



Democratic Party of Door County
"Public policy for public good"

"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

February, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

Mar 8 **Open Discussion Forum**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., lower level, 4:30-6:00 PM.

Mar 8 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

Mar 17 **St. Patrick's Day Parade in Sturgeon Bay**. Assemble at Sawyer Park (west end of Oregon St. Bridge) 10:30 rain or shine. Marchers/riders needed. Call Allin Walker to sign up (920-493-2912)

Mar 17 **Pat Veaser 1st Assembly District Campaign Kickoff**, American Legion Hall, 94 Clark St. Algoma. 5:30-?. For info call 920-362-VOTE.

Mar 21 **Initial Meeting Jamie Wall Door/Kewaunee Campaign Committee**, Algoma Public Library, 406 Fremont, 6:00 PM. For more info call Paula Zellner at 715-340-6567.

Mar 22 **DPDC Membership Meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM. See adjacent article.

APRIL

Apr 12 **Candidate Forum**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., lower level, 4:30-6:00 PM. See article page 2.

Apr 15 **County Caucus**, location TBA., See article page 3.

Apr 29 **8th CD Democratic Party Convention**, Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club. See article page 3.

MAY

May 24 **Thomas Paine Dinner and Silent Auction**. See article page 5.

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- **Membership Matters:** Reasons to join or renew membership in the DPDC, to encourage friends and family to join, and to contribute to our County Party.

Environmental Committee Reports at March Meeting

The March 22nd membership meeting will feature a report from the newly formed Environmental Committee under the leadership of Dean Hoegger.

They will address the reasons that Democrats should be upset about the environment, and update statewide environmental issues.

The meeting will be at the Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, starting at 7:00 PM.

Recall Celebration and Wall Fundraiser a Great Event

The Draft Haus was the place to be on January 26th as more than 60 Door Dems celebrated the stunning success of the recall petition drive, raised funds for Jamie Wall's campaign to retake the 8th Congressional seat, and shared food, fun and fellowship.

The petition phase of the recall was a huge success, not only for the number of Recall Walker petition signers (nearly 5,000 in Door County; more than 50% above our "target" number), but because more than 400 volunteers came "out of the woodwork" to work on the campaign. They phoned, circulated petitions, worked in the office, and sat in front of computers hour-after-hour entering data.

The enthusiasm of the crowd at the celebration was a reflection of their commitment to getting rid of Scott Walker and how hard they had worked toward that end.

Music was provided by a guitar duo headed by Ryan Moreno, Iraq veteran, who has played for several of our events and parade floats. A selection of snack foods courtesy of the Draft Haus added to the festive air.

Jamie Wall's bio information was described in the January newsletter. He spoke of the inadequacy of our present representation in Congress. He pledged to run a vigorous campaign on the issues (and there are plenty of them), and when elected, will work to find constructive ways to break the current



Jamie Wall

ideological logjam.

Also attending were Arnie Johnsrud and Patrick Veeseer, candidates for the Democratic nomination for the first Wisconsin Assembly District seat. Both are lifelong Kewaunee County residents with strong union ties.



Arnie Johnsrud

Arnie served in the Vietnam War and worked at Bay Ship for 14 years as a member of the Boilermakers Union before graduating from UW-River Falls. He is now a teacher at Kewaunee High School and a farmer. He feels that Unions and Schools are under attack by the Governor and Republican legislature, and wants to work to reorder the current political priorities.

Pat is one of 10 siblings, and a graduate of Casco High School. He has worked as a machinist for Paper Converting Machine Company for the past 35 years, and is president of the local Union, which he helped to organize. He is also committed to work toward a progressive agenda, rather than the currently regressive political environment.



Pat Veeseer

The event lasted long enough that everyone had an opportunity to have some face time with all of the candidates. It was a swell evening indeed.

