

About this report

This report contains a summary of our meetings with thirteen of the fourteen candidates on the ballot from both major political parties for the office of U.S. Senator from Illinois in the upcoming primary election. One candidate refused to meet with our delegations of organized citizens and voters. While United Power for Action and Justice is a non-partisan organization and does not endorse anyone for office, we do urge all of our members to vote and to be educated on the issues and candidates before they vote.

Over the past three months, 50 delegates (listed below) from United Power for Action and Justice, and our sister organizations DuPage United and Lake

County United, have met with the Senate candidates, introduced our organizations to them, learned who they are and why they chose to run for this important office, discussed the issues that we care about with them, and asked them for a commitment to work with us. Specifically, we asked them for a commitment to work with United Power for Action and Justice and our sister organizations and to meet with us within 90 days of the primary election on March 16 and to meet with us within 90 days after taking office following the general election in November.

For further information on each candidate, you can go to www.ilsenate.com. Thank you for your interest.

United Power for Action and Justice is an independent, self-funding, organization of churches, synagogues, mosques, civic, neighborhood, labor, health and ethnic institutions from Cook County that have joined together across religious, geographic, racial and economic lines to fight for the common good on issues of shared concern. Founded in 1997, United Power has a track record of victories on issues from expanding access to healthcare to building affordable homes to developing programs to break the cycle of homelessness. Two independent sister organizations were founded with their own leadership and membership in April 2003—**DuPage United** and **Lake County United**. For more information on United Power, call 773-944-5437.

United Power (Cook County)

Nick Brunick,
*St. Clement Catholic,
Lakeview Action Coalition, Chicago*

Rev. Leonard DeVille, pastor,
Alpha Temple Baptist Church, Chicago

Peter Lott,
Third Baptist Church, Chicago

Mark Fick, president,
Organization of the North East, Chicago

Richard Fung,
St. James Catholic, Arlington Heights

Rev. Don Headly,
St. Mary of the Woods Catholic, Chicago

Judy Humowiecki,
St. Giles Catholic, Oak Park

Pat McAnany,
Ascension Catholic, Oak Park

Rev. Dr. Michael Noble, Pastor,
Olivet Baptist Church, Chicago

Greg Pierce,
St. Mary of the Woods Catholic, Chicago

Rev. Alan Ragland, pastor,
Third Baptist Church, Chicago

Maureen Ryan,
Sts. Faith, Hope and Charity, Winnetka

Ramon Sanchez,
Access Genesis Health Center, Des Plaines

Mike Savage,
Access Community Health Network

Bill Totsch,
St. Mary's Episcopal, Park Ridge

Floyd Towner,
Lawndale Community Church, Chicago

Richard Townsell
Lawndale Community Church, Chicago

Doug Wyman,
Ascension Catholic, Oak Park

DuPage United

Bill Alrich,
Faith Lutheran, Glen Ellyn

Ginny Harms,
St. Paul Lutheran, Wheaton

Debbie Fulks,
Faith Lutheran, Glen Ellyn

Afzaal Hafeez,
Muslim Society, Inc. Glendale Heights

Tabassum Haleem,
Islamic Center of Naperville

John Hazard,
St. Joseph Catholic, Downers Grove

Denise Kollias,
St. Isidore Catholic, Bloomingdale

Suzanne Mendoza,
St. Isidore Catholic, Bloomingdale

Rev. Chris Pierson,
*United Methodist Church,
Northern Illinois Conference*

Tasneem Osmani,
Islamic Center of Naperville

Connie Seraphine,
St. Luke Lutheran, Glen Ellyn

Lisa Siroky,
St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic, Naperville

