms explains the Affordable Care Act. Reid describes the healthcare systems of several other developed nations as quite different from each other, yet none of them follows the stereotypes that American politicians refer to, including the threat of rationing and long delays in care. As Reid argues, there is *de facto* rationing in the United States, by cost and limitations imposed by access to care by Medicaid and Medicare recipients. The American system is a fragmented

continued on page 9



Required Reading for Health Policy Wonks:

Remedy and Reaction by Paul Starr and *The Healing of America* by T.R. Reid

(continued from page 8)

one, using versions of those used by Great Britain, Canada, and Germany. The most prominent difference is that the other nations include universal coverage, a feature that is only accomplished for Americans over age 65. Reid describes American healthcare as “the most fragmented in the world.” Among the other significant differences and potential barriers are physician compensation, the cost and availability of high technology, and pharmaceutical costs.

While stressing the variability of other healthcare systems, Reid’s book also identifies three features as common to healthcare in all developed countries except the United States: a unified system, applicable to everyone; nonprofit financing, meaning that for-profit insurance companies can provide only supplemental and not basic healthcare insurance; and universal coverage.

T. R. Reid raises the fundamental question of healthcare that has not yet been answered in the United States: “Before you can set up a healthcare system, you have to know the country’s basic ethical values. The first question is: Do your people have a right to healthcare?” Reid advocates for universal coverage, citing a number of healthcare economists as well as most other developed nations as exemplifying the correct approach to dealing with healthcare costs. Reid argues that the United States can effectively address the issues of healthcare costs if we are willing to accept some features that have worked for other developed nations. A similar approach was undertaken successfully by Taiwan in 1995. The Taiwanese government studied healthcare systems in a number of other nations before adopting a

hybrid approach that used features from a number of them, including universal coverage. The reasons that it was implemented successfully were a strong moral imperative for healthcare for all, a political environment that was conducive to reform, and a strong economy that made the adoption of major change feasible. Clearly, the challenge of the 21st century in the United States is the absence of all three of those conditions.



Bob Dold's Problem with Women by Steve Sheffey

Rep. Robert Dold (R-Kenilworth) is anti-choice, he's a social conservative, and he opposes marriage equality.

But Dold is realizing that, in John Boehner's words, he is "frankly pretty vulnerable" in the Democratic 10th District. Dold's recent campaign statement about Planned Parenthood is the first of what probably will be many attempts to convince voters that he cares about women's healthcare. Dold's voting record proves that he doesn't.

In early May of this year, Dold introduced a bill designed to ensure Planned Parenthood's access to federal funding. Dold wants us to think that he just loves Planned Parenthood. What's wrong with that? Nothing, except that Dold is one of the Republicans who voted for the Republican budget that would defund Planned Parenthood. Dold introduced a bill to prevent Dold from being Dold. But it doesn't matter, because as long as Dold is in Congress and the Republicans control the House, his bill has no chance of passing. It's just a campaign stunt.

A year ago, in 2011, Dold and Republican Judy Biggert voted against an amendment to defund Planned Parenthood, but then they voted for the budget that actually would defund Planned Parenthood (no surprise--Dold votes the Republican party line 84 percent of the time). Congressmen should be judged by their voting records. Dold's record on women's issues is troubling, and his vote for the Republican budget that would have defunded Planned Parenthood is just one example.

On May 6, 2011, Dold voted for the anti-choice H.R. 3, which bans tax subsidies for private health insurance plans that include abortion as a covered service; prevents citizens from deducting

abortion as a medical expense unless it is the result of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother; and invites the potential for the Internal Revenue Service to investigate how women who had abortions became pregnant and how they paid for their abortion. Wouldn't you have wanted your congressman to vote against the Republicans and with women?

"Robert Dold can try to appear moderate all he wants, but after [his May 6, 2011] vote there's no way Illinois will buy it," said EMILY's List President Stephanie Schriock. "Dold showed



his true colors by standing with his Republican leaders and against the women of Illinois. Dold may have run on job creation, but he has done nothing to create jobs since getting to Washington. Instead, he's done plenty to take away women's freedoms and their opportunities to keep themselves and their families healthy."

