

## NEWSLETTER

August 2010

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Open House	Page 1
Contest Winners	Page 1
Lawsuit	Page 1
June Dinner	Page 2
Under Attack	Page 3
Lost Generation	Page 3
Health Care Reform	Page 3
Work Your Plan	Page 4

**Meeting Notice  
Of the SCDP**  
Thursday  
September 23, 2010  
7 PM at Party  
Headquarters

### CHAIR'S REPORT (Busy at the office)

What an exciting time for all of us in the Democratic Party. With the opening of the office in downtown Sandusky, Sanilac Democrats are more visible and showing the community that they care what happens to all of us in this great County.

Stop in to see us at the downtown office. Pick up a sign, volunteer, or just say hello. We'll put on a pot of coffee and talk politics or just the weather. We want to say hello to you!

Nort Schramm

## SCDP OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS

The Sanilac County Democratic Party has opened a full-time headquarters, and celebrated the occasion with an Open House on Saturday, Aug. 7. The offices are located in Sandusky at 17 East Sanilac, at the intersection of M-19 and M-46.

In welcoming the crowd, State Representative John Espinoza declared that the current economic climate with the loss of jobs and homes coupled with the crises in education and infrastructure make it more important than ever that forward-looking candidates be elected to office. "It is vital that our candidates expose the false promises of those who claim they can revitalize our state by slashing vital programs and reducing taxes for the wealthy."

Henry Yanez, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress who will face Republican Candice Miller, echoing Espinoza's concern for the future, accused Miller of turning her back on this county's residents and "must be replaced by a person with vision." Yanez, a firefighter/paramedic, declared, "Miller has rejected programs for schools, infrastructure, stimulus and the safety of our communities."

*Continued, See "Open House" on Page 2*



Henry Yanez, Candidate for Congress, 10<sup>th</sup> District

### Too Smart to be Fooled

When an attempt was made among Sanilac County residents to collect petitions to place the **health care opt out issue** on the Michigan ballot, the sponsor thought he had a winning political issue. However, despite newspaper ads and robo-calls, when the expected rally commenced at 7 PM in Sandusky's Westpark Motel ballroom, not a single supporter showed up. Was **Paul Muxlow's** face red?

### SCDP Writing Contest Winners



John Dawson, Cros-Lex HS Senior and Nicole Pries, Peck HS Senior, winners of the first annual SCDP Writing Contest, receive word of their \$500 scholarships from Nort Schramm & Bill Reish.

*Read essays beginning on Page 3*



### REPUBLICAN-SUPPORTED LAWSUIT SEEKS TO REPEAL HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

An attempt by Republicans to remove the State of Michigan from the new health reform law has failed to achieve enough signatures to be placed on the November ballot. However, Michigan's Attorney-General, Mike Cox, continues to pursue his suit to deny implementation of the law. The insurance companies, the lobbyists and the pharmaceutical companies who spent millions trying to defeat health care reform in Congress back his efforts.

Their goal is to return to the old, broken system of high costs, high premiums, high profits with low coverage and exclusions—a system that is the most expensive in the world and covers the fewest persons. Here are just a few of the benefits in the new health care law that they would take away:

**They would take away** the right of health

*Continued, See "Lawsuit" on Page 2*

**Lawsuit, cont. from page 1**

coverage for millions of men, women and children who now have no protection.

**They would take away** the increase in coverage for dependents to age 26.

**They would take away** the ban against insurance companies denying coverage for pre-existing conditions.

**They would take away** the requirement that insurance companies must spend at least 80% of premiums on medical services.

**They would take away** the end to the donut hole, beginning this year with a \$250 payment.

**They would take away** the law's requirement for insurance exchanges that prevent insurance company monopolies and non-competitive rates, and much more.

These are the same-minded people who, with President Bush, sought to privatize Social Security that would have wiped it out in the stock market crash. They preach health care freedom – freedom to suffer under the same old broken, high-cost, high-profit insurance company system.

