

Democratic Party of Door County

June, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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Membership:
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Upcoming Events

JUNE

Jun 28 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. See adjacent article.

JULY

July 4 **Baileys Harbor Parade**, 10:00 AM. Assemble on Summit Rd, 8:30 AM.

Jul 4 **Egg Harbor Parade**, 1:30 PM. Assemble 12:30 on Church Rd north of Cty E.

Jul 12 **Open Discussion Forum**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., lower level, 4:30-6:00 PM.

Jul 12 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library (**note location**), 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

Jul 26 **DPDC Annual Picnic**, Sawyer Park Pavilion, 5:00 - 7:30 PM. Rep. Peter Barca is the speaker. See article, page 2 for details.

Digest of Contents

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- **Preview of our Annual Picnic, July 23rd**

- **Become a parade marcher**

Page 3: Estella Lauter discusses the election. She finds encouragement in the presentations at the State Convention

Page 4: Membership matters reminds us why it is important to renew and offers the opportunity to contribute to the Door Dems.

Lauter Featured in June Membership Meeting

Past Co-Chair Estella Lauter will be the featured speaker at the DPDC membership meeting on June 28th.

Her topic will be "Shaking the Dirt Off the Donkey and Stepping Out of the Well".



Estella Lauter

She will present an insider's view of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention held June 8-9.

Estella has been attending the state DPW Convention since 2005, and she found this one particularly useful for "shaking the dirt" of the election off the donkey with great candidates and inspiring words; solidifying the Democratic "brand" for the November election; and inspiring people to create new ways to make democracy work.

There will be plenty of time for discussion.



Barca to Speak at Picnic

Come One, Come All

to the Door Dems Annual picnic on Thursday July 26th at Sawyer Park, (at west end of Oregon Street Bridge) from 5:00 - 7:30 PM. A fun and stimulating evening is planned. **Admission is \$5 per person and a side dish or dessert to pass per family. No charge for children 10 and under.** We will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and soda.

The featured speaker is **Peter Barca**, Assembly Representative from the SE corner of the state, and Assembly minority leader. Representative Barca has had a distinguished career in public service.

A lifelong resident of Kenosha, he holds an undergraduate degree from UW - Milwaukee, and a Master's Degree in public and educational administration from UW - Madison.

He began his career as a teacher of emotionally disturbed children, before entering politics in 1985 and being elected to the Assembly. He served there until 1993 when he won a special election to the US Congress.

Following the 1994 election, when he lost the congressional seat, Mr. Barca served as midwest regional administrator of the Small Business Administration, and national ombudsman for the SBA.

He subsequently became VP, and then president of an international business consulting firm.

In 2008 he returned to politics and was elected to the Assembly where he served as Majority Caucus Chair.

In the 2009-10 Legislative session he led the way in passing over 50 bills facilitating the growth of small businesses in WI.

Despite the Republican "tsunami" in 2010, Rep. Barca was re-elected in a landslide.

In the infamous 2011 legislative session Rep. Barca played a prominent role in protesting the Walker legislative juggernaut and the violations of the WI open meeting laws.



Rep. Barca

Mr. Barca will provide us with an inside look at the current legislative scene, and prospects for the upcoming elections. He will speak at about 6:00 - 6:30.

First Assembly district candidates Arnie Johnsrud and Pat Veaser, and 8th congressional district candidate Jamie Wall have also been invited to make short presentations.

Parade Marchers Needed

Parade season is upon us, and gives us the opportunity show off our candidates and win new friends for the Door Dems.

Harry Porter attends almost every parade with his antique car, and Allin's truck pulls our float trailer, but the critical element is people. We need marchers to carry our banner, to hand out literature and give candy to the kids that line the parade.

Dottie LeClair and Sid Vineburg, current and past Chairs of the 8th CD Democratic Party have volunteered to join us, so we need to make a good showing.

Next up are the July 4th parades in Baileys Harbor and Egg Harbor. Details are in the "Upcoming Events" on page 1.

Please join us as we support our candidates and our Party. Be sure to bring along water and sunblock. It's fun!



My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Shaking the Dirt Off the Donkey and Stepping Out of the Well**

At the statewide Democratic Party Convention in Appleton June 8-9, party members and elected officials began a process of coming to terms with the results of the recall election—a process that will continue as we gain access to more data.

Jake Hajdu, the DPW Political Director has asked for the county parties to report our experiences and insights, and you are invited to participate in this process. I will use this column to share some perspectives that were discussed at the Convention.

KEY POINTS:

Walker won by about 60/40 in 60 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, whereas Barrett won by a similar margin in 12 (and a much higher percentage in Madison). Walker won in WI's 13 poorest counties!

