

A Few Words from Our Executive Director



Julie Burkhart,
Executive Director

There's a story that I'd like to tell you, which will help you understand how I came to be an activist in this movement. It's about my great-grandmother, Lillie Burgett Corn, who lived to be 101 years old. She taught me a lot about women's rights and civic engagement.

Lillie was born in 1886, was raised and educated in Northern Oklahoma, and went into teaching, which was one of only a handful of professions for women of her time. She married, farmed a little and raised a family. My grandmother was an accomplished woman, but even though she contributed to our nation, she was denied the right to vote until she was 34 years old. Besides the fact that she was strong and opinionated, what resonated with me most was that this intelligent, articulate, thoughtful woman was denied the right to full participatory citizenship. Can you imagine, not having the right to vote until you turned 34? That fact greatly impressed me as a child.

Not a day went by that she didn't remind me that it was my civic duty to participate in the political process. Not a day went by that she didn't remind me of the struggle that it took for women to gain equality. Needless to say, she NEVER missed a day at the polls. For Lillie, voting was an event and a duty. She impressed upon me that our rights, as citizens, can never be taken for granted. She impressed upon me that freedom means diligence, activism and accountability.

(Continued on page 2)

ProVote Advocates in the News

A sampling of Letters to Editors, written by ProVote supporters, published across the state

Published June 23, 2009. Springfield News-Leader, Springfield, MO.

Hypocrisy is alive and well when it comes to Roy Blunt and his ilk discussing health care reform. They pride themselves in promoting "competition" for our nation's financial success. However, when it comes to comprehensive health care for all, that way of thinking doesn't apply.

Rather than offer a public plan for those unable to obtain health care, Roy Blunt and those likeminded choose to protect the insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and paid lobbyists instead of the elderly, children, low income and people with disabilities.

Roy Blunt has said that a public insurance plan option would be a deal breaker for Republicans on health care reform. Blunt called the plan "a government takeover of our health care system and lets bureaucrats call the shots, not your doctor."

Obviously, Roy Blunt enjoys a comprehensive, taxpayer-supplied health care plan and has no clue what the average person goes through when their lives are at the mercy of an insurance company deciding their fate, not to mention the millions who are uninsured.

The reality is that providing a public plan will expand coverage, keep people healthy and lower costs by creating that competition we need in a monopolized industry that puts profits before human lives.

As Missourians we know all too well the inhumane philosophy of the Blunts regarding health care. We can not afford to let Roy Blunt infect us with that philosophy on a national level. The time is now to demand comprehensive health care reform for everyone.

Richard Green, Ozark

Published July 13, 2009. West County Journal, St. Louis, MO.

I just paid a medical bill for lab work; the charge was \$170, but because my insurance company has a negotiated fee structure, the net charge to me was \$15.96.

My insurer paid nothing since I have a \$3,000 deductible, but at least I have the benefit of the reduced-fee structure. My question for legislators and our Missouri attorney general is this: There are laws about price gouging on gasoline, food and on hotels during emergencies, so why aren't there laws about price-gouging on health care bills?

Last year, an uninsured friend of mine needed a complete blood work-up for a medical condition. The cost was \$490; with insurance protection, the fee would have been much less than \$100. It took her almost a year to pay off the lab fee; and when it came time to renew her prescription, her doctor refused to approve it until she got another blood work-up and came into the office for an exam.

There are many Americans who don't have insurance, either due to cost or to pre-existing conditions. Why do they also have to suffer from price-gouging by medical providers?

Klaus Illian, Manchester

2009 Progressive Scorecard

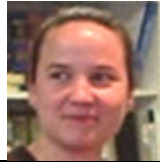
Check out the enclosed 2009 Legislative Scorecard, or view it at www.missouriprovote.org, and see how progressive your legislators are. The 2009 scorecard tallies votes on the nine bills deemed most crucial for progressives by ProVote member organizations.

(Continued from page 1)

I've always related my grandmother's philosophy to the progressive movement. As you well know, there are plenty of people who would like nothing more than to see our civil rights and civil liberties destroyed, bit by bit.