Candidate Forum Scheduled for April 12th

This April, the usual monthly schedule has been revised to accommodate a variety of special activities. So, **mark your calendars.**

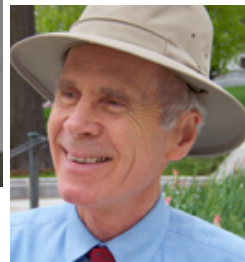
We have invited all of the announced candidates for the Democratic nomination for Governor to a "Candidate Forum" On **Thursday, April 12th** to be held at the Sturgeon Bay Public Library, lower level, 107 S. 4th Ave., at 4:30 PM.

Candidates invited to date are Kathleen Falk, former Dane County Executive, Douglas LaFollette, Wisconsin Secretary of State, and Kathleen Vinehout, State Senator from the 31st Senate district in Southwest Wisconsin.

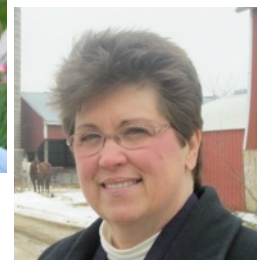
Candidates who are unable to attend the forum will be invited for another date.



Kathleen Falk



Doug LaFollette



Kathleen Vinehout

Message from the Chair:**What Lies Ahead?**

The State's experience does indeed mirror that of Door County... fraudulent RECALL petition signatures are minimal. At the State level you can count on it that if any significant number of fraudulent signatures were found in the first couple of 100,000s that were checked, the word would have gone out to every Republican to come to Madison to help go over the petitions.

**Chair Allin Walker**

So, about 1,000,000 Wisconsin eligible voters are disgusted or disappointed or angry or feeling lied to by Gov. Walker and his out-of-state advisors and financiers. Those financiers are absolutely committed to making sure Gov. Walker defeats the RECALL election no matter how much it costs.

In Door County 16 volunteers have been working to identify the unregistered voters, about 15 to 20 percent of those who signed our RECALL

petitions, so that we can encourage them to register to vote at least 28 days before the RECALL election takes place. They need help finishing up the data entry work but they are over 2/3 of the way completed and we owe them a huge THANK YOU!

As you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, we also need people to walk and ride in the Sturgeon Bay, St. Patrick's Day parade; to plan to attend the Thomas Paine Dinner event with Senator-to-be Tammy Baldwin; and to help in the office leading up to the RECALL election.

The November elections begin now. Many of you have been contacted by Arnie Johnsrud and Pat Veesser who are running for the privilege of replacing Scott Walker clone Garey Bies in the State Assembly (see article on page 2). They are both outstanding candidates, so we are hopeful that in the near future one candidate will make the decision to support the other and not force an August primary. If that happened we could save resources for the November elections and have a coordinated campaign with Tammy Baldwin for US Senate, Jamie Wall for Congress and Arnie or Pat for Assembly.

8th CD Convention in Door County

The Door Dems are privileged to be the hosts for the 2012 convention of the 8th Congressional District Democratic Party on Sunday, April 29, 2012.

The convention will be held at the beautiful Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club, 600 Nautical Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

Registration opens at 9:00 AM; the convention opens at 10:00. Features include speeches by elected officials and candidates, election of 8th CD Second Vice-Chair and Secretary, resolutions debate and selection, and a fun silent auction.

An excellent hot lunch will be served, and will include vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Admission for delegates, alternates and guests is \$30 (same as last year) **if** preregistration is received by April 21, and \$35 after April 21 or at the door.

Delegates are selected by the County Chair from members applying. County Party membership must be current in the State Party office by April 13. Guests do not need to be members.

Come and hear the latest political "scoop" from our Democratic elected officials and candidates.

County Caucus April 15th

As required for all Wisconsin County Democratic Parties, the Democratic Party of Door County will hold our County Caucus on April 15, 2012.

The caucus is held every four years to select delegates to the Democratic National Convention, to be held this year in Charlotte, NC during the week of September 3rd.

Wisconsin has 111 delegate slots, of which 66 are elected by a two-tier process. The County Caucus is the first of these. The Door Dems can elect up to 13 delegates and 13 alternates at the County Caucus. Those elected then must compete for slots allocated to the 8th CD at the second tier caucus to be held on May 6th (location TBD).

Registration for the Door County Party Caucus will be held at 12:00 - 2:00 PM, with voting for delegates starting at 2:00. The location is TBD, but will be announced in the March Newsletter and in "Allin's Notes".

