



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

October, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

Oct 22 **3rd Presidential Debate**, 8:00 PM. Topic: foreign policy.

Oct 23 **Rally and Fundraiser for Pat Veese**r, Bertschinger Community Center, 7860 Hwy 42, Egg Harbor, 5:00 - 7:00 PM. See article below.

Oct 25 **DPDC Membership Meeting Cancelled**. Please attend Veeser rally instead.

NOVEMBER

Nov 6 **ELECTION DAY. BE SURE TO VOTE**. Polls are open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

Nov 8 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library (**note location**), 107 S. 4th Ave., 7:00-8:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

Nov 29 **DPDC Monthly Membership Meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM. Review of the election.

Digest of Contents

Page 2:

- **Message from the Chair**. Chair Walker "throws down the gauntlet" to make that extra effort to restore Door County to "blue".

- **Review of LWV forum**. Veeser bests the incumbent.

Page 3: Estella Lauter illuminates Romney's mythmaking.

Page 4: David Stockman skewers Romney claim to be a "job creator".

Page 5:

- **Former Republican Senator endorses President Obama**

- **Membership/Volunteering matters**- It's now or never



Tuesday, November 6

Pres/VP: **Barack Obama/Joseph Biden**

Senate: **Tammy Baldwin**

House: **Jamie Wall**

State Assembly: **Patrick Veese**r

Lawton to Speak at Veeser Rally and Fundraiser, Oct. 23

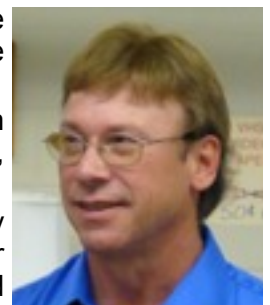
Door County's own Barbara Lawton will inspire us at the rally and fundraiser for Patrick Veeser, Democratic candidate for Assembly Seat 1.

Hosted by Northern Door County supporters, the rally is an opportunity to meet Pat, learn about his views on the issues, and support his campaign.

Pat is a strong candidate, who presents a great opportunity to capture the 1st Assembly seat and bring the Assembly closer to parity for Democrats. We are in the "home stretch" and need your support.

The rally will be held at the Bertschinger Community Center, 7860 Hwy 42, Egg Harbor, Tuesday, October 23rd from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be provided by The Cookery, thanks to Dick and Carol Skare.

RSVP to Bill Perloff (839-9282, wperloff@me.com) so we will be sure to have enough food.



Patrick Veeser

Message From the Chair:**The Search for the 251st Person...**

The polls show that each of the races is close and which candidate wins will depend on which Party can do the best job of getting their supporters to go to the polls and vote.

**Chair Allin Walker**

Here in Door County we pretty much know who our supporters are. The question is: "Will they believe their vote matters enough so that they go vote?" The answer to this question is the motivation for everything we are doing in these final weeks of the campaign.

Answer the question first for yourself: "What will motivate me to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 6?" Then try

to talk to as many people as you can to get them to answer the question for themselves.

In the Sturgeon Bay and Baileys Harbor offices volunteers like you will be calling our supporters to make sure they know how important their vote is.

The election may come down to just 10 votes per county... In Door County we only need to find 250 supporters who might not have voted to change their mind and vote. If they do, we go back to being a "blue" county as we were in 2008.

So, we need your help in finding those 250 people or, actually, to find the 251st person and get him or her to vote instead of staying home. Please help us make sure that 251st person votes.

Call me at 493-2912 to find out how you can help in the final push. Leave a message and I will call you back a.s.a.p.

Veeseer Shines at LWV Forum in Sturgeon Bay

The Door County League of Women Voters Assembly Candidate Forum on October 18th was "no contest". Democratic challenger Patrick Veeseer, simply outshone incumbent Garey Bies.

Veeseer was outspoken, forthright and passionate. Bies was phlegmatic and evasive.

In their opening remarks Veeseer expressed concern that his grandchildren won't have the same opportunities as he because of the actions of the current legislature and administration. Bies cast himself as "a team player".

Veeseer described many acts of the 2011-2012 legislature as "terrible", including repeal of penalties for violation of the "Equal Pay for Equal Work" act, reduced funding of public schools by \$1.6 billion, huge tax breaks to big corporations without tying them to job creation, and creating the "Voter ID" law to solve a non-problem.

When asked about which parts of government should be subject to open meetings requirements, Veeseer was strongly in favor of applying the requirements to all branches of government. He cited the secrecy pledge the Republican legislators who participated in redistricting apparently had to sign, as an example of denying the public their right to know.

Bies denied knowledge of any secrecy pledge. Veeseer spoke strongly against using taxpayer money for vouchers to attend private school.

**Assembly candidates Veeseer (rt) and Bies**

Pat also decried the loss of local control over environmental preservation by a law prohibiting local municipalities from establishing rules stricter than state rules.

