



## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CSCC

June 2011

A Review of CSCC's Activities in 2010, and Plans for 2011

### CSCC Highlights for 2010

- Hosted 7 regular meetings (“meetups”) at the First Baptist Church and Union County Public Library in Lewisburg, covering a wide range of topics and invited speakers. These included:
  - “The Buffalo Valley Rail-Trail Project” with special guest speaker *Trey Casimir, LARA* (February 2010)
  - “It’s Primary Election Time!” (May 2010)
  - “What’s Happening With the Thruway?” with special guest speaker *Ryan Unger, Principal Program Analyst, SEDA-COG* (June 2010)
  - “What Healthcare Reform Means For You, and What’s Next” with special guest speaker *Allison Hirsch, Pennsylvania Healthcare Action Network* (July 2010)
  - “CRUDE: The Real Price of Oil” documentary film screening at the Union County Public Library (September 2010)
  - “Guinea Pigs Atop the Marcellus Shale” with special guest speaker *Barb Jarmoska, Responsible Drilling Alliance* (October 2010)
  - “Post-Election Wrap-Up” (November 2010)
- Hosted a special discussion forum at the Union County Government Center on energy titled “Energy and How We Pay For It In Pennsylvania: The Next Five Years” (April 2010). Guest speakers included: Stacy Richards (Director, Energy Resource Center, SEDA-COG); Steve Connolley (Owner, Hometown Energy Systems); Preston Boop (Owner, Briar Patch Organic Farms); and William Steinhurst (Consultant, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.).
- Used our email list to promote over 53 local events sponsored by other organizations including the Center for Nonviolent Living, Organizing for America, Pennsylvania Healthcare Action Network, Merrill Linn Conservancy, Union County Democratic Committee, and many others.
- Also used our email list to keep members informed about opportunities for local political activism throughout the year, including public meetings with our elected representatives.
- Several individuals from CSCC contributed articles to the *Williamsport Guardian*, and many CSCC people had letters to the editor published in *The Daily Item* and *Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader*.
- 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 2010**

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.”

For the 2010 midterm elections, CSCC worked hard to inform its members about the candidates running in both the primary and general election, and letting people know where and when they could volunteer to support various candidates. We also 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:

- Diversified our **meeting place and time** to accommodate members who said that Thursdays were not always the best night. The majority of our meetups are still at the 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.) However, we held two very successful events (attendance was 25-35 people each time) at the Union County Public Library on Monday evenings, which suggests that we should continue
- Updated website and blog (<http://cscenow.blogspot.com>), which we use to generate ideas and discuss issues
- Conducted a successful membership drive in spring 2010, 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 a 2010 online survey.
- 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*, and by establishing relationships and communication with other local organizations.

### **Key Challenges and Opportunities for 2011**

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 2011 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 have an opportunity, working with a nationwide movement, to effect positive change (and undo some of the damage of 2001-2008).

We also recognize also that many of our members appreciate CSCC’s efforts to keep them informed via email about events and activities going on in the Valley, but that attending monthly in-person meetups is not a high priority for them. In the past year, we have had very high attendance at meetups that featured guest speakers on hot topics, but very low attendance at meetups that were more informal and discussion-oriented (and which used to be the centerpiece of CSCC’s activity). In 2011, we will continue to strive to bring in guest speakers, but gradually re-focus our energy from monthly discussion meetups to other activities or projects where we can encourage more participation and have more impact.

**Income and Expense Report for 2010**

<b>Beginning balance (as of 1/1/10)</b>	<b>\$338.84</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Dues and Contributions for 2010	<b>\$643.84</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Liability Insurance	(\$150.00)
Email Subscription Service Management	(\$153.00)
Special Events (e.g., CRUDE DVD license, reservation fees for events)	(\$100.00)
Printing & Mailing Supplies	(\$72.35)
<b>Subtotal of Expenses</b>	<b>(\$475.35)</b>
<b>Ending balance (as of 12/31/10)</b>	<b>\$507.33</b>

**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 2010**

Jove Graham, Chair	Joe Manzi
Juli Cooper, Treasurer	Patricia Dudek