



The SCPD PAC Progressive Patriot

The Newsletter for Progressive Activists in NE Ohio

WHAT IS SCPD PAC?

Summit County Progressive Democrats PAC is a grass roots organization of dedicated people committed to social justice on the local, state, national, and international levels. We support efforts that better the lives of all citizens by working to promote human rights, equal economic opportunity, responsive government, a safe, sustainable environment, and a society built on compassion. Our goal is to expand grass roots participation in the political process and to return the federal government to the will of the people. SCPD PAC works to support progressive candidates through grassroots activism, contributions, coaching candidates, forums and events and the production of literature and sample ballots to educate the electorate. If you are interested in SCPD PAC, contact Ingrid Kunstel at ikunstel@neo.rr.com.

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"GRASSROOTS ACTION NOW!"

JULY

2009

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AUGUST 11 AT 6:30 P.M.
AKRON PUBLIC LIBRARY
MEETING ROOM 2



SCPD PAC PAST PRESIDENT HONORED

On Sunday, May 17, the Summit County Democratic Party held their 10th Annual FDR Dinner. The Keynote speaker was Sherrod Brown. With about 500 Democrats in attendance and a large contingency from SCPD PAC, the annual awards were given out. Our past president, Ingrid Kunstel was honored by receiving the Jane Quine Award. The inscription on the award reads, *"The Summit County Democratic Party thanks you for your outstanding leadership in developing the Summit County Progressive Democrats into a vibrant and community driven organization working hand in hand with the local party. We are continually impressed by your commitment to elect Democrats at all levels of Government through fundraising, direct voter contact and issue education. Your efforts in promoting all of these qualities continue to prove the strength of grassroots organizing and that of SCPD PAC."*



The award is named for Jane Quine who was a political leader in Akron for 25 years. She was noted for her leadership, her grace and her seemingly boundless energy. She served twice as a congressional staffer and as a campaign worker for John Seiberling and was John's District Director for several years. She ran many key local and state races, including the mayoral and U. S. congressional races of Tom Sawyer. She mentored politicians from across the county. The values she espoused were democratic, in the broadest sense of the word - duty, activism, inclusion, participation and service. In addition, she served on the Board of trustees for the University of Akron, was the first woman to chair the Summit County Democratic Party and served on the Board of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

This award marks the second in two years for SCPD PAC members. Last year, former Vice-President, Sandra Kurt, was awarded the Chair's Distinguished Service Award.

SCPD PAC ENDORSES SANDRA KURT



At the monthly SCPD-PAC meeting on July 14 the Democratic candidates for the Akron 8th Ward City Council seat were invited to address the membership. The invitation was issued in order to determine which

candidate presented the best "progressive" credentials. This is normal SCPD protocol in races where our endorsement is sought.

After hearing from the candidates and evaluating their respective answers to questions from the members, a vote was taken to determine whether SCPD would, in fact, offer an endorsement in this race. The required vote total was 50 percent of the voting members, plus 1.

Sandra Kurt, former vice president of SCPD-PAC, received the required number of votes and will thereby be endorsed by our organization. Anyone wishing to participate in her campaign activities can contact her at amazonengr@yahoo.com or mcbarrister@yahoo.com.

Congratulations, Sandra.

WAKE-UP CHALLENGE FOR SCPD PAC

We want to be as good at issues as we are at campaigning. At our recent membership meeting President Denise Woods offered her thoughts on what she hopes to emphasize in her tenure, and that included a heavy focus on issues. We can see that just getting good people elected is not enough, we have to make our case for progressive legislation as well. So we are challenging ourselves as an organization to "wake up" each time there is an important issue and lobby our elected officials to support our position. We can "live our values" by devoting just one hour a month to issues actions. This alarm clock icon will appear on each announcement of an issues action we can take. That will identify the issue as part of our Wake-Up Challenge.



THE CONTEST

Members will earn IPs (Issues Points) in the Wake-Up Challenge whenever they take action on an SCPD PAC issue. Our Wake-Up Challenge has three goals involving those points. One is to get at least 72 members to take at least one issues action during 2009. A second goal is to at-

tain at least 20 points on five separate issues during the year. A third goal is to attain at least 300 total points during the year. Each time you take an issues action your points will contribute to all three categories. Notify Frank Kunstel via e-mail whenever you take an issues action. (You can easily do this by just hitting the "Reply" button on the e-mail you received that notified you of the event. Be sure to include which legislators you contacted, as you receive a point for each contact.)

THE POINTS

Points in the Wake-Up Challenge are earned as follows:

- 1 point** for e-mail or phone contact to each legislator
- 2 points** for a published Letter to the Editor, an original letter to a legislator, or writing a Lobby Alert
- 3 points** for live lobbying locally, participating in a local event, or canvassing for an issue
- 5 points** for live lobbying in Columbus or D.C., or for participating in a live event outside Ohio

[Watch for the "Wake-Up Clock"](#)

3rd ANNUAL SCPD PAC AWARDS CELEBRATION

SCPD-PAC held its third annual Awards Party/Fundraiser on Friday, May 8th, 2009 at the St. Joseph Party Center in Akron. The keynote speaker was Ohio Secretary of State, Jennifer Brunner, who addressed guests on the progress that has been made in protecting voter rights in Ohio since she succeeded Republican Kenneth Blackwell in 2006.