It appears that the tactic of dubbing public employees (even those of us who were not unionized) "the spoiled few," as one Walker sign said, was highly successful in rural areas, as were the slippery statistics about jobs, taxes and a balanced budget.

In rural and suburban areas of the state, the fact that six of Walker's closest associates have been indicted for 15 felonies either made no impression or was still not known.

The election was an obscene win for Citizens United. Estimates of the amount of money Walker and his big donors spent vary wildly, but his ads were on the air nonstop from November to June due to a loophole in WI law that allowed him to spend unlimited amounts as soon as the recall papers were filed.

While we lost the main prize, we won the state Senate. Mark Miller becomes majority leader; all the committees change chairs; there will be hearings; there may be a special session; lots of good work can happen in the next six months behind the scenes, and the Senate can probably stop some bad ideas from going forward.

Unless the recount is skewed, because the original count was very thorough and well-monitored, John Lehman should remain the winner.

Preliminary analysis indicated that 80% of the voters had made up their minds before the Primary on May 8, on the basis of the ads or along party lines. Not everyone who signed the petition was actually registered to vote in WI, so the fact that Barrett got more than the 900,000 votes from petition signers is a sign that our efforts to get out the vote were successful.

We were stunned, however, to find how many people said they voted for Walker because they didn't believe in the recall option provided in our Constitution. (The up side of this fact is that Walker

does not have a mandate!) Party officials knew that anti-recall sentiment was "out there" but not what action the non-believers would take, especially since Walker himself won his county executive position in a recall election.

No one is quite sure what to make of the hypothesis that 38% of union households (not necessarily union members) voted for Walker. It seems there were some missed opportunities for educating the public about the Progressive history of the recall provision and explaining the role unions have played in maintaining a middle class—not to mention the importance of a healthy public sector in all modern economies.

Contrary to rumors, both the Democratic National Committee and the Obama campaign were fully engaged. Clinton's appearance was part of that process. DNC Chair Debbie Wassermann Schultz campaigned for John Lehman. Obama was in touch with Barrett.

There were several Republican dirty tricks: robo calls to get people to vote on June 6th; robo calls saying that if you signed the petition you did not have to vote; big trouble for students who tried to register to vote on the 5th (in Appleton, Tom Nelson was called in to defend the Lawrence students' right to vote); some funny business about registration to vote that hasn't been established yet; intimidation during the petition period that may also have affected the election.

Some have painted the recall as a tragic choice to cut short a protest movement and put all our eggs in the electoral basket, but it is not clear who made that choice and how.

Some believe that Republicans started the ball rolling when they threatened action against the 14 Senators who left the state during the period when Sen. Fitzgerald was intent on ramming the "budget repair bill" through without adequate time for discussion. One thing we know is that the DPW did not push the recall option! As Rep. Peter Barca said, "we couldn't have stopped it if we had tried."

On the brighter side, Rep. Barca reported that candidate recruitment for the WI Assembly was more successful than it has been in years. We will have 145 candidates running in 95 of the 100 Assembly districts. They are very good candidates from many different backgrounds.

We heard excellent presentations by candidates for the Congress from across the state at the Convention—among the most impressive, Rob Zerban in the 1st District, Kilda Hayes and Mike Pohan in the 2nd, David Heaster in the 5th, Pat Kreitlow in the 7th, and our Jamie Wall in the 8th.

(Continued on page 4)

Shaking the Dirt Off the Donkey, continued from page 3

It is clear that the experience of working on the recall with many new volunteers strengthened the Democratic Party in the state. Despite the justifiable anger, frustration and anxiety that members expressed over the election, the dominant mood of the Convention was determination to continue the fight. We are, after all, badgers, and we have a great model in Robert LaFollette. It took him a decade to build a movement to overcome big railroad money near the beginning of the last century, but he did it, and we have him to thank for many of our best laws.

Rep. Gwen Moore expressed the fighting spirit in evidence at the Convention in a folk story she

told about a donkey who fell into a well. The people tried and tried to get him out, but when they saw it was useless, they decided to bury him. They gathered a lot of dirt and began to shovel it into the well, but the donkey just shook it off and stepped up. The more dirt they threw in the well, the more he shook it off and stepped up until he stepped right out of the well. Long live the donkey!

For more discussion of the election and where we go from here, come to the June membership meeting on June 28th, and add your perspective to the message we send on to the state. As our candidate for Lt. Governor said, "I'm not finished. Are you?"

Membership Matters

Thanks to the 270 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 April, 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 the form). If you renew **before** your membership

expiration date, we will simply extend your membership for 12 months from the upcoming expiration date. So you can renew early, while it is fresh in your mind. **Thank you** for renewing.

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 with the State or 8th CD Parties.



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