As an example of a local issue not adequately addressed by state rules, he cited the large livestock farms producing huge quantities of manure that pollute groundwater.

Bies claimed state law was sufficient, and he had "worked with farmers" on the issue.

Similar contrasts were evident throughout discussion of many other topics.

The candidates closed with appeals for the audience's votes. Veeseer pledged to hold listening sessions and to attend local government meetings.

Bies said he was always available by phone to deal with constituent problems.

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Romney Takes the Prize for (shall we say) Mythmaking in the Debates**

In my career, I became something of an expert on mythic language, stories and rituals, but I never expected to use this background to understand a Presidential debate! Igor Volsky of *Think Progress* (thinkprogress.org/politics/2006/02/13/3705/10/) described “27 Myths in 38 Minutes” of Romney’s performance in the first debate.

**Estella Lauter**

Volsky was using the word myth in the common sense of lies, and there were plenty of significant falsehoods, but Romney did not stop there. He also used the debate platform to try his hand at other dubious forms of mythmaking.

No doubt he was well-schooled by the folks who gave us “welfare queens,” “death panels,” “government control of health care,” the “personhood amendment” and “corporations as people.” Such phrases go way beyond lying about the issues they flag for attention; they aim to make us see reality differently by re-framing it in powerful language that becomes a kind of cultural shorthand.

In the first debate, Romney surprised President Obama and the pundits by creating a new persona to cover up the one he had revealed on tape to his big donors—the one who presented 47% of the American public negatively as unable to function without government dole.

This was surprising because he had to cheerfully deny the only concrete economic plans he had articulated for months (how many times did he say “I don’t have a plan to...?”) in order to present a mythic image of himself as a champion of the middle class.

While I found his denials implausible and the persona phony, many citizens (and pundits!) accepted them as evidence of a more moderate candidate than we have seen over the past year on the Republican campaign trail, just as they have accepted the myth of “welfare queens” for the past thirty years!

There was substantial evidence of the strategies we have come to associate with Karl Rove in the past three elections—namely, if your candidate has a significant weakness, try to map it onto the other Party as soon as possible. Thus, criticism of George W. Bush’s poor military record

was derailed by outrageous accusations against John Kerry’s excellent one.

Romney and Ryan have been cited for lying throughout this campaign, so it was not surprising to hear Romney quip, “Mr. President, you are entitled to your own house and plane but not to your own facts.” He also tried to make hash of any claim to objective evaluation of his recorded plans by non-partisan organizations, denigrating them as no more valid than other “studies” he might cite. This strategy, as we have seen before, damages the very idea that it is possible to examine the truth or falsehood of any claim, leaving the electorate adrift in an alternate reality of myth.

In both debates but especially in the second one on October 16th, Romney sought to present himself as the hero who will save the American economy because he “knows how to create jobs” on the basis of his experience in running an investment firm, presiding over the Olympics and serving as Governor of Massachusetts for one term.

In fact, according to David Stockman, Ronald Reagan’s budget director, “Mitt Romney was not a businessman; he was a master financial speculator who bought, sold, flipped and stripped businesses.” (*Newsweek*, October 22, 2012, p. 24 and see the article on page 4). This is sheer hubris of the sort we should recognize from the drama we studied in high school.

We should know from our experience with Scott Walker in Wisconsin that this kind of heroic boasting is bound to fail. Unfortunately, American people are remarkably susceptible to image-making and we do love our mythic heroes!

As if this were not enough mythmaking for one or two nights, Romney tried to introduce a new mythic idea of “trickle-down government” to counter the critique of his economic ideas as “trickle-down economics.”

By now we all know that Reagan bought the theory that tax cuts and breaks for the very rich and for big corporations would trigger more spending that would trickle down randomly into the rest of the economy, like a hole in a packet that would let more yeast get into the ingredients for bread. It seemed inevitable to some that the bread would rise higher.

We also know the theory did not work—because the rich preferred to save rather than spend, and they did **not** use their profits to create jobs for those who would spend. Although the theory did not work, the phrase described it accurately.

(Continued on page 4)

Romney Mythmaking, Continued from p. 3

“Trickle-down government,” on the other hand, is a meaningless phrase with none of the explanatory power of the one it imitates.

I think that this accumulation of outright falsehoods, makeovers, Orwellian logic, heroic posturing and inept mythmaking will not fool enough of the American people this time. So far, however, the response to the first debate indicated that our electorate and pundits are not sufficiently on-guard against the tactics pioneered primarily by Republican think-tanks over the past thirty years.

While some media experts claim that Democrats have also used inappropriate rhetoric in this election (since journalists are now required to balance any claim with its opposite), my own survey of the campaigns reveals far less intent on the part of Democratic candidates to deceive the public about basic realities or to manipulate our values.



“What?”

