Two public talks: Tuesday, September 18, 2018

guest speaker – Dan Sullivan,

Director, Saving Communities of Pittsburgh, PA

**1) Land, Money and Privilege-Free Trade** – 4:00 p.m. in Room 103 of Porter Hall on the Ohio University Campus

The progressive movement grew out of the abolitionist movement and approached every social problem by finding the underlying privilege and abolishing it. The biggest privileges were the appropriation of land and natural resources far ahead of actual use for those resources, the private creation of money that would be demanded for taxes, and licensed right-of-way monopolies such as railroad and streetcar lines, water, sewer, electric, etc. Other major privileges included over-extended intellectual-property laws, tariff protections, Today, much of the value people call “capital” is not genuine labor-produced capital at all but is the capitalized value of arbitrary privileges.

Although each of these privileges differs, the underlying dynamic is the same. While maximizing the return to production requires more production within the constraints of efficiency, maximizing the return to privilege requires more interference with production in order to maximize the tribute that producers must pay to privilege holders.

**2) The Myth of Corporate Efficiency** - 7:00 p.m. in Room A of the Athens Community Center on East State Street, Athens

Publicly traded corporations are very efficient users of labor, getting the most product for the lowest payroll, but are inefficient users of land and natural resources. They overcome this through monopoly privileges and by shifting the tax burden onto production and exchange rather than to the value of those privileges.

Under the tax system advocated by most classical liberals and early progressives, and the monetary system advocated by progressives, most of the largest corporations could not compete with smaller, more efficient, family-owned businesses.

Dan Sullivan has been director of Saving Communities ([www.savingcommunities.org](http://www.savingcommunities.org)) since 1990 and president of the Council of Georgist Organizations since 2013. He has been advocating land value tax in an organized way since 1978, has made dozens of studies, and has been instrumental in bringing land value tax shifts to Pittsburgh, Clairton, McKeesport and Duquesne, all in Western Pennsylvania.

He has made studies of cities and boroughs, showing who paid more and who paid less, and, after Passage of land value tax, how construction and renovation compared to non-LVT cities. He has written articles on various aspects of land monopoly, has spoken around the world, and has testified to state legislative and US Congressional committees. He transcribed the works of Henry George for the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation so they could be put online, and has helped plan most of the conferences of the Council of Georgist Organizations, and maintains this website.

Always seeking to rise above the false dichotomy of left vs. right and find the best in both, Sullivan was the head of the Allegheny County Greens in 1990-91 and of the Allegheny County Libertarians in 1998.

*"Two leaders of the Georgist movement in Pittsburgh are Dan Sullivan, western regional director of the Incentive Tax League of Pennsylvania, and Democratic Congressman William J. Coyne. Sullivan has made several studies of the financial impact of higher land taxes on property owners, and speaks at meetings of Pittsburgh neighborhood and business groups to spread the incentive-tax doctrine. Such efforts are crucial. Few people, even among public officials and real estate executives, understand the nature of the tax and its economic ripples."*

*- Gurney Breckenfeld, real estate editor, Fortune, August 8, 1983*

*"Dan Sullivan knows more about tax economics than anyone I know."*

*- Jack Wagner, former Pennsylvania Auditor General*

*"Dan Sullivan is a competent advocate for the taxpaying public."*

*- Former Congressman Bill Coyne*

*"Dan Sullivan has a way of slicing through baloney that a deli manager would envy."*

*- Post-Gazette Columnist Brian O'Neill*

Publications

1. "Why Pittsburgh Real Estate Never Crashes" in Fleeing Vesuvius\*
2. "The Three Slaveries" in Land and Liberty (PDF)
3. "Greens and Libertarians: the Yin and Yang of our Political Future"\*

4. "Transcending Old Alliances" in Green Revolution
5. "Where Was Martin Luther King Heading?"

6. "Common Rights vs. Collective Rights"
7. "Bastiat's Broken Window Error"\*

8. “Orwellian Economics”\*

9. “Solutions in Sweden”\*

10. “Why Cleveland Sinks and Pittsburgh Swims”\*

 (Those marked by an asterick (\*) are available at [www.savingcommunities.org](http://www.savingcommunities.org).)