Dave Werle,
St. Luke Lutheran, Glen Ellyn

Kathy Wessel,
Illinois Education Association

Marie Wiermanski,
Resurrection Catholic, Wayne

Lake County United

Barbara Anderson,
*Lake County Center for
Independent Living, Mundelein*

Lori Clark,
*Lake County Center for
Independent Living, Mundelein*

Kitty Cole,
Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest

Rev. Clyde Elledge,
Annunciation Episcopal, Gurnee

Owen Fayer,
Alexian Brothers - The Harbor, Waukegan

Rev. Barbara Gazzolo,
St. James Lutheran Church, Lake Forest

Jeanine Gavagan,
*Lake County Center for
Independent Living, Mundelein*

Doug Gerleman,
North Shore Unitarian Church, Deerfield

June McCoy,
Libertyville United Methodist Church

Marian McElroy,
Lake County NAACP, North Chicago

Brian McHugh,
St. Patrick Catholic Church, Wadsworth

Kay Meyer,
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Libertyville

Kathy O'Brien,
Libertyville United Methodist Church

Deb Oelerich,
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Libertyville

Del Parra,
*Lake County Center for
Independent Living, Mundelein*

Stephanie Rappe,
Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Lake Villa

Bill Sopper,
Libertyville United Methodist Church

Jack Ryan—Republican

After first declining to meet with us despite several requests, Mr. Ryan asked to do so after seeing a first draft of this report and asking for an extension on our initial deadline, which we granted. We met with him at his campaign office in the Loop.

Mr. Ryan said that he feels he cannot do his job in the political arena without working with organized citizens. He expressed support for our initiatives on homelessness, health insurance, and housing for working people, and added two other issues that he cares strongly about: security (both from terrorism and violence on our streets) and educational reform. He said that our society cannot continue to function unless we address both of those problems immediately.

When we asked why he had chosen to get into politics, Mr. Ryan said that it was not an easy decision. He left his previous work in the financial sector to work as a teacher at Hales Franciscan High School on the south side of Chicago and knew that he could continue to make the world a better place by influencing his students there each year. He decided to run for the Senate because he feels he can influence many more people on a broader scale, even though not as deeply as a teacher can. When we asked about his heroes he named John F. Kennedy, because he felt that Kennedy had always held himself and the public to a very high standard of responsibility and service to others.

Mr. Ryan not only committed to meeting with our organizations within 90 days of the primary and the general election. He threw us a curve by asking if we would commit to meet with him within ninety days even if he loses either of the elections, because he said that he was serious about working with us “win or lose.” We agreed. ■

Nancy Skinner—Democrat

We met with Ms. Skinner at her campaign office in Chicago. Our delegation understood that the primary purpose of the meeting was to establish a public relationship with her. She expressed interest in how our organizations are structured and took notes when one of our delegation mentioned that her church has 20,000 registered members and a collection plate of approximately \$35,000 per week.

We made personal introductions after listening to the candidate give several minutes of her campaign “marketing” speech. We made the point that we are relationship-based organizations. We spoke about health care as an issue important to all three of our organizations. Affordable housing for working people was also mentioned. The relationship of campaign money to voting patterns was raised, and Ms. Skinner was asked how she would handle the influence of money. She thought incumbents had to “take a stand” against it. Pressed further as to how she would counter the powerful influence of lobbying organizations such as PHARMA, the HMOs and insurance companies, she again said politicians had to take a stand against it, but she did not say specifically how she would counter these formidable powers and the influence they have on campaign contributions.

Ms. Skinner grew up in Detroit, Michigan, one of five children in a working class family. She is passionate about environmental issues, women’s issues, and the consolidation of media ownership and control. She started her career as an environmentalist and has also worked in radio and television. She is seeking endorsements from Sierra Club and NOW. She stated that she thought public education should move away from a property-tax-based system to a more equitable one for Illinois’ residents. She added that a property-tax-based system is responsible for the disparity in quality of education, teachers and resources between districts. Her proposal for health care reform is to have the government compete with the private sector.

Ms. Skinner agreed to meet within 90 days with our three organizations should she win the primary and again within 90 days should she win the Senate seat. ■

Joyce Washington—Democrat

Ms. Washington’s campaign literature states her ongoing involvement with the Gilead Project for Healthcare, and she clearly stated her understanding of the concept of broad-based citizen organizing. Her slogan is “a Fighter for American Families.” She impressed us as warm, consistent and approachable. She feels that the role of organized citizens is critical to change in our government and stated that public officials should include nurses and moms, not just attorneys and professional politicians.