All those who wish to compete for delegate slots **MUST file a Statement of Intent and Pledge of Support Form with the State Party by Friday, April 6, 2012.** The form is available electronically by [clicking here](#), or by going to the DPW website, www.wisdems.org. For those without email, call Bill Perloff at 920-839-9282 to receive a form.

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**A Great Year to be a Democrat**

On February 27th, Mike Tate, Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair, released our first ad for the upcoming gubernatorial campaign. It is a hard-hitting comparison of the Watergate scandal and findings-to-date in the "John Doe" investigation of Scott Walker and his associates in the months leading up to his election as Governor.

**Estella Lauter**

The term "John Doe" simply means that the investigation is secret until indictments are made and the facts become part of a court record.

At this point, six of Walker's close associates while he was County Executive of Milwaukee County and during his campaign for Governor have been charged with a total of fifteen felonies and three misdemeanors for a range of activities including embezzlement, shredding official records and soliciting boys!

Never has a sitting Governor of Wisconsin been so closely associated with criminal activity!

When Georgia Thompson, a Republican appointee who continued to serve under Gov. Doyle, was charged with something far less serious, Walker himself called for Doyle to resign from office before she was cleared of any wrongdoing.

But of course Walker has not offered to resign now, even though two of his associates have pleaded guilty and have been convicted. It is unlikely that he will resign even if he is indicted, since he is not required to do so unless he is convicted on a criminal charge.

Party members and those who want clean government in Wisconsin are urged to go to the website www.walkerinvestigation.org for further information and to inform others as fully as possible. WI journalists have been extremely slow to report any of this information, for reasons you can easily imagine!

Given this information, on top of all the legislative outrages such as the negation of a woman's right to sue for equal pay (signed into law last week), it is imperative that we elect a new Governor this year.

There will be a Democratic Primary. The most likely date is *May 8th*, but stand by for further information.

The most likely date for the General Election is *June 5th*, less than a month after the Primary. We will need to be very well-prepared, so we cannot wait until May to begin our work.

Look for messages in Allin's Notes and in this newsletter for ways you can be involved. Better yet, propose an activity of your own!

As to the candidates for Governor: Democratic polling in recent days has indicated that if the election were to be held now, *any* of our candidates could win over Scott Walker.

At this writing, candidates include Kathleen Falk (former Dane County Executive); Kathleen Vinehout (State Senator from western WI and veteran of progressive health care legislation passed in 2008-2010); and Doug LaFollette (longtime Secretary of State).

When you are thinking about these candidates, please consider this: women are the likely voters to swing this election in favor of Dems! Women normally poll 11 points higher for Dems; currently they are polling 20 points higher.

Republican legislation throughout the nation is taking draconian positions concerning women. WI has never had a woman Governor. The time has come.

The candidates have pledged not to tear each other apart in the runup to the Primary, so we will have a viable candidate in the last 28 days before the election. Republican money is pouring into the state like an avalanche, so we will have to work very hard to maintain the advantage that Walker's behavior has given us.

In order to keep up with what is going on in the state, you may want to be a delegate to the **8th CD Convention** to be held at the Sturgeon Bay Yacht Club on **Sunday, April 29th**.

That will be followed by the statewide convention in early June in Appleton (the likely dates are *June 8-9* if the gubernatorial election has been held by then).

In order to be part of another historic national election, you may want to put yourself forward as a potential delegate to the **National Convention, September 3-6 in Charlotte, NC**. To do so, you must attend the County Caucus on the afternoon of **April 15th**, location to be determined, AND the 8th CD Caucus on the afternoon of **May 6th** in Green Bay. Membership in the Party is not required for these events but you are asked to sign a statement of intent to support a candidate. See the article on page 3 for details.

LET'S MAKE 2012 A GREAT YEAR TO BE A DEMOCRAT!

Tammy Baldwin to be Featured at 3rd Annual Thomas Paine Event

How fitting that the speaker at our 3rd Annual Thomas Paine Dinner should be Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, candidate for the U.S. Senate.

