



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

March, 2013 Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

APRIL

- Apr 2 **Election Day. Polls are open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Vote for Ed Fallone for WI Sureme Court, Tony Evers for State Superintendent of Public instruction.**
- Apr 11 **DPDC Executive Board meeting, Sturgeon Bay Library (note location), 107 S. 4th Ave., 7:00-8:30 PM. Current (2013) DPDC members are welcome.**
- Apr 25 **DPDC monthly membership meeting, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA.**

Digest of Contents

Page 2:

- **Message from the Chair.** Chair Cohn describes the emerging effort to improve th 8th CD electoral performance.
- **Call to the 8th CD Democratic Convention, April 13, 2013** in Marinette.

Page 3: March meeting report.

Ed Fallone was the featured speaker, but we also heard from Eric Genrich and Jered Vogeltanz.

Page 4: Estella Lauter discusses the many "warts" in the Governor's budget.

Page 5:

- **Lauter named DC Poet Laureate.**
- **Membership Matters.**

VOTE!

Tuesday, April 2

It seems as if every election we say, "this is a really important election". But the fact is, the Supreme Court election is really important. Why so? Many decisions to be made by the Supreme Court in the near future will have a profound impact on all of us. A few examples:

1. The gerrymandered legislative districts have disenfranchised many voters, and given Republicans control of the legislature despite receiving a minority of the votes. State court suits are pending.
2. The constitutionality of Act 10's "union busting" is wending its way to the Court.
3. The photo ID law, seeking to make it harder for groups that frequently vote Democratic to be able to vote, is on hold, but still in the court system.

So, vote for **Ed Fallone** to bring civility to a contentious court, and independence to a court "bought and paid for" by conservative special interests.

Additionally, it is important to re-elect Tony Evers as Superintendent of Public instruction. He has been a strong voice in opposing diverting public funds for vouchers to private schools which are unmonitored for performance, and has spoken out to prevent the "privatization" of our public education system. We need him in the State Superintendent's office.

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

Message from the Chair:

From Where I Sit

Bill Perloff and I spent a recent Sunday afternoon in Green Bay with several other 8th CD counties' officers and the State Party's new regional representative, Jered Vogeltanz, discussing how to improve our state assembly, senate and 8th congressional district campaigns. We had a heart-to-heart, no-holds-barred conference dissecting and enumerating best practices for the 2014 and 2016 contests.



Chair Garrett Cohn

We decided the candidates need to follow the local county party's advice on how to spend their time in the area. Additionally, the majority endorsed use of Face Book and You Tube with 30 and/or 45

second video clips, locally produced weekly, using local Democrats addressing issues as they arise, rather than waiting for an election campaign. This has the potential to reach many voters free of charge.

We also stressed the need to eliminate negative comments by candidates primary elections, in order not to give opponents added ammunition for the election. This will require strong county board positions as Door County proved could be accomplished last year.

And, of course, we explored the manner of raising funds. We debated at length but with no new specific plans.

This first meeting underscored the 8th CD and state parties' desire to foster better planning. I am certain this can only mean improved results for Door County.



CALL TO CONVENTION

8th Congressional District Democratic Party

Saturday, April 13, 2013

Where: Best Western Riverfront Inn
1821 Riverside Ave., Marinette, WI
Phone: 715-732-1000

Time: 9:00 AM Registration opens
10:00 AM Convention opens
Speeches by elected officials
12:00 Noon Registration closes/Lunch
1:00 PM Convention resumes
Election of officers
Elections to platform & resolutions committee
Resolutions debate

Cost: \$30 Pre-registered - Delegates, Alternates and guests (received on or before April 6)
\$37.50 (received after April 6).

Send Pre-registration to Bill Perloff, 8th CD Treasurer, to arrive no later than April 6, 9527 North Bay Dr. Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Want to be a delegate? Call Garrett Cohn (920-559-2557) and let him know. He must have the delegate list emailed to the State Democratic Party by April 4th, so do not delay contacting Garrett.

Please note that to be a delegate or alternate you must be a current member of the Democratic Party of Door County. So if your membership has expired, you should promptly send it in to the state Party.

