

Democratic Party of Door County

September, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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Elections:
Rod Bohn

Membership:
Francha Barnard

Officers:
Allin Walker

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

- Sep 27 **DPDC monthly membership meeting featuring Jamie Wall**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. See article below. The Executive Board will meet at 5:30.
- Sep 28 **Michelle Obama** will speak on the Lawrence University Campus. See Article on page 2.
- Sep 30 **Former Senator Russ Feingold** will speak at Bjorklunden. See article page 2.

OCTOBER

- Oct 11 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library (note location and time), 107 S. 4th Ave., 5:00-6:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.
- Oct 23 **Rally and Fundraiser for Pat Veeser**, Democratic Candidate for the 1st Assembly District, Bertschinger Center, Egg Harbor, 5:00-7:00 PM. **Barbara Lawton** will be the speaker.
- Oct 25 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library,., upper level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA

Digest of Contents

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- **Message from Chair Allin Walker**, lauding our volunteers, and telling why we need more for the final month of the campaign.
- **Michelle Obama to speak in Appleton September 28th.**
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Thanks to John Fox

Jamie Wall to Speak at September Membership Meeting

Jamie Wall, Democratic Candidate for the 8th Congressional District will be the featured speaker at our September 27th membership meeting.

The meeting convenes at the Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave, upper level at 7:00 PM. Jamie will speak following a short business meeting.

Come and hear an update on the campaign, and Jamie's positions on the issues.



Message From the Chair:

Congratulations to Us!

We have 46 hard-working volunteers and growing. The proverbial expanding rings in a pond spreading out from a rock thrown into the pond is happening with the key being literally hundreds of conversations between passionate Democrats and their undecided friends, family members, neighbors and service providers.



Chair Allin Walker

Someone on one of the outer rings will be the 400th voter we need to win the 2012 elections. Each of our candidates is going door-to-door talking to voters with our message of Trust – Community – Fairness.

In terms of volunteers everyone has some things they are good at doing, some things they want to do to help, and some things they hate doing.

Everything everyone can do is appreciated and needed, AND it would be wonderful if every now and then someone would say, “This is what I can do BUT what I really want to do is whatever the President needs me to do in order to win.”

This will be especially true the last ten days of October when we will try to reach every single possible Democratic voter. Literally we will try to make 6,000 calls AND we will desperately need YOUR help either in Sturgeon Bay or in Baileys Harbor.

Many, many thanks to Amber and John; Francha and Naomi and Gordon; Bill and Estella; Faith, Victoria, Ron and Scott; and all our Shift Coordinators.

We are in high-gear AND we are waiting for you to decide to help. The next official training session is Saturday, Sept. 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m., AND you can walk into the office in Sturgeon Bay any day except Saturday between 2:00 and 6:00 and ask “What does the President need me to do to win? Train me....

Michelle Obama to be in Appleton

First Lady, Michelle Obama, will be speaking in Appleton on Friday, September 28th. She will speak about what's at stake for Wisconsinites in this election, and emphasize the importance of grass roots organizing and voter registration.



The event will be at the Alexander Auditorium on the Lawrence University campus, 1100 E. South River St. Doors will open at 1:00 PM.

Tickets are required due to limited space, and are free, available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call the OFA Green Bay office, 920-405-0455 for ticket information.

Late breaking news: tickets are all distributed and are no longer available (9/26/12).

Feingold Speaking in Door County

Former Senator Russ Feingold will speak at Bjorklunden Sunday, September 30th at 1:30 PM.

He will discuss the role of partisanship in American politics.

Senator Feingold is currently a distinguished Visiting Professor at Lawrence University, and is on the faculty of Marquette University Law School.

The lecture is open to the public and free. Tickets and reservations are not required.

Bjorklunden is at the west end of Boynton Lane, which is just south of the Maxwellton Braes golf course, Baileys Harbor.

For more information, contact Lori Vosters at 800-283-8320, ext. 7019, or by email at lori.a.vosters@lawrence.edu.



My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Why it is So Important to Support Tammy Baldwin**

Although I have done my share of complaining that Rep. Baldwin hasn't yet made a campaign visit to Door County despite our invitations, it is **imperative** for us to support her bid for Herb Kohl's Senate seat in November!

