

# The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

Volume 7, No. 2

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

Autumn 2014

## Conversations With The Township Chair

By Susan Lubonovich

WTDO Chair & Committeeman, Pct. 014

I welcome all of you to our fifteenth issue of The Township Democrat, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. Once again your stalwart support has permitted us to explore issues and concerns in articles written from diverse Democratic points of view brought together in one local publication for your consideration. We are very grateful that your unstinting financial support has given us the opportunity to continue publishing our Newsletter. Your generous contributions to The Township Democrat are deeply appreciated.

Now to the business at hand. We, as a publication with albeit a defined philosophical bent, have always strived to be a reasoned voice of logic in our approach to both politics and the state of our nation. We will admit to a bit of enlightened self-interest, but we genuinely believe in the Common Good and an existence of a Social Compact between all of us to work hard toward a more Perfect Union.

But there is something very frightening happening in our country today as we witness a cabal of affiliated groups, bolstered by 5-4 Supreme Court decisions and greased by unlimited campaign contributions and Super Pacs, assault and diligently work to invalidate the very principles upon which this country stands. Under blatant attack are voters' rights, public education, unions, pensions, healthcare, women's reproductive rights, the reality of climate change, sensible gun control, campaign financing, veterans' benefits, the environment, even science itself and the very economy we rank and file need to navigate in order to survive in this world of wholesale outsourcing. The Great Recession may be over for the investor class; but for the rest of us, the specter of long term

unemployment and foreclosures is a reality that haunts our collective consciousness. We are very afraid of being one paycheck away from becoming a member of a reserve army of unemployed Americans.

There is a bleakness creeping across our landscape as we watch a well-oiled oligarchy of plutocrats and their eager minions elevate a willful and deliberate ignorance into an attribute, an entire platform: "Vote for me," they say, "I know nothing and hate the same things that you do." We marvel in disbelief as they allow ideology to dictate our understanding of the world, while our corporate owned media serves as an echo chamber reinforcing their determined dismantling of the middle class. Experience, knowledge, accomplishment? They no longer matter. It is Party malice and not the Public Good that drives them entirely in their efforts to repeal the 20th Century. It is not impossible to imagine the future this oligarchy contemplates for us all - and it is not the Public Good that concerns them.

So, what do we do? Well friends, now comes the broken record. We rise up and vote. We vote the minions out and vote our shared values in. This time around, our Democratic candidates are not running unopposed (the universal excuse for not voting in the recent Primary). Each and every one of our Democratic candidates has an opponent with a very different vision of who and what we should be as a Society. It is past time for us to stand with our strong and dedicated Democratic candidates who share our Democratic values, our ideals and who support our Common Good as we carry on the work of building a more Perfect Union for us all. They deserve and have earned our respect and, most importantly, our vote. Defy the pundits and Vote in the November 4th General Election for our Democratic values and ideals. Our very future as a Society depends upon it.

## CALENDAR

### EARLY VOTING

MON, OCT 20 - SAT, NOV 1

INFO: DUPAGE COUNTY

ELECTION COMMISSION

630-407-5600

[WWW.DUPAGECO.ORG/ELECTION](http://WWW.DUPAGECO.ORG/ELECTION)

### ELECTION DAY-PLEASE VOTE

TUE, NOV 4, 6:00 AM-7:00 PM

VERIFY YOUR POLLING LOCATION

### WTDO REGULAR MEETINGS

WINFIELD FIRE PROTECTION

DISTRICT, FIREHOUSE No. 1

27W530 HIGHLAKE RD, WINFIELD

WED, OCT 15, 7:00 PM

WED, NOV 19, 7:00 PM

WED, JAN 21, 7:00 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG](http://WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG)

OR CALL:

**630-771-5551**

OPINIONS EXPRESSED WITHIN ARE NOT

NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE

WINFIELD TOWNSHIP

DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION



Winfield Township  
Democratic Organization

## **Why I'm a Democrat: Working To Give Everyone A Fair Shot**

**By Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)**

*Incumbent Candidate for the U.S. Senate*

In 1969, I moved back home to downstate Illinois to start my own law practice in Springfield. There, my job was helping people in my community get matters settled so that they received equal treatment before the law. Real life, however, is not always as clean-cut as the courtroom.

