

Democratic Socialists of America

Greater Detroit Newsletter

© 2012 DSA 28

May 2012

Volume 13, Issue 3

The following article was written by David Hecker, President of the American Federation of Teachers-Michigan and a lifetime DSA member.

Protect our Jobs

by David Hecker

I think Michael Harrington would be proud. He would be proud of trade unionists and community allies taking control of our destiny. He would be proud that we are fighting back, proud that we have faith in the voters of Michigan. Michigan voters get it. They know what collective bargaining has meant to working people --be they union or not. Harrington would be proud that we have not lost our voice, that, indeed, we have strengthened it.

That is what the Protect Our Jobs campaign is all about. When Michigan voters approve Protect Our Jobs in November the right to collective bargaining will be codified in our state's constitution, a move necessitated by a state legislature and governor who have introduced and/or passed and signed into law over eighty bills that undercut working people and the unions they have democratically chosen. These bills and laws have nothing to do with putting Michigan back to work.

DSA members know that to rebuild our economy, we all need to work together to protect Michigan workers and strengthen the middle class. Without workers having the right to speak up and protect our wages and benefits, the Other America of which Michael Harrington wrote will be with us forever.

DSA members know that collective bargaining gives all workers a voice, and the ability to come together to

negotiate a fair contract. A union contract helps protect jobs, wages, benefits and workplace safety. Collective bargaining helps our communities as when the nurses unions bargain for better staffing levels, building trades unions bargain to make sure our buildings and infrastructure are safe and secure, and education unions bargain for smaller class sizes.

We have seen first hand what corporate CEO's have done to our economy, to working people, the unemployed and our communities. Without collective bargaining, CEO's have complete freedom to arbitrarily fire workers, cut wages, benefits and pensions, and outsource jobs.

Michigan workers helped create the middle class--now we need to protect our collective bargaining rights to help rebuild the economy.

As always, DSA will play a vital role in securing this constitutional amendment. Enclosed with this newsletter is a petition and an instruction sheet. Please garner twelve signatures of registered voters and return the petition to _ DSA, 28292 Harwich Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334 by June 15, 2012. This is the first step--getting the issue on the ballot-- the first steps toward victory in November and a strong future for Michigan.

Democratic Socialists of America Greater Detroit

Officers

Chair: David Green
Vice Chair: Catherine Hoffman
Secretary: Selma Goode
Treasurer: David Ivers
Executive Board:
Reg McGhee, Dave Elsila,
Phil Schloop, Lon Herman,
Ken Jenkins

Contact Information

Mailing Address

28292 Harwich Drive
Farmington Hill, MI 48334

Phone Number: 248-761-4203

E-mail: dsagreen@aol.com

Agenda for the DSA General Membership Meeting on May 12, 2012

Join us for Detroit DSA's general membership meeting on May 12th. We have two speakers this month. Our first speaker is **Chris Michalak**, the new President of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, who will discuss the Protect our Jobs Campaign to place a Constitutional amendment protecting collective bargaining rights in Michigan on the November ballot. Our second speaker is **State Representative Jon Switalski** (D-Warren) who will discuss his campaign for re-election in a newly drawn district.

1. Treasury Report
2. Report on Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network (MichUHCAN)—Support for MichUHCAN's "Health Care Heroes" Dinner
3. Report on Southeast Michigan Jobs with Justice (JWJ)
4. Report on the Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network (DAPJN)
5. Report on the Michigan Alliance to Strengthen Social Security and Medicare (MASSM)
6. Conyers Fundraiser
7. Speaker: **Chris Michalak** on the "Protect our Jobs" Campaign
8. Speaker: **State Representative Jon Switalski** on the **2012 State House Elections**

Calendar of Events

MAY

Saturday, May 12—DSA general membership meeting from 10 AM until noon at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais Avenue—near the intersection of Thirteen Mile and Crooks Roads)

Sunday, May 27th—Conyers Fundraiser from 2-5 PM at Colors Restaurant, 311 East Grand River in Detroit

JUNE

Sunday, June 3rd—DSA executive board meeting from 10 AM until noon at the home of David and Teena Green, 28292 Harwich Drive, Farmington Hills

JULY

Saturday, July 14th—DSA general membership meeting from 10 AM until noon at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais Avenue—near the intersection of Thirteen Mile and Crooks Roads)

John Conyers Campaign Fundraiser



Raise funds for the re-election campaign of Congressman John Conyers with Detroit Democratic Socialists of America PAC.