You do not need to be a member to attend the convention as a guest.

Questions? Call Bill Perloff to get the answers (920-839-9282)

Fallone Highlights a Spirited March Membership Meeting

Ed Fallon, candidate for state Supreme Court was the featured speaker at our March 28th membership meeting. A professor of constitutional, corporate and criminal law, Fallon would bring a broad background to the Court.

He was warmly greeted by a crowd of about 80 enthusiastic attendees.

He spoke of the dysfunctional Court with the Judicial Commission findings about the physical assault by one Justice on another (see our February 2013 newsletter, page 5, "Supreme Court Shenanigans Continue").



Professor Fallon

Professor Fallon also raised the issue of the "Roggensack Rule", allowing Justices to participate in a case in which one of the parties has contributed to the Justice's campaign or "issue ads" favoring the Justice. This has been called "legalized bribery" in a *WI Capital Times* editorial.

He promised to be an independent voice for justice, and to restore civility to the court. When asked about his lack of judicial experience, he pointed out that two of the sitting Justices, including the Chief Justice, had no prior judicial experience.

Pat Veese then introduced Eric Genrich, 90th Assembly District Representative. Eric is a progressive Democrat representing parts of Green Bay, Howard and Suamico.

He was born and raised in Green Bay, graduating from UW-Madison, and receiving a Masters' Degree from UW-Milwaukee. His initiation into politics was working on Dave Hansen's state Senate campaign staff, and subsequently on Steve Kagen's campaign staff. He was elected to his current seat in 2012.

Eric talked briefly about current issues of concern in the legislature including:

1. The mining bill that rolls back a lot of environmental protections.
2. Voucher expansion in the budget gives \$73 million to voucher schools serving about 22,500 students and \$39 million to public schools with 870,000 students.
3. The Governor's refusal to accept federal funds to expand Medicare will generate many negative consequences (see the February 2013 newsletter article on page 4).

4. The proposed tax cut, in which 80% of the money will go to the top 20% of income earners.
5. The Kewaunee power plant shutdown will cost over 600 jobs.
6. Failure to expand family care in the budget is a lose-lose proposition.

Eric offered to serve as our voice in the legislature so long as we don't have a Democratic representative. He asked that we consider supporting the Assembly District Campaign Committee (ADCC).



Eric can be reached by email at **Assembly Rep. Eric Genrich** Rep.Genrich@legis.wi.gov, and toll-free at 888-534-0090. He invited us to contact him at any time.

Jered Vogeltanz, the newly appointed political director for NE Wisconsin, was introduced. He is sent by the state Party to serve as a liaison with the County Parties. He spoke of three main goals:



Jered Vogeltanz

1. To foster a productive relationship between the state and county Democratic Parties.
2. To find and support a strong Democratic candidate for Assembly district #1. This seat is a key to retaking the majority in the legislature.
3. To develop a "Canvass Captains" program that would create canvassing about local issues in local neighborhoods. This would keep people involved in a strong political infrastructure between elections.

More about these ideas in the April newsletter.

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**NOW is the Time To Protest the Walker Budget for 2013-2015**

From all the crowing over a budget surplus in Wisconsin, you might think that the state is in great shape. Nothing could be further from the truth. We rank 42nd among the states in job creation. Because Walker has refused federal tax money (some of which is paid by WI residents) to bolster Badger Care, an estimated 87,000 people are scheduled to lose coverage and the 10,500 related jobs we could have had will go to other states.

**Estella Lauter**

The draconian damage to all levels of education is not repaired; instead Walker proposes more voucher programs for students to attend private schools that are not supervised by local school boards and are not accountable to the public. In fact, an excellent analysis by the AFL-CIO (budget.analysis.3.28.13) claims that “the budget allows a new politically-appointed state board to establish charter schools in a school district and force the property taxpayers to support it without the consent of the locally-elected school board.”

If you were hoping for a tax cut, forget it. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel has said that unless you earn more than \$90,000, you will not benefit from Walker’s plan. Like Ryan’s plan for the federal budget, this one is geared to wealthy individuals, large corporations, and organizations (such as the high-sounding American Federation for Children) that have given a lot of money to Walker (AFC gave \$555,000).

