



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## July, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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## Barca to Speak at Picnic

### Come One, Come All

to the Door Dems Annual picnic on Thursday July 26<sup>th</sup> at Sawyer Park, (at west end of Oregon Street Bridge) from 5:00 - 7:30 PM. A fun and stimulating evening is planned. **Admission is \$5 per person and a side dish or dessert to pass per family. No charge for children 10 and under.** We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and soda.

The featured speaker is **Peter Barca**, Assembly Representative from the SE corner of the state, and Assembly minority leader. Representative Barca has had a distinguished career in public service.

A lifelong resident of Kenosha, he holds an undergraduate degree from UW - Milwaukee, and a Master's Degree in public and educational administration from UW - Madison.

He began his career as a teacher of emotionally disturbed children, before entering politics in 1985 and being elected to the Assembly. He served there until 1993 when he won a special election to the US Congress.

Following the 1994 election, when he lost the congressional seat, Mr. Barca served as midwest regional administrator of the Small Business Administration, and national ombudsman for the SBA.

He subsequently became VP, and then president of an international business consulting firm.

In 2008 he returned to politics and was elected to the Assembly where he served as Majority Caucus Chair.



**Rep. Barca**

In the 2009-10 Legislative session he led the way in passing over 50 bills facilitating the growth of small businesses in WI.

Despite the Republican "tsunami" in 2010, Rep. Barca was re-elected in a landslide.

In the infamous 2011 legislative session Rep. Barca played a prominent role in protesting the Walker legislative juggernaut and the violations of the WI open meeting laws.

Mr. Barca will provide us with an inside look at the current legislative scene, and prospects for the upcoming elections. He will speak at about 6:00 - 6:30.

First Assembly district candidates Arnie Johnsrud and Pat Veesser have been invited to make short presentations. A representative of 8<sup>th</sup> congressional district candidate Jamie Wall will attend and answer questions about Jamie's campaign.

## Upcoming Events

### JULY

Jul 26 **DPDC Annual Picnic**, Sawyer Park Pavilion, 5:00 - 7:30 PM. Rep. Peter Barca is the speaker. See article, page 1 for details.

Jul 28 **Carlsville Days Parade**. Meet at Schopf's Dairy on Cty Rd I 9:30 AM

### AUGUST

Aug 9 **Open Discussion Forum**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., lower level, 4:30-6:00 PM.

Aug 9 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library (**note location**), 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

Aug 11 **Shanty Days Parade**, Algoma. Contact our intern, Elizabeth at 920-495-5666 for details.

Aug 18 **Washington Island Parade**. Contact our intern, Elizabeth at 920-495-5666 for details

Aug 19 **Event for Young Adults and Young Families**, Woodwalk Gallery, 6746 County Rd G, Egg Harbor, see article below.

Aug 23 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA

## Event for Young Adults and Young Families

Hi- I'm Elizabeth Natwick the Summer Intern for DPDC. My projects include working on parades and updating our township winning percentage numbers but, most importantly, a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) event for young adults and families.

I need lots of help making this event a success.... The date will be late Sunday afternoon, August 19 and it will be picnic style on the front porch and lawn at Woodwalk Gallery South of Egg Harbor.

We are recruiting bands and speakers which is why I need help... I have some great contacts but need help with follow-up and scheduling. Could you help for the next couple of weeks? Please email me at [eanatwick@gmail.com](mailto:eanatwick@gmail.com). Even if you cannot help, please plan to attend!

## Digest of Contents

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## Message From the Chair

### Election Planning

At the last Executive Board meeting important strategy decisions were made that will guide our efforts to win in November.

Our overall theme, including our 14 home-made 4x8 road signs will be **OBAMA THEN, OBAMA NOW 2012.**



**Chair Allin Walker**

The Board feels that if the President wins, so will Tammy Baldwin for U.S. Senate; Jamie Wall for 8<sup>th</sup> CD Congress and either Arnie Johnsrud or Pat Veesser for State Assembly. Our focus will be clearer after the August 14<sup>th</sup> Primary but until then with help from our summer intern Elizabeth and our Organizing for America staff person Amber, we have begun to organize township support groups and GOTV events.

Most important is the July 26 picnic and the August 19 young people and young families rally. We have had excellent turnouts at 3 of the 4 parades so far, there are 4 more yet to come.

So, it is a busy time and a fun time. We are proud of our accomplishments and excited about our wonderful candidates. When you get a call asking you to help, please say YES.

**My take on it, by Estella Lauter:****Shaking the Dirt Off the Donkey and Stepping Out of the Well**

The following essay is a short version of the talk I gave at the June meeting of the DPDC about what I gleaned from the statewide Convention about “what’s next.”