**Open House, cont. from page 1**

Miller, Yanez said, has said 'yes' to the bridge to nowhere and 'yes' to deficits, but three times voted 'no' to provide benefits to families suffering from long-term layoffs.

On hand for the ceremonies, in addition to Espinoza and Yanez, were Jeff Mayes, candidate for Michigan State Senate in the 31<sup>st</sup> District and Alan Lewandowski, candidate for State Representative in the 83<sup>rd</sup> District. Both Mayes and Lewandowski assured the gathering that they would continue the excellent legislative record in Lansing of Espinoza and would work to restore Michigan to its proper level of prosperity, jobs and education.

Other speakers included Norton Schramm, Sanilac County Party chair and candidate for County Commissioner, District 4, Joyce Wiley, candidate for County Commissioner, District 1, and Richard Partlo, candidate for County Commissioner, District 6.

**JUNE FUNDRAISER**

On June 12, 2010, at Benchwarmers in Sandusky, the Sanilac County Democratic Party held its annual fundraiser to support Democratic candidates. In spite of his surgery the previous day, John Espinoza attended and spoke emotionally about his years in the Legislature. Although faced with enormous challenges, he felt honored to serve in Lansing.

Others in attendance were the two scholarship recipients, Nicole Pries and John Dawson, along with their families.

All of the candidates for local and state office attended: Nort Schramm, Dick Partlo, and Joyce Wiley were there as well as Al Lewandowski, Jeff Mayes and Henry Yanez. The latter three spoke about their campaigns and paid tribute to John Espinoza for his service.

Generous donations with organization by Sally Moldwin earned additional money through a silent auction. A favorite item for purchase was one of Joyce Wiley's delicious pies—the bidding was active.

Attendees also had the opportunity to have their pictures taken with a life-size stand-up photograph of President Barack Obama.

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[www.sanilacdems.org](http://www.sanilacdems.org)

You can contact us at [sanilacdems@gmail.com](mailto:sanilacdems@gmail.com) or 810-404-DEMS (3367).

Paid for by the Sanilac County Democratic Party, 17 East Sanilac, Sandusky, MI 48471, labor donated.



Alan Lewandowski, Democratic candidate for John's 83<sup>rd</sup> District seat poses with a life-size figure of President Obama.

## SOCIAL SECURITY UNDER ATTACK AGAIN

Ray Denison

The *National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform*, created as part of the Health Reform legislation, is due to make its recommendations right after the November elections. Its true goal: cut Social Security and undermine Medicare, all in the name of cutting the nation's debt. The anti-Social Security faction on the Commission is led by former GOP Senator Alan Simpson and bankrolled by Wall Street bigwig Pete Peterson.

Right wing media is falsely claiming that if the retirement age is not increased and significant cuts made to Social Security benefits, this country will end up like Greece. The fact is, any cuts in Social Security would have no reduction impact on the Federal budget --- it is a separate trust fund. Further, at this moment Social Security has a surplus of \$2.4 trillion.

In Michigan alone, 1,699, 384 men, women and children could be affected.

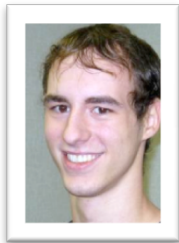
Unfortunately, some legislators—including Congresswoman Candice Miller—have stated that all of Social Security should be on the table. In other words, nothing is safe from the Commission's scalpel.

Contact Congresswoman Candice Miller and Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow now.

Urge them to demand that the Commission reject any reduction in Social Security benefits or any extension of the retirement age. Your legislator can be reached at 866-338-1015. Or check our website ([sanilacdems.org](http://sanilacdems.org)) under "Good Links" to find their websites where you can email them.

