

# The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

Volume 2, No. 3

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

Autumn 2008

## Conversations With The Township Chair

By **Susan M. Lubonovich**  
*WTDO Chair and Precinct 030  
Committeeman*

"All we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." - attributed to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, December 7, 1941

I welcome you to the sixth issue of The Township Democrat, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. I have begun this Conversation with a quote attributed to Admiral Yamamoto, the individual who attempted to bring America to its knees, December 7, 1941. He failed - not in his attack, but in his goal. Today, we Americans are once again under attack and pushed perilously close to falling to our knees by those who wish to continue governing us. We, fellow citizens of these United States, are under siege by the relentlessly grasping, monumentally rapacious ideologues of the conservative agenda. Our titans of industry, our capitalist free market connoisseurs - the "don't regulate us, capitalism will sort it all out" holders of immense golden parachutes have had no appreciation for the dangerous consequences of their profligate gambling with "new and creative" investment instruments on the economic security of the American people. These usurpers and compromisers of our government of these United States have lost a trillion dollars in the last four weeks alone, leading up to the great taxpayer bailout. It was not even their money that Wall Street finagled with and lost - it was ours. We as a nation have been pillaged and plundered and then

forced to absorb the cost for the cleanup of the wreckage left by these ideologues: Wreckage that impacts our work, our homes, our healthcare, our schools, our infrastructure, our economy, our environment, our safety, our retirement, and most of all, our Constitution.

But, all is not lost. Our beloved country still has one great resource left - us, the sleeping giant who has awakened and is filled with a terrible resolve. A terrible resolve to take back our country, a terrible resolve to right our Ship of State, a terrible resolve to elect an extraordinary individual the next President of these United States, Barack Obama, and a terrible resolve to elect a Congress to support him in our Nation's time of need and peril. Our resolve is whole, it is complete, it is total. We will not be swayed from our resolve by scurrilous and untruthful ads nor by pontificating ideologues casting aspersions and falsehoods upon the honor and character of a fellow Citizen. We will not be swayed. We are Resolved.

All of us have a visceral understanding of the Constitution of this Country. It is ours. For generations, we have defended our Constitution with our lives and our treasure, we have revered and enshrined its protections - and no man nor Party may put it asunder. We are Resolved.

At this time, I would also like to humbly and profoundly thank all of you who have supported our "Kick in for the Quarter" Campaign during these demanding and frankly, frightening economic times. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

## CALENDAR

**OCT 13-30** - EARLY VOTING.  
WINFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICE  
130 ARBOR AVE.  
WEST CHICAGO, IL  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
630-407-5600.

**NOV 4** - ELECTION DAY  
**CHECK YOUR POLLING LOCATION  
FOR ANY CHANGES.** FOR MORE  
INFORMATION CALL  
630-407-5600.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG](http://WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG)

Please mail your  
contribution to:

**WTDO**  
**P.O. Box 224,**  
**Warrenville, IL**  
**60555**

Your Township needs you. The Repubs will not be defeated by rhetoric alone. And folks, tomorrow really does begin today when you do not back down from what you know is right and true - and are willing to work and fight for that vision. Please Vote. We are resolved.

# Moving Forward for Change

**By Rep. Bill Foster**

*US Congressman, IL-14*

Since I was given the honor of representing the 14th District of Illinois in March, I have been able to meet with area residents, and I appreciate hearing your concerns.

Like you, I remain concerned about the effects of our shaky economy – families are struggling to afford the rising prices of gas, food, education and health care, while at the same time, trouble in our financial institutions threatens to rock the foundation of our economy. I am running for reelection because it is time to get America moving again, recreating the economic boom we enjoyed during the 1990s. I will continue to work to save and create good paying jobs here in the district; in just a short time, I have helped to restore funding at Fermilab, saving high paying jobs, and I voted to extend unemployment benefits to help those who are having trouble finding a job. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I helped shepherd along the most comprehensive legislative response to the mortgage crisis, and I am working to find an economic relief plan that will stop a financial meltdown, protect the American taxpayer, and put in place real reforms to ensure this does not happen again.