Ms. Washington’s resume and packet enlarge upon her comments about her preparation to lead on the issue of health care. She has a master’s degree in public health administration and is a former VP at Advocate Health Systems. She stood in for Gov. Blagojevich at the United Power rally for funding Breast and Cervical Cancer screenings at Olivet Church last year and committed the Governor to meeting with us on funding the Cervical and Breast Cancer screening program. She helped to secure the \$2 million dollars requested by that gathering of more than 1000 women and has remained a strong ally around health care issues.

Ms. Washington noted that she received over 350,000 votes in her run for Lieutenant Governor. She cited Shirley Chisholm and Barbara Jordan as role models, and described her success in working with Governor Blagojevich. She did not name specific local mentors or advisors.

Ms. Washington appeared knowledgeable about her areas of expertise and had studied our websites prior to our meeting. She committed to meet with us within 90 days of her nomination and/or election. ■

Jonathan Wright—Republican

Mr. Wright arrived promptly as scheduled, driving from southern Illinois. The meeting began with rounds of introductions. He lives in Lincoln, Illinois, but grew up in Carol Stream and is familiar with this region of the state. He is an attorney and was appointed to fill a vacant seat in the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served for 18 months. His district was redrawn in 2000 and he did not seek election. The decision to seek the US Senate seat is strongly supported by his wife and family. His wife often drives him to meetings, as she did to this one.

Mr. Wright responded to our questions and listened as we described our issues. He wondered aloud why churches had stepped out and government stepped in to provide human services to those in need. He believes that local communities know their issues best and are better equipped than the federal government to develop workable solutions. He emphasized that helping is “supposed to be person to person” and believes in local control—not “shipping money to Washington” to be administered by bureaucrats.

He stated that he is running in this election to win, in spite of inferences that he is solely seeking name recognition. He’s been told he won’t win because he lacks money. He did not name a specific mentor, although he did cite his strong faith as a source of guidance.

Mr. Wright would look for ways to work with organized citizens. He agreed to meet with us within 90 days if he is nominated, again in 90 days if he wins the general election. ■

United Power

FOR ACTION AND JUSTICE

Citizens' Report on Candidates for U.S. Senate

In conjunction with

DuPage United & Lake County United

- ✓ John Borling—Republican
- ✓ Gery Chico—Democrat
- ✓ Blair Hull—Democrat
- ✓ Dan Hynes—Democrat
- ✓ Chirinjeev Kathuria—Republican
- ✓ Andrew McKenna, Jr.—Republican
- ✓ Barack Obama—Democrat
- ✗ Jim Oberweis—Republican
- ✓ Maria Pappas—Democrat
- ✓ Steve Rauschenberger—Republican
- ✓ Jack Ryan—Republican
- ✓ Nancy Skinner—Democrat
- ✓ Joyce Washington—Democrat
- ✓ Jonathan Wright—Republican

✓ Agreed to meet ✗ Refused to meet

March 2004

The Candidates

John Borling—Republican

Immediate impressions: Mr. Borling arrived 15 minutes early, alone; he appeared quite educated, energetic and with a sense of humor. He provided a one-page background on himself and a card identifying himself as the only veteran in the race. He's a native south side Chicagoan, and was class valedictorian at Hirsch High School. Having been successful in his military and business careers, he felt required to do more "duty calls again" and was encouraged to do so by his friends, but ultimately by his wife. He has spent much time in D.C., on Capitol Hill, working on the Air Force portion of the federal budget and testifying before both houses of Congress. America faces the "gallows of history," he wants to help lead America to a good judgment. He is an "idealist without illusions." He believes that leadership is a combination of example and persuasion. He identified four individuals who were most influential in his life: John Gardner, founder of Common Cause, who said that there is nothing immutable in community or government, but we act from our shared values; his father; Joe Eric, his Junior ROTC instructor in high school; and Mal Waken, a Catholic philosopher who taught at the Air Force Academy.