### THE LOST GENERATION

By **John Dawson**, 2010 SCDP Writing Contest Winner



In the fall of 2008 I was blessed with an opportunity to work for the "Campaign for Change" and later the Sanilac County Democratic Party. It was really my first political experience and involved not only phone banking but neighborhood canvassing as well.

We distributed literature and yard signs from our office in Port Sanilac and ever helped local candidates like Erin McDaid-Kelly. It was truly a surreal experience to work beside local politicians on the rise. While working at the office I found a profound lack of young teenagers like me with such a fascination with politics. While the political embers of 2008 were cooling down after the November presidential election, my interest for politics was only intensifying. In civics and current events class I often found myself alone talking to the teachers after class about different political philosophies because the rest of the class had little interest for the curriculum let along advanced ideals.

I found it very difficult to find students who could discuss political platforms or current legislation and legislators. Through these experiences I have realized the most important issue facing America today is the political apathy consuming young people.

See **LOST GENERATION**, Page 5

### HEALTH CARE REFORM

By **Nicole Pries**, 2010 SCDP Writing Contest Winner



Have you ever had so many problems you didn't know what problem to address first? I consider the health care reform to be the most important issue facing the United States. The United States is a very unstable country right now, however, it can

only last so long. Many Americans need help in these unstable times, especially with everyday needs. I consider the health care reform to be important because it will employ people and generate income, keep people healthier and save thousands of lives, and reduce the long-term deficit.

The health care reform would help generate jobs and income. The extra money that is usually spent on insurance would be spent in other areas and circulate in the economy. People spending their excess money on goods would require more people to work at the businesses to provide the needs of the people. Jobs also wouldn't have o deal with the health care costs for employees. If people could afford to visit the doctors more frequently the demand for doctors and nurses would increase creating openings in the medical field.

See **HEALTH CARE**, Page 5

## PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN

Oliver David Green

When I was a Battery Commander in 1983, my Mess Sergeant, being senior in our brigade (DIVARTY) held the additional duty position of Senior Leader (NCOIC) over a dining facility that fed four battalions of artillerymen and a smattering of support troops. (I'll conservatively guesstimate that to be 3000 soldiers.)

On the day after I assumed command of Service Battery, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 80<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery I paid my mess sergeant a visit at the dining facility. He knew I was coming because I had my First Sergeant call to alert him. I asked to visit at his convenience since the scope of his duties surely made his mission the most important in garrison. He responded, "Come any time."

As I approached his tiny office I couldn't help but read the signage affixed above his door, "Plan your work and work your plan." I'd read those words before as some platitude from a leadership manual but, seeing it here as a leader's stated, mission essential task opened my eyes as to how one gets things done.

I carried that philosophy throughout my remaining 10 years in the US Army as I went on to serve in many duty positions that focused on Plans and Operations. "Plan your work and work your plan." I never failed. My plans always worked. I worked my plan.

President Obama has a plan and he is working it now. Thus far the work he has planned is being realized to the greater good of the common man – that's those of us who make less than \$¼ M per year.

Wall Street reform will limit the speculative risks taken by brokers and clients; those who control the banking industry. There is to be more stringent government oversight of financial operations to ensure we, never again, allow unregulated corporations to ruin our economy. We have learned, hopefully, Big Business does not govern itself according to what will benefit the people.

Healthcare reform will ensure that all Americans, regardless of social status or level of income will be afforded adequate healthcare. If we call ourselves a God-fearing nation or go so far as to say our laws and mores

are rooted in a Judeo-Christian ethic, we should cheer this. Jesus was not a capitalist.

President Obama realizes that the private sector provides the lion's share of jobs for the "have-nots." To that end, 8 new tax cuts for small business have been enacted with the hope that further relief will be forthcoming via means of reducing excessive regulation at the Federal level. Michigan must do likewise to reduce the costly expense of compliance with unnecessary "overkill" policies from OSHA, the EPA and local health and safety agencies.

