



# ADA TODAY

*60th Convention Edition*

*A Newsletter for Liberal Activists  
from Americans for Democratic Action*

## **A Proud and Patriotic Vision: ADA Commemorates Its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at June Convention by Rep. Jim McDermott, President of Americans for Democratic Action**



From the beginning, Americans for Democratic Action has been an organization meant to lead by taking stands to defend that which defines America as a democracy. Action is who we are and why we exist. For 60 years, ADA has been America's foremost liberal lobbying organization.

To be sure, there have been many eloquent leaders of ADA, beginning, of course, with our founders: Eleanor Roosevelt, former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, labor leaders Walter Reuther and David Dubinsky, economist John Kenneth Galbraith, historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. When these legendary leaders spoke, America listened and America responded.

We lost John Kenneth Galbraith last year and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., earlier this year. To the end, these visionaries understood the importance and urgency of ADA's mission. Said John Kenneth Galbraith last year, "I cannot think of any time in my considerable years when we were more needed. Only with renewed and vigorous ADA energy can we turn back from the dire course of current times." To say Ken and Arthur will be missed would be an understatement, but they built ADA into a strong and vibrant organization, and we will pay tribute to their memory by continuing along the trail that they blazed.

ADA was founded at a time when America needed not merely a liberal voice, but a powerful voice demanding social and economic justice for all. Founder Hubert Humphrey set the bar high when he spoke so eloquently on behalf of civil rights during the 1948 Democratic Convention. Ever since, ADA has taken the stands that needed to be taken.

ADA's record stands proud, strong and courageous: the first national organization to oppose the Vietnam War, first to call for the impeachment of Richard Nixon, and first to hold presidential debates among the Democratic candidates in 1975. We spearheaded reform within the Democratic Party. We led the successful opposition to the Haynesworth and Carswell nominations to the Supreme Court. We were instrumental in defining America's commitment to international human rights in language that President Carter first adopted, and which still stands.

Today, ADA continues to fight for the principles of liberty and justice for all. ADA is leading the way through innovative programs like the "Working Families Win" project. Across America we are working directly in neighborhoods to educate and motivate voters to get involved and make a difference on such working family issues the Employee Free Choice Act and raising the federal minimum wage. It is working, and we're going to continue this effective grassroots approach. **(Continued on P. 2)**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . .
A Proud and Patriotic Vision (cont) p. 2
60th Anniversary Convention.....p. 2
Convention Agenda.....p. 3
Registration.....p. 5

***“A Proud and Patriotic Vision” continued from P. 1...*** We know how much damage has been done by the current Administration. We also know that the only way to fully restore America is to fully involve the American people. There is so much to be done. We must end the Iraq war and bring U.S. soldiers home. We’ve got to restore the freedoms this President has taken away by making people afraid. We’ve got to institute universal health care to cover every American, reverse global warming, end our addiction to oil by embracing new and renewable energy supplies, and we’ve got to face the realities of a global economy and give American workers a fair deal in the 21<sup>st</sup> global century. These issues are the centerpiece of my legislative agenda, and it is reassuring to know that ADA will not rest until Congress addresses the issues that are crucial to America’s future.

For 60 years, ADA has fought for the ideals and principles that have kept America as a beacon of light and hope in the world. Often the first voice, but never the lone voice, Americans for Democratic Action has dared to lead, and we have made a difference in the policies of this nation and the lives of the American people. We’re proud of who we are, what we do, and what we stand for. We have great aspirations for the future and you can help us achieve them.

As we raise a toast to celebrate all that we have accomplished; let us also raise our voice to advocate on behalf of all that remains to be done!

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**Join Us For  
Americans for Democratic Action’s  
60<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention**

ADA is proud to celebrate our 60th year of action, education, and liberal leadership. Thank you for your support for ADA as we continue to move forward with renewed vigor and dedication to our causes.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual convention this June. Please use the convention resources available in this issue of “ADA Today” but also feel free to call the national office at 202-785-5980 for help or email us at [sixty@adaction.org](mailto:sixty@adaction.org). You can register for the convention online at [www.adaction.org](http://www.adaction.org).

The 60th Annual ADA National Convention provides us with an opportunity to outline and act upon a truly visionary approach to the future. Members of Congress will be joined by policy experts and academics in discussing ADA’s liberal goals, the emergence and use of new media, the 2008 election landscape, working families issues, organizing, and what lessons from Iraq.