Every day, students are faced with increasing tuition costs and loans that are close to impossible to pay back; women are faced with limited choices in how they plan their families; workers are faced with bills they are unable to pay under the minimum wage; and taxpayers are faced with companies that are trying to skirt their fair share of taxes.

That's why I first ran for office in 1978, and that's why I consider myself a Democrat.

Students should have the option to refinance their loans – just as you and I do when paying for a car or a house. Companies – like Hobby Lobby – should not be allowed to tell their female employees what birth control methods are acceptable and which are not. American families working two-to-three jobs should be paid a livable wage that covers all their basic expenses.

And companies, such as Walgreens, should not be able to avoid paying U.S. taxes when it's convenient for them while the rest of us continue paying them.

Years ago, I tackled the tobacco lobby. At that point they had never been beaten, but we did – banning smoking on airplanes, leading to positive changes, and saving lives across America.

Some years back I tackled the Wall Street banks over their swipe fees for debit cards, which were abusing both consumers and retail establishments. They spent \$30 million trying to stop me, but we won – saving retailers and consumers some \$8 billion a year.

Now we have tax inversions. Any corporation in America that renounces its corporate citizenship for a tax break has really lost its way. These businesses are lucky to be in this country, and

they should not be allowed to game our tax code for extra dollars in their pockets.

Are these tough fights? Sure. Is there a price to pay? Absolutely – in attacks, smears, slanders, to the tune of millions of dollars, especially in the age of Super PACs.

With Citizens United, the big spending of Super PACs has drowned out the voices of normal Americans. We now have major Super PACs from across the country investing in a negative campaign against me in Illinois. Over \$1 million has already been pledged, and my fear is that number is now going to grow.

Evening the playing field so that a handful of wealthy donors don't dictate our elections has been a top priority of mine and other Democrats. That's why we're working to repeal Citizens United and get big money out of politics.

Looking back, I'm a Democrat for the same reasons why I first went to law school: I believe that everyone deserves a fair shot. As your U.S. Senator, then, it is my job to help make that possible.

**"We can have  
democracy in this  
country, or we can  
have great wealth  
concentrated in the  
hands of a few, but  
we can't have  
both."**

**U.S. Supreme Court Justice  
Louis D. Brandeis**

## Where We Are

**By Dennis Anderson**

*Candidate for US Congress, District 14*

Congress is about as popular as the Ebola virus. According to a Washington Post review in June, Congress' popularity has hit historic lows more than a dozen times since 2010. The current House majority, my opponent included, does not represent the majority of Americans or the majority of voters in the District. Their failure to address important issues will continue as long as we allow it.

I am running against the most conservative member of the Illinois Congressional delegation. So says the American Conservative Union. So says the John Birch Society. I am running against the only member of the Illinois delegation - Democrat or Republican - to vote against ending the government shutdown of last October. I am running against an incumbent member who has voted at every opportunity to repeal the Affordable Care Act, a member who has spent a great deal of effort trying to dissuade people from enrolling, warning of identity theft and worse. I am running against a member who has voted against the Violence Against Women Act and who would restrict women's access to reproductive care and contraception. I am running against a consistent supporter of the various incarnations of Paul Ryan's budget - budgets that draw more than 60% of their projected savings by cutting programs that benefit the most vulnerable among us. I am running against a man who is far more interested in Wall Street's well-being than Main Street's, even going so far as to introduce an 85-line bill, 70 lines of which were written by Citigroup, aimed at loosening Dodd-Frank regulations.

Mine is a small campaign. It is one of the truths of campaigns these days that money is the single most important element that even your friends consider to be a gauge of your viability; and if you do not already have it, you are not going to get it. Organizations with whom you share common values and goals remain uninterested in your campaign if your bank account is small, and not only will financial support not be forthcoming, neither will endorsements.

I will have held twenty public Town Hall Meetings throughout the District by the end of October. The attendance has not been what I might have hoped, but I have been out there and available. My opponent has been predictably invisible.

I have accepted every offer to engage in public debates with my opponent. He has declined or, worse, been non-responsive.

I have attended parades, picnics, fundraisers, festivals, house parties and dinners; I have spoken to high school and college classes and have knocked on doors. When asked to appear somewhere, I have appeared. When asked direct questions, I have given direct answers.

Short of raising money, I have done everything I can. I am a Democrat. What happens on November 4 is in your hands.