As a scientist and a businessman, I am focused on taking action to solve problems. Individuals and families in our area need relief, and one of the first pieces of legislation I introduced in the House is a simple solution that would directly benefit families in our area. My bill reduces the tax burden placed on middle-class families by providing a supplemental property tax deduction for those who do not itemize their taxes.

I have stood up for the men and women in uniform who have bravely served both overseas and here at home to make sure that they are properly taken care of during and after their service. Often, these individuals have put their own lives in danger to protect the freedoms we enjoy, and taking care of them after they have taken care of us is simply the right thing to do. I was proud to vote in support of a GI Bill for the 21st century, and this legislation has recently been signed into law. The new GI Bill will guarantee that our returning veterans will be able to attend a 4-year public university, free of

charge. By providing our veterans with a quality education, we ensure they have a future worth fighting for. I was also able to support a change of course in Iraq, voting for restrictions on the war funding so that our men and women in Iraq can begin to return home.

One of the largest problems we face right now is the energy crisis. High gas prices affect everyone, and they are also causing a price hike for basic necessities like food. While I am actively pursuing solutions, the energy crisis is a complex problem that will not be solved overnight. The issue must be addressed on a number of levels, and any solution must include an investment in the development of clean, renewable alternative energy sources. However, while we need to look at long term solutions, we also need to consider actions that will make an impact right now. We have seen the effects of putting two oil men in the White House, and I have taken every opportunity to push back against George W. Bush's misguided policies, like when I voted to protect our civil liberties by voting against the 'FISA Compromise Bill.'

Working for you is a unique job; half of my time is spent in the district, and half of my time is spent in the District of Columbia. I travel home to the district to meet with constituents and attend local events every single weekend, and I have held over 20 sessions of Congress on Your Corner, which is like a one-on-one town hall meeting. At these events, I meet with constituents at a card table I set up in grocery stores across the district. By hearing your thoughts about the crucial issues that are affecting us all, I am able to better serve as your representative, and I will always stand up for the interests of the 14th District.

Hearing your stories, I am often reminded that the upcoming election is no ordinary election. We need serious people with a serious commitment to turning our country around – people who are committed to repairing the devastation left in the wake of the Bush Administration. Simply put, we can do better, and I believe that on November 4, the country will speak in a unified voice for the positive change that we so desperately need. It has been an honor and a privilege to represent you for nearly seven months, and while I am proud of the work we've accomplished, I ask for your vote on Election Day so that together, we can continue to move our country forward.

*For more information please visit [foster08.com](http://foster08.com)*

## **Enger Management Making History**

**By Dirk Enger**

*Precinct 004 Committeeman  
Democratic Nominee for DuPage County Board,  
District 6*

This election year our Country will make history. We will either elect the first African American President or we will elect the oldest President entering office and the first woman Vice President.

This election will be a turning point for our country. We are a nation in economic turmoil and at war on two fronts.

What I cannot understand is how John McCain can run on the slogan "Country First". I respect his service and sacrifice for our country, yet if one truly puts country and veterans first, then they should take a look at his voting record.

McCain has voted 3 times against the Veterans Budget emergency funding for veteran healthcare. McCain also voted for the "Surge" in Iraq and then voted against the Webb Amendment Bill which called for adequate rest for our troops between deployments. Attached to this bill was an amendment that there would be no more tax loopholes for any company working for the Defense Department (i.e., Halliburton).

I encourage everyone to look at McCain's record; I believe that it shows Country Last not first. On the other hand, if you look at Barack Obama's record on veterans' bills, he has an 89% report card on votes.

We must not allow Karl Rove tactics to prevail this time. If you treasure what freedoms we have left then please take 5 minutes and vote for your freedoms and your families' future.

\* \* \*

If you feel that it is time for real change in DuPage County government, change that will ensure a better quality of life and the accountability of your tax dollars, then I would truly appreciate your vote for County Board District 6.