Delegates will be directly involved in shaping ADA’s policy priorities for the upcoming year and in developing the ADA Action Agenda.

The ADA awards banquet will honor the lifetime activism of Peter Yarrow and the workers’ rights leadership of Andy Levin.

Other special activities include a Friday night concert featuring Joe Jencks and Joe Uehlein and the Uehliners as well as a Saturday evening movie screening of documentarian Robert Greenwald’s “Iraq for Sale”.

Don’t miss the chance to celebrate ADA’s 60th and plan for a liberal future. Register today.

# ADA's 2007 Conference and Convention

Gallaudet University  
Kellogg Conference Center  
June 21-24, 2007

## Thursday, June 21

- 3 – 5 p.m.     **Commissions Meet**  
**Social and Domestic Policy**  
Wendy Mink  
Jim Levin  
**Economic, Energy and**  
**Environmental Policy**  
Betty Willhoite  
Georgia Berner  
**Foreign and Military Policy**  
Bill Markus  
Mark Valladares  
**Political and Governmental Policy**  
Bruce Caswell  
William Crotty
- 6 p.m.     **Reception**
- 7 p.m.     **Banquet**  
Peter Yarrow, Winn Newman  
Lifetime Achievement Award  
Helen Thomas, presenting  
Andy Levin, Reuther/Chavez award

## Friday, June 22

- 8:00 a.m.     **Breakfast with Progressive Caucus**  
**Co-Chairs**  
Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)  
Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
- 9:30 a.m.     **Reclaiming the Vision**
- 10:00 a.m.     Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)
- 10:30 –  
11:00 a.m.     **ADA President's Keynote Address**  
Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA)
- 11:00 a.m. –  
noon     **Commissions Meet**
- 12:15 –  
2:00 p.m.     **Newsmaker Lunch**  
Eleanor Clift, journalist

## Friday, June 22 (continued)

- 2:00 –     Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)
- 2:30 p.m.
- 2:30 –     **ADA's Next 60 Years**
- 4:00 p.m.     Jim Bishop
- 3:00 –     **Becoming Your Own Progressive**
- 4:00 p.m.     **Organization**  
(blogs, podcasts, YouTube, Meetups)  
Tom Hughes, Democracy for America  
Diane Shamis, Progressive Democrats of  
America
- 4:00 –     Plenary
- 5:15 p.m.     **The Path to 2008**  
Hans Johnson, moderator  
Bob Moser  
Mark Mellman  
Celinda Lake\*
- 5:30 -     Shuttle to Union Station and Dinner  
(Available to and from Union Station)
- 7:30 p.m.     **Concert** (at Convention site)  
Joe Uehlein and the Uehliners, Joe  
Jencks
- 9:00 p.m.     Social

## Saturday, June 23

- 8:00 a.m.     Breakfast
- An Agenda for Working Families**  
Edgar Romney, Executive Vice  
President, UNITE HERE
- 9:30 –  
11 a.m.     Plenary Panel
- Iraq: Did We Learn the Lessons of**  
**Vietnam**  
John Isaacs, moderator\*  
Sen. John Kerry (D-MA)\*  
Garett Reppenhagen

\* Invited

(Continued on next page)

**ADA 60th Anniversary Convention Agenda...continued**

**Saturday, June 23**

11 – noon Commissions Report

Noon – **Organizing for Change Lunch**  
2 p.m. Working Families Win  
Phila Back  
Jaime Contois

2:00 – Commissions Reports  
3:30 p.m. Platform for Electoral Victory

3:30 – Campaign for ADA  
4 p.m. David Yamada

4:30 – Nominating Committee report  
5:30 p.m. and elections

Evening

Movie and Food (at Convention site)  
“Iraq for Sale”, Robert Greenwald film

**Sunday, June 24**

9:30 – Topical Resolutions  
10 a.m.

