



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

April, 2013 Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

APRIL

Apr 25 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. See article below.

MAY

May 9 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library (**note location**), 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current (2013) DPDC members are welcome.**

May 23 **4th Annual Thomas Paine dinner and "Gray Donkey" silent auction.** See article page 4.

JUNE

Jun 7-8 **Democratic Party of Wisconsin Convention, Oconomowoc.** See article page 4

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- **Call to the DPW 2013 Convention**

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- **Wayne Kudick's** call to action on extending Family Care to NE WI.

- **Message from the Chair.** Chair Cohn gives us a good reason to be hot before spring arrives.

Need to renew DPDC membership?

It is easy to do, so do it while it is fresh in your mind. Just fill out the form on the bottom of page 5, and send it to our PO Box shown on the form. THANK YOU!!

April 25th Meeting to Examine Environmental Effects and the Politics of CAFO's

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) are a reality for Northeast Wisconsin, with 16 such "farms" already in Kewaunee County. These industrial operations house more than 1000 animals in a small space, and generate many millions of gallons of liquid manure that has contaminated surface and ground water. Now CAFO's propose spreading liquid manure by center pivot spray irrigation, risking pollution of the air downwind.

At our April 25th membership meeting, Lynn Utesch and others from "Kewaunee Cares", a working committee of the Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin, will discuss the effects on surface water, groundwater, and air pollution of CAFO's, and the complex political environment in which these CAFO's are springing up.

When will CAFO's invade Door County? There is currently only one, but more will surely follow and we must be prepared. Come to the April 25th meeting to get the facts about CAFO's and how they differ from the traditional family farm.

The meeting will be at the Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, at 7:00 PM .



Lynn Utesch

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

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Stay the Course!**

After an election like the one this spring*, where one of our candidates, who relied on name recognition and e-mail, was re-elected, and the other, who relied on us, was not, it is easy to become discouraged, to play the blame game, or to swear-off politics. I hope to convince you not to fall into these traps.

**Estella Lauter**

This is precisely the moment when we need more active members to help refine our strategy, not dissidents going off in different directions. Face it: everyone in Wisconsin, except fanatical Republicans, wants to be seen as an Independent. The Democratic Party of Wisconsin enrolls less than 1% of the population! But the state and federal legislatures are organized along two-party lines. And the battles for justice, equality and sustainability that we must win for our children will not be won by individuals. Those are the hard facts of our political situation.

But here are some other facts. In the 2004 election, it was hard for Door County Dems to muster 33% for our Assembly candidate. In 2006, we moved that percentage up more than 10 points. In 2008 and 2010, we came within a few hundred votes of electing Dick Skare, and we came close to that record in 2012 with a new candidate, Pat Veese, while also supporting candidates for the Senate, House and Presidency.

We have come a long way since 2004. In 2006, Door County voted for Rep. Steve Kagen, Gov. Doyle, Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Sen. Herb Kohl and Sec. of State Doug LaFollette; in 2008 for Kagen and President Barack Obama; in 2012 for Obama and Sen. Tammy Baldwin. Even in the disappointing 2010 election, our totals for Tom Barrett were higher than the state average, as was the case in the recent election for Supreme Court. This is the time to step up our pace, not to give in.

What has changed since 2004? Of course it helps to have "new blood" in the form of retirees coming to the county from more liberal constituencies, but that alone would have made little difference if there had been no viable organization.

Programs at our monthly membership meeting attract 25-75 people. We have at least three regular fundraising events a year (the famous winter Pie Party, the Tom Paine Dinner in May, a summer picnic, and on occasion, a fall Booyah contest). Membership has grown to more than 280 in 2012. We have a year-round office (62 S. Third Ave., Sturgeon Bay), equipped with computers, internet access and phones (920-964-2727).

We have gone from a core of 30 volunteers in 2006 to over 300 people working on a single election in 2012. We have a monthly newsletter for members, an active web site, accounts on Facebook and Twitter, and a weekly message from the Chair that goes to an extended list of members and friends.

The DPDC is not only viable but active, vibrant and often fun. Members of our Board regularly attend meetings of the County Chairs Association, the 8th Congressional District Executive Board, the Platform and resolutions Committee, the Administrative Committee of the state Party, and of course any member may attend the district and state conventions.