I began the talk with the folk story told by **Estella Lauter** Gwen Moore about the donkey who couldn’t get out of the well and was taken for dead. The people decided to bury him and began to throw dirt into the well. But the donkey shook it off and stepped up onto the dirt until he stepped out of the well.

Citizens United is a deep well. The Supreme Court keeps trying to bury the donkey through its Montana decision. Mike Tate and others reminded us at the Convention that it took Fighting Bob LaFollette a decade to build the Progressive movement against the big money interests a hundred years ago. We are stubborn like donkeys and feisty like badgers, and in the words of my favorite MLK quote: “the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.”

**Step number one**, stated best by Penny Bernard Schaber from Appleton, involves asserting our identity in public ways—not just among ourselves. Republicans have so completely distorted our “brand” that WI citizens could not recognize it in the recall election.

The sign that made me angriest was the one that said Walker is for all the people of Wisconsin, “not the spoiled few”! He didn’t mean the super rich; he meant anyone who has a job with benefits or a pension!

Democrats are NOT the party of the “spoiled few.” We built and paid for this country with our labor, talent, courage and taxes, and we must not let it be ruled by Republican oligarchs. In the eight years since I began to attend the state Convention, I have never seen such consistency in the messages about who we are, what we value, and what we plan to do, so I am going to put what I heard in my own words here, with some key phrases in italics.

**Who we are:**

1. *Workers of all kinds*, public and private; of all races and ethnicities; unionized or not; *white collar, blue collar, pink collar*; people who work with our bodies and our minds; when others who are not so fortunate are in need, we give them *a hand up*. We believe

that if the richest country in the world cannot create jobs that meet its people’s basic needs for food, shelter, a safe environment, education, health care, transportation and communication, something is terribly wrong with our ethics.

2. *Families of all kinds*, traditional and non-traditional; gay and straight; nuclear and extended; usually with some members who cannot take care of themselves because they are too young, too old or too infirm, so we have to find ways to meet those needs respectfully. This is a moral issue that defines our national character, as Tammy Baldwin said.
3. *Individuals* who differ from each other in abilities, talents, preferences, but *who all deserve an equal chance* in “the pursuit of happiness.” We do not believe that it is wise to adopt an “every man for himself” or “dog eat dog” approach to citizenship in our society.
4. The best way to meet the basic needs of different people respectfully is through *public policy for public good (not private gain or corporate greed)*. Thus we believe that *the commons should be held in public trust and paid for with taxes on all citizens as they are able to pay*. While those who can pay for private services may do so, no one should be denied the fulfillment of basic human needs in a developed country because of inability to pay. As Mahlon Mitchell said: *We will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few*.
5. We believe that it is possible for American citizens to govern ourselves well and *to levy fair taxes for the public good; taxes are the dues we pay for a civil society; they are also an investment we make in a good society*. We believe in government by means of laws passed in a system of checks and balances without undue influence from any one sector of the society (religion was the feared sector at the time the Constitution was written, but now the financial sector is problematic as well).
6. We believe that the US has a role to play in the world because of our size, our wealth and our history, but the world will be better served if we *play that role democratically* as one of many responsible nations! We do not want to spend all of our resources on military power.

Continued on page 4

## Shaking Off the Dirt, continued from page 3

**What we value (not in order of importance):**

1. *Equality* of women and men, of people with different backgrounds, abilities and preferences to the extent that equal opportunities can be found, especially in relationship to work.
2. *The same Justice for everyone* regardless of money, social status, background.
3. *Safety and sustainability in our environment and commons.*
4. *Morality in government, business and conduct in the public square* rather than what people do in the privacy of their homes.
5. *Freedom* of speech and the press, freedom from religious pressures, freedom *with responsibility toward others.*
6. *Decency* in public life; truth in advertising; ethical behavior toward all citizens and workers (*a Main Street ethical code* that says when someone falls down in the street, you help them up).

**What we plan to do:**

1. Establish an *affordable health care* system that is responsive to the needs of women and children.
2. *Defend Social Security* (we have proposed reasonable changes in our Resolutions) and *extend Medicare to all citizens.*
3. Work toward *clean energy* to reduce the impact of carbon on the atmosphere and to reduce pollution on earth and in our water sources.
4. Support *public education* as the best means of achieving equality and justice not to mention filling the 300,000 jobs that require skills we don't have. Dems on the ground are highly skeptical about teaching to tests and about the transfer of public funds to private schools.
5. Support the *universal human rights* here and abroad.
6. *Create jobs to repair our public infrastructure* (roads, bridges, public works) while we are waiting for our educational system to catch up with current needs and while we are working out new ways to solve social and environmental problems.

**Step number two:** We actually have a *solid positive narrative* for the national election. Obama inherited the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Since he took office, the lost trillions have been replaced, the auto industry is revived, manufacturing and jobs are coming back to the US,

the military has withdrawn from Iraq, the war in Afghanistan is ending, and there is NO reason to go back to the policies that created the financial crisis (deregulation, tax cuts for the super rich, concentration of power in the hands of the 1%, etc.).