The question for us, as progressives, is: will we stand up, be heard and refuse to allow our hard-earned rights and liberties to be taken away? **Yes, we are here for the long haul.** I want my daughter, and future generations, to have the same rights that I have had during my lifetime. We will stand up to the bullies and enemies of equality, justice and freedom, and meet them in the courts, the streets, the ballot box and the legislature, wherever these important issues are at stake. And we will win.

Political Report by Julie Terbrock



On the next page, you'll see a glimpse of all of the exciting work ProVote is engaged in across the state. As the summer has worn on, the work has only become that much more timely.

As I'm sure we are all aware, we're in the heat of the most important legislative battle in decades. Stay on the lookout for updates and calls to action in this battle to make meaningful improvements in our health care system and the lives of millions of people. As Republicans and Blue Dogs continue defending the special interests that are spending \$1.4 million a day to



Missouri ProVote supporters raise their voices for quality, affordable health care for all in Springfield, MO.

keep any sort of reform from happening, ProVote, with its partners nationwide are fighting to make sure the voice of real people don't get bought out!

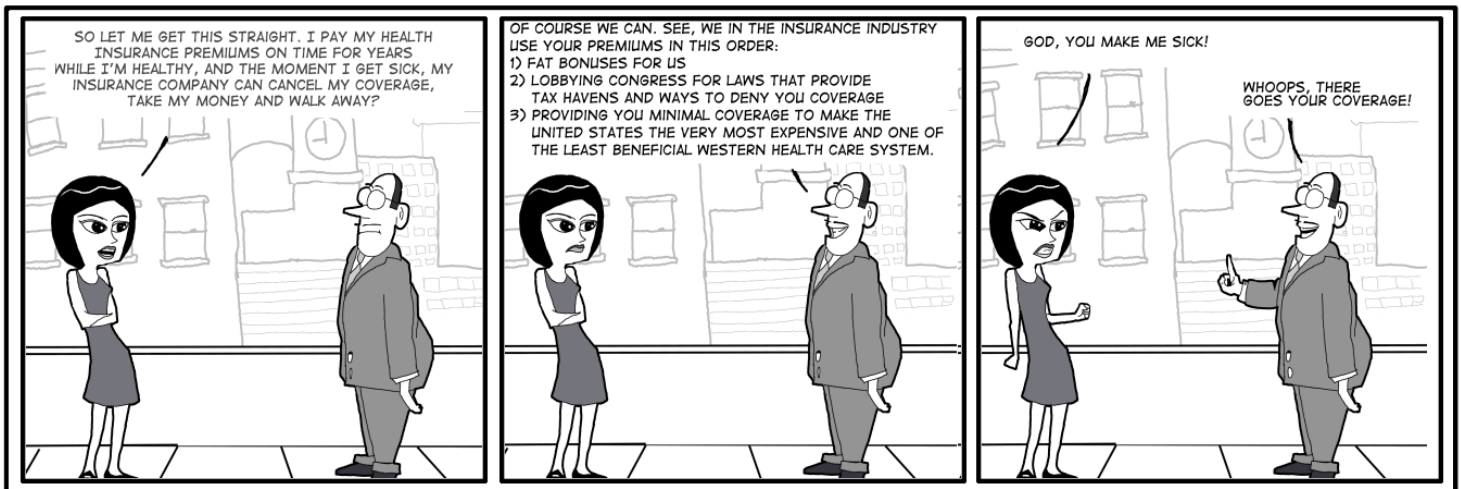
On top of all that – we're busy looking at the 2010 election cycle – one that promises to be exciting up and down the ticket. We're working on assessing districts, identifying candidates and working with them, and their supporters to make sure we're on the ground running and ready to pick up seats in November. And for those of you who held on to your NOVEMBER 2nd shirts from 2004 – it's time to get them out for 2010!



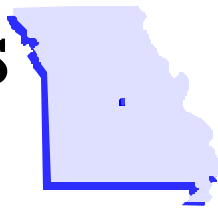
ProVote, Jobs with Justice and other allies rally in St. Louis for the Employee Free Choice Act

Become a ProVote Contributor

Without contributions from supporters like you, Missouri ProVote will not be able to effectively implement electoral and advocacy work across Missouri. Please consider contributing today by returning the enclosed reply envelope or by visiting us on the web at www.missouriprovote.org



Regional Updates



www.MissouriProVote.Org

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Springfield

Progressives in Southwest Missouri have been fighting hard for affordable health care. In April, we invited Congressman Roy Blunt (R-07), chair of the Health Care Solutions Working Group, to a townhall meeting to hear constituent's concerns about the state of health care in Missouri.