When asked specifically how organized citizen organizations could work with him, Mr. Borling said that the determining factors are "votes, money, issues...and if I like you!" He noted that politicians have tremendous time pressures and must make decisions based on fragmentary information. He sees America as an arch of shared values supported by the columns of our institutions. He characterizes his all-encompassing plan as Renewal of America, under which he has four areas: 1. Security: internal and external; 2. Health Care: affordable and accessible (including advice from a 24/7 call center staffed by doctors); 3. Opportunity: education and jobs; 4. Taxes and Spending: need for discipline (disengagement of the civic sector a problem).

He provided more details on the health care area: It has become an entitlement. We need to determine how to do it and how to afford it. Nothing gets done in D.C. that is solely executive-driven. We need to focus on the process, which he strongly emphasized. The process involves forming a collaboration (e.g., a joint commission) between the legislative and executive branches, something that he could do very well because of his experience. The only principle—government cannot run it. If the process is carefully done, we do not know how it will turn out, but it will be workable. It will require tort reform—a \$250,000 cap—and must be a consumer-based system (based on the question for each of us, what do I want and how much do I want to pay?). We must also discipline ourselves; we cannot help every extreme case as we might want.

Mr. Borling advised us to ask each candidate for his/her political philosophy. His is based on the four precepts identified in the preamble to the Constitution. He added that we must be free to enjoy our freedom, as long as it does not infringe upon the freedom of others or endanger public safety. He identified his priorities: America first and Illinois second. His last priority would be his wife and himself. He deplored the current way that elections are funded. He expects to spend between \$700,000 and \$1.3 million. He made a commitment ("not a campaign promise, but a commitment") to meet with our organizations both after the primary and after taking office, if he wins. ■

Gery Chico—Democrat

Mr. Chico arrived as scheduled, and introduced himself to each delegation member. The meeting began with rounds of introductions. As each individual described the member organization and the number of constituents he/she represented and the metro-wide character of the delegation became

clear, Mr. Chico became very attentive. He was surprised to hear that we are a dues-based organization and that St. Mary's, for example, was paying \$6000 a year in dues. We explained that being dues-based insured both our independence and our longevity as an organization. We followed rounds with a list of the characteristics common to the three organizations—non-partisan, multi-issue, etc.—and the issues each organization is presently working on.

During his introduction, Mr. Chico mentioned that his grandfather came to the US in 1927 from Mexico. His father worked at the Swift Meat company for 43 years. His wife, who is from Cuba, fled with her family in 1968 from Castro's regime. He recalled that in his grandparents' home, there were two pictures in the front room, John F. Kennedy and Jesus, and explained the significance of each, Kennedy being the first Catholic president, and the picture of Jesus demonstrated the importance of religion in his family. Then Mr. Chico talked about his experience as the Chief of Staff for Mayor Daley and President of the Chicago Board of Education and the challenges he faced and how he turned around the schools during his tenure. He said "I do what I say and say what I do," emphasizing the fact that he is a risk taker and goes out on the limb to accomplish things, which he feels that some politicians don't do and need to. When we discussed the "pilot project for the uninsured" health care initiative being offered by UPAJ, he appeared impressed with the effort and took one of the brochures and said that it was the kind of program that might be expanded nationally.

He mentioned that he was never satisfied with his personal accomplishments at the law firm, but wanted to do more for the community, felt obligated to always do more. When asked how he was going to apply his previous experience to his future public life, he responded that government exists for people and therefore it is the obligation of the government official to make life better for the citizens and pay attention to people. He said that he has experience in taking tough assignments such as resuscitating the public schools, which took tenacity and optimism. Again, he emphasized the need to work closely with the people and mentioned that he would like to work with the organized groups and would appreciate their input.

Mr. Chico agreed to meet with us within 90 days if he is nominated, again in 90 days if he wins the election. He also volunteered to meet with us every year thereafter! ■

Blair Hull—Democrat

Immediate impressions: Once we completed our individual and organizational introductions and emphasized to him that we represent 400+ organizations and thousands of leaders, Mr. Hull was very attentive. He introduced himself as a hard working person, who grew up in a working class family, was on food stamps for a year. He has a strong work ethic and desire to challenge the system. He started his own business at the Chicago Board of Trade by automating the trading process in the financial markets which enhanced competition through the use of innovative and state-of-the-art technology. He founded the Hull Trading Company, which grew to a successful trading firm.