**Estella Lauter**

Here are the reasons: Democrats **must** have a majority in at least one house of Congress in order to prevent some dreadful legislation. Tommy Thompson **must not** be sent to Washington to represent the people of Wisconsin. Tammy Baldwin is among the best-qualified candidates Wisconsin has seen in the past half-century—right up there with Russ Feingold.

If Democrats do not hold the Senate, the consequences may very well be dire. Aside from the Ryan budget, which would actually increase the deficit and income inequality that plague us, and aside from the promised repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which would negatively affect several millions of low income and middle income people who have already been devastated by trickle-down economics, we have to consider the likely effects of enfranchising the Koch Brothers to run the country by proxy as they are now doing in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Although we hope to defeat Paul Ryan twice in November, others of their spokespersons will probably be elected to the House, where they plan to propose laws to further limit women's choices for family planning and their own health, to reverse the movement toward equality for BLGT individuals, couples and families, and (here's the bell-ringer) to give to fertilized eggs the same rights as persons who have been born!

Think about that for a minute. Suppose you had undergone a program for *in vitro* fertilization. Could you claim the fertilized eggs as deductions on your income tax returns? Imagine how long it would take to sort out something like that on the floor of the House! But the really crazy-making thing about all this is that it comes from people who claim that they want "small government" when what they really want is to intrude the long arm of the law into your home and into the bodies of all your female relatives. No self-respecting electorate can allow something like this to happen in the 21st Century.

Leave aside the fact that the Republican candidate for Senator is getting on in years, that he left the state in serious debt, and that he began the

attack on public workers by freezing their salaries for several years in the 1990s. Let's just consider what he has done since he left the Bush II Cabinet.

Having spent a great deal of his time in that office making sure that Medicare would not be able to negotiate for lower drug prices, he then invested heavily in pharmaceutical companies and joined several Boards (for undisclosed salaries) to increase his personal wealth manyfold to an estimated \$13 million.

Is this someone who is likely to have the best interests of Wisconsin uppermost in his mind at this point in his career? As of this writing, he has not released any of his tax returns for that period! Three of the companies on whose Boards he sat are facing major legal suits for having produced questionable products. In other words, he seems not to be the best candidate to oversee difficult economic issues.

His handling of the attempt by his political director to cast aspersions on Baldwin's personal life does not suggest that he would be any better at dealing with social issues.

On the other hand, Tammy Baldwin (born in 1962) is fabulously well-qualified for the office! Raised by her grandparents in Madison, she was valedictorian of her class at Madison West, and went on to graduate from Smith College and UW Madison Law School to practice law. Her first public office was on the Dane County Board. She moved from there to the WI Assembly and in 1998 she was elected to the House of Representatives.

Since then, she has been re-elected with greater margins in each cycle except 2010 when her margin dropped to 13 points.

She has been an active and effective member of the House, not only in proposing legislation but also in the caucuses. Although she is credited with being one of the most progressive members of Congress, she is able to compromise for the good of her constituents.

Though known for her civility, she is able to take strong stands on issues. She was the first openly gay person to be elected to both the WI Assembly and the US House, and she continues to defend the extension of equality (listen to her speech from the Democratic national Convention).

Against Thompson's position in the Medicare, Part D law, she has proposed the opposite in the "Negotiating for Seniors Act." Current legislative initiatives show that she is tuned-in both to the needs of WI farmers who have experienced a disastrous growing season and to the struggle of WI paper companies to compete with China without a level playing field.

(Continued on page 4)

Tammy Baldwin, continued from page 3

She is a co-author of the bill that would establish the “Buffett Rule,” requiring that those individuals with annual incomes from all sources of \$1 million or more pay at least 30 percent federal income tax. She has a long record of attention to health care, environmental issues, women’s issues, education and infrastructure.

Most important for the 99%, she currently supports a “values-based budget that creates jobs and cuts the deficit”; it’s on her congressional

website (www.tammybaldwin.house.gov), and while you are at it, look at her campaign website (www.tammybaldwin.com) as well.