Public workers are NOT the problem; unions are NOT the problem. SS and Medicare are NOT the reasons why the economy failed. Republicans have driven a wedge between public workers and small businesses, teachers and parents, unions and management to divert attention from their responsibility for the economic mess we are in.

*We also have an admirable developing narrative in Wisconsin about people power as opposed to money power and Party power.* After all that money was spent by Republican donors, the Walker/Kleefisch ticket improved its numbers by only one percent over 2010!

**Step number three,** given the fact that we have virtually no control of the media in WI, is to be more creative in getting our message out. We can't wait for candidates after the primary to "give" us a message. *We know what we want and we need not be reticent to say it. We have to be pro-active if we want democracy to continue.*

For example, in Madison during the protests and the recall process, an ad hoc community of singers formed around one man in the Capitol to sing songs that people found relevant to the situation at hand.

One woman, by herself on the street in Sister Bay, collected several hundred signatures for the recall. A sign on Rte. 57 said "Shame on the GOP." Republicans for the recall put an ad in the Pulse. We have 270 party members in the county—the most in decades, perhaps ever. We can count on c. 6000 votes, but we need c. 2000 more people to vote for our values!

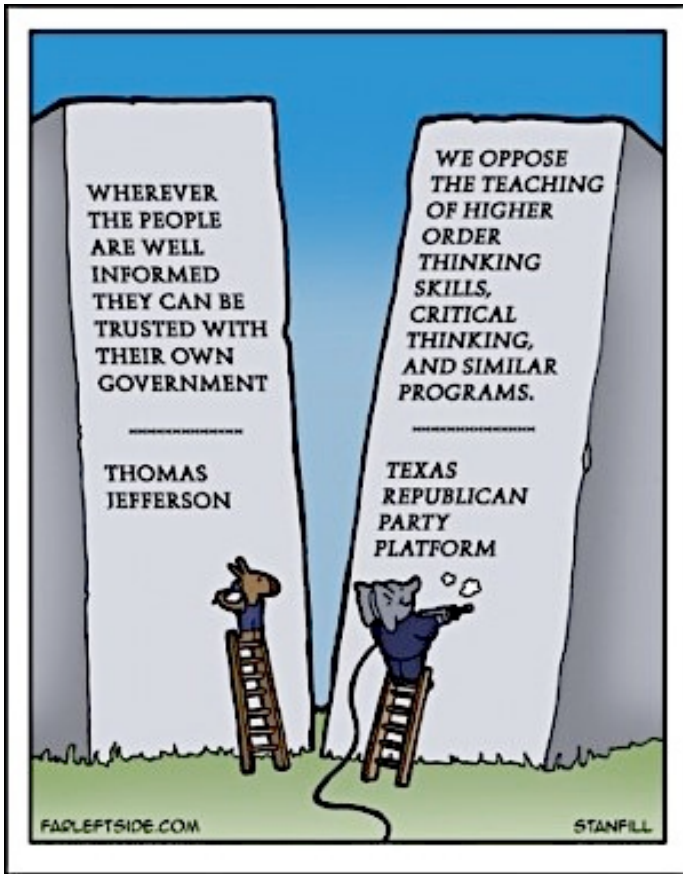
This is no time to languish at the bottom of the proverbial well! News of the death of the Democratic Party has been greatly exaggerated. Give some creative thought to what you can do in the next three months to help that donkey **shake off the dirt and step up.**

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[Editor's note:]

Past Co-Chair Lauter has "thrown down the gauntlet" to challenge us all to be proactive in conveying our message to our fellow voters. Come to our meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month (this month at Sawyer Park) to help formulate and guide our plans.

## Texas GOP Opposes Critical Thinking. Is Wisconsin Next?



No, the cartoon is not a joke. According to Scepticblog, the platform of the Texas Republican Party includes the following statement:

"Knowledge-Based Education - We oppose the teaching of Higher Order Thinking Skills ..., critical thinking skills and similar programs that ... have the purpose of challenging the student's fixed beliefs and undermining parental authority." ([www.scepticblog.org/2012/07/18/its-official-texas-gop-bans-critical-thinking/](http://www.scepticblog.org/2012/07/18/its-official-texas-gop-bans-critical-thinking/))

The platform of the Republican Party of Wisconsin states that: "We believe public schools should develop curriculum which is content rich, fact-based and encourages critical thinking."

This contrasts sharply with their actions, including resolutions to eliminate state funding for all 4K programs, giving school boards the right to have "intelligent design" taught in their districts, and the recent Republican created legislation to limit sex education content to already discredited abstinence-only programs.

