



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## April, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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### Committee Chairs:

**Advocacy:**  
Dean Hoegger

**Elections:**  
Rod Bohn

**Membership:**  
Francha Barnard

**Officers:**  
Allin Walker

## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

Apr 29 **8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention.** See article on page 2.

### MAY

May 10 **Open Discussion Forum,** Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., lower level, 4:30-6:00 PM.

May 10 **DPDC Executive Board meeting,** Sturgeon Bay Library (**note location**), 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., 7:00-8:30 PM. **Current (2011)** DPDC members are welcome.

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

### JUNE

Jun 5 **Recall Election Day!**

Jun 8 - 9 Democratic Party of WI Convention. Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. To be a delegate, contact Allin Walker (493-2912).

## Digest of Contents

### Below:

• **Message from the Chair:** Chair Walker challenges us all to help with the all-important recall election.

### Page 2:

• **8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention Preview**

• **In the Room:** A poem by Meg Vermillion

### Page 3:

• **Stop Fake Democrats:** Past Chair Lauter identifies the fake Democrats in the Democratic Primaries and provides guidance about the candidates

### Page 4:

• **Not Registered to Vote:** Here is everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask.

• **Preview of the Third Annual Thomas Paine Dinner and gray donkey silent auction.**

### Page 5:

• **Membership Matters:** See why.

## Message from the Chair:

### Training to Win the Recall is Starting

Now that the million petitions have been counted and a recall election is a reality, the real work is beginning.

The flood of out-of-state money supporting the Governor can only be countered by a true grassroots campaign. That means we must **Get Out The Vote**. We need to contact every petition signer to be sure that s/he will be voting on May 8<sup>th</sup> to select a candidate and weed out the "fake" Democrats, and June 5<sup>th</sup> to elect our new Democratic Governor.

We need people to help with mailings, entering data, calling volunteers, reaching out to petition signers, and simply being in the office for people coming in to sign nominating petitions.

If you can help in the office any time over the next 6 weeks or even take a shift, training sessions are being held Thursdays at 10:00 am and Tuesdays at 1:00 pm; other times by appointment. Leave a message that you are planning to attend at 920-964-2727.



**Chair Allin Walker**



## 8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention, April 29

### Meg Vermillion: In the Room

*[Editor's note: Each of our meetings begins with an original poem. The following, by Meg Vermillion, was read at our Candidate Forum on April 12<sup>th</sup>.]*



a bulging elephant is in the room  
bigger than its Republican symbol  
more powerful than Congress  
spread wider than the World Bank

a looming unrelenting tyrant  
it knows not the word  
victim  
you, me, us

what is it  
about you, me, us  
occupying ourselves with Occupy Wall Street  
while bribing lobbyists continue to run wild

what is it  
about you, me, us  
prostitutes  
to this money pimp

where is our unified blockade  
to keep them out  
a radical take over  
a real political promise to keep

short campaigns  
finance reform  
more  
and again

\$1  
per person  
per corporation  
cutting the chain of enslavement

paper the lawns  
the halls  
of our State Capital, our Congress, our White  
House  
insisting

lest we take our money  
our energy home  
build new models  
where we are

a moving peoples' movement  
of values broader than family  
standing for respect and justice  
within and outside our borders

let us  
not wait  
begin now  
to starve this cancerous, bulging elephant

The Door Dems are privileged to be the hosts for the 2012 convention of the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party on this 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 \$35 at the door.

Delegates are selected by the County Chair from members applying. 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.

### Candidates Wowed 'Em at Forum

All four Democratic candidates for Governor were invited to a candidate forum attended by nearly 80 enthusiastic attendees at the Draft Haus on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Doug LaFollette and Kathleen Vinehout came.

LaFollette spoke first, citing his lengthy service as Secretary of State, and life-long progressive and environmental advocacy.

He emphasized his desire to serve all the people and the support he has received across the political spectrum.

Vinehout, a dairy farmer and State Senator from southwest WI spoke with energy and passion about the many legislative changes needed to bring the government back to transparency and fairness to the middle class.

Both candidates charmed the crowd as they answered many questions. More details of their platforms are in the interviews cited on page 3.



**My take on it, by Estella Lauter:****Stop Fake Democrats from Creating a Fake Primary Election on May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Strange as it may seem, there are Republicans running as “fake” Democrats in the May 8<sup>th</sup> primary elections for Governor and Lt. Governor. Presumably their goal is to disrupt the normal selection process and possibly even win nomination for one of the offices.



**Estella Lauter**

The Government Accountability Board cannot stop candidates from running under whatever party label they choose as long as they have the required number of signatures, even if the result is a frivolous Primary (or worse, see below).

**The Gubernatorial Primary Election**

There are four legitimate Democratic candidates for Governor: **Tom Barrett, Kathleen Falk, Doug LaFollette and Kathleen Vinehout**. Gladys Huber is a GOP activist running in the Democratic primary as a fake Democrat.

All four Democratic candidates are highly qualified in different ways. Of course, the Democratic Party of Door County cannot endorse any candidate before the Primary. However, the candidates' web sites are easy to find with any search engine, and they contain plenty of information.

Even more useful is a series of interviews with the candidates conducted by “Badger Democracy”, a hard-hitting progressive website. To access the interviews for Falk, Vinehout and LaFollette, go to [bdgrdemocracy.wordpress.com](http://bdgrdemocracy.wordpress.com), and track down to the interviews. The interviews with LaFollette and Vinehout reflect well the candidates' approaches in our Door County candidate forum on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The interview with Barrett is scheduled for the week of April 30.