She is one classy candidate—well-organized, clear-thinking, caring, intelligent, and capable of holding her own with the best (or the worst) of her colleagues. This is a great opportunity for us to put someone in office who has the potential to make a positive difference in the nation for many years to come.

Obama RV Heartland Tour Comes to Sturgeon Bay

On Tuesday, September 25th a spirited crowd of Democratic activists welcomed The Obama Heartland RV tour to Door County at our DPDC office in Sturgeon Bay.

The RV tour featured members of the Obama campaign, as well as a celebrity appearance by Kurtwood Smith (also known as Red Forman from “That 70’s” Show).

The heartland express is traveling throughout the state spreading the message of the President’s vision for an economy that is built to last for the middle class, and the important role we play in this election.

The photo below shows the crowd, almost hiding the tour RV from view. The young supporter at the right is holding a bumper sticker that reads “Why would a woman vote Republican?”



Quotes of the Month: Contrasting Views of America and Americans

[This month's quotes illuminate the contrasting view of Americans by candidate Mitt Romney and President Obama in their own words, and excerpts from the commentary of David Brooks about Romney's remarks. Brooks is a well-known journalist, and a member of a vanishing breed, a moderate Republican.]

“There are 47 percent of the people ... who are dependent upon government, who believe they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to take care of them, who believe they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it. ...I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives”.

– *Mitt Romney* at a Republican fundraiser on May 17th, describing 47% of Americans

“To those Americans whose support I have to earn – I may not have won your vote, but I hear your voices, i need your help, and I will be your President too”.

– *Barack Obama*, November 4, 2008

Romney's ... “comment suggests a few things. First, it suggests that he really doesn't know much about the country he inhabits. Who are these freeloaders? Is it the Iraq war veteran who goes to the V.A.? Is it the student getting a loan to go to college? Is it the retiree on Social Security or Medicare?

“It suggests that Romney doesn't know much about the culture of America. ... America remains one of the hardest working nations on earth. Americans work longer hours than just about anyone else. ... Ninety-two percent say that hard work is the key to success

“It says that Romney doesn't know much about the political culture. ... The people who receive the disproportionate share of government spending ... are Republicans. They are senior

citizens.They are white men with high school degrees. ...

“Romney's comments also reveal that he has lost andy sense of the social compact. In 1987, during Ronald Reagan's second term, 62 percent of Republicans believed that the government has a responsibility to help those who can't help themselves. Now, only 40 percent believe that. ...

“The final thing the comment suggests is that Romney knows nothing about ambition and motivation. The formula he sketches is this: People who are forced to make it on their own have drive. People who receive benefits have dependency.

“But, of course, no middle-class parent acts as if this is true. Middle-class parents don't deprive their children of benefits so they can learn to struggle on their own. They shower benefits on their children to give them more opportunities

“People are motivated when they feel competent. They are motivated when they have more opportunities. Ambition is fired by possibility, not by deprivation

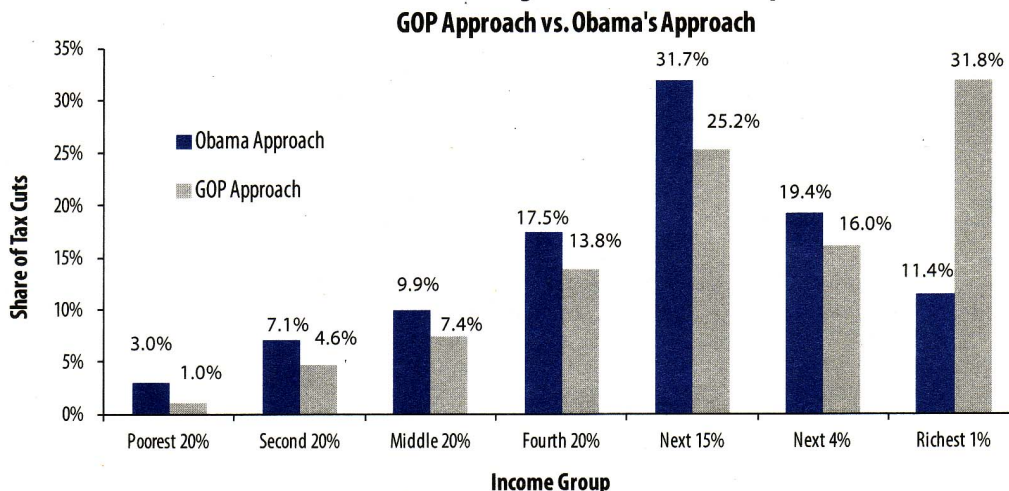
“... [A]s a description of America today, Romney's comment is a country-club fantasy. It's what self-satisfied millionaires say to each other. It reinforces every negative view people have about Romney.