Referencing the story of his business success, Mr. Hull stressed the fact that he always challenged the status quo and always worked for systemic change throughout his life. When asked why he did this, he did not have a clear answer. He indicated that since he is funding his own campaign, he will not be obligated to anyone. Possessing that kind of independence—not tied to a traditional political base—will be his strength. We emphasized that our three organizations value our independence as well, but it is a collective independence where, through relationships, we are obligated and accountable to one another. Mr. Hull seemed impressed when he asked how we were funded and we made

clear our dues-based membership.

When asked how he would compare himself to Peter Fitzgerald, considering their financial similarity and self-funded campaigns, he responded that their similarity ends there. He disagreed with 80% of Senator Fitzgerald's policies. He talked about his two major positions: healthcare for everyone and providing jobs, which he elaborated on. He believes in healthcare for everyone and has a plan to implement it. He asked us to review "the Hull Plan" on his website and give him feedback, referencing United Power's experience on healthcare issues. When we explained our emphasis on leadership development, not just issues, he expressed interest in IAF Ten Day training, saying that he might learn more from us about the role of organized citizens in a democracy.

Mr. Hull committed to meet with our organizations both after the primary and after taking office, if he wins. ■

Dan Hynes—Democrat

Mr. Hynes arrived as scheduled and introduced himself to each delegation member. The meeting began with rounds. As each individual described the member organization and the number of constituents he/she represented, and the metro-wide character of the delegation became clear, Mr. Hynes's interest and attention seemed to increase. We followed rounds with a list of the characteristics common to the three organizations—non-partisan, multi-issue, etc.—and the issues each organization is working on.

Then Mr. Hynes responded to our questions. His basic points were as follows. Because of his father's political career, politics and public life were a part of his life from the beginning. From childhood he was involved in organizing of one kind or another. As he got older he began to grasp the importance of issues. He became a practicing attorney, but after his involvement in the 1996 Clinton campaign he decided that he would be more satisfied in working on and organizing around issues he cared about. He decided that he was more interested in the policy side of public life than the legal, and wanted to organize people to make a difference. His father has been his principal mentor—an example of quietly giving oneself to public service. He also admires Presidents Kennedy, Truman and Roosevelt.

Mr. Hynes began to envision a role for himself in the U.S. Senate even before Senator Fitzgerald decided not to seek a second term. He wants to be in the Senate because this is a crucial time in our nation's history. He believes that he is ready for the job because he has achieved a good understanding of the relationships between state, federal, and community groups. His major campaign funding comes from labor unions and individuals. He believes that organized citizens' groups have a role to play in a democracy. He sees them as a valuable source of information about issues that are important to grass-roots people. Politicians, he says, have little time to examine issues in depth. The campaign is fast-paced and once in office the schedule is demanding.

Mr. Hynes agreed to meet with us within 90 days if he is nominated and again in 90 days if he wins the election. ■

Chirinjeev Kathuria—Republican

Mr. Kathuria called en route to the meeting to warn us that he was stuck in traffic and running late. He arrived 35-40 minutes late. He was very apologetic. As the meeting began, the representative from Lake County United had to leave, as he had allowed only the expected 45 minutes for the meeting in his schedule. The other members of the delegation graciously agreed to stay an additional 15 minutes to meet with Mr. Kathuria.

After introducing ourselves and our organizations, Mr. Kathuria spoke about himself as having lived the American dream. He came to the US from India with his family at age two and went on to a very successful academic and business

career—earning an MD and an MBA and starting several successful businesses. He said he was running for the Senate as a way to "give back." He also talked about how his campaign was breaking down barriers as well, because he is the only immigrant in the race from either party and probably the only Sikh ever to run for U.S. Senate. He said it was a great statement about our country that he could run for the second highest political office in land.

We had a brief discussion on health care and immigrant issues, on which he was very interested in our concerns, but the shortened time did not allow us to go into depth on his views.