On October 13, 2011, Dold voted to deny women access to quality healthcare. He voted for H.R. 358, the anti-choice "Protect Life Act," known in the pro-choice community as the "Let Women Die Act," because that's what it would do.

Even worse: When Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) offered an amendment that would have fixed the provision that allows hospitals to refuse abortion coverage when a woman's life is in danger, Dold voted against her amendment.

Dold hasn't improved with time. On March 28, 2012, he voted with the Republican majority against considering reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. This Act, which expired on September 30, 2011, would provide services, including transitional housing and legal assistance, to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Thanks to Dold and his fellow Republicans, this law is no longer on the books. Wouldn't you have wanted your congressman to vote against the Republicans and with women?

Dold's May 2012 Planned Parenthood bill might have been designed to protect Dold from being Dold, but there's a better solution: Let's replace Dold with Brad Schneider. Unlike Dold, Brad will protect women's rights. Dold's agenda is John Boehner's agenda. Brad's agenda is our agenda. Let's make Brad our congressman and save Dold the time and expense of having to move into our district.

Community Connection Corner by Vicki Bailyn

--because politics should be about more than just elections; it should be about people working together to build stronger communities.



What do we do?

We're all about *connections*. We reach out and recognize good efforts already underway in the local communities, and we *connect* where we can bring value. We develop new projects within Tenth Dems itself, or with partners, that *connect* us to the community and its needs and dreams.

Our monthly Community Connection Corner will update you on key projects. We'll reach out to you as volunteers who can help our efforts succeed. We'll also reach out to you as donors of the goods and funds that are necessary to support our projects. And we look forward to your involvement on all levels.

The Voter Project

The project's goal is to increase voter turnout in the area.

Our ComCon office window identifies us as ELECTION CENTRAL 2012. The display provides election information and invites passersby to come in and learn more.

We have *connected* our recently trained Deputy Registrars to voter registration activities, led by the League of Women Voters in our local high schools. Nearly 200 new voters have been registered.

We continue to reach out to identify other organizations with planned voter registration activities in the area. We will share information, publicize events, and provide registration opportunities to our Deputy Registrars.

We are exploring the possibility of presenting several issues-based, town-hall type meetings in the ComCon office this summer, for example "What does your local government do for you?" The goal is to help people make the *connection* between their daily lives and their government/elected officials: That who governs *does* matter. Stay tuned.

Teachers' Wish Lists

Surely one of the most important elements to building strong communities is to educate the children. Teachers know what they need, they make their wish lists, and we work to fulfill those wishes, providing the books and classroom supplies that ever-decreasing school budgets simply do not address. This project was inspired by Nettie Mojarro, mother of a fifth-grader and owner of Jerry's Tacos with her husband. Nettie *connected* to ComCon, and to the Waukegan Public Library. Our success is totally dependent on the donations of our Tenth Dems supporters and Jerry's customers.

Our third Teacher's Wish List has been fulfilled! Books and classroom supplies were delivered to Mr. Jake Weitzema's 5th grade classroom at Clearview Elementary in Waukegan. What joy! We're working on a fourth teacher's list. Can't do it without your help!

The Wish List project was featured in the May 11—17 issue of the Spanish language weekly, *Reclama*. Nettie was interviewed as one of several women —"Madres Ejemplares" ("Exemplary

Mothers") - whose contributions to their community were highlighted in this front page article on Mothers Day.

http://issuu.com/reclama/docs/05_10_12_rek?zoomed=true&zoomPercent=100&zoomXPos=-0.036821705426356655&zoomYPos=0.1760355029585799

Second Annual Poetry /Prose Contest

Read about this May 22 event in the July *Tenth News*.

Ongoing initiatives

Bi-Weekly Job Interview Training by ComCon volunteers continues as part of Waukegan Township's Anti-Recidivism/Back-to-Work Program.

