



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

"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

March, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

Please note the changed April schedule due to the Candidate Forum on April 12, and the 8th CD Convention on April 29.

APRIL

Apr 12 **Candidate Forum**, Draft Haus, 901 Egg Harbor Rd., Sturgeon Bay, 5:30 - 8:00 PM See article, p. 2.

Apr 15 **County Democratic Caucus**, Bertschinger Community Center, 7860 Hwy. 42, Egg Harbor. See article page 3.

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

MAY

May 10 **DPDC Executive Board meeting** Sturgeon Bay Library, 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

May 24 **Thomas Paine Dinner and Silent "Gray Donkey" Auction**. See article page 4.

JUNE

Jun 5 **Election Night Party**. Location TBA.

Jun 8-9 **Democratic Party of Wisconsin Convention**, Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. Details are on the DPW website: www.wisdems.org.

Jun 14 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

Digest of Contents

Page 2:

- **Previews of the April 12th candidate forum, the April 15th Caucus to elect delegates to the Democratic National Convention, and the April 29th 8th CD Convention.**

Page 3:

- **Message from the Chair.** Chair Walker looks at the recall challenges we face, and what we need to do to make the recall successful.
- **Environmental Task Force presentation.** Dean Hoegger and Peter Sigmann, co-chairs of the task force discuss the Republican's dismal record on the environment, and urge us to make this a campaign issue.

Page 4:

- **Preview of the 3rd Annual Thomas Paine dinner**
- **Nancy Rafal: Who Will Tell the Birds.** A poem that asks a hard question.

Page 5:

- **Scott Walker: Shades of Watergate?** Estella Lauter explores the widening "John Doe" investigation of Walker's close associates asks how he could have not known.

Pages 6-8: Walker and Republicans Attack Working Families - II. Continuing and updating an editorial from the February newsletter, your editor has excerpted research from the WI AFL-CIO detailing many of the most significant losses to working families, communities, and honest government resulting from Republican legislative and administrative actions.

"A conservative is a man with two perfectly good legs who, however, has never learned how to walk forward."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Radio address, October 26, 1939

Gubernatorial Candidate Forum April 12

April 12th is the date, the Draft Haus is the place, and politics is in the air. We have invited all four announced candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor in the upcoming recall election to participate in a candidate forum. Members and the public are invited, admission free.

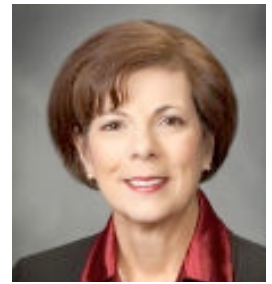
The candidates are: Tom Barrett, Milwaukee Mayor, who ran against Walker in 2010; Kathleen Falk, former Dane County Executive; Doug LaFollette, WI Secretary of State; and Kathleen Vinehout, State Senator from the 31st district in Southwestern Wisconsin.

As of April 7th, Doug LaFollette (at 5:30) and Kathleen Vinehout (at 7:30) are scheduled to attend, but not yet confirmed, and Tom Barrett and Kathleen Falk have not yet committed. Candidate scheduling is commonly "last-minute".

Available time will be devoted to considering resolutions to be forwarded to the 8th Congressional District Democratic Convention.



Tom Barrett



Kathleen Falk



Doug LaFollette



Kathleen Vinehout

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, at the Bertschinger Community Center, 7860 Hwy. 42, Egg Harbor.

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.

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.

All those who wish to compete for delegate slots **MUST have filed a Statement of Intent and Pledge of Support Form with the State Party by 5:00 PM Friday, April 6, 2012.** Notice of this was sent in the February monthly newsletter, and by a special email notice.



8th CD Convention, April 29

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 17**, and \$35 after April 17, 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, and participate in selecting the resolutions to be brought forward to the State Democratic Party Convention on June 8-9, 2012.

Message from the Chair:

What Do We Need to Do to Win the RECALL Election?

It will take a tremendous effort to win the RECALL election. Against us will be amassed an unimaginable amount of money which will be used to saturate the airwaves and phone lines.



Chair Allin Walker

To win the election we will need to register eligible voters who signed the RECALL petition but are not currently registered in Door County and we will need to get every signer and every Democrat to the polls. We will need young people, artists, women's health advocates, seniors, small business owners, union workers, teachers, college students, etc. but, mostly, we will need YOU.