Mr. Kathuria committed to meeting with us should he win the primary in March and again should he win the election in November. ■

Andrew McKenna, Jr.—Republican

We had agreed to meet with Mr. McKenna at 4:00 pm. He called us the morning of the meeting to postpone our meeting to 4:30 pm, due to a schedule conflict. We agreed to 4:15 pm, but he arrived at his office at 4:35 pm. Because of his tardiness, the meeting was somewhat abbreviated.

Mr. McKenna's father is a prominent lay leader in the Catholic community. The younger McKenna is well educated (BA in business administration, University of Notre Dame, master's degree in manufacturing management from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management). He has never run for political office. He has been the president of Schwarz Paper Company in Morton Grove since 1996. The candidate has helped with finance committees of numerous political campaigns. He is depicted as a moderate, corporate Republican. He has been a participant in numerous civic, charity, and business ethics organizations.

Mr. McKenna was polite and to the point. He conducted himself in a very businesslike manner. During the initial conversation, he discussed economic growth and jobs growth, two mantras for his political campaign. He felt that pursuing these measures was the best way to help Illinois families. He also felt that his skills in these areas distinguished him from other candidates. Mr. McKenna discussed roundtables he had conducted throughout Illinois to learn about opportunities to create jobs for the state.

When the conversation shifted to health care, Mr. McKenna related to us the difficulties Illinois has encountered due to increasing malpractice costs, including the loss of physicians to other states.

When asked about organized citizens' role in government, he seemed encouraging, and cited his numerous roundtables in Illinois. He agreed to meet with us within 90 days if he won the GOP primary election and also within 90 days if he won Illinois' US Senate seat. He did, however, express a healthy amount of skepticism concerning our group, reserving further commitment to us until he better understood our goals, motives, and how we functioned. ■

Barack Obama—Democrat

Although Mr. Obama was present in his campaign headquarters when we arrived, our meeting started a few minutes late. Since he worked as a community organizer for five years in Harlem and Chicago, he knew our "language" and was not afraid to insert agitation into the conversation. He is clearly intelligent, energetic, ambitious, and at ease with citizen groups. ("I'm always looking for effective partners.")

His background is unique with regard to global ties. He was born in Hawaii, of a Kenyan father and a mother from Kansas. His mother later married an Indonesian, and Mr. Obama lived some of his early years in Indonesia. He maintains close contact with relatives in Africa, Asia and Canada. Because of his racially mixed background, Mr. Obama thinks he would have a higher profile as

the junior U.S. Senator from Illinois and be able to frame the national debate more than other junior senators. Although not a politician from the start, it came as a natural extension to his community organizing and civil rights work. He left organizing in 1988 to go to Harvard Law School, where he graduated with many honors. He pointed out that he directed the largest voter registration drive in Illinois history, adding 100,000 new voters in 1992.

He maintains a private law practice (taking only the occasional civil rights case) and teaches constitutional law at University of Chicago Law School. He is currently in his third term as an Illinois State Senator. It also seemed important to him for us to know that he has the most campaign donors, including the most small donors. To illustrate his independence and willingness to vote his conscience, he pointed out that he was one of only a few to vote against the recent SBC deal, even though they were one of his bigger donors. When asked who his mentors were, he immediately named the late Senator Paul Simon “a happy warrior who was willing to take a hard stand” based on his values. Mr. Obama and Mr. Simon collaborated on a campaign finance reform law and other measures. He also named civil rights workers like Ella Baker and Bob Moses, who “put their values on the line.”

Mr. Obama agreed to meet with us both after the primary and within 90 days of taking office. He went a step further, saying he would attend our major events as a US Senator when his schedule allowed. Further, he urged us as individuals to work for a candidate (not necessarily him!) as a way of learning the process and building ties for the future. ■

Jim Oberweis—Republican

We were informed that Mr. Oberweis was “too busy” to meet with us.