Once the Primary is over, we will get behind the chosen candidate and work as hard as we can until the election on **June 5** to reverse the damage Scott Walker has done to our state's economy, educational system, health care system, public employee morale, and to women of all ages.

**The Lt. Governor Primary Election**

The Democratic candidates for governor are well known, so the Huber candidacy is of small import. More significant is the Lt. Governor primary. There are two legitimate Democratic candidates: **Mahlon Mitchell and Ira Robins**. Isaac Weix is a Republican “fake” Democratic candidate. Here is some biographical information about the two legitimate Democrats.

**Mahlon Mitchell** ([mahlonmitchell.com](http://mahlonmitchell.com)) was born in Milwaukee (1977), grew up in Delavan and now lives in Fitchburg with his wife and two children. He has been a firefighter in Madison for fifteen years. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2010 and became the youngest (and first African American) President of the Professional Firefighters of WI in 2011.

In the protests against Walker's infamous “budget” bill, he led the firefighters to stand with the unions that had been undermined and attracted attention from the national media. He has been endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters, the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, and Democratic legislative leaders Sen. Mark Miller and Rep. Peter Barca.

He draws attention to current crises in employment, education and equality for women and promises to bring the firefighters' understanding of “all hands working” to solve the problems that the Walker administration has created for Wisconsin.

**Ira B. Robins** ([voteira.com](http://voteira.com)) was a police officer (accident investigator and crime scene evidence officer) in Wauwatosa from 1967-1981 and a Private Investigator from 1982-1997. He received an Associate degree from MATC and belonged to the Wisconsin Professional Police Association.

He refuses to take any contributions to his campaign because of the corrupting influence of money, and he proposes a plan to stop corruption by setting up a toll free number for citizens to report instances of any elected official participating in any matter that involves a person or entity that contributed anything of value to benefit that official.

In addition to being concerned about teachers and jobs, he proposes severe penalties for elder and guardianship abuse.

Need I say the obvious? The duplicitous Republicans who have entered the Primary as fake Democrats have made it IMPERATIVE for ALL strong or leaning Democrats, Independents and fair-minded Republicans to VOTE on May 8<sup>th</sup> to prevent the travesty (and tragedy) of a FAKE ELECTION.

If you cannot be in town on May 8<sup>th</sup>, get an absentee ballot at the office of your town clerk! If you are a new voter with questions about registration, also call or see your town clerk (See the article on page 4 for the registration procedure). Even if you do not have the “right” identification papers at this moment, you may be able to cast a provisional ballot!

**THANK YOU FOR EXERCISING YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE IN THIS HISTORIC SET OF ELECTIONS.**

## Thomas Paine Dinner May 24<sup>th</sup>

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Thomas Paine dinner is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Bjorklunden 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, **after** May 12<sup>th</sup>) to arrange dropoff or pickup. This has been a very successful part of the evening’s enjoyment.

## Not Registered to Vote? Here’s How

If you are not registered to vote in Wisconsin, you will not be able to support our Democratic recall candidates in the May 8<sup>th</sup> primary or the June 5<sup>th</sup> recall election. So now is the time to ensure that you are registered.

The process is usually simpler to do than to write about, but here goes.

To be eligible to vote at your current address, you must be 18 years or older, not a felon currently serving a sentence, and have lived at the current address for 28 continuous days before the election.

The easiest way to register is to go to your city, town or county clerk’s office and register in person. You will be given a form to fill out (GAB-131) and will be asked to provide your driver’s license number or, if you don’t have a license, the last four digits of your social security number.

If you do this before 20 days preceding the election, that’s all you need to do. If you register less than 20 days before the election, you will also need to provide proof of your residence address.

If you wish to apply by mail, you can download the form from the Government Accountability Board website ([gab.wi.gov](http://gab.wi.gov)) then “Elections”, then “Voters”, then “Registration”. Then send the form into your municipal clerk’s office. If applying by mail, you must provide proof of residence address.

A variety of documents will serve this purpose:

- A current and valid WI Driver License / ID Card
- Any other official identification card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit
- An employee ID card with a photograph, but not a business card
- A real property tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election
- A residential lease (Does not count as proof of residence if elector submits form by mail)
- A picture ID from a university, college or technical college coupled with a fee receipt
- A picture ID from a university, college or technical college coupled with an on-campus housing listing provided by the university, college or technical college to the municipality that denotes US Citizenship
- A utility bill for the period commencing not earlier than 90 days before the day registration is made
- A bank statement
- A paycheck
- A check or other document issued by a unit of government

A third option is to register at the poll on election day. You must provide the same information as in a mail application.

Note that at this time, photo ID is not required, pending court cases challenging the law.



## Membership Matters

Wow! Thanks to the 257 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 February, 2012, 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 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 others to do so as well.

You can also help by contributing to the Door Dems safely by credit card through [ActBlue](http://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](http://www.actblue.com/page/newslettercontribution). Thank you! We do not have to share contributions.

**To Contribute**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>or Renew</b>	
<b>Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!</b>		
Name(s)	_____	<b>Sign me up for:</b> <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		<b>I would also like to join:</b> <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: <b>DOOR</b>		
		Return to: <b>Democratic Party of Door County</b> <b>P.O. Box 863</b> <b>Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235</b>