10 – Plenary Session  
11 a.m. **You’re Not in Kansas Anymore**  
Thomas Frank, author

11 a.m. – Call to Action  
noon

Noon Convention adjourns/  
National Board meets

**MEMORIES FROM THE 59th ADA CONVENTION IN 2006**

Harvard lecturer Richard Parker and ADA Executive Committee Chair Allen Kukovich discuss the contributions of John Kenneth Galbraith



Reuther/Chavez Awardee  
Fred Azcarate



Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) was joined by ADA President Emeritus Jim Jontz and Rep. Diane Watson (D-CA)



Eleanor Clift honors Helen Thomas as ADA’s Winn Newman awardee



Above, ADA summer interns enjoy a moment with Al Franken

Right, Al Franken presents the Labor Award to AFTRA President John Connolly



# Americans for Democratic Action

## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention Registration

**All-inclusive Delegate\* Registration:**

- Delegate Registration(before June 1st) \$270
  - Regular Delegate Registration \$300
- (Includes convention registration, banquet ticket, Friday breakfast, Newsmaker lunch, Saturday lunch, concert, and movie)

**Policy Commission (delegates choose one):**

- Energy, Economics, Environment
- Foreign and Military Policy
- Politics and Government
- Social and Domestic Policy

\*Delegates are ADA Members who may serve on commissions and vote in general sessions.

**A la Carte:**

- One day Convention Only \$40 - Date\_\_\_\_\_
- Delegate Registration \$85
- Friday Breakfast \$20
- Newsmaker Lunch \$40
- Saturday Lunch \$30
- Banquet-Convention delegates \$125
- Banquet-Guests \$160

Can't attend? Consider sponsoring a student(\$25) or celebrating ADA's 60th Anniversary with a listing in the Convention Program. See below



Peter Yarrow



Andy Levin



Helen Thomas

## Americans for Democratic Action

### 60<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention Banquet

*Tickets and Sponsorships*

**Tickets and Tables:**

- \$5060.....**Host** Table of eight, premier seating, full color page
- \$3560.....**Sponsor** Six tickets, full page in journal
- \$2560.....**Benefactor** Four tickets, half page in journal
- \$1560.....**Patron** Three tickets, half page in journal
- \$760.....**Friend** Two tickets, quarter page in journal
- \$260.....**Contributor** One ticket, business card or listing
- \$160.....**Individual Ticket**

**Dinner Journal:**

- Can't attend? Consider a program ad.
- \$2060.....Center Spread, back cover
  - \$1560.....Full Color Page
  - \$1060.....Full page
  - \$560.....Half page
  - \$260.....Quarter page
  - \$160..... Business Card
  - \$60.....Name listing

Deadline for Program Ad entries is June 1st

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to ADA is enclosed.

Please charge my:     Visa         MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend, but have enclosed a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to ADA.

### **EDITORIAL NOTE:**

The February 2007 edition of ADA Today contained a few errors in the Voting Records. The ADA Position described as Y or N at the top of each page was incorrect, as was the House vote description #3. Please ignore the ADA Positions listed at the top of the House and Senate voting records and refer to the written vote descriptions. For House vote description #3 on page 4 a NO vote was a +. The published (+)s and (-)s are correct as are the LQs.

A corrected version of the 2006 ADA Voting Record can be found online at [www.adaction.org/2006vr.htm](http://www.adaction.org/2006vr.htm) or by calling Don at 202-785-5980.

### **ADA President Emeritus, former U.S. Representative Jim Jontz Dies**

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) mourns the passing of our president emeritus Jim Jontz who lost a valiant battle against cancer on Saturday, April 14th.

Jim made a name for himself as a hard charging activist in his home state of Indiana by taking to the streets by foot and often on bicycle. He had a flair for overcoming the traditional ideological trends, serving 10 years in the Indiana House and 2 years in the Indiana Senate. In 1986 he ran and won election to the U.S. House where he served until 1992.

Jim continued his activism throughout his life as a voice for working families and in support of environmental protection, often bringing labor and trade activists together with the environmentalists.

He served as ADA National President from 1998-2002 and as ADA President Emeritus from 2002 until his death. For the past several years Jim was coordinator of ADA's Working Families Win (WFW) project. The project began in 2004 in an effort to educate candidates for President and Congress and grew to 38 organizers strong in late 2006 by engaging and educating thousands of local activists around the country in support of working family issues as well as in supporting candidates with similar platforms. The project continues today with organizers in 5 states. Read more about Jim at [www.adaction.org/jontz.htm](http://www.adaction.org/jontz.htm).

ADA sends best wishes to Jim's family as well as the legions of Jim's supporters and friends.

Jim asked that memorial contributions be made to the ADA Education Fund to help fund WFW.



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