There are 2 seats up for election in District 6, but please vote just once to ensure a victory for the Enger Campaign.

You can see our website at [www.engercounty6.org](http://www.engercounty6.org)

God Bless you and yours,  
Dirk Enger

## **It's Time!**

**By Bob Peickert**

*Chair, Democratic Party of DuPage County*

In the February primary, approximately 132,000 voters in DuPage County took Democratic ballots, more than twice the number from just 4 years prior. That sent a clear signal to both political parties that voters were fed up with the failed policies of George W. Bush.

I also believe that voters voiced their opposition to the policies of the all-Republican County Board. The Republican County Board members voted themselves a 10% pay raise (now making over \$50,000 a year to attend 2 meetings a month) just prior to announcing a \$40 million budget deficit. A tax increase and a cut in services was the solution offered by the Republicans. Voters took notice. The media took notice.

Two years ago, Joe Vosicky lost a bid to become the first Democrat in DuPage in almost 30 years to be elected State Representative. He lost by under 300 votes, just 3 votes per precinct. I spoke to many of Joe's supporters who said that if they only walked one more block, called a few more people, gave an extra donation, volunteered one more day, Joe may have won. All of us involved in Joe's campaign do not want that to happen again. And, we do not want any other Democrats to repeat those words on November 5. We want and need change in DuPage County and in Washington, and 2008 is the year that this will happen.

What can we do to make sure 2008 is the year Democrats in DuPage County are finally being heard in local, state and national government? Well, we can all do our own impersonation of Howard Beale in the movie *Network*, by going to the window and yelling "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take this

(See Peickert, p.7)

## **A Real Choice for Solid Priorities in Congress**

**By Jill Morgenthaler**

*Democratic Nominee, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*

There is just under a month until the election on November 4th, when my name will be in front of you as the Democratic Candidate for Congress in the 6th District of Illinois. It is an honor to run to serve the people of the 6th District.

I am a retired Army Reserve Colonel who has served in Iraq, Bosnia and Korea. I also bring with me 14 years experience as a businesswoman at Argonne National Laboratory, and tenure as the top Homeland Security official in the State of Illinois. Over the course of my career I am extremely proud of the leadership role I have taken in a variety of sectors, and I look forward to providing sound leadership for the 6th district.

In his time as a politician, my opponent has failed to lead. In a district where political sentiments are moderate, Peter Roskam has been pushing extreme policies in Congress. He has not been working for the 6th district; he has been working against the grain on the very issues that matter most.

The economic downturn has hit every American hard, yet Roskam has continually voted against American voters and for big business. We need Representatives who will hold our financial institutions accountable for their actions, but Peter Roskam voted against oversight of CEO compensation. It is not surprising since he has taken over \$900,000 from finance and banking special interests.

We need energy solutions that work for all of us, not just for oil companies. Roskam claims he has a vision for fixing our energy crisis, but in Congress Roskam has repeatedly voted against common sense solutions. On June 24, 2008, Roskam voted against a bill designed to help consumers by preventing price gouging. On June 26, Roskam voted against a bill to compel oil companies to drill on land they currently own. Again on July 24, Roskam voted against releasing petroleum from the Strategic Reserve to lower the price of gas on the international market. He has also voted against ending subsidies to the top five oil companies, and voted no to renewable and alternative energy sources. Big oil has contributed over \$100,000 to Roskam's campaign. Oil

companies can not vote, but Peter Roskam represents them as if they do.

We need honest economic and energy solutions, but Peter Roskam says one thing and then votes the other way. This is not a onetime occurrence.

He claims to look after our children, our senior citizens and our veterans, but he votes against them every chance he gets. Peter Roskam has voted against SCHIP a bill designed to achieve healthcare for all of our children. He voted against the 2008 Medicare adjustments bill, which was crucial for securing continued support of our senior citizens. Further, he has voted against funding the VA, against the GI Bill and funding for Veterans health care. Not only is he failing to keep his promise to our veterans, but he is also failing in his promises to all of us.