**"This is a government of corporations, for corporations, by corporations. The corporation should be under a wise, watchful, and powerful supervision of the Government."**

**Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes,  
May 2, 1886**

## **Paying Springfield's Bills Transparently**

**By Sheila Simon**

*Candidate for State Comptroller*

Hello Winfield Township! I wanted to write to you again and give you an update on the issues and my race for Comptroller.

I am running for Illinois State Comptroller because I can do a better job than my career politician opponent. The Comptroller is in charge of the State's checkbook and is in the best position to watch our funds, identify suspected waste and corruption, and engage taxpayers. As Comptroller, I will be an aggressive fiscal watchdog and set a new standard of ethics in the office. I will focus on not just accounting, but accountability.

One of my top priorities is to cut clout out of the State payment process. The Comptroller's office decides when to pay the bills and who gets their payments expedited. There is no record of how or why these decisions are made, leaving voters and journalists in the dark when deciding whether the Comptroller is making the right decisions, free of any conflict of interest. I would set standards, issue a regular report on expedited payments and show the rationale behind moving certain bills to the front of the line. The bill payment process should be fair and transparent, and the Comptroller held accountable for her decisions. Otherwise, given our State's history of corruption, we can assume the worst.

Likewise, the Comptroller should help taxpayers hold their local governments accountable. Thousands of units of local government are required to turn in annual financial audits and reports to the Comptroller's office, but some governments do not turn in these reports on time or at all. Some of these governments – such as Harvey and Washington Park – are dealing with serious corruption scandals and financial mismanagement that might have been prevented if the Comptroller exercised its authority to collect the data or to conduct audits of its own. The Comptroller should also benchmark the data and return it to municipalities and taxpayers so they can compare their governments against a statewide standard.

Finally, I will establish new standards of ethics and efficiency in the office on Day One. I will prohibit campaign contributions from state

employees and release my tax returns and financial profiles of myself and my top staffers each year. And I will conduct an internal audit to determine where cuts can be made and efficiencies realized. As Lt. Governor, I cut spending by 30 percent primarily by reducing headcount, and I want to take a similar hard look at spending in the Comptroller's office. Given our State's history of corruption, we also need leaders who resist cronyism and patronage hiring. My opponent voted for a perk that allows career politicians --like herself -- to earn pensions larger than their salaries. She was caught on a live microphone asking the Governor to help her son get a job at Southern Illinois University. And most recently, she tried to deny that she runs a side business that pays her chief of staff and assistant comptroller over \$50,000 a year to work 35 hours a week. This is in addition to the six figure salaries that both employees collect from their full-time, taxpayer funded jobs -- and my opponent is listed as the president on the IRS tax forms!

This is not the type of leadership, transparency, and organization that Illinoisans should expect from the State's highest financial officer. I will restore honesty and integrity to the office of Comptroller.

**“A disciplined  
minority of  
totalitarians can use  
the instruments of  
democratic  
government to  
undermine  
democracy itself.”**

**Hannah Arendt**

## He's Not "Supposed" to Win

By Ed Agustin

Candidate for State Representative, District 41

My name is Ed Agustin and I am asking for your vote for State Representative serving District 41. My stated goal is to be the first Democrat to represent the voters of this district in over 31 years. When we had cumulative voting in Illinois, each district had three representatives, two of one party and at least one of the minority party, so that there was full representation for the voters. Since that was changed in 1980, we have not had a Democratic representative for this district in all that time. I want to change that and represent ALL of the voters of this area.

The Republican Party must not think that this election for Representative will be too difficult for them to win. Their candidate, a career politician, has been rather quiet about being their candidate. He must be so confident that he did not need to have any presence at the Republican Party booth at this summer's DuPage County Fair; no signs, no souvenirs, no literature. Because his is a highly political name in Naperville, he is expected to win quite handily. I think differently. I want to win in November, not just because I would like the job but because I want to serve you, my community, just like I served my country while in the Navy. Not a career politician, I am following the path that our forefathers laid by living my personal life, giving of my time to a political life and then returning to my private life. That is what George Washington did when his military and political careers ended. This is my time to step forward and represent you in Springfield.

Who is Ed Agustin? I am a retired architect, married for 45 years to my wife, Kay and we have two grown children. My professional career has taken me throughout this country in eight states before returning to Chicagoland. My work in architecture has given me the opportunity to work with numerous municipal organizations to see that major development and construction projects were completed with a minimum of difficulties. My responsibility to the project budget, awareness of schedules and sensitivity to architectural design has given me the well rounded experience needed to work on your behalf with your tax monies.