Wherever we go, we find that our organization measures up to those from much larger constituencies.

Those who have worked closely with the DPDC since 2004 have no doubt that the Voter Activation Network (VAN) that Howard Dean began as Chair of the Democratic National Committee changed the game for us by making it possible to contact people who are likely to vote Democratic and sorting out those who will never see things our way.

Although we have developed our own ideas of what works best in Door County through trial and error, we have also learned a lot from the campaign workers who have been assigned to our candidates and from DPW staff members in Madison.

Yes, it is difficult to reach potential voters who have internalized a laissez-faire approach to democracy. They can be crabby when they are awakened from their long slumber. But what choice do we have?

Let's look at the big picture. Wisconsin is definitely in trouble, and we have a huge problem in the U.S. House, but long-term demographics are on our side; economic facts are on our side; the awful realities of climate change are on our side; and what we have learned from previous elections is on our side--IF we keep moving forward.

(continued on page 3)

Stay the Course, Continued from Page 2

Since 2010, the Democratic Party has been up against the force of big money unleashed by the US Supreme Court. We need to give our leaders time to figure out how to counter this force, but we also need more than ever to be part of the decision-making process. The upcoming strategic planning sessions in June (more about this in the next newsletter) will help develop the plan for doing this. What is clear, is that we need to redouble our

efforts to change the political landscape. Don't give in to discouragement, but get angry and work harder. We shall prevail!

* The official votes for Supreme Court, by ward, will be published by the Government Accountability Board on Tuesday, April 23rd. A more detailed analysis of these results will be published in the May newsletter.

8th CD Democrats Convention Upbeat

The 8th Congressional District Democratic Party, to which Door Dems automatically belong, held its 2013 convention Saturday, April 13th. Hosted by the Marinette Democratic Party, more than 70 delegates, alternates and guests participated.

Dottie LeClair from Outagamie County was re-elected Chair for 2013-15.

The tee-shirts shown below, offered by the Marinette Democratic Party were popular with the attendees.

Speeches by elected officials and DPW Chair, Mike Tate, energized the crowd.

Ten resolutions were culled from the 34 submitted to be forwarded to the DPW Platform and Resolutions Committee at the DPW Convention,



Chair, Dottie LeClair

June 8th. The subjects of the ten resolutions, two of which come from Door Dems, are:

- Protecting the Environment and Community Ownership of Resources.
- Gun Control.
- Promoting Freedom of Health Care Decisions including Contraception.
- Increased Focus on Mental Health Care.
- Full Disclosure of Health Care Costs.
- Extending Social Security Tax to all Earned Income.
- Support the Postal Service Protection Act (H.R. 630 and S.B. 316).
- Opposition to the Recently Passed Mining Bill.
- Reinstating Public Employee Unions and Strengthening Private Employee Unions.
- Preserving Voting Rights Against Attempts at Suppressing the vote.



John Nichols Featured at Our 4th Annual Thomas Paine Dinner and “Gray Donkey” Silent Auction May 23rd

Get ready for a fun and stimulating evening at our 4th Annual Thomas Paine dinner and “gray donkey” (don’t think “white elephant”) silent auction.

The date is Thursday, May 23rd; the place is beautiful Bjorklunden, just south of Baileys Harbor; the festivities begin at 5:30 PM with a cash bar and a first look at the many desirable silent auction items.

A beautiful buffet dinner and dessert, prepared by the Cornerstone Pub, will be served at 6:30. This will be followed by a brief tribute to Thomas Paine, a true progressive in revolutionary times, and our guest speaker, the reknowned **John Nichols**.



Nichols writes about politics for *The Nation* magazine as its Washington correspondent. He is a contributing writer for *The Progressive* and *In These Times* and the associate editor of the *Capital Times*, a daily newspaper in Madison. His articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and dozens of other newspapers.

He is the author of several books, including a biography of Dick Cheney: *Dick: the Man Who is President*. An engaging and passionate speaker, he will undoubtedly provide the high point of the evening.

The festivities will close with final bids for the silent auction.

The cost for all this: \$25 per person. **PLEASE** RSVP to **Francha Barnard** (fbarnard@newwis.com or 839-2829) so we can be sure to have enough food.

