



Democratic Party of Door County
"Public policy for public good"

"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

September, 2013 Monthly Newsletter

Executive Board:

Garrett Cohn, Chair
(920) 559-2557
gucohn@gmail.com

Bill Perloff, Vice-Chair
(920) 839-9282
wperloff@me.com

Terry Bobbe, Secretary
(920) 825-1369
terry_bobbe@yahoo.com

John Franz, Treasurer
(920) 854-9312
johnfranz1@charter.net

Allin Walker, Past Chair
(920) 493-2912
woodwalk@dcwis.com

Rod Bohn
(920) 743-5510
erbohn@charter.net

Valerie Boyarski
(920) 818-0513
vboyarski@yahoo.com

Sam Carmen
(920) 746-0922
alta2002@aol.com

John Harris
(920) 743-2482
harris1447@yahoo.com

Dean Hoegger
(920) 824-5127
dhoegger@centurytel.net

Mary Horn
(920) 743-0009
mchorn@dishmail.net

Wayne Kudick
(920) 868-2622
wjkudick@charter.net

Ron Maclean
(920) 743-4089
doordemswebguy@gmail.com

Naomi Rowley
(920) 839-2444
nrowley@itol.com

Committee Chairs:

Events:

Mary Horn

Elections:

Allin Walker

Issues and Programs:

Wayne Kudick

Membership:

Bill Perloff

Officers:

Garrett Cohn

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Sep 26 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. See article below.

Sep 29 **Lary Swoboda Memorial Dinner, The Rendevous, Luxemburg**. See article page 2.

OCTOBER

Oct 10 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2013) DPDC members are welcome.

Oct 24 **Fundraiser celebrating Lary Swoboda's life and dedicated service**. This will replace our regular membership meeting. See article page 2.

Digest of Contents

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- **Message from the Chair** dwells on the lies Republicans tell to justify their extremism.

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- **Short changing our children:** Wisconsin cuts state aid to schools - again.
- **Membership matters**

"The penalty good people pay for not being interested in politics, is to be governed by people worse than themselves."
- Plato

September Membership Meeting: How to Influence the "Non-Partisan" Spring Elections

Have you been frustrated to see our "non-partisan" spring elections dominated by conservative candidates?

Are you ready to step up, find progressive candidates and get them elected to town, village, city, county and school boards, as well as county offices like treasurer and clerk?

If so, be sure to attend our September membership meeting where Jered Vogeltanz, our regional representative of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) will provide training in DPW's "Spring Forward" program, geared toward electing progressive candidates in the spring elections.

This will be a real "how to" session with practical strategies to recruit, train and support candidates. These offices can serve as preparation for Assembly and State Senate elections in future years.

The training starts at 7:00 PM at the Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level. Let's hone our campaign skills and have our local officials reflect our progressive values.

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

To reach us: DCDems@me.com, on the web at www.doordems.org, or PO Box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Two Events Honoring Lary Swoboda

Mark your calendars for September 29th and October 24th for two events to celebrate the life and remarkable career of service of Lary Swoboda.

Lary was a lifelong resident of Luxemburg, and was a teacher in the Southern Door school system.

He was elected to the Assembly District 1 (AD1) seat, representing Door and Kewaunee Counties, and served as a Democratic legislator from 1971 to 1994. He was renowned for always having time to listen to his constituents, and for his ability to work across the aisle.

After leaving the legislature, he served as state director of Americorps. He subsequently earned a Ph.D., and became a school administrator.

Lary was Chair of the Kewaunee County Democratic Party for many years, and was truly the "Grand Old Man" of AD1 Democratic politics.

He died unexpectedly November 25, 2012, leaving his wife of 44 years, Jan (Hendricks).

SEPTEMBER 29: LARY SWOBODA MEMORIAL DINNER

Sponsored by the Kewaunee County Democratic Party, the dinner will be held at The Rendezvous, E896 County Rd M, Luxemburg.

Social gathering 5:00 PM, dinner 5:30 PM.

Menu: Family style chicken and pork chops.

Cost \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

RSVP: Janet Wolf (920-487-2891), or Melissa Huizenga (920-388-2353). Checks can be sent to Janet Wolf, N7866 County Trunk D, Algoma, WI 54201.

Speaker: Justin Nickels, 26 year old mayor of Manitowoc. At the time of his election, at age 22, he was one of the youngest mayors in America.



Lary Swoboda

OCTOBER 24: FUNDRAISER CELEBRATING LARY SWOBODA TO WIN BACK THE AD1 SEAT HE HELD SO LONG

Sponsored by the Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee (ADCC), this is the kickoff to win back Lary's AD1 seat. **The event will replace our usual monthly membership meeting**, with the intent that we will assemble to celebrate Lary Swoboda's life and career, and contribute to win back his legislative district for a Democrat.