As a Democrat, I support raising the minimum wage so that people will be able to survive on the earned incomes from their jobs. I know to hold the line on property taxes. Our tax base needs to be broader

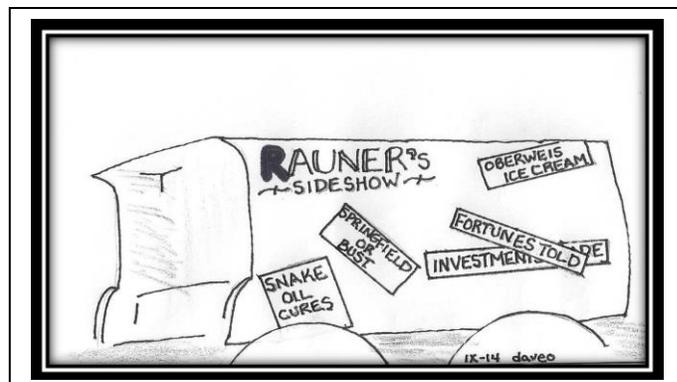
and not go deeper into our pockets. Women must keep the right to control their own bodies and personal health concerns, not the government.

I will fight for jobs, eliminate loopholes that allow corporations to take your money and leave this country without paying their fair share of taxes. I am trusted by my church to count Sunday collections each Monday morning. I can be trusted to be accountable for your tax dollars as well. Fiscal responsibility in the state house is just as important to me as it is to you. The state must pay its bills just like we all must do and ensure that funding is available for education, public safety and future needs. To keep our children safe from dangerous predators, I will fight to require mandatory 30-year prison sentences for convicted child sex abusers and predators that prowl the internet.

So let the Republicans think that their guy is unbeatable. After all, I am not "supposed" to win, I am a Democrat. This is DuPage County and we are not "supposed" to elect Democrats here. Let's prove the Republicans wrong in thinking that this election is already over and that their guy has already won. Let's elect a candidate who is ready to stand up for you and all that we each believe in. Let's elect Ed Agustin for State Representative for District 41. Let's make Ed Agustin our state representative.

**Dave O**

By Dave Oliphant



## The Changing View from a Bicycle Seat

By Shannon Burns

Incumbent Candidate for Forest Preserve District 6  
Commissioner

In 1984, I rode my bicycle from Downers Grove to Springfield, IL. I flew home to O'Hare and rode from the airport back to Downers Grove. It was a wonderful solo vacation: I camped in cornfields and ate army surplus food.

I learned to love our State in a new way. Viewing endless prairies, riding the rolling hills, resting in farm fields, and chatting with small town people who gave me cookies as I rode past showed me an Illinois that I did not know existed.

There were a few not-so-fun surprises. I stepped on a snake in the dark and got chased by farm dogs. Thirty years ago, bicycling was not as accepted as it is today. People driving by shouted at me and someone threw a shoe as they drove past. Thirty years ago, there were no cell phones and I had some tense moments of being lost.

This year, the 30th anniversary of my ride to Springfield, I wanted to commemorate the experience so I rode 120 miles around DuPage County for two days and camped overnight at Blackwell Forest Preserve.

My 30th anniversary ride was fun. I noticed that important changes have occurred since my first ride. Bicycling is more accepted: No one yelled at me, no one threw a shoe. Thanks to my cell phone GPS, I never got lost. Trails were well marked and local roads had bike lanes. I ate good food. Somehow, this was a surprise to me. I missed the change-point

when the world became bicycle-friendly.

There is an important lesson here. As politically active people, we agitate for change. We are motivated by a vision of a better community. We look to the future and see great things. We fight for change, we plan ahead and we dream big.

I understand change differently now: The best change happens slowly, one small step at a time until the accumulation of tiny steps equals the reality of our vision.

We hinder ourselves, and we postpone change, when we discount those baby-steps. I am an elected Democrat in DuPage County, something that was only a dream 10 years ago. I am hopeful that, in 10 more years, being an elected Democrat will be old news in DuPage County. If each one of us does what we can, if we each let others do what they can, and if we celebrate the small accomplishments, our vision of balanced government in DuPage County will become reality without us realizing that it happened. But this will only happen if we focus on what matters: Loving what we see in a new way, allowing ourselves to be changed by our experiences and by accepting small setbacks as part of the moving forward process.