MAP TO BJORKLUNDEN 7590 Boynton Lane Baileys Harbor, WI 839-2216



Please consider contributing new or **gently**-used items for the “gray donkey” auction. Items can be brought to the Party office at 62 S. 3rd Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Thursdays from 12:00-5:00 PM. If you need to have items picked up, contact **Barb Perloff** (wperloff@me.com or 839-9282) to arrange pickup.

Be a Delegate to the DPW Convention in Oconomowoc June 7-8

The State Democratic Party 2013 convention will be held June 7-8 at the Olympia Resort and Convention Center, 1350 Royale Mile Rd, Oconomowoc, WI.

This is always an exciting event with speeches from key party leaders, great networking, meeting old and new friends. The Door Dems can send up to 28 delegates, 28 alternates, and an unlimited number of guests. So, there is plenty of opportunity to attend.

For more information about the convention and early registration, check out the DPW website: <http://www.wisdems.org/events/convention>. Then click on the “Events” tab.

If you would like to be a delegate, you need do three things in addition to registering:

1. Contact DPDC Chair, Garrett Cohn (559-2557 or gucohn@gmail.com) **before** Friday May 17th and let him know you would like to serve as a delegate.
2. Be sure that your party dues are up to date before Friday May 24th. If you are in doubt, contact Bill Perloff (wperloff@me.com or 839-9282).
3. Reserve a room at the Olympia Resort. Call 1-800-558-9573.

Wayne Kudick:

The Fate of Family Care for N.E. Wisconsin Up To Joint Finance Committee

Family Care (FC) is a state-run program for providing comprehensive individualized care to the elderly with chronic illness, and vulnerable adults with developmental and physical disabilities. Using a managed care model, the program seeks to optimize the individual's independence, helping people stay in their homes rather than institutions.



Wayne Kudick

Remarkably, the program not only optimizes outcomes but is much less expensive than just moving the frail elderly into institutional settings.

Unfortunately, FC is offered in only 57 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, despite the fact that all counties' residents pay the taxes that support the FC program.

Seven NE Wisconsin counties, including Door, are among those **not** receiving FC. The State budget proposed by the Governor does not extend FC to any counties beyond the original 57.

A call for action to Door County Democrats:

The State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee is in control of reversing Governor Walker's decision, and extending Family Care implementation to the seven Counties of N.E. Wisconsin. Given that by 2030 Door County will have 48% of its population over 65 and that we now pay taxes for this program for citizens in 57 other counties....please contact the following Joint Finance Committee members to urge authorization of implementation to N.E. Wisconsin in this biennium. Key contacts are:

Senator John Nygren, Co Chair: (District #30, Marinette) Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov, 888-534-0089,

Representative John Klenke, Member: (Assembly District #88, Green Bay) Rep.Klenke@legis.wi.gov, 888-534-0088.

For more information, please see: "Family Care expansion (Still) Stalled" Peninsula Pulse, March 15, 2013 (<http://www.ppulse.com/Articles-Headlines-c-2013-03-14-107110.114136-Family-Care-Expansion-Still-Stalled.html>)

Questions / comments: contact Wayne Kudick, DPDC Issues and Programs Committee Chair. wjkudick@charter.net .

Message from the Chair:

From Where I Sit

Spring is approaching but it still feels like January! Some days the warmth of spring is just an idea. Heat has increased, though, since the release of the Governor's budget. As an example, the



Republican co-chairs of the Joint Finance Committee scheduled **four** public listening opportunities for Wisconsin voters in areas representing just 2% of the state's population. **That is the fewest number of hearings and voter exposure in almost thirty years. If that doesn't make you hot....**Hopefully, by next month we will experience the warmth of a real springtime.

<p>or Renew</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!</p>	
<p>Name(s) _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>City/State _____</p> <p>Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>This is a <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>County: DOOR</p>	<p>Sign me up for:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior/student/limited income</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Two seniors/students/limited incomes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual general membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)</p> <p>I would also like to join:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Indian Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caucus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> LGTB Caucus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rural Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans' Caucus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Women's Caucus</p> <p>Return to: Democratic Party of Door County P.O. Box 863 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235</p>