SCPD PAC honored Eileen Goldman as the Committee Person of the Year; Guy Marentette as the Unsung Hero of the Year; Frank Kunstel as the Member of the Year and John Cross as the Progressive Patriot of the year.

It was also an occasion for the SCPD-PAC to raise the money it needs to help progressive Democratic candidates in future elections. On that score we raised 50% more money than the previous year, a confirmation that we are being taken seriously as a major player in local politics. Our thanks to all who helped organize the event, and to those donors who helped us raise the money we need to elect good Democrats to office. Photographs from the event are included in the newsletter.



ACTIVISTS GO TO THE BALLGAME



On Thursday, July 9, SCPD PAC joined the local Young Democrats and the Stonewall Democrats to see the Akron Aeros play the Reading Phillies. They also bought 60 tickets and food coupons in order to treat inner-city children and parents to a night of baseball. It was a gorgeous evening and based upon the laughter and cheers, everyone seemed to have a great time.

SCPD PAC PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Our featured member goes quietly about her work within SCPD PAC. She sits on our Board of Directors as an At Large Member, serves on the Voting Rights Issues Team and has recently volunteered for the Ad Hoc Issues Team. She can be seen working for many candidates during election cycles and volunteering to help with our annual Awards Ceremony. She is Sherrie Weitzenhof.

Sherrie first became active in politics in '67 when she worked for the Carl Stokes mayoral campaign. She also worked in the Eugene McCarthy campaign in '68. Like many others she retreated from activist politics following those tumultuous days to focus on her personal life.

The Kerry campaign drew her back. Once again energized, she canvassed, did phone banking and anything else that needed to be done. She heard about SCPD through Eileen Goldman and attended the second post-election meeting. She has been an active member ever since. She is presently working very hard to help Sandra Kurt in her Ward 8 City Council primary.

Sherrie has a Masters in Political Science and Public Administration. She worked for years in a correctional facility for girls and then for the state creating a comprehensive assessment for the Ohio Quality of Life

legal services for children in the juvenile justice system. She is now a consultant and has just finished a contract with the state in Human Services, helping to create the Summit 2010 Quality of Life Program to improve family health and promote neighborhood organization.

In 1994, she helped to form the Juvenile Justice Coalition. She is now the Volunteer Director. This juvenile justice advocacy group has recently introduced a Bill in the Ohio General Assembly to reform the juvenile code. She is also part of the National Juvenile Justice Association helping Ohio coordinate with other states and advocating at the national level.

Sherrie has been married to Dave for 42 years. Dave is a retired research engineer for Bridgestone. They share an interest in car racing and Dave races in the Sports Car Club of America, with a formula 2000 car. They have been to races in Canada, most of the United States, Great Britain and Venezuela. Sherrie is Dave's crew and says she keeps him organized. Dave is a 7 time National Champion.



We in SCPD PAC are grateful for all the time, intelligence and energy she gives to us. She is our SCPD Patriot of the month.



SCPD PAC 3rd Annual





Awards Celebration



IN MEMORIAM

On July 2, the City of Akron lost one of its' finest. Judge Linda Kersker died suddenly of an acute heart problem at the age of 61.

Linda will be remembered for her prominent legal career, for becoming the first female attorney and first female partner at the law firm Brouse McDowell. She served 25 years on the Akron Board of Education and was admired by all her colleagues.

In February, Governor Strickland appointed Linda to be judge on the Akron Municipal court, a position that she was obviously enjoying with all of her incredible energy. Linda will be missed by all of us.



Our thanks to Mickey Stefanik for contributing his time and skill to create such a wonderful photographic record of our organization.



You're a Few Clicks Away

Paid members who have not taken advantage of their free access to SCPD PAC's Yahoo group website are missing out. It costs nothing except the time to register and provides a lot of important information about the issues and politics that SCPD PAC is concerned with. Joining is as easy as contacting Guy Marentette at gmarentette@gmail.com and requesting to be added to the group list. The Yahoo group is an important source of progressive information.

SCPD PAC Executive Committee

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| President: | Denise Woods | Recording Secretary: | Janet Dando |
| Vice President: | Mary Lohman | Treasurer: | Bobbie Carper |
| Executive Secretary: | Guy Marentette | Assistant Treasurer: | Jim Laurenson |
| At Large: | Nancy Clem | | |
| | Todd Schneider | | |
| | Sherrie Weitzenhof | | |

The **SCPD PAC Progressive Patriot** is edited by the SCPD PAC Communications Committee. To submit an article or a comment contact Tom Liston at maxepr@mac.com or Ingrid Kunstel at ikunstel@neo.rr.com