The ComCon Waukegan office is frequently used for local Obama campaign activities, including phone banking.

How else can I help?

Do Good and Have Fun!

Save the date, June 16, 2012, for a very special evening in downtown Waukegan. Waukegan Township will present their annual "That's Entertainment" at the beautiful Genesee Theater. This event is the primary fundraiser for two Lake County transitional housing facilities for the homeless, Staben House for women with children, and Eddie Washington Center for men. These facilities are another example of the township's assistance to those

continued on page 12

JUNE ISSUE



struggling through very challenging transitions toward mainstream lives, as is the work ComCon assists in with our Job Interview Training Workshops.

The date coincides with Waukegan Mainstreet's ArtWauk on that day. Bring the family, stroll the lakefront, visit artists and galleries, enjoy local restaurants, and celebrate this year's performance, "Lake County's Got Talent," at 7:00 pm at the Genesee.

Voter Project Volunteers needed

Join planning/working team for voter registration events. Your ideas and help are needed to contact religious institutions, schools, like-minded organizations, supermarkets, farmers markets, and things we haven't even thought of yet—to set up events. Be a liaison to the Deputy Registrars. Help complete list of active DRs, contact DRs to staff registration events, etc.

If you are a credentialed DR and would like to be informed of registration opportunities, just give us your contact information.

If you would like to be trained as a DR (45 minute class), let us know.

Join Voter Team! There's lots of work to be done and new ideas cropping up all the time.

Teachers' Wish List

Please help this project's continued success with your donations There are lots more kids, lots more teachers, lots of need. We have cash donation boxes at various locations within the 10th District, including at the Moraine Township Democratic Organization's office and Jerry's Tacos. Or mail a check made out to Tenth Dems, with "Teachers Lists" on the memo line to Tenth Congressional District Democrats, P.O. Box 523, Deerfield,

Illinois 60015. Call 847-266-VOTE (8683) for more information.

Volunteer in the ComCon office to help drop-ins find their voter information and do other office tasks.

Bring us your ideas of new initiatives to consider.

And, our thanks:

For donating to our Teacher's Wish List project at Let's Talk Politics in Grayslake and at Jerry's.

To DRs who staffed our voter registration events.

To the volunteers who continue to staff ComCon and do "whatever it takes."

For caring.

Click on Poster to Download



Wheeling Township Dems Slate Candidates for Illinois Legislature

By Paul Kelly

Wheeling Township Democrats organized a meeting to nominate two new Democratic candidates: David Page for State Senate (27th district) and Curt Renz for State Representative (53rd district). Both are competing against incumbent conservative Republicans, with Page taking on Matt Murphy and Renz running against David Harris.

“We need an economy that works. Both David Page and Curt Renz are well-suited to tackle this number one issue, given their financial and business acumen and long history of serving our communities and our nation,” said Sue Walton, Palatine Township Democratic Committeewoman. “They both realize common-sense solutions that work for middle-class families are much more important than the GOP’s recent spate of do-nothing partisan hot air.”

“Unfortunately, at this critical time in our state’s history Republicans like Matt Murphy are more interested in getting quotes into the newspaper than they are in working out bipartisan solutions. Murphy is the GOP’s chief budget guy, but he hasn’t even bothered to put any legislative ideas on the table for discussion,” said Renee Shapiro, Wheeling Township Democrats membership co-chair. “Meanwhile, the GOP also has a bunch of staunch social conservatives like Dave Harris who are so far out of the mainstream they’re going around sponsoring right-wing legislation to dictate women’s health instead of focusing on what’s important, like jobs.”

Page grew up in the district and graduated from Hersey High School and Northern Illinois University. He is a professional financial advisor and local business owner of Page Financial Advisors. He is also currently the President of Arlington

Heights School District 25 and has served on that school board since 2005. During his tenure he has advocated for special needs education, training for teachers, and upgrading the district’s science curriculum. He is also a volunteer coach for his daughters’ soccer teams. Page, his wife, and their two daughters live in Arlington Heights. He considers himself an independent Democrat and, if elected, would be the only professional financial advisor in the State Senate.