When I stepped on that snake in the dark, I would have cheerfully turned around and gone home. Because I kept going, I had a life changing experience. That can happen to each of us if we let it. The next time you get annoyed at another Democrat or worried about how the election will turnout, stop for a minute. Remember that you are – right this very minute – a baby-step in the right direction of creating change in DuPage County. In the end, you will have an experience you will never forget!

## Kick-In for the Quarter

Show your support for WTDO, your LOCAL Democratic organization and our Democratic candidates. WTDO has regular expenses for meetings, maintaining our website, printing and postage for *The Township Democrat*, campaign materials and other organizational costs. We hold candidate forums, appear in several Township parades (with candy!) and other events to inform the public. We try to reach Democratic voters throughout the Township in many ways, but none of them are free.

Support YOUR Winfield Township Democratic Organization with a donation each quarter. "Kick In for the Quarter" is a regular gift. You choose the amount. Making a regular gift allows the board to budget spending annually.

### Return to

Winfield Township Democratic Organization  
PO Box 224  
Warrenville, IL 60555-0224

Here is my gift to WTDO of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for this quarter

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me meeting announcements via email  
(or send email to [info@winfielddems.org](mailto:info@winfielddems.org))

WTDO will not sell, exchange or use your email address for anything other than official WTDO mailings

## What's Happening in Education?

**Jane Russell**

*President, West Suburban Teachers Union, IFT-AFT/AFL-CIO*

The answer is that education in Illinois is being taken over by large corporations like those that produce textbooks, educational materials for classroom use, provide data use and management systems for schools/districts and state assessments. In the guise of education "reform", charter school loving, anti-teacher, anti-union groups like Advance Illinois and Stand for Children have entered the arena in order to forward their own agendas by being involved in legislative initiatives. Because of their seemingly unlimited base of private funding, every state education committee has at least one or more education "reform" members sitting on those committees. Their "fingers", it seems, are in every "pie". There is no end to the demands for change, all to help our students, of course. But change is also costly and the corporations and private organizations have much to gain.

What are the education "reforms"? In the last four years, education workers have had to implement and/or work with changes in the following:

- New Illinois Learning Standards (for students), also called Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, grades K-12
- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC testing), the annual state-wide student online testing done in the Spring and end of year in grades 3 through 8 and generally grade 11
- Teacher/Principal Licensure and renewal
- Teacher/Principal Evaluation
- Teacher/Principal Evaluation with the addition of student growth
- Illinois Longitudinal Data System whereby information is collected about students and their teachers; to be used in schools to improve instruction
- Revised School Report Card, released each fall for every school/district in the state so anyone can make comparisons district by district or school to school
- 5 Essentials survey conducted with school personnel, students and parents each spring which provides a window into the school and or district climate/student learning

And there are more, but those listed most certainly affect what occurs daily in classrooms, at least tangentially.

Beside private money from organizations like the

Gates Foundation, there is also federal money attached to education "reform". The Illinois State Board of Education received a federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver as well as other grants like those for improving childhood education and yes, testing.

To be clear, those in schools are not necessarily whining about all of these changes. Since the adoption of the new Illinois Learning Standards, what teachers are saying is to give us a chance to implement these standards, adequate time to reevaluate and write new curriculum which often entails new text books and classroom materials as well as formative and summative tests, and give us the resources and provide professional development to help us pull all this together for our students. If there is dissension among the educator ranks, it is because things are not in place to properly implement the new standards.

Much of the teacher/administrator angst comes from the implementation timelines for education "reforms". The new student standards are directly tied to annual state accountability testing which will be tied to teacher and principal evaluations and job retention. Here is the problem: The timeline is not long enough to get everything done well. The new rigorous student standards that include progressions through English/Language Arts and Mathematics begin with kindergarten and move through high school. The State is in year 2 of implementing these new student standards. This is hardly a generation of students or teachers, from K-12, who have worked with the new standards. However, at the end of this school year, 2014-15, all those students will take the PARCC tests in the spring of 2015, not having begun at the beginning and spiraling through the standards FROM grades K THROUGH 12. For the next school year, 2015-16, the student growth piece will be added to teacher evaluations using whatever accountability tests the district has decided to adopt.