In Congress, I will always work for the best interest of the Americans who have put their trust in me. For too long, our government has been run without clear direction or vision and I plan to change that.

We need to bring our troops home from Iraq responsibly. We lose so much of our money, and too many of our good young Americans to continue as we do now. As a former Army Colonel, I know that we can leave Iraq in stable condition, and we can begin doing so now.

We need to stabilize our economy. We cannot afford to continue gambling away the money of hardworking Americans for the sake of profits on Wall Street. We need responsible regulation of our financial institutions and we must hold CEOs accountable for their actions. As a former businesswoman, I understand that we must grow this economy and I know that we can do so responsibly.

We need to push for energy independence. This is crucial not only for our economic future, but also for our national security. As we work towards energy independence, it is reasonable to expect a short term increase in domestic drilling. But there are other solutions that we must move toward. My fourteen years at Argonne National Laboratory taught me a great deal about the possibilities that exist in the fields of science and technology. Science has always been America's edge, and I will be a voice to make sure we keep it that way. We must

(See Morgenthaler, p 5)

(Morgenthaler, cont'd from p. 4)

constantly improve our alternative energy technology through investment in science. With a green economy we can create thousands of new domestic jobs, clean up our energy policy and secure long-term energy independence.

Solving the problems I have outlined is crucial to our country now, but also will impact us for decades to come. As your representative in Congress I will be honest in my intentions, thoughtful in my actions and I will always work on behalf of the 6th District. On November 4th, we have the chance to demand a government that is dedicated and responsive. I look forward to working with you to make the changes we need.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information, please visit [www.jillmorgenthaler.com](http://www.jillmorgenthaler.com)

## **Scott Harper in the IL-13 Home Stretch**

**By Scott Harper**

*Democratic Nominee, 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District*

With just one month to go before the November election, the events of this past week should demonstrate more clearly than ever why it is critical we have strong leadership serving our district in Congress. Our nation has not faced an economic situation this critical in decades and with the problems on Wall Street, rising gas prices, and a mortgage crisis, people are crying out for leadership and for leaders to help see us through these trying times.

Unfortunately, Congresswoman Judy Biggert, has been asleep at the wheel and

has once again demonstrated that she is out of touch with the people of this district. She serves on the powerful Financial Services Committee and sat by as Wall Street greed grew rampant and as corporations were not being regulated. Then, she ignored our needs and voted against a rescue package that would have helped stimulate the economy and safeguard our investments.

Our financial situation has taught us that we have to do better to protect our taxpayers and that we cannot allow corporate greed and anti-regulation to become so out of control that it hurts Main Street. But it also demonstrates how important it is that we change Washington this November. For ten years, Judy Biggert has had a chance to lead and for eight years she has done nothing but rubber stamp George Bush's failed agenda and side with the special interests over the people's interests.

It is time for a change.

I am running for Congress to fight for middle-class families and to help grow the economy by creating good jobs and green jobs at home and keep taxes low. And the exciting news is that for the first time in years, Democrats have a great opportunity to take back this seat.

Last month, our campaign was added to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC)'s Emerging Races list; which is a sign of strength, thanks to the hard work of so many of you. We were one of fourteen campaigns in the country where the challenger out-raised the incumbent in fundraising last quarter and our grassroots organization continues to be one of the strongest in the country.

So if you are ready to move in a new direction and end the Bush/Biggert message once and for all, we hope you will get involved with our campaign for change by visiting us at [www.scottharperforcongress.com](http://www.scottharperforcongress.com) and signing up today.

We do not have any time to waste, so get involved now and together we can win in November and change our country.

## **Ideological Fundamentalism**

**By Barry Dredze**

*Precinct 018 Committeeman*

Cultural resentment and a willingness to embrace pseudoscience and conspiracy theories are unfortunate, but constant, tendencies of human nature. Downturns in economic conditions have a nasty way of forcing these tendencies into the realm of acceptable discourse, if not practical policy. While populism is often expressed as an ideology, it more often serves as a political technique. Such is the populism that I worry about, and where we as a nation seem vulnerable to slip at times such as these.