Renz grew up in Chicago and Palatine and currently resides in Arlington Heights. He was drafted by the U.S. Army to serve in Vietnam. Renz completed NCO Candidate School and served as a Sergeant in the First Cavalry Division, receiving the Army Commendation Medal and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. After finishing college on the G.I. Bill, Renz was a real estate broker and stockbroker before becoming a reporter and anchor for television stations in California and the Midwest. From 1987 to 2003 Renz hosted the daily financial news program Stock Market Observer on WCIU-TV, Chicago, and the WebFN website. He is also the author of a book for investors and has acted in local stage and film productions.

Volunteers are currently gathering petition signatures for the candidates.

Cited From:

<http://triblocal.com/barrington/community/stories/2012/05/local-democrats-nominate-page-for-state-senate-renz-for-state-rep/>



David Page



Curt Renz

If you remember your high school civics, the president is charged with running the government. One way he does this is through executive orders.

Executive orders often seem dry and vague. They might direct a coordinated response to a problem or establish a council to make recommendations. They may require federal agencies to review practices or implement policy.

But executive orders help provide the framework for government operations. They set priorities. In Obama's case, they help skirt Tea Party shenanigans. And who's issuing an order can make a huge difference in the kind of country you live in, no matter how vague and dry that order might seem.

For a stark contrast, take stem cell research. George W. Bush banned funding for human embryonic stem cell research, in part through an executive order. Shortly after taking office, President Obama lifted those barriers. Those awaiting cures for their degenerative diseases were given new hope.

Here are some of Obama's other executive orders:

EDUCATION: Both Obama and Bush issued orders promoting excellence in Native American and Alaskan Native education (first

executed by Clinton). Bush's order, which expired in 2005, called for implementing the unpopular No Child Left Behind. Obama's December 2, 2011 order incorporated all levels of Native American education into one order, for the first time.

To help students and recent graduates, a December 27, 2010 order aimed at removing federal barriers to hiring for entry-level federal jobs.

ENVIRONMENT: A May 12, 2009 order set out a strategy for restoring the ecologically important Chesapeake Bay. An October 5, 2009 order directed the federal government to set an example and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Goals for federal agencies included better energy and water use, relying on renewable energy sources, preventing pollution, and eliminating waste. A July 19, 2010 order established the first national policy for ocean stewardship. In contrast, Bush used executive orders to open public lands for wholesale oil and gas drilling. Upon election, Obama halted many of these proposed oil and gas leases.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: Everyone wants fiscal responsibility. Republicans ironically think they own this issue while the parties simply disagree on defining the term as to the necessary vs. the wasteful. Is the Affordable Care Act a financial boondoggle or a critical lifeline? In his November 20, 2009 order, Obama adopted a comprehensive set of policies for eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse in the government, for example by insuring that "the right recipient is receiving the right payment for the right reason at the right time."

HAITI: With Haiti beleaguered by the January 12, 2010 earthquake, Obama's order sent the army reserves to provide humanitarian relief. In contrast, Bush issued an executive order allowing the U.S. Attorney General to detain undocumented aliens from the Caribbean at Guantanamo. The Women's Refugee Commission viewed this as specifically targeting Haitians because of a well-publicized boat landing of Haitian asylum seekers in 2002.

HEALTHCARE: As part of We Can't Wait, Obama issued the October 31, 2011 order to help reduce prescription drug shortages. The order directed the Food and Drug Administration to monitor shortages, expedite review of new drugs, and report those companies for possible prosecution that stockpile prescription drugs to sell at exorbitant prices.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: Republicans like to think they made it on their own two feet. Democrats know that it takes a village. To that end, the December 14, 2010 order established a White House Council for Community Solutions to identify community solutions for national problems. A March 15, 2012 order established the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative to help distressed communities.