Will they be emboldened by Texas' GOP decision to "tell it like it is", and strike a blow for ignorance? Stay tuned for further legislative attempts to undermine public education.

## Harvey Kaye: Re-Re-Elect FDR from 1936

[What follows are excerpts from a stunning editorial in the Huffington Post - Politics by Professor Harvey Kaye (well known to us as an expert on Thomas Paine). The full text is at [www.huffingtonpost.com/harvey-j-kaye/fdr-elections-2012\\_b\\_1651037.html?](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/harvey-j-kaye/fdr-elections-2012_b_1651037.html?)]

It's time we elected Franklin Delano Roosevelt to a fifth term as president. Specifically, we need to re-re-elect the Roosevelt of 1936.

Accepting his party's nomination that June for a second term, Franklin Roosevelt delivered the most radical speech ever given by an American president. Comparing the corporate elite of the 1930s to the royalists of 1776, he ... [said] "These economic royalists complain that we seek to overthrow the institutions of America. What they really complain of is that we seek to take away their power." Which, he confessed, was exactly what he and the party he led intended to do. ...

In 1936 Roosevelt confronted both corporate-rich Liberty Leaguers and pandering demagogues like Father Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith, all of whom cloaked themselves in real and verbal patriotic bunting. Roosevelt damned them for it: "In their blindness they forget what the Flag and Constitution stand for. Now, as always, they stand for democracy, not tyranny; for freedom, not

subjection; and against a dictatorship by mob rule and the over-privileged alike." ...

Attend to what he said -- because post-1936, Roosevelt and his fellow citizens made good on a tremendous percent of his promises and a more equitable, democratic, stronger, freer and more resilient America was the result. ...

Then, and in the decades that followed, Americans rejected reaction and demagoguery and carried out a political revolution.

We must do no less in 2012. ...

Despite fierce conservative and corporate opposition, Roosevelt and his fellow Americans were well on the way to remaking America. They were subjecting big business and the banks to public account, empowering the federal government to address the needs of working people, establishing a social security system, organizing labor unions, improving the nation's public infrastructure and environment, refashioning popular culture, and imbuing themselves with fresh democratic convictions, hopes, and aspirations for the struggles to come. ...

Let's go with hope and determination, and start by metaphorically re-re-electing FDR of 1936.

Make 2012 the new 1936!

## Stay a Member, Get a Member

Our 273 members during 2012 is the largest number ever, and makes us the largest County Democratic Party per capita in Wisconsin.

This is great news, but should not prompt complacency, because membership is so important to making and keeping Door County "blue". So that is why we are emphasizing rejoining the Door Dems when your membership expires, **and** getting a friend or family member to join as well.

**Why is membership so important?** We hardly need to remind Democrats how important the upcoming presidential, senatorial, congressional and state assembly elections are. It is not unrealistic to think that the survival of the middle class may be at stake.

Certainly one can volunteer and be committed to electing Democratic candidates without being a member of the Democratic Party. Indeed, many folks say, "I've been a Democrat for many years, always voted Democratic, but just never joined the Party."

Well, there are several benefits to joining that make it worthwhile not only to rejoin, but to encourage friends and family to join too.

First, you will find yourself surrounded by interesting, committed, progressive and stimulating people who share many of your basic values. Do we agree on everything? Of course not; we're Democrats. But that's half the fun.

Second, the best way to influence the direction of the Party and its candidates is from within. Through serving as a County Party officer or Board member, or delegate to CD, State, and even National Conventions, you can help set priorities.

Third you can continue to receive this newsletter as well as "Allin's Notes", and other informative communiques from Door Dems.

Fourth, your membership dues are really important to us. Here are some details. Your County Party keeps 45% of your dues. The 8<sup>th</sup> CD receives 2% and the State Party gets 53%.

Our portion of the dues, along with fundraising, help to support our activities, such as maintaining a full-time office and mobilizing for the upcoming campaigns.

During elections we try to raise enough money to also contribute directly to candidate campaigns. By law, we can give more than an individual so our members can effectively contribute two ways: as individuals and as part of the County Party.

So, most importantly, members have the opportunity to influence elections way beyond a single vote at the polls.

Yes, there are lots of good reasons to join or renew, and to encourage others to do so as well. It's easy to do. Just print the form below and send it to our PO Box (shown on form).

If you renew before your membership expiration date, we will simply extend your membership for 12 months from the current expiration date. So you can renew early, while it is fresh in your mind. Thank you for renewing, and thank you for encouraging others to join. Don't forget that joining the Democratic Party of Door County also automatically conveys membership in the Democratic Party of WI as well.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>or Renew</b>
<b>Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!</b>	
Name(s)	_____
Address	_____
City/State	_____
Zip	_____
Phone	_____
This is a <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone	
Email	_____
County: <b>DOOR</b>	

**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

Return to: **Democratic Party of Door County**  
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