For example, there is a trend gaining some alarming traction among conservative commentators to wave the bloody shirt of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA) at our current financial industry failure. The most mainstream among them being CNN's Lou Dobbs, specifically charging that efforts by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) have exploited the CRA in order to pressure banks to lend to sub-prime borrowers (ie, minorities) leading to our current housing-bubble induced economic troubles. Never mind that the deregulatory legislation that securitized mortgage loans hadn't even happened until 2000 and that the subsequent *schlocky* mortgage lending no longer came strictly from the banks that actually operated under CRA regulations. Maybe the scariest part is that Lou Dobbs is smart enough to know that, and smart demagogues are scarier than average blowhards like Joe Scarborough or Sean Hannity.

Of course, that there are so many demagogues across the intelligence spectrum with jobs these days is cold comfort. Yet even this circumstance is rooted to some extent in the fundamental conservative ideology that advocates deregulation of the private sector and privatization of the public sphere – public lands, public health, public education; even our military is increasingly dependent upon private security contractors like Blackwater Worldwide.

Once upon a time there were public airwaves, and regulatory oversight established ownership limits to licensed broadcasters, whereby, for example, a single company was prohibited from being licensed to operate more than one medium in the same market. As cable and satellite technologies advanced against the broadcast spectrum, airwaves as a public resource became something of a legalistic anachronism.

Business ethics dictate a corporate obligation to operate in the interests of its shareholders. Without the role of government to serve the broader public interest, our public discourse will be dominated by the narrower interests of the private shareholders of the mass communications industry's parent companies. CBS, NBC, ABC, Fox and CNN are, therefore, obligated less to any public interest than to the narrower interests of the shareholders of Viacom, General Electric, Disney, News Corp. and Time Warner, respectively.

Together these multinational corporations in 2007 have earned profits of \$36.3 billion. According to the Center for American Progress Action Fund, these parent companies of our mass communications industry stand to gain another \$1.44 billion in tax cuts under the proposed tax policies of the McCain-Palin campaign.

With such lucrative incentives to shareholders, it is highly unlikely for arguments inclined favorably toward regulatory standards, such as media ownership limits and restoration of the equal time provision of the Fairness Doctrine, to get a fair hearing in a public discourse that is dominated by narrow private corporate interests.

**“The most important  
political office is  
that of the private  
citizen.”**

**Justice Louis D. Brandeis**

(Peickert, cont'd from p. 3)

anymore." That helps for a while, but it does not get votes for our Democratic candidates. Or, we can walk our precinct one more time, knock on a few more doors, call a few more neighbors, volunteer time with one of the campaigns, or dig a little deeper in our pockets and donate to one or more of our candidates.

If we all work to get just 3 more votes in our precinct for our Democratic candidates, we will finally have a two-party system of government in DuPage, have a voice in Springfield and put an end to the eight disasterous years of Bush/Cheney policies in Washington. No longer will we hear people tell us that they are the only Democrat on their block.

So, what are you waiting for?

## Labor Update

By Doug May

Precinct 001 Committeeman

### The Financial Situation

It is unclear what effect, if any, that the federal bailout of Wall Street will take. Fortunately, the Bush proposal of borrowing \$700 billion and giving the Treasury Secretary the ability to dispense it without any oversight did not pass congressional approval. I find that to be a good thing. If it is a proposal coming from the Bush administration, skepticism should be the watchword. Think of all the great things that have occurred over the last several years: Massive losses of good jobs, \$4 gasoline, stagnant wages for those of us who still have them, and costs for all goods going up due to high fuel costs.