JOBS: Obama's January 31, 2011 order established the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. The Council was directed to solicit ideas on bolstering the economy and to implement policies to create stable jobs for American workers as well as grow the economy. A July 6, 2011 order was built on the success of the auto bailout by addressing factors affecting auto communities and workers.



Yes, We Did! Executive Orders *(continued from page 14)*

NATIONAL SECURITY: Bush devoted quite a few executive orders to national security, including the one targeting Haitians, as mentioned above. President Obama, who successfully put an end to Osama Bin Laden, issued his own security orders planning for biological attack (December 30, 2009) and better coordinating government communications to counter threats such as Al Qaeda (August 18, 2011).

VETERANS: A November 9, 2009 order established an interagency Council on Veterans Employment and prioritized hiring veterans for federal jobs. An April 27, 2012 order established principles of excellence for veterans' education. The order addressed deceptive practices such

as schools that encourage veterans to take out costly loans instead of applying for federal aid or that recruit veterans with brain injuries without providing counseling or academic support.

THE WAR FOR, NOT AGAINST, WOMEN: As mentioned in April's "Yes We Did," Obama used executive orders to establish a White House Council on Women and Girls to coordinate the federal response to women's issues (March 11, 2009). In a December 19, 2011 order, the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security called for maintaining a gender-responsive approach to diplomatic and defense work, strengthening women's rights, leadership, and participation in peace

processes and conflict prevention, protecting women and children from violence, and responding to the special needs of women and children in war zones.



Rob Nesvacil Receives Botterman Leadership Award

More than 150 people attended the Wheeling and Palatine Township Democrats' Fifth Annual Botterman Breakfast on Sunday, May 6, 2012. U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky rallied the assembled guests as the keynote speaker, and the 2012 Patrick S. Botterman Leadership Award was presented to Arlington Heights resident Rob Nesvacil.

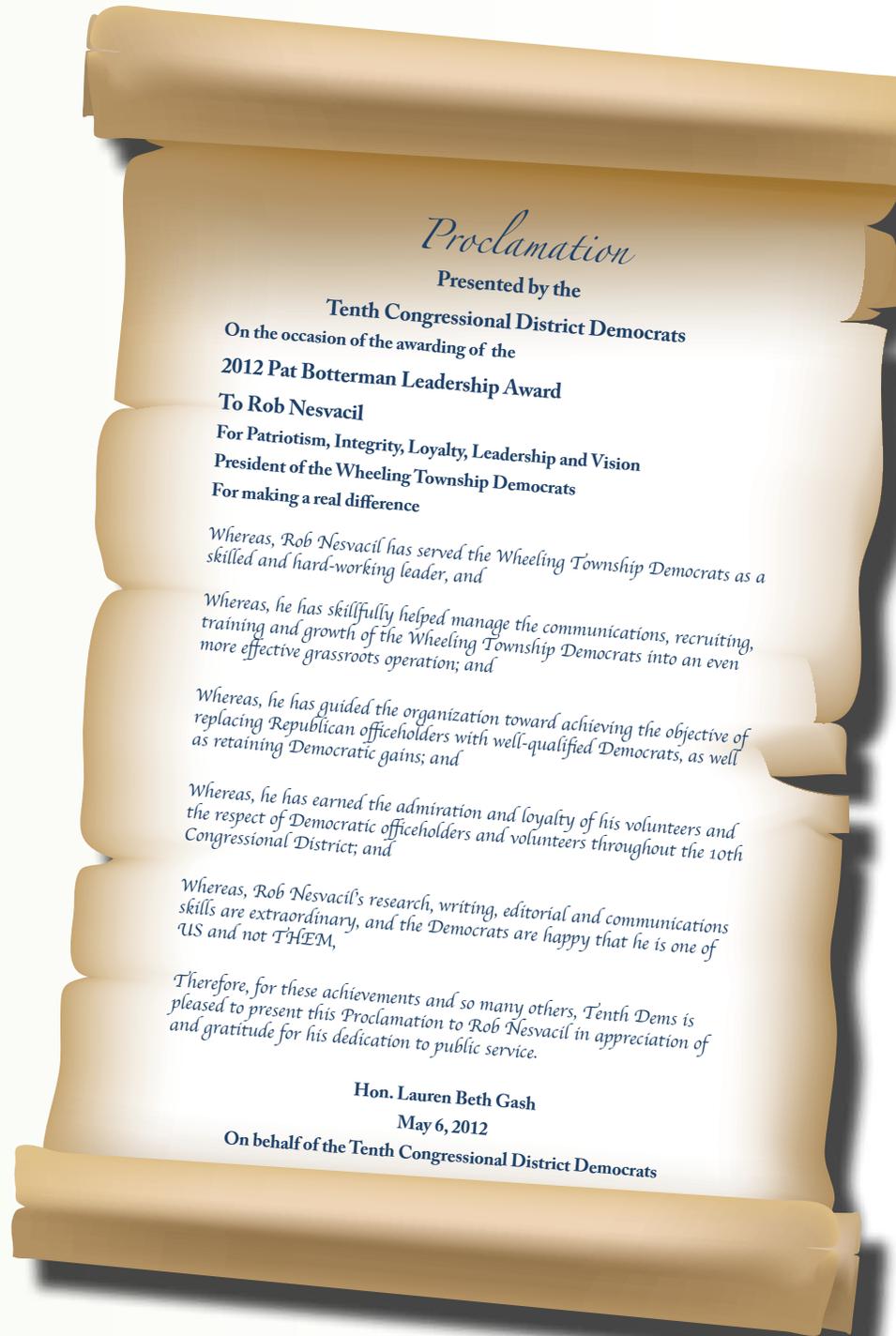
In recognizing Nesvacil's work, Wheeling Township Democratic Committeewoman Kathleen Sances cited his efforts to renovate the group's website, to reorganize its public communications, to coordinate membership meetings and speakers, and to help several candidates and campaigns.