Maria Pappas—Democrat

After initially saying that she was too busy to meet, Ms. Pappas and her staff made a strong effort to meet with us before our deadline for this report. She arrived eight minutes late for our meeting. She was outgoing, energetic and relational. Ms. Pappas was asked how she got started in politics and gave a brief history of her service on the Cook County Board and the need for accountability and remarked on the waste in federal spending. She then launched into the issue of international trade agreements (NAFTA, CAFTA, etc.) and the need for us (Illinois, U.S.) to have representation at the negotiating table where these agreements are made. She cited the impact of trade agreements on Illinois’ agriculture by South American soybean farmers. Ms. Pappas mentioned that she had met with many cabinet members and trade negotiators from European Union countries at a conference— indicating that she was building power relationships “upward” and “outward.”

We asked a question regarding affordable housing about which the candidate was not well versed. She seemed to have a fixed idea of who needs housing assistance. When told that it takes at least an annual income of at least \$17,000 to afford decent housing in DuPage County, for example, she did not seem to perceive the relevance, and linked housing to employment, which she then linked to training/education. She also stressed the need for prevention of teen pregnancies and crime/imprisonment through a good education, beginning with Head Start programs, etc.— getting children in the first 6 years of life.

When asked why she does what she does, Ms Pappas told her personal story of growing up in the coal-mining region of West Virginia, her education in psychology and the law, and her advocacy work. She spoke of her mentors as several Greek Orthodox uncles and priests and of the person who advised her

to combine a law degree with psychology to really be able to make a difference. She stressed that she has worked her way up to where she is now, but does not forget where she came from.

Overall impression: Ms. Pappas’s focus on trade agreements and knowledge of global issues seemed more extensive than her knowledge about issues of importance in collar counties or the state of Illinois. She listed her priorities as education, jobs and health care. When we asked, “Why the U.S. Senate and not some other avenue to make a difference?” she responded that the Senate has the greatest impact on public policy decisions. Ms. Pappas stated she would meet with us within 90 days of winning the primary in March and the general election in November. Our meeting ended on time. ■

Steve Rauschenberger—Republican

Immediate impressions: Mr. Rauschenberger called to let us know that he might be late, but arrived within five minutes of our appointment. He was struck by our resolve to keep to our original schedule, out of respect for everyone’s time and schedules. He described his move from the business world to politics and his background in accounting (preference for cost accounting). He characterized his start in politics as “reluctant,” forced because the incumbents had been unable to answer basic questions about a financial tack the State was taking in the early 90s. His current, again reluctant, candidacy arose because he saw the large Republican field as shallow, with no one having real experience in legislative activity. He is the only one who has won election and served for a significant time (one other candidate had been appointed to fill out a term). He developed himself into an expert in appropriations, Medicare/Medicaid and electricity regulation. He is fighting for the soul of the Republican Party. Some of the candidates are there only because they can write very large checks for their campaigns. There is also a significant difference between the function of a CEO and that of a legislator.

When asked specifically about the role of organized citizen organizations, Mr. Rauschenberger first said that he didn’t know. He later reflected that citizen groups too often are well-intentioned, but want what cannot be accomplished. He thought that groups need to research and dialogue before advocating. He sees the role of a legislator to prepare, to understand the issues and to work hard at that role. In contrast to some legislators who may be satisfied with putting on a show with high-sounding rhetoric, he prefers to make advances in addressing issues. He sees the basic difference between the Democratic and Republican parties in that Democrats hold equality [seeking equality of outcomes] as their primary value, while Republicans hold freedom [freedom of people to exercise their abilities] as their primary value. Although this is a very basic difference, there is otherwise little difference between himself and someone from the Democratic Party like fellow State Senator Barack Obama. But, he sees an important difference in his support of the President and being a member of the majority party.

Due to time constraints, he could not provide significant detail at this meeting on his program. Basically, it has two primary thrusts. First, we must have a safe and secure America. The current problems are the result of a drift in foreign policy under the administrations of Presidents from both parties. We should support democracies and not repressive regimes, despite what an oil policy might require. We need to stabilize Iraq, so that the threat of terrorism does not get transported to our shores. Second, we have a responsibility to our children, by not trying to satisfy our needs at the expense of our children’s future.

He made commitments to meet with our organizations both after the primary and after taking office, if he wins. In the latter case, he invited us to Washington, though he said that he intends to be at home on 40 weekends each year. ■

Candidate reports continued on back page of this report