The legislation that created all of the education changes also specifies several committees, both state and district that are to form and work to implement the changes. What this means is that additional implementation work outside of the classroom falls on many teachers and administrators who do the committees' work in addition to their own jobs within the school and/or district.

The question really is, "How do we make this all

(See **Russell**, p. 9)

## Let's Try for More than Half of the Truth

By Frank Malley

Committeeman, Pct. 015

I have found that I am being fed a diet of truth fragments. I consistently feel that there must be "something more".

- The minimum wage: Media ads plus news interviews of well-spoken experts tell me that the minimum wage issue is trivial and pertains to some teenagers looking for part-time work and a handful of entry-level workers who very quickly progress to higher pay grades. When, however, I look for something more, I find that just one entity, the National Retail Federation, spent one million dollars fighting minimum wage increases. One million dollars. And that was not in the past twelve months or two years. It was in the first 90 days of 2014. Also, the National Restaurant Association put its people and financial resources into the fray. Of course, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union went all in. Public relations firms of every political stripe have been paid to fabricate research institutes attacking or supporting minimum wage increases. Am I really supposed to be convinced by people who tell me that the minimum wage is a minor matter and then spend uncounted hours and dollars on battles over. . .the minimum wage?

- Corporate tax and inversion: Politicians and pundits tell me again and again that the US corporate tax at a maximum of 35% is the highest corporate tax in all the world. These commentators demand that America dial down its corporate taxes to make us more competitive in retaining corporate headquarters within our borders. Just poking around, I find footnotes that the nominal tax rate may be 35%, but many a corporation has an effective tax rate (i.e., the tax they actually pay) that is substantially below 35%. Taking a peek at the taxes in Switzerland—at one time the potential landing place for Walgreen's—I get a bit of an education. As a matter of fact, Swiss corporate taxes are lower. But how about Swiss personal taxes? The Swiss federal government has a maximum tax rate of 11.5%. Hm, not bad. The canton and municipal tax combined, however, can be as much as 35%. Many cantons and municipalities also have a wealth tax. Of course, each Swiss worker pays 5.15% for

Swiss social security and 1% unemployment tax. It is helpful to know, too, that like many countries other than the US, Switzerland has a value-added tax. That tax is a national sales tax and is another 8%. So Switzerland pays for highways, hospitals, schools, etc. by lightening up on corporations and loading up the average guy's taxes.

- Illinois as a home to US corporations: Commentators tell me that no corporation in its right mind would be located in Illinois. They picture corporation after corporation running for the border. They even envision an Illinois that will soon be deserted by all businesses and all citizens, with tumbleweeds drifting across the landscape. I look at a recent Chicago Tribune business article, however, and find that out of the Fortune 500 corporations, 33 are headquartered in Illinois. This number is an increase over 2013. If there are 500 top corporations and 50 states, then I guess we would be lucky if we have ten top corporations, but we have more than triple that number! Oh, and Indiana has. . .six.

If political ads and commentators leave you hungry for something more, take some time to fill your plate with a little more of truth.

**"I made a mistake in presuming that the self-interests of organizations, specifically banks and others, were such that they were best capable of protecting their own shareholders and their equity in the firms."**

**Former Federal Reserve  
Chair Alan Greenspan, 2008**

## Who Regulates the Well-Regulated Militia

By Barry Dredze

Committeeman, Pct. 018

Who regulates "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State..."? Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power "To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress...."

The responsibility for regulating the well-regulated Militia of the second amendment is assigned in Article I; Section 8 of the US Constitution: "The Congress shall have the Power... To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."

As we all know, the Amendment goes on to state that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." It says nothing at all about ownership. So, a possible Constitutional solution to gun violence is to implement compulsory national service (with non-military options) and issue registered and traceable weapons and ammunition to active military service members for the terms of their service....

A companion to the strawman argument that laws cannot protect society from law-breakers is the truism that we cannot legislate the evil out of human nature. But we do not construct societies to legislate evil away. We do it to promote communities and to build nations. What happened in Newtown, Happy Valley, Brookfield, NIU, Virginia Tech, Columbine, etc. are narcissistic, sociopathic and cynical symptoms of a dysfunctional society. At times like these, we do not feel so much like a society as a libertarian

mess of self-interests. Mainstream opinion has even equated taxes with "tyranny." Compulsory national service surely will not "feel good," but if we can bring ourselves closer to the Veterans Day where we all honor each other, then that would be a fine start.