(Thanks to John Fox)

David Stockman Dissects Romney’s Claim as a Job Creator

You may remember David Stockman as the outspoken Ronald Reagan’s 35 year old budget director, and exponent of “supply side” (read “trickle-down”) economics.

He has since become an outspoken advocate for fiscal conservatism.



David Stockman

Stockman has a forthcoming book *The Great Deformation: How Crony Capitalism Corrupts Free Markets and Democracy*. Excerpts from the book appeared in *Newsweek*, October 22, 2012, page 24, putting the lie to Romney’s claim to be a job creator.

The following are excerpts from the *Newsweek* article.

“Bain Capital ...has garnered fabulous winnings through leveraged speculation in financial markets that have been perverted and deformed by decades of money printing and Wall Street coddling by the Fed. So Bain’s billions of profits were not rewards for capitalist creation; they were mainly windfalls collected from gambling in markets that were rigged to rise.”

Stockman goes on to describe several of Bain Capital’s leveraged buyouts in which struggling companies were purchased with highly leveraged borrowed money, which debt was transferred to the companies after extracting large “management” fees. A typical example was “Stage Stores Inc.”

“Bain invested \$10 million in 1988 and nine years later took out 18x its money - that is a \$175 million profit. ...

“In the spring of 1997, ... it caused Stage Stores Inc. - which was already publicly traded - to raise \$300 million of new junk bonds and used the proceeds to buy a faltering 250 store chain of family clothing stores. ...

“In hot pursuit of ‘synergies,’ it suddenly gave Stage Stores Inc. the ‘growth’ story that Greenspan’s bull market craved. Within 5 months ... the company’s stock price had doubled. Bain ... quickly unloaded their shares at the aforementioned 18x gain.

“As a matter of plain fact the ‘transformative’ ... deal was a bull-market scam. Almost immediately results headed south.”

Stage Stores Inc filed for bankruptcy in 1999.

“The Stage Stores deal embodied all of the hidden leverage that had become par for the course in the era of bubble finance. When the crunch came, the company had no assets to fall back on because Bain had hocked virtually everything; ... By my calculation, ... the company’s true debt was \$1.3 billion. ...

“The bankruptcy forced closure of about 250 ... of the company’s stores and the loss of about 5,000 jobs.”

Stockman cites this as a typical example of Wall Street “vulture capitalists” using low-tax subsidized debt to milk cash (and ultimately jobs) from struggling companies. This is the true Romney business model.

“Why I, a Former GOP Senator, Will Vote for Obama”

Former senator Larry Pressler (R-South Dakota) is a combat veteran of two tours in Vietnam and 22 years of service in the U.S. House and Senate, who has endorsed President Obama for a second term. Senator Pressler says (readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/13881-why-i-a-former-gop-senator-will-vote-for-obama):

“As a Vietnam vet, one of the reasons I support President Obama is because he has consistently shown he understands that our commitment to our servicemen and women may begin when they put on their uniform, but that it must never end.

“This decision is not easy for any lifelong Republican. In 2008 I voted for Barack Obama, the first time I ever voted for a Democrat, because the Republican Party was drifting toward a dangerous path that put extreme party ideology above national interest. Mitt Romney heads a party remaining on that dangerous path, proving the emptiness of their praise as they abandon our service members, veterans and military families along the way.

“What really set me off was Romney's reference to 47% of Americans to be written off - including any veteran collecting disability like myself, as a post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) veteran.

“... I'm disappointed that just as our troops are returning home after a decade of war, Romney and Ryan might gut by up to 20 percent investments in the Department of Veterans Affairs - and even suggest privatizing the veterans' health care. ...

“Let's be clear, Romney and Ryan would be disastrous for America's service members, veterans and military families. ...

“Meanwhile President Obama recognizes our sacred trust with those who serve starts when they take their oath and never ends. ...

“As a life-long Republican, I stand by him as he stands by all of us, putting national allegiance ahead of party affiliation. I endorse President Obama for reelection in 2012.”



**Former Senator
Larry Pressler**

Membership/Volunteering Matters

The upcoming election is so important, and may be so close that every single vote will count. Recall that John Kerry won WI by **2 votes per precinct**. What can you do to help? Four things:

1. Renew your membership to show support, and generate revenue for “last minute” expenses.

2. Contribute additional support.
3. Volunteer for our “Get Out The Vote” effort (call Allin 493-2912 or Bill 839-9282).
4. Vote on Tuesday, November 6th, and bring a friend to the polls.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	or Renew	
Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!		
Name(s)	_____	Sign me up for: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior/student/limited income <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Two seniors/students/limited incomes <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual general membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships) <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships) <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)
Address	_____	
City/State	_____	
Zip	_____	
Phone	_____	
This is a <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone		I would also like to join: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> LGTB Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans' Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Caucus
Email	_____	
County: DOOR		
		Return to: Democratic Party of Door County P.O. Box 863 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235