Paine, who was one of our nation's earliest progressive thinkers, would have welcomed Ms. Baldwin speaking in his stead.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2012, place to be determined. It will feature our "White Donkey" (not elephant) silent auction before, during and after a celebratory dinner, with treasures new and gently used.

The high point of the evening will be a presentation by Ms. Baldwin.

Tammy was born and raised in the 2nd Congressional District she now represents. She was valedictorian of her class at renowned West High in Madison, and a graduate of Smith College. While serving as a Dane County Supervisor, she earned a J.D. degree at UW.



She went on to serve in the State Assembly for six years before being elected to Congress, and has served there since 1999.

She is a leading advocate for universal health care and a proponent of energy independence and renewable fuels. Tammy also is a forceful supporter of civil rights and an advocate for those in our society whose voices, too often, are not heard.

Tammy's driving motivation in politics is to pass legislation that will guarantee health care for all in America. A pragmatist, she has brought together conservative as well as progressive thinkers to further state/federal partnerships toward that end.

She is equally committed to ensuring our nation's energy independence, promoting the development of renewable fuel sources, and reducing our nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

As the first openly gay person elected to Congress, she has been an outspoken advocate for expanding benefits for same-sex partners and broadening hate-crime legislation.

Tammy is currently the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate seat held by retiring Senator Herb Kohl. This will undoubtedly be a challenging contest with nearly limitless funds available to her eventual opponent.

Consequently, the Paine event is also a fundraiser for Tammy. The County Party will be making a direct donation, and there will be an opportunity for individuals to donate as well.

Mark your calendars for a banner evening.

Nancy Rafal: Dollars and Sense

It has become a tradition to start our meetings with an original poem by one of our members. What follows is one of two elegant poems from Nancy Rafal at the Wall fundraiser. The second will be published in next month's newsletter.



Nancy Rafal

Dollars and Sense

We're living in a world of funny money

David Ross, former director of Whitney Museum of American Art

Remember Monopoly money and the commerce life of that board.

Jail and Boardwalk and all the neat squares. A roll of the dice determined your fate but some players were more shrewd than others and dominated the game.

I wonder if those winners all now have CPA degrees and if they are the ones who've bled the humanity out of banking and turned America into a mega-Monopoly game. Are those winners the inventors of derivatives which by any other name would be called pyramid and Ponzi.

Greenbacks have gone full color and pennies are passé.

Suzie dollars are collectible and plastic rules the cash register.

"Don't take any wooden nickels," has morphed into buy, Buy, BUY.

Food stamps make us feel we're doing what we can for poor folks but tax breaks to big business have more weight on that teeter-totter.

Coupons make us think we're getting bargains but that's only small potatoes and of no consequence.

The real funny money is measured in millions, billions, trillions amounts beyond comprehension which CEO's and CPA's toss out on board room tables while most of us are struggling to find jobs pay our mortgages feed our families occupy the American dream.

Membership Matters

Wow! Thanks to the 243 members who have joined or renewed in 2012.

With the new dues system, in which memberships are good for 12 months from joining date, some memberships will expire in the next two months.

If your membership expired at the **end of 2011, this will be your last newsletter.** We don't want to lose you, so please renew at this time.

If your current membership is due to expire at the end of this month or next month, the email to which this is attached will let you know it is time to renew. If you receive the newsletter by "snail mail", the address label will show your membership expiration date.

To renew, just print out the form on the bottom of this page 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.

Why is membership so important? 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 join, 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 identify and 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 8th 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, mobilizing for campaigns such as the Recall (and now the upcoming recall election), as well as the 2012 campaigns for Assembly, Congress, Senate and Presidency.

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, there are lots of good reasons to join or renew, and to encourage friends and relatives to do so as well.

You can also help by contributing to the Door Dems safely by credit card through [ActBlue](#), a website dedicated to directing contributions to the Democratic organizations and candidates of your choice. Simply click on the blue button below, or go to www.actblue.com/page/newslettercontribution. Thank you! We do not have to share contributions.

To Contribute

or Renew	
Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!	
<p>Name(s) _____</p> <p>Address _____</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>