And unfunded mandates must be curtailed. Michigan does no favor for the welfare of its citizens by capriciously enacting legislation that taxes the overtaxed for "good ideas" from lobbyists and special interest groups.

The private sector must sense the anti-small business sentiment from the right. The private sector is slowly coming to grips with the fact that "trickle down" was nothing more than a buzzword from 25 years ago that never materialized as a viable economic principle for anyone not a part of Big Business. The private sector should now realize that it could have had so much more and provided so much for the have-nots had it not been for economic policies that sheltered the rich.

Perhaps those who went out of business might declare, "We died for the sins of Big Business and their conservative spokesmen."

President Obama has a plan and he is working it now. No one else has a plan other than to thwart the ideas of the party in control of Congress. The opposition has no plan; it has no progressive or rational ideas. It has no intention of helping the have-nots because the opposition is focused on Big Money to assist them in attaining control toward the leisure of the privileged. Conservative republicans are champions of the haves and have mores. And that's not many of you who read these words...and all of those who blindly vote with a "Yea team" mentality.

I've seen a lot in my day. I've watched politics very closely. I would be remiss if I didn't warn, "Don't give capitalists control of our legislature"...the love of money is the root of evil.

*(Ed Note: The following **LETTER** was written to the **Port Huron Times Herald** and appears here with permission of the author)*

This is in reference to the editorial in last Sunday's newspaper re: "Candice Miller Errs In Opposing Aid To Jobless." I'm incredulous that Candice Miller opposes the extension on unemployment benefits for a few reasons.

Candice Miller didn't care how we were going to pay for the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy. Candice Miller didn't care how we were going to pay for the occupation in Iraq. Candice Miller didn't care how we were going to pay for the unfunded Medicare mandate. Candice Miller continues to ride on her yacht while the people in this state and in her district are drowning.

Candice Miller was quoted as saying the following "We all share concern for those workers and families who are hurting because of this difficult economy," she said, "but we are not going to make things better through more and more spending and ever-larger deficits." I really hope that people are paying attention because Candice Miller doesn't

*Continued, See "Letter" on Page 6*

**LOST GENERATION**, Cont. from Page 3

Most major legislation such as health care reform is currently stuck in political gridlock. In American History a great orator has always proposed a compromise between differing factions. We must all remember it was Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth who conceived the Great Compromise of 1787, this compromise resolved the congressional representation issue and allowed the constitution to be ratified creating a United States. Throughout the early 1800's many speakers helped stifle the sectionalism leading to civil war. John Taylor and Jesse Thomas proposed two motions that would become the compromise of 1820 which saved the union from civil war for nearly forty years. With today's youth having minimal interest in politics, the great orators of our generation will never make the key speeches leading to compromises that will solve issues like abortion and stem cell research. These controversial issues left up for debate manifest into deep partisan divides that envelope the American public as well as national political actions.

As less young people follow and involve themselves in politics the public becomes detached from its government. Instead of feeling as though they are a part of the democratic process, many young people have an "us against them" mentality regarding government. They feel like passive recipients rather than active participants in the political process. People are losing faith in not only their own government but its democratic ideology as well. A democracy functions through the faith and consent of those it governs; this requires widespread participation in government.

The final loss America suffers due to the politically despondent youth population is the loss of a key voting demographic of the Democratic base. According to the national exit polling estimates the youth voter turnout rate was about fifty to fifty-five percent of the 2008 Presidential election. Youth voters are crucial to a democratic electoral success. In the 2008 election, Democrats received sixty-six percent of the youth vote. As we learned in 2000 and 2004, even a five to ten percent increase in youth turnout rates could early swing an election. Young people have almost overwhelmingly liberal views on many social issues such as gay rights where young voters are in favor of 3-1. A raise in political activity among young people would create a surge of support for the Democratic Party not only in the republican stronghold of Sanilac County, but nationally as well.