"Pat would be proud to see us recognize Rob for his dedication and efforts on behalf of not just local candidates but also our communities and neighbors," said Sances. "It is with great pride and gratitude that I present this award to someone who has purposefully remained in the background. It is your time to stand in the light."

Nesvacil regularly helps numerous campaigns for local, state, and national candidates, including several nonpartisan candidates in Arlington Heights and surrounding communities. He is a board member of local charities, including the Drive to Revive Memorial Park and Arlington Heights Park Foundation. Nesvacil also volunteers as a den leader in his son's Cub Scouts pack and is a commissioner with the Arlington Heights Park District.



Rob Nesvacil and his family, along with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, State Rep. Elaine Nekritz, and State Sen. Dan Kotowski.



Proclamation

Presented by the

Tenth Congressional District Democrats

On the occasion of the awarding of the

2012 Pat Botterman Leadership Award

To Rob Nesvacil

For Patriotism, Integrity, Loyalty, Leadership and Vision

President of the Wheeling Township Democrats

For making a real difference

Whereas, Rob Nesvacil has served the Wheeling Township Democrats as a skilled and hard-working leader; and

Whereas, he has skillfully helped manage the communications, recruiting, training and growth of the Wheeling Township Democrats into an even more effective grassroots operation; and

Whereas, he has guided the organization toward achieving the objective of replacing Republican officeholders with well-qualified Democrats, as well as retaining Democratic gains; and

Whereas, he has earned the admiration and loyalty of his volunteers and the respect of Democratic officeholders and volunteers throughout the 10th Congressional District; and

Whereas, Rob Nesvacil's research, writing, editorial and communications skills are extraordinary, and the Democrats are happy that he is one of US and not THEM;

Therefore, for these achievements and so many others, Tenth Dems is pleased to present this Proclamation to Rob Nesvacil in appreciation of and gratitude for his dedication to public service.

Hon. Lauren Beth Gash

May 6, 2012

On behalf of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats

Paid for by the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats (www.tenthdems.org) and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. Contributions are not tax deductible. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Corporate contributions are not allowed.