The event will be held at the Hotel Stebbins, 201 Steele St., Algoma, just over the Door County line, from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. Featured speakers will be Peter Barca, minority leader of the Assembly, and Eric Genrich, Assembly representative from the 90th district, by default, our representative.

The ADCC has targeted the 1st Assembly District as a win-able and is starting early to fund and assist a strong campaign. Let's show our support by attending and participating.

Message from the Chair:

You Don't Have to Wear Glasses to Read Between the Lines

This week we have been bombarded with rhetoric from the Republican leadership regarding the House of Representatives positions on the Affordable Care Act as well as confronting the President on defunding it and its apparent results of closing the federal Government down. "We speak for the American People...it is time for the Senate to listen to us", Speaker Boehner is quoted as saying Friday morning.



Chair Garrett Cohn

The facts are far different. Republicans coming off an election in which they failed to retake the Presidency despite high unemployment and a weak economy, and failed to retake the Senate even though far more Democratic seats than the opposition were at risk.

For the G.O.P. leadership to claims to speak for the voters even though they held the House only through a the combination of gerrymandering and the vagaries of redistricting is in fact a lie. Factually, the Democrats won the popular ballot by 1.4 million votes.

This is not a party that has the right to make statements of speaking for the American voters or make extreme demands on the President.

The G.O.P. is following this quote to a "T"-- "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."*

The upcoming confrontation will likely damage the American economy as well as the Republican brand. I feel this political moment of truth will happen sooner or later. We might as well have it happen now when it will be clearly apparent who and what are the causes.

*Joseph Goebbels, 1935, Reich Minister for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Back to the Basics 2: Immigration**

While our so-called representatives in Congress are trying to bring down the government without being blamed for doing so, still another major issue of our era remains in limbo.

**Estella Lauter**

Last June, I heard an excellent talk by Jose Luis Romero

Hicks, a Mexican lawyer with a strong record in public service and private practice who received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Lawrence University. His presentation clarified many issues for me, among them some very good reasons for the U.S. to reform our immigration policy *now*.

Sr. Romero Hicks began by saying that we have an opportunity to forge a new policy that only comes every 12 years when the Presidents of our two countries assume office within months of each other and set their agendas for the next four (or in Mexico six) years. The new Mexican President, Enrique Pena Nieto, has already secured promising agreements with his government about the directions Mexico will take in the next six years, and he has begun a series of meetings with President Obama that Romero Hicks hopes will lead to a new consciousness of shared North American interests in the world at large.

The reasons Romero Hicks gave for reframing U.S. immigration policies, however, were economic (in marked contrast to the “moral” arguments we often hear in the U.S.), and they were surprisingly beneficial to the U.S. Here are some of the statistics from the talk:

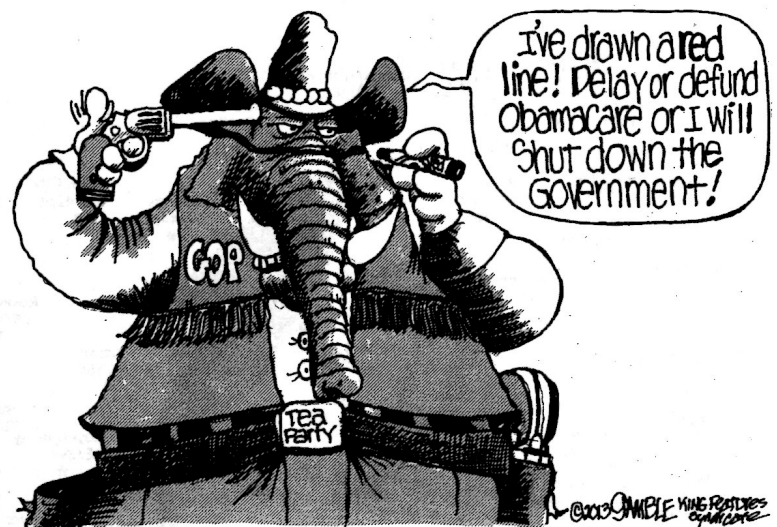
- U.S. –Mexican border municipalities and counties have a population of 13 million people; the ten border states would constitute the world’s 4th largest economy.
- Mexican immigrants (who comprise 30% of all U.S. immigrants) in the last 10 years contributed 4 points of GDP in the U.S. economy.
- 570,000 businesses in the US are owned by a Mexican immigrant, generating over 17 billion dollars in revenue per year.
- In 2012, Mexico-US total trade reached USD \$494 billion; that’s more than USD \$1.3 billion per day. Trade with Mexico is not only bigger than the GDP of Belgium, Poland or Taiwan, but is also highly integrated along a complex and dynamic supply chain. The Mexico-US border has 56 ports of entry. 300,000 vehicle crossings take place every day (including 70,000 trailers).