The May 8 primary will be a test. Turnout is predicted to be 20% depending on whether a Republican does actually challenge Scott Walker or not. Our roll will be education and getting out the vote - not an endorsement.

Then we will have one month until June 12 to reach every single Democrat in Door County and make sure they vote. Truly the future of our State, of educational leadership, of access to health care, of preserving our environment, of restoring the Wisconsin Way hangs in the balance.

Right now we need data entry help to finish our review of petition signers.

Starting April 1 we will need daily office coordinators, phone callers (from the office or home) and people willing to go door-to-door to talk to their neighbors. This will be a grassroots effort. We will have a point-by-point refutation of the lies spewing from the TV ads. Call me to volunteer (493-2912).

A Republican Attack on Human Health and the Environment?

With this provocative title, Dean Hoegger and Peter Sigmann, co-chairs of the newly formed DPDC Environmental Task Force, presented a disturbing picture of a Republican assault on the environment at the March 22nd membership meeting.

Dean discussed a series of bills introduced in the legislature that would deregulate mining (passed in the Assembly, Garey Bies voting yea, defeated in the Senate), deregulate wetlands and facilitate permitting shoreline construction; delay wind power development; end the requirement that municipal water supplies be disinfected for viruses; and allow retail display of phosphorus containing fertilizers, Bies voting yea.

Peter discussed our congressional representatives' "scores" from the League of Conservation Voters (LCV).

LCV is a non-partisan national organization that identifies bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate that have significant conservation implications, reports on the Yea or Nay vote for each representative, and the percentage of their votes that are positive for conservation.

Scores for some WI Senators and Representatives need no explanation:

- Senator Ron Johnson (R) 9%
- Senator Herb Kohl (D) 91%
- Congressman Reid Ribble (R) 6%
- Congressman Paul Ryan (R) 3%
- Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D) 97%



Peter Sigmann (lt.) and Dean Hoegger

Congressman Ribble (8th CD) voted for pollution, against clean air and water, to ignore climate change, be laissez faire about invasive aquatic species in the Great Lakes, and against other conservation measures a total of 26 times.

Our presenters concluded that environment and its effect upon public health should play a prominent role in the upcoming congressional election, especially issues surrounding aquifer pollution in Kewaunee County.

They suggested weekly press releases focusing on environmental issues.

Thomas Paine Dinner May 24th

Our 3rd Annual Thomas Paine dinner is scheduled for May 24th at the beautiful Bjorklund retreat. As before, the evening will feature excellent food, fun, fellowship, and a wonderful silent auction.

The speaker has yet to be determined, but will be a prominent political figure you will want to hear.

This year the silent auction is a "gray donkey" sale in honor of the marvelous full-size donkey shown below with volunteer Kelly Swingen.

Crafted by French artisans and true-to-life in all details, the donkey is valued at more than \$400.



Please consider donating a new, or gently used item to the "Gray Donkey" sale. Call Barb Perloff (920-839-9282) to arrange dropoff or pickup. This has been a very successful part of the evening's enjoyment.

Nancy Rafal: Who Will Tell the Birds?

It has become a tradition to start our meetings with an original poem by one of our members. What follows, as promised in the February newsletter, is the second of two poems from Nancy Rafal at the Wall fundraiser.



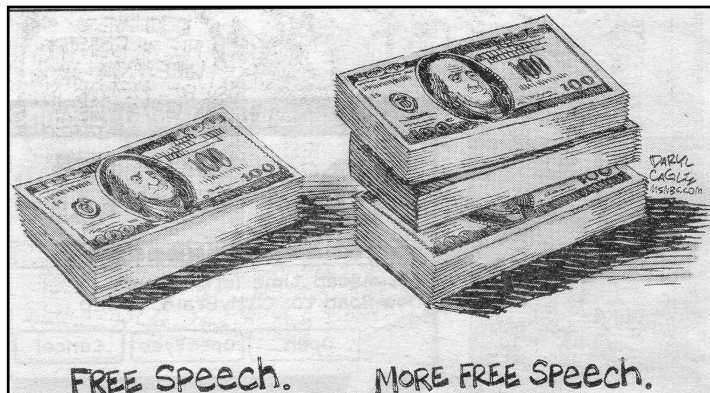
Nancy Rafal

Who Will Tell the Birds?