One of the most disturbing elements in the proposed budget is the open door it provides for privatizing various state properties. Republicans have been trying to privatize public utilities such as power plants for a decade or more, and that is still a live option. I heard the current Assembly Speaker say on WPR that the state should not be in the business of providing power (just as other have said it should not be in the business of education).

But the point of state ownership of power plants was to make sure that private companies could not gouge citizens for the basic necessities of heat and light. There is no proposal in this budget to protect the people from those who would put profit ahead of service. The move toward privatization does not stop with power plants. Walker has his eye on

dormitories and other facilities. This is a budget that requires a magnifying glass for the fine print.

And speaking of fine print, the AFL/CIO analysts have called attention to “7 Mysterious Budget Proposals hidden in the 2013-2015 Walker Budget.”

1. A new provision bars Wisconsinites from filing Earned Income Tax Credit or Homestead Tax Credit for ten years if a fraudulent claim is made. The word “fraudulent” is not defined. What if someone makes a mistake in addition?
2. The proposed budget loosens restrictions on Wisconsin land purchased by foreign buyers. Why? Who wants this provision? How would it affect citizens?
3. It would reduce health care coverage for pregnant women. How would that benefit anyone?
4. It would impose a \$50 monetary fine per month for any public employee who smokes on their own time. Has anyone read 1984 lately?
5. It allows people to escape paying back taxes if the Department of Revenue knew of the underpayment but took no action in a previous audit. I’ve heard that many corporations have not paid the 25% of their share of taxes for education for years; presumably this would let them off the hook.
6. It would remove Consumer Protection Act protections for rent-to-own agreements, allowing rent-to-own companies to hide interest costs from consumers. I assume this would benefit the big auto markets like Bergstrom (the one who was able to buy wetland a couple of years back).
7. Maybe the strangest provision of all would deregulate plush toy and other crane-operated amusement games. What???

This last provision is the tip-off to the rationale for the whole budget in my view: “you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours.” And if we the citizens aren’t able to scratch where it counts, then we don’t deserve any benefit from the taxes we pay.

So what can we do? Well, we can begin by voting for fairness on Tuesday: for Ed Fallone on the Supreme Court in case someone has the money and courage to challenge these bizarre ideas if they pass, and for Tony Evers for State Superintendent so that the out-of-state voucher movement can’t get any more traction in Wisconsin.

Walker Budget, continued from page 4

Then on April 8th, we can go to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Budget Hearing at Lambeau Field from 10-5 (Legends Club Room, 4th Level, Lambeau Field Atrium, Lombardi Ave.). We can also submit written testimony to the JFC on e-mail: budgetcommittee@legis.wisconsin.gov. I plan to blister their ears.

This budget adds insult to injury. Last week I heard the President of NWTTC say to our County Board that he had cut \$3 million from his budget by deleting payment for his faculty to prepare a lousy 15 minutes for each class (they are paid per hour in the classroom)! He thought that was clever. I think it is tragic.

Even a welder has to set up a classroom for an efficient and meaningful lesson. I cannot imagine a worthwhile class in basic skills such as writing or reading in which the teacher prepares on the spot. Let's have some of that budget surplus put back where it will do our citizens some good.

(Thanks to John Fox for the adjacent cartoon)

Lauter Named DC Poet Laureate

Congratulations to Estella Lauter who has been appointed by the Door County Board of Supervisors as Door County Poet Laureate for the 2013-2015 biennium. She succeeds Barbara Larsen.

Estella is active in the County poetry community as well as statewide and nationally. She teaches poetry classes in the Clearing's winter program.

We have had the opportunity to hear examples of her poems at the beginning of our DPDC membership meetings.



Membership Matters

Thanks to the 181 DPDC members who have kept their memberships current. However, 36 of these expire today (3/31/13), and another 32 memberships have expired since 12/13/12.

If these folks will renew now, it will bring our membership to 213, a great start for the year.

The email to which the newsletter is attached will tell you if your membership has expired. If so, just use the convenient form below to renew.

Even better, recruit a friend or neighbor to join and participate in our efforts to address important issues and elect Democratic Candidates. 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

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