Along the way, we were treated to the sorry spectacle of Bush addressing the nation to make his case for the bailout. According to Bush, if his plan is not approved right away, you could lose your job, your house, and your retirement. Based on past performance, be assured that any proposal coming from this bunch will only benefit the wealthy bankers and speculators who are responsible for this mess in the first place. Much of the blame for this can be pointed straight at the culture of deregulation over the last 30 years. We have been told that if we just let

Business do whatever it wants, the "magic of the marketplace" would solve all our problems, and everyone would prosper. How's that been working out?

### Labor 2008

Organized Labor is making its voice heard in the current election. We have organizers working in all states to elect worker friendly candidates by going door to door and phone banking. Not surprisingly, nearly all are Democrats. Locally, our focus is on the Congressional races, as Barack Obama is expected to do well in Illinois. One of the main criteria for receiving the support of Labor is their position on the Employee Free Choice Act, which would make it easier to organize workplaces. The current procedure for union elections is cumbersome, and at each step of the way, subject to abuse by the employer. The Chamber of Commerce and allied business groups have vowed to spend millions of dollars to defeat candidates that support the Act. At the top of the ticket, Obama was a co-sponsor of the legislation, and McCain voted against it. McCain has a horrible record on labor issues. Among our Representatives in Winfield Township, Bill Foster (D-14) supports the Act while Peter Roskam (R-6) and Judy Biggert (R-13) oppose it. Both of their opponents, Jill Morgenthaler in the 6th, and Scott Harper in the 13th, support it, and should get your vote in November. In the meantime, get out and knock on some doors for candidates that support working people!

*Doug May is a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 825*

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**  
Letters, opinions, jokes  
(keep'em clean, folks!)



**WTD0**

PO Box 224

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info@winfielddems.org

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## The Very Best In All of Us

**By Frank Malley**  
*Precinct 015 Committeeman*

There was a time when Republicans were resistant to taxes but notably philanthropic. We need only look around our metropolitan area to see the many evidences of that generosity in our unmatched hospitals, our jewel-like museums, and our well-endowed institutions of higher learning. These Republicans, many of them now older folk, find today that their party has morphed into one that has as its unofficial motto "I made mine, and I'm keeping it!"

Last year my wife and I had such a good year that my CPA apologized to me about the amount of tax we had to pay on April 15. I do not have any plans to storm Washington with my musket. I am a member of a community. As such, I willingly contribute to that community, which maintains a military and police to protect me, hospitals to care for me, schools and universities to educate me and my child, ad infinitum. Federally we already have progressive taxation. In our state, we have mainly regressive taxation such as a sales tax, a flat state income tax, and (to a lesser degree) our property tax. The "I'm keeping mine" people encourage the retention of a regressive taxation because then they can sit back and watch working folk fight their battles for them. When regressive taxation is resolutely kept in place and yet the community works to open opportunities for all and to deal with emergencies, ordinary working folk do indeed sound off about taxes. Progressive taxation, on

the other hand, recognizes the fact that the more we make, the greater is our ability to help the community that has helped and nurtured us.

The GOP also denounces government regulation and declares that we are fed up with regulations. But I know that when I pay for a gallon of gas, I want to be sure that the gas pump gives me a full gallon. When I buy meat or fish at the grocery store, I am confident that this food will not make me ill. When I take my seat on an airplane, I can believe that it will not suddenly fall out of the sky. Now we are immersed in a great financial crisis in part because regulations were rigorously pruned away or fiercely resisted.

There are those who try to spin the story of our times to suggest that mismanagement has not occurred. Internationally the U.S. dollar has become anemic. So the spin people tell us that this weakened currency helps our exports. Well, recently we exported Anheuser-Busch. In the last couple of weeks, we have exported some of the few healthy fragments of our national financial industry. Are Americans really prepared to become a Third World nation?

Four hundred years ago Saint Francis de Sales declared that a life of the spirit is open to all men, not just the "experts", the clergy. More than 200 years ago, our forebears declared that governance is the business of every man, not just a nobility or oligarchy. For this urgently important November election we cannot be mere passive receptacles. We must educate ourselves and stir others to do the same and then make a vote that is true to the very best in all of us.