5 million barrels of oil does not disappear
Antonia Juhasz

I saw them yesterday, six
swans gathering in North Bay
Their cousins, about twenty white
egrets congregated at
Bergen's pond as they
do each fall
And the great blue herons, the brown
pelicans and the white
They're all studying the sun
moon and atmospheric signs
Making ready for the annual
flight south to those marshes
along the great Gulf shores
Those shores we've been assured are now
scrubbed clean of yet
another blowout of human greed

Who will tell the birds
the truth?



My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Scott Walker: Shades of Watergate?**

On March 30, 2012, the Government Accountability Board unanimously certified that the recall election for Governor and Lt. Governor plus four WI Senate seats held by Republicans will go forward on June 5th.

After three months of intensive scrutiny of the signatures gathered, they declared that there was no evidence of fraud in the recall process and only around a hundred signatures appeared more than once.

Roughly one quarter of the state's potential voters signed the petition against Walker, and by now, surely everyone in WI knows the objections to the policies that it represents. I have published three letters in the *Advocate* about his abject failure to do what his ads claim that he has done for the state.

Not much has been said, however, about another reason that Democrats, Independents, Greens and responsible Republicans *must* turn out to vote for one of the qualified candidates for Governor in the Primary on May 8th and the election on June 5th.

This reason is contained in the John Doe criminal investigation into Scott Walker's Milwaukee administration that commenced in early 2010 as an inquiry into the potential misappropriation of \$11,000 in Operation Freedom funds.

Six of Walker's closest associates have been charged with 15 felonies and 3 misdemeanors in the probe of their activities while he was County Executive in Milwaukee and during his campaign. As you can read on www.Walkerinvestigation.com,

"Tim Russell, Scott Walker's former Deputy Chief of Staff, has been arrested and charged with two felonies and a misdemeanor for stealing thousands of dollars intended for wounded veterans and families of military servicemembers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kevin Kavanaugh, Scott Walker's appointee to a Veteran Service Commission, has been arrested and charged with five felonies related to the theft of funds from Operation Freedom.

Brian Pierick, Scott Walker's campaign aide and former operator of ScottWalker.org, has been arrested and charged with felony enticement of a child.

Kelly Rindfleisch, Scott Walker's personal fundraiser for his campaign and his former Deputy



Estella Lauter

Chief of Staff, has been charged with four felonies for sending more than 1,000 campaign emails while supposedly working on the clock for taxpayers just 25 feet from Scott Walker's office.

Darlene Wink, Scott Walker's former Director of Constituent Services, has been convicted of two misdemeanors under a plea deal for planning campaigning fundraisers, including one with Sarah Palin, on taxpayer dime.

William Gardner, Scott Walker's close friend and campaign donor, was convicted of the largest campaign finance violation in Wisconsin history for illegally funneling more than \$43,000 to Friends of Scott Walker."

The website gives links to these six case files so that you can see more details, which in a John Doe investigation can only be made available to the public once they have been brought to court.

The site also details a campaign trip Walker made to the site of the 2010 Republican Convention "as if" it were an official bid for Milwaukee tourism.

If you simply read the timeline of events in the investigation thus far, you will find it virtually inconceivable that Walker knew nothing of his colleagues' illegal activities! Indeed, he has recently hired a criminal defense team that specializes in white collar crime.

Clean government has always been an important non-partisan issue in this state. Wisconsin has a reputation to uphold among its peers for being "squeaky clean." No sitting WI Governor has ever been so close to this kind of criminal activity. In 2003 when Georgia Thompson (a carryover from the previous administration) was wrongly accused of misdeeds, Walker himself called for Gov. Doyle's resignation!

Events similar to those described above were the substance of what is known as the "Caucus Scandal" of 2001 (see www.caucusscandal.com), when both parties were charged with improper separation of campaign and governmental funds. Scott Jensen (R) somehow avoided serving time for his conviction and is now serving a prominent role in crafting WI Republican legislation. Go figure that out!

So regardless of how you feel about collective bargaining, or education, or women's right to choose what happens in their own bodies, or any of the other crucial issues of the recall thus far, please consider carefully how you feel about the possibility of re-electing a WI Governor who depended upon the people described above to get himself elected in 2010, and then hired one of them to serve in his Madison office.

Walker and Republicans Attack Working Families - II

You may recall that in the January DPDC newsletter, we published a table summarizing the most egregious assaults of the Walker Budget Bill on working Wisconsin families.