Soon, the first new railway crossing in over 100 years will start operations.

- Over the 19 years of NAFTA, trade between Mexico and the U.S. has grown six-fold (10% annually, a rate that exceeds that of the U.S. trade with the rest of the world (7%). Mexican exports to the U.S. have grown seven-fold, surpassing \$277 billion in 2012, which maintained Mexico’s position as the U.S.’s third largest supplier. U.S. sales to Mexico increased by 420%; in 2012 they surpassed \$216 billion, making Mexico the second largest market for U.S. products. The US content of Mexican exports to the US is estimated at around 40%.

Given these facts, it is surprising—perhaps even shocking—that the American public discussion of relationships with Mexico is focused so exclusively on border crossings, fences, illegal employment practices, and citizenship for children of immigrants who were born here (not to mention guns and drugs, as if we had no responsibility for those). Why are U.S. Representatives not thinking more creatively about the economic well-being of both nations?

In discussion after his presentation, Sr. Romero Hicks made a final point that I think should be crucial in our public discussion of immigration: at present, our fierce border patrol actually forces Mexican workers to stay in the U.S. as either legal or illegal immigrants instead of returning home when a job is done. We have created a system of “forced immigration” (with built-in problems of illegal crossings and employment, separated families, disputed citizenship and benefits) instead of a fluid system based on economic realities.



ED GAMBLE, THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION, KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

Thanks to USA Today

Wisconsin's School Funding Cuts Among the Nation's Deepest

[Editor's note: The following is excerpted from the Wisconsin Budget Project Blog, published by the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families: www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org]

"Wisconsin's cuts to education are the 7th largest in the country ... These cuts deepened the recession, slowed the recovery, and have the potential to make Wisconsin less prosperous in the future..."

"Wisconsin has cut state investment in K-12 schools by 15.3% since 2008, a deeper cut than 43 other states, according to a report released by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a non-partisan policy research organization..."

"When cuts in state aid for education are measured in dollar amounts rather than percentage terms, Wisconsin's cuts to education since the recession rank second in the nation, trailing only Alabama's cuts. In 2014, Wisconsin will spend \$1,038 less per student in state aid for K-12 education than it did in 2008, after adjusting for inflation."

"Most states are spending less on education than they did at the time of the recession, but there are some notable exceptions. Two states that border Wisconsin maintained or increased investment in K-12 education between 2008 and 2014: Minnesota, which held state spending on

education constant over this period, and Iowa, which invests \$550 more per student in state aid for education now than it did in 2008.

"Cuts to education have consequences for students and classrooms. One effect of shrinking resources is a slow decline in the number of teachers who are educating Wisconsin's future workforce. Between 2008 and 2013, the number of teachers in Wisconsin public schools fell by nearly 2,100 a reduction of 3.5% in the teacher workforce, according to the state Department of Public Instruction. The result: crowded classrooms and sub-optimal learning conditions for students."

"State revenues have begun to recover from the beating they took during the recession, but Wisconsin has only reinvested a small fraction of the education funding that was cut during the downturn. Instead, policymakers have diverted revenues that could have been invested in education to implement an income tax cut that mainly benefits the highest earners."

"At a time when the nation is trying to produce workers with the skills to master new technologies and adapt to the complexities of a global economy, Wisconsin should be investing more — not less — to ensure our kids get a strong education. These deep cuts to education have undermined our ability to educate Wisconsin's children and there could be consequences for Wisconsin's economy down the road."

Membership Matters

The quote from Plato on page 1 brings to mind some who govern us: Scott Walker, Frank Lasee, Garey Bies, Reid Ribble, and climate change denier, Ron Johnson. These are five good reasons

to join (or renew membership in) the Democratic Party of Door County.

Voting is just the beginning. To have a real impact, join and volunteer. Thank you!



or Renew

Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

This is a Cell Phone Home Phone

Email _____

County: **DOOR**

Sign me up for:

- \$10 Senior/student/limited income
- \$20 Two seniors/students/limited incomes
- \$25 Individual general membership
- \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)
- \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships)
- \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)

I would also like to join:

- American Indian Caucus
- Black Caucus
- Latino/Hispanic Caucus
- LGTB Caucus
- Rural Caucus
- Veterans' Caucus
- Women's Caucus

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P.O. Box 863
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235