Of course, no one is even suggesting that the threat of tyranny does not exist. That is another strawman similar to the weak truism that our lawmakers cannot legislate the evil out of human nature. Meanwhile, all our guns have failed to keep corporate hegemony from privatizing our public services, gutting our manufacturing base, establishing the greatest wealth gap in our society in a century or to even slow down the massive theft of our treasury by the financialization of our entire economy. Such circumstances ought to raise some real doubts that the self-proclaimed freedom fighters of our day would have much power against their imaginary Hitlers. Given all the real carnage, they clearly cannot even police themselves.

So, as long as our legislative capacities cannot deliver messianic results for healing all the shortcomings of our civil society and culture, the only solution that the gun lobby leaves us to consider is to arm ourselves to the teeth and we'll all go out in a big blaze of glory. We can even call it the Rapture so we can at least feel good about that.

(Russell, from p. 7)

work in order for our students to do well, become college and career ready and eventually good Illinois citizens who will positively affect our economy?" Support is needed from parents and grandparents who have children in the schools, from community organizations and businesses. We all have a stake in our kids doing better. We all need to work together. This is grassroots work at its best. Be involved with your local community schools. Elect pro-education and teacher members for the local boards of education. Join a committee that has ties to the school or district. Spend time in the schools if you are able to tutor and mentor students. Talk to your local legislators about what is happening in the schools.

We do not need the big corporations or money-hungry private organizations to advance their own agendas about school "reform". It takes a village to educate our children. Please be involved.

Winfield Township Democratic Organization  
Post Office Box 224  
Warrenville, IL  
60555-0224

Return Service Requested

## The Truth About the Postal Service

**By Ken Christy**

*President of Illinois State Association of Letter Carriers*

The truth is a funny thing. At times, it is so clouded by the facts as interpreted by Groups, Political Candidates, Newspapers and Us.

We often believe the Truth is what we see as the Truth. On a T.V. show many years ago called *Dagnet*, Jack Webb would say, "The facts, just the facts". In a famous movie there is a scene that talks about the truth "Just" tell me the truth. The response was, "You can't handle the Truth!" Even though these are fictional situations, the message is clear.

When you watch the news, it is a constant blur of story after story, but they often do not expose the Truth. So, let me tell you the Truth about the Postal Service.

**FACT 1:** The Post Office is not losing money as reported. A Law passed in 2006 under the Bush Administration mandates that the Postal Service pre-fund, for 10 years, 6.5 billion dollars a year to pay for future Health Benefits. No other government agency does that and almost no Company does that. The U.S. Postal Service is actually profitable.

**FACT 2:** The U.S.P.S. delivers to every address in America 6-days a week.

**FACT 3:** We deliver a huge amount of packages for UPS and FED-X, because they do not want to bother with residential deliveries. Yes, they pay the U.S.P.S.

**FACT 4:** Since 1983 the U.S.P.S. is off budget. That means we are not taking any funds from the Government.

**FACT 5:** U.S.P.S. employees are background checked.

**FACT 6:** OF ALL THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES – by survey – the U.S.P.S. is the most trusted.

**FACT 7:** THE DELIVERY OF THE MAIL IS FREE! YOU DO NOT PAY FOR THIS SERVICE.

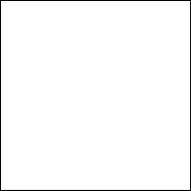
**FACT 8:** The U.S.P.S. cannot, by law, provide the services that the UPS and FED-EX stores are allowed to do.

There is a movement in the U.S. Congress to gut the U.S.P.S. by eliminating 6-days delivery, close necessary sorting centers, take mailboxes off the houses and deliver to cluster boxes.

The U.S.P.S. is the most efficient, and yes, the lowest price, of any Postal Service in the World.

These are just a few facts about the Postal Service. Really, the bottom line is that this Congress wants to privatize everything, destroy good middle class jobs. And yes, eliminate the Middle Class.

*Ken Christy is president of the Illinois State Association of Letter Carriers, representing 15,000 Active and Retired Letter Carriers. For more information, please visit **NALC.org** or contact Ken Christy via e-mail at **nalc219@aol.com**.*



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Letters, opinions, jokes  
(keep'em clean, folks!)



**WTDO**

PO Box 224  
Warrenville, IL 60555-0224

[info@winfielddems.org](mailto:info@winfielddems.org)