A research report from the Wisconsin AFL-CIO makes it clear that many other administrative and legislative actions have created a pattern of losses to working families, to our most disadvantaged citizens, to our children and young adult students, to our communities, and to our political system.

The tables below contain excerpts from the report grouped by category. While voluminous (the full report is eight pages of closely spaced text), the

tables convey a sense of the breadth and depth of the corruption of the “Wisconsin Idea” into an all-powerful system responsive to the wishes of the “1%”. Indeed, there are other areas such as the environment and public health (see page 3) under attack, but not discussed in the report.

To view the full report and the extensive references go to the AFL-CIO website: www.wisafcio.org, and click on the link to the report, “Losses to Working Families Under Governor Walker”. You can also request a copy at 414-771-0700, ext 10.

Bill Perloff

ISSUE	LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE	EFFECT
Fundamental Freedoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 10 made it illegal for about 175,000 “general” public service employees to engage in real collective bargaining. Key provisions were struck down by a Federal Judge on March 30. • “Voter ID” law. Declared unconstitutional by two judges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denies rights afforded to some public service employees and all those in the private sector. • Disenfranchises significant Democratic-leaning segments of the population, especially the elderly and the poor. Though currently invalid, these measures illustrate the Walker administration’s disregard for the rights of our citizens.
Loss of Family-Sustaining Jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Statistics • Walker rejected \$810 million in federal funds to construct Madison-Milwaukee high-speed rail system. • Loss of private sector jobs due budget reduction and attacks on unions. • Eliminating jobs related to energy conservation: The \$100 million fund to offer lower cost loans to manufacturers to retool and expand production related to clean energy was eliminated, as was the office of Energy Independence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI lost 12,500 jobs during 2011, the worst of any state, in stark contrast to job growth nationally. • An average of more than 2600 jobs over three years would have been created by construction of the system. Additionally, a rail car manufacturing facility, built in anticipation of the project, will close. • About \$700 million loss to local economies from “ripple effect” of reduced take home pay of public employees. In one year, over 18,000 private sector jobs will be lost due to state budget cuts. • These initiatives were intended to create high paying jobs and make Wisconsin a leader in clean energy production. Currently, energy costs for commercial customers are the highest in our 12 state region, and second highest for residential customers.
Loss of Employment protections and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay for one week start of unemployment benefits. • Child labor protections have been weakened. • Act 16 makes it illegal for local government to require private sector employers to provide better sick leave benefits than the state Family and Medical Leave Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers will lose \$41 to \$56 million due to the waiting period. This despite the fact that WI experienced the most job loss in the nation. • Employment protection for hours, days per week and times of day employers can schedule minors over 16 years have been largely eliminated (except when they are in school), treating them essentially as adults. Protections for those under age 16 have been weakened as well. • Act 16 was in reaction to a City of Milwaukee ordinance requiring employers to provide a number of paid sick days. The ordinance had been approved by 69% of voters in a 2008 referendum, but is now superseded by the Family and Medical leave act that does not require paid sick days.