Sunday, May 27th from 2 to 5 pm

Colors Restaurant
311 E Grand River Ave. Detroit, MI 48226

Hors d'oeuvres will be served



Special Guest Jim Hightower,
editor of the Hightower Lowdown

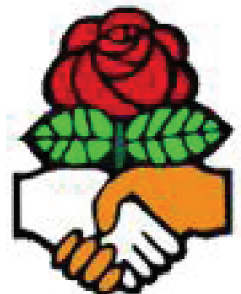


Donations of any size up to \$2500 will be gratefully accepted. Please bring your checkbook. If you cannot attend, you can mail your donation to DSA PAC at 28292 Harwich Drive, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334. Make checks out to "Conyers for Congress" and write "DSA PAC Fundraiser" on the memo line.

Hosted by Detroit Democratic Socialists PAC. For more information or to inquire about having your organization sign on as a co-host for this fundraiser, contact dsagreen@aol.com.

• Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 per election cycle.
• An individual may contribute a maximum of \$2500 per election (The primary and general are separate elections.) to a federal candidate. Federal multi-candidate political action committees (PACs) may contribute \$5000 per election. Contributions from corporations, labor organization treasury funds, foreign nationals, and federal government contractors are prohibited. Contributions to Conyers for Congress are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.

Authorized by Conyers for Congress--Paid for by David and Teena Green.



detroitdsa.com
dsausa.org



Democratic Socialist of America PAC

Detroit Chapter

© 2012 DSA 28

May 2, 2012

Dear DSA members, progressives, and friends,

Democratic Socialists of America Political Action Committee (DSA PAC) will hold a fundraising reception for Representative John Conyers, Jr. at Colors Restaurant on Sunday, May 27th from 2-5 PM. Our guest of honor is Jim Hightower—noted progressive radio commentator and editor of the Hightower Lowdown. Our co-hosts are David Bullock, President of the Detroit branch of Operation PUSH, Tim Carpenter, Executive Director of Progressive Democrats of America, David Hecker, President of the American Federation of Teachers-Michigan, and Marjorie Mitchell, Executive Director of the Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network.

As you may know, Congressman Conyers faces a serious primary challenge in a new district. In the past, he has never needed to raise much money for his campaigns. This time is different. We anticipate significant negative advertising will be directed against him. He will require sufficient resources with which to respond.

John Conyers is an icon to the progressive community. He is the only elected official ever to be endorsed by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. As the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, he opposed the Patriot Act and has been a staunch defender of civil liberties. He is the sponsor of the Medicare for All Act (HR 676), a single-payer health insurance bill which would provide comprehensive health care benefits to all Americans while simultaneously containing health care costs. He is the sponsor of the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act (HR 870), a bill which would use a tax on financial transactions to create a national jobs program aimed at producing three to four million new jobs per year in infrastructure improvement, social services, and green energy. In short, Congressman Conyers shares our politics.

I am asking all of our members to come to the fundraising reception on May 27th and bring their checkbooks. Donations of any size up to \$2500 will be gratefully accepted. Colors Restaurant is located at 311 East Grand River Avenue in Detroit (Please see the map on the accompanying flyer.). Please RSVP by May 21st so that I may anticipate the number of guests. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (248) 761-4203 or e-mail at dsagreen@aol.com. See you on May 27th!

Sincerely,

David Green, Chair
Detroit DSA

Authorized by Conyers for Congress--Paid for by David and Teena Green.

See back

☐ Yes, I would like to attend the reception on May 27th honoring Representative Conyers.

☐ I cannot attend, but I will support Conyers for Congress. Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

☐ I am a US citizen or permanent resident alien (Please check.).

Please make checks payable to: Conyers for Congress

• *Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 per election cycle.*

• *An individual may contribute a maximum of \$2500 per election (The primary and general are separate elections.) to a federal candidate. Federal multi-candidate political action committees (PACs) may contribute \$5000 per election. Contributions from corporations, labor organization treasury funds, foreign nationals, and federal government contractors are prohibited. Contributions to Conyers for Congress are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes.*

To contribute by credit card:

Please charge _____ to my ☐ Amex ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard (Please check.)

Name: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address _____

Signature: _____

Mark your calendars so you won't miss
out on our upcoming events!

**Democratic Socialists of America
of Greater Detroit**

28292 Harwich Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334