

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CSCC
February 2010
A Review of CSCC's Activities in 2009, and Plans for 2010

CSCC Highlights for 2009

- Hosted 8 regular meetings (“meetups”) at the First Baptist Church in Lewisburg, covering a wide range of topics and invited speakers. These included:
 - “How to Run For Local Office” (January 2009)
 - “How to Keep the Pressure On Our Government Between Elections” (February 2009)
 - “Where Should My Money Go? Making Political Donations” (March 2009)
 - “What the Heck Is Going On? Making Sense of the Financial Crisis” *with special guest speaker David Kristjanson-Gural, Bucknell Dept. of Economics* (April 2009)
 - “The Union County Comprehensive Plan” (June 2009)
 - “The Employee Free Choice Act” (July 2009)
 - “What’s In the Healthcare Bills (and What’s Not)” (September 2009)
 - “Renewable Energy Technologies: Energizing Our Region” *with special guest speaker Megan Epler, SEDA-COG Energy Resource Center* (November 2009)
- Hosted a special discussion forum at the Union County Government Center on healthcare titled “Re-Imagining Healthcare in Pennsylvania: The Next Five Years” (May 2009). Guest speakers included: Allison Clark (Executive Director, ACTION Health); Jill Fecker (Community Liaison, A Community Clinic, Inc.); Chuck Pennacchio (Executive Director, Healthcare for All Pennsylvania); Andrew Sandusky (VP of Governmental Affairs, Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians); and Amy Wolaver (Assistant Professor of Economics, Bucknell University).
- Hosted a special “Issues & Eggs” breakfast forum at the White Deer Township Fire Hall titled “A Frank Conversation About Healthcare in America” (October 2009).
- Used our email list to promote over 64 local events sponsored by other organizations including the Center for Nonviolent Living, Lewisburg Prison Project, Union County Democratic Committee, Mondragon Bookstore, Organizing for America, and many others.
- Also used our email list to keep members informed about opportunities for local political activism throughout the year, including town hall meetings with our elected representatives.
- Helped to co-sponsor a table at the Lewisburg Farmers’ Market to collect signatures in support of healthcare reform and to distribute information about healthcare.
- Several individuals from CSCC contributed articles to the *Williamsport Guardian*, and many CSCC people had letters to the editor published in *The Daily Item*.
- Held two CSCC social events—a family potluck in December and a CSCC picnic in August—to promote friendship and fellowship among our members.



CSCC Background

CSCC was established in the summer of 2004 when a diverse group of local citizens collected to become more involved in politics out of a shared sense that America was dangerously off-track at home and abroad. From the beginning, CSCC has been characterized by several qualities. The coalition is:

- Member-driven
- Pragmatic
- Open and non-partisan (no party affiliation is assumed or required)
- Opportunistic (taking advantage of other resources and events when it helps the larger mission)
- Generous (we encourage members to join or give to other groups and campaigns)

CSCC continues to change and adapt as new opportunities appear, but these qualities have defined how we do what we do.

Organizational Goals and Accomplishments for 2009

CSCC has three primary goals: (1) to recruit, endorse, and support progressive candidates; (2) to identify, and raise awareness of, key issues of interest and expanding the progressive movement in the Central Susquehanna Valley; and (3) to nurture, deepen, and expand CSCC based on its roots as grassroots, people-powered politics. We strive to represent “the shortest path from conviction to action.”

As it was a non-election year, CSCC was less active in recruiting and supporting individual candidates in 2009 as compared to previous years. However, we focused on Goals 2 and 3 by actively advocating for progressive positions on important issues such as healthcare reform and energy sustainability. The Steering Committee has also been working toward creating long-term sustainability for CSCC as an organization. These activities are primarily in support of **Goal 3**, but have implications for Goals 1 and 2 as well:

- Maintained set **meeting place and time**: First Baptist Church in Lewisburg, first Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. (Our thanks to the First Baptist Church for providing us a place to meet.)
- Updated website and blog (<http://cscenow.blogspot.com>), which we use to generate ideas and discuss issues
- Conducted a **successful membership drive in spring 2009, which kept us on solid financial ground for the year.**
- Encouraged member letter-writing and advocacy.
- Learned more about who CSCC people are and what they want from CSCC through online surveys and other outreach activities.
- Worked to expand promotion and public awareness of our meetups and special events through press releases, articles in the *Daily Item* and *Union County Times*, an appearance on WKOK talk radio, an information booth at the “Health Care, Healthy People” rally in Hufnagle Park, and by establishing relationships and communication with other local organizations.

Key Challenges and Opportunities for 2010

Because of the exciting “wave” election of 2008, many new people came into the political process in our region. Given the importance of Pennsylvania in the 2008 Democratic primary and in the general election, new people would have gotten involved even without CSCC. However, CSCC now has an opportunity to keep some of those people active in progressive politics by including those who want to become part of CSCC and cooperating with those who organize through other channels.



We have been fortunate to have enough money and enough supporters to maintain our basic communication functions thus far. We hope to have enough resources in 2010 to continue to expand the way in which we promote our events in the community, attract more members, and offer travel reimbursements and small stipends to guest speakers from outside the area.

Keeping people engaged and involved is always a challenge for any political organization. We can see that we've made some progress getting leaders with progressive ideas elected (especially now that Obama is president). We have an opportunity, working with a nationwide movement, to effect positive change (and undo some of the damage of the previous 8 years).

Income and Expense Report for 2009

Beginning balance (as of 1/1/09)	\$878.15
Income	
Dues for 2009	\$685.00
Expenses	
Liability Insurance	(\$166.00)
Email Subscription Service Management	(\$207.00)
Special Events (e.g., Healthcare Forum, Issues & Eggs)	(\$571.09)
Printing & Mailing Supplies	(\$232.37)
Co-sponsorship of Farmers' Market Healthcare table	(\$48.00)
Ending balance (as of 12/31/09)	\$338.69

How You Can Help

With your help, we can make grassroots democracy a reality in the central Susquehanna region of central Pennsylvania. CSCC is a nonprofit organization where everyone is a volunteer, and we rely on members like you. We welcome your participation and your ideas, whatever your level of involvement may be. We also ask you to please consider becoming an official member of our organization by paying dues of *just \$20 for the year*. Paying dues entitles you to vote in all CSCC elections, including candidate endorsements and other votes, but more importantly it helps make our existence and our activities possible.

For 2010, we've tried to make it as convenient as possible for you to help us in this way. You can:

- 1) **Pay online** by going to the "Contact Us" section of our website (<http://www.cscenow.org/>), and following the instructions to pay securely with a credit card;
- 2) **Mail a check** for \$20 to: CSCC, 36 N. 7th St, Lewisburg, PA, 17837; or
- 3) **Bring your dues** to one of our monthly meetups or other events.

Respectfully submitted,

CSCC Steering Committee Members for 2009

Jove Graham, Chair
 Ben Vollmayr-Lee, Co-chair
 Juli Cooper, Treasurer
 Steve Connolley

Patricia Dudek
 Lynn Palermo
 Joe Manzi