Attack on Working Families, continued from page 6

ISSUE	LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE	EFFECT
Transfer of more wealth to the 1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple new tax breaks for corporations and wealthy investors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will cost WI nearly \$2.4 billion in tax revenue over 10 years. These tax breaks were enacted despite the fact that WI businesses pay less in total taxes than the national average, and the 4th lowest effective tax rate for new business in the nation. None of these tax breaks requires the establishment of even one new job.
Taxes Increased on Low-Income Wisconsinites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$55.6 million cut from the Earned Income Tax Credit. Repeal of annual inflation adjustment to the Homestead Tax Credit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases taxes on 145,000 low-wage workers with children. The EITC is an anti-poverty program that rewards work and helps families stay off public assistance. A single mom with three children will lose \$518/year (21% of total tax credit). The tax credit will be reduced by \$13.6 million in the first two years. More than 75,000 older Wisconsinites rely on the HTC to help them stay in their homes. More than half of recipients have less than \$15,000/year income.
Loss of Quality Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total revenue for WI public schools cut by \$1.6 billion over two years. Private school voucher program subsidizes an unlimited number of students to attend private or religious schools in Milwaukee and Racine. Cut 30% (\$72 million) from state aid to technical colleges, and froze their levy capability. State aid to the UW System is cut by \$250 million, and tuition increases of 5.5% authorized for each of the next two years. Current level of student aid is frozen. The Wisconsin Covenant Program, created under Gov. Doyle, is phased out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ninety % of WI public schools have lost staff, 59% increased class size, 71% cut pupil services. These effects will undoubtedly be reflected in the next generation of high school graduates. Taxpayers pay \$6,442 per child to attend a private or religious school. This despite the Milwaukee study that found that voucher students did not score higher than public school students in math or reading. It does, however, take funds from public education. Tech colleges serve 400,000 students and are key suppliers of a skilled workforce. Wisconsin employers are already warning about a lack of skilled workers for the increasingly sophisticated manufacturing jobs available. The state once paid 2/3 of the cost of educating a student at UW. Now students pay 2/3. Students from working and middle class families are being squeezed out of our public education system. This program ensured that high school students who maintained at least a B average and took college prep courses were eligible for up to \$2500 per semester aid at UW. 71,000 students had benefited from this program.
Loss to Local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut \$76.8 million in state aid to the Shared Revenue Program. All four Regional Transit Authorities are abolished. General transportation aid cut by \$58.6 million over two years. State aid for local recycling programs cut by \$24.2 million over two years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program, in effect since 1911, shares state tax revenue with local communities to help them provide quality services while holding down property taxes. The cuts will lead to reduced local services, higher property tax, or both. These had been created by the Doyle administration to modernize Wisconsin's transit systems. These funds helped communities maintain and repair local streets, and pay for snow removal. These popular programs not only conserve resources and protect the environment, but they save communities money by reducing costs for landfill waste disposal.

Attack on Working Families, continued from page 7

ISSUE	LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE	EFFECT
<p>Loss of Health Care Coverage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Medicaid programs, especially BadgerCare, is cut by \$36.5 million, so far. The Republican-controlled legislature granted the Walker administration authority to cut up to \$500 million without opportunity for public input, legislative hearings or vote. • Enrollment in the Family Care program was capped with 6,700 individuals still on the waiting list. The Federal government, which pays for 60% of the program, forced the cap to removed. • State aid to women's healthcare centers run by Planned Parenthood has been eliminated. • The Walker administration has rejected a \$38 million federal grant to help create a "health insurance exchange" in WI. The Governor has suspended all state planning for implementing the Affordable Care Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimated 22,800, and possibly as many as 64,000, people will lose health care coverage. Premiums will increase for 100,000 others, and deductibles and copays will increase for 263,000 BadgerCare participants. • This program serves more than 43,000 elderly and disabled people who receive long-term care in their homes rather than in an institution. Keeping people in their homes provides a much better environment, at lower cost than an institution. • Over 12,000 uninsured women in small communities receive preventive health care from these centers, including cancer screenings, birth control and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. • The "health insurance exchange" is an essential step in implementing the federal Affordable Care Act to give consumers more affordable health care options.
<p>Loss of Citizen Access to the Courts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous changes have been made to liability laws greatly limiting corporate liability for defective products or corporate disregard for safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be much more difficult for victims of defective products or corporate negligence to obtain legal counsel and pursue litigation.
<p>Loss of Honest, Clean and Open Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 top level civil service positions of long-standing have been removed from the protection of civil service, and will be filled by political appointees of the Governor. • Governor takeover of the "administrative rules process". • Public financing for statewide judicial, administrative and legislative elections is repealed. • New legislative districts were gerrymandered behind closed doors without public or bipartisan legislative input. • The Governor will keep \$25.6 million of the settlement money from five big banks who committed mortgage and foreclosure fraud. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are key positions for dealing with the public and adjudicating disputes between public employees and the state as an employer. This move does not save money, but increases the power in the hands of the Governor. • Heretofore, implementation of laws passed by the legislature was a complex process involving the relevant state agency, public input and legislative review. Approval by the Governor is now the first step in the process. Nothing requires him to act, so by sitting on a law he can prevent implementation. This provides "one-stop shopping" in the Governor's office for corporate lobbyists. • This regressive move makes it difficult for non-wealthy people to run for office without being beholden to wealthy special interests (not a problem for our Governor). • The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reacted in an editorial: "... it's rare to see such overt disregard for bipartisanship and such a blatant power grab." A panel of federal judges required redrawing the two most egregious example districts. • This "grab" is intended to help cover a newly discovered budget deficit, rather than transferring the money to the distressed homeowners who were defrauded, and should receive it.