Congressman Blunt refused the invitation, but 100 of his constituents were able to attend. They shared their personal health care stories with the panel of speakers. We then delivered 75 post-cards to the Congressman's office the next day.

ProVote also joined with Organizing For America and other local health care advocates on June 27 to make our voices heard on health care reform. 45 activists held signs outside a local hospital, demanding quality, affordable health care for all.

- Kay Mills, Springfield Regional Organizer

Kansas City

The Kansas City office of ProVote has been hard at work, building the organization and working hard on quality, affordable, health care. On June 11 the Kansas City office was proud to host a fundraiser at a local wine bar. We introduced our new Executive Director, Julie Burkhart, and heard from a number of progressive leaders, such as Rep. Mike Talboy, Rep. Paul LeVota, Rep. Beth Low, Hon. Melba Curls, and Sen. Jolie Justus. The event underscored the growing strength of the ascendant progressive movement in Missouri.

We are proud and pleased to bring on board a new organizing fellow, Josh Chittum. He works out of the Kansas City office, and is sponsored by Midwest Academy and the USAction Education Fund. Josh will be working on education and public policy regarding progressive taxation. We are excited to welcome him to the ProVote team!

ProVote supporters have been busy as well. Recently, two letters to the editor, authored by ProVote supporters, were published in the Kansas City Star. Their participation drives home the essential source of ProVote's power: an engaged, progressive public. From top to bottom, ProVote has been leading the charge for progressive change in Kansas City.

- Mindy Brissy, Kansas City Regional Organizer

Mid Missouri

The Mid-Missouri office is excited to have recruited intern Taylor Maness. Taylor graduated from Hickman High School and is currently a student at the University of Missouri. His passion is health care reform, and he is working hard to hold Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-09) accountable for his position on health care.

The Mid-MO office is recruiting members across the state for a revived C3 table. This will give us a strong coalition for our issue work, which could include Voter ID, the Employee Free Choice Act, the Missouri Court Plan, tax equity, access to health care, and other areas that we traditionally organize around.

We cannot have success with progressive policies without more votes in the general assembly. We are looking at the open seats and at the ones we must defend in Mid-Missouri. Over the next few months, we will evaluate where we have the best opportunities for progressive wins and begin actively recruiting.

- Jane Whitesides, Mid-Missouri Regional Organizer

St. Louis

The St. Louis Region has been busy the last few months helping to organize several rallies around health care, organizing presscalls, conducting petition gathering, and many more activities. We delivered signature petitions to Sen. Claire McCaskill's office from constituents who support a public option and have also thanked her for her support of a public option in health care reform. ProVote has also partnered with some of our labor organizations to rally around labor law reform, which includes supporting the Employee Free Choice Act.

In the upcoming months, the St. Louis Region will begin recruiting progressive candidates to run for the state legislature. With the impending 2010 elections, it is more important than ever to have progressives on the ballot.

- Keith Tubbs, St. Louis Regional Organizer



*Standing Strong for Progressive Values—
Missouri ProVote Staff at a Kansas City
Fundraiser.*

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Coalition of Black Trade Unionists President Lew Moye on the St. Louis frontlines for the Employee Free Choice Act

14th Annual Awards Dinner November 14, 2009

Come and help make this year's 14th annual Awards Dinner bigger and better than ever! Make sure to save-the-date and RSVP soon. Please call 314.531.2288 to reserve your table now.

Saturday, November 14th, 2009
America's Center Ballroom
701 Convention Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63101

5:30 VIP Reception
7:00 Dinner

This year's awardees are:

Outstanding Progressive Legislator
Representative Jeanette Mott Oxford

Outstanding Community Organization
The Missouri Women's
Leadership Coalition

Outstanding Labor Organization
The Missouri AFL-CIO

Lifetime Achievement Award
Leila Medley of the Missouri NEA