The politically lethargic attitude of today's youth is hurting America by undermining our founding fathers' democratic ideals. People no longer feel they have a government acting beside them and for their benefit. The loss of political know-how and alternate political philosophy from this generation is a danger to our democracy that has gone ignored too long. The current generation holds democratic ideals and beliefs but fail to articulate them or apply them to the political arena. To help usher in a new millennium of bi-partisan cooperation and a prevailing public feeling of governmental optimism, we must give this generation a thorough understanding of America's current political climate while entering a new decade full of potential social and legislative pitfalls.

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**HEALTH CARE**, Conti. from Page 3

The health care reform would also keep people healthier and save a lot of lives. A lot of people don't go to the doctor because of lack of income. If help and money was provided, the people in need could get help and everyone would become healthier overall. Illnesses could be caught at an earlier stage and easier to cure. People could go to the doctors for just not current illnesses, but for check ups and overall health care. The increase in obesity and cancer could be decreased if people could afford the cost of seeking help. Americans need to be able to visit the doctor whenever needed, not based on the income being provided.

The long-term deficit could be reduced by the health care reform. It would help cut the government's overspendings. The health care reform would limit the cost of prescription drugs and Medicare abuse. Limiting the costs would create the government to have more money and be able to reduce the deficit. Motivating small businesses to provide insurance by giving them tax credits would help influence people to work at local businesses.

I think the health care reform would benefit a lot. People that have or did have past medical history of illness wouldn't be denied health insurance. Also the cost of prescription drugs would decrease; therefore, people wouldn't have to debate paying for their bills or buying their prescriptions. Every day people get sick but don't go to the doctor because of the lack of income. Being a future college student, the health care reform would help by allowing me and other college students to stay on our parents insurance till the age of 26. Every American should have health care; therefore, I believe the health care reform should take effect.

America needs a change. The health care reform is a change for everyone. It would reduce the long-term deficit, keep people healthier, and create jobs. The reform can only benefit the United States considering we are unstable. Many Americans struggle with the cost of medical insurance and prescription drugs on a daily basis. No one should be denied insurance based on past medical history. We need a change and I believe the health care reform is just what we need.

**Letter, cont. from page 4**

care about how you are going to provide for your family. Candice Miller doesn't care where your next meal will come from, or whether or not you or your children go to bed hungry. Candice Miller doesn't care about how you are going to make your next rent or mortgage payment, or know how it feels to face eviction or foreclosure. Candice Miller doesn't care about how you are going to pay your utility bills or knows how it feels to be faced with a shut off notice. Candice Miller only cares about being re-elected because she is a career incumbent politician, at the price tag of a \$173,000/year in taxpayer financed salary.

I can appreciate and understand the out of control fiscal spending however, this is not the time to make the unemployed, by no fault of their own poster children for reckless spending. While we talk about meeting people's basic needs like putting food on the table, Candice Miller is on her yacht with Wall Street and Corporate executives.

It's time for the 10th District to wake up and vote for someone who is going to protect the middle class. Henry Yanez (D) a 25-year firefighter and paramedic will help rescue the 10th District from politicians like Candice Miller. Henry Yanez is on the front line and see's people in need on a daily basis. Henry Yanez will help protect the middle class so people don't have to worry how they will feed their children. Henry Yanez will hold these corporations accountable to pay their fair share. While Candice Miller continues to ride on her yacht, Henry Yanez is putting himself in harm's way to protect citizens and taxpaying Americans. Vote for Henry Yanez (D) U.S. 10th Congressional District he will not sit by and let people drown.

*Rachael Siemen, Membership Chairperson, St. Clair County Democratic Party*

Come, join us at the next monthly meeting:

Thursday, September 23, 2010 at 7:00 PM  
at the Party Headquarters at  
17 East Sanilac (M46)  
Sandusky, MI 4841

See you there!

Remember to bring something for Help, Inc.

New Party Headquarters in  
downtown Sandusky



Sanilac County Democratic Party  
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