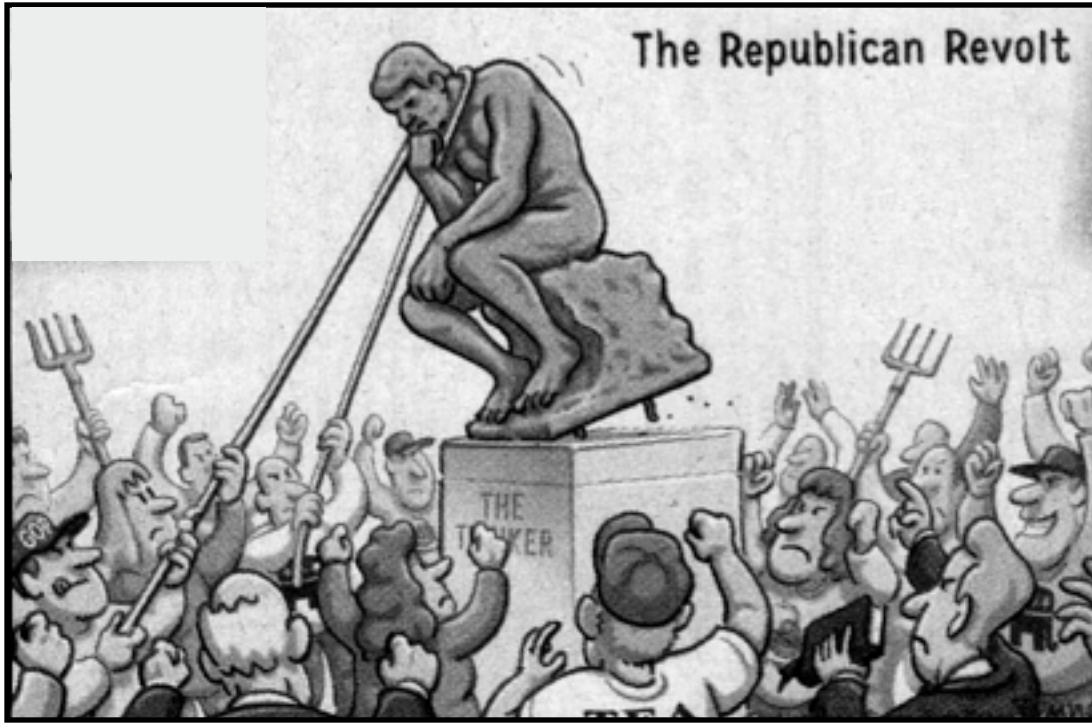
“Personally, I think he's a kind, decent man who says stupid things because he is pretending to be something he is not – some sort of cartoonish government-hater. But it scarcely matters. He's running a depressingly inept presidential campaign. ...”

– *David Brooks*, “Thurston Howell Romney”, *New York Times*, The Opinion Page, September 17, 2012

[Recall that Thurston Howell was the inept millionaire in the TV show “Gilligan's Island”]

Share of Tax Cuts Going to Each Income Group in 2013:





Thanks to *Funny Times*

Please Renew and Contribute

It is renewal time for many members. For others, renewals are not due for a few months, but early renewal will really help your Party at a crucial time.

If you renew now, we will extend your membership for 12 months from your present expiration date, so you won't lose up-to-date membership time. But you will help give us the resources to continue a vigorous campaign for our Democratic candidates.

We also need contributions from those members who are able. You can contribute safely over ActBlue by credit card by clicking on the blue button or typing the address: www.actblue.com/page/newslettercontribution. We do not need to share contributions with the State or 8th CD Parties.



or Renew
Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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This is a Cell Phone Home Phone

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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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