



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

"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

May, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

VOTE TUESDAY!

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Elections:
Rod Bohn

Membership:
Francha Barnard

Officers:
Allin Walker

Message from the Chair:

And the Winner is

All the hard work of the petition drive, the primary and, now, the election comes down to this, "Why should I vote for Tom Barrett for Governor of the State of Wisconsin?"

It is easy to focus on all the reasons to vote against Scott Walker but there are positive, important, principled and strategic reasons for voting for Barrett. Underneath all the hype and spin, it comes down to the answer to "Who is invited to be in the room when the really important decisions are made?"

Barrett promises that when decisions about education are made, teachers, parents, students and administrators will be represented.

When decisions about the environment are made, conservationists, hunters/ fishers, naturalists and environmental advocates will be represented.

When decisions about health care are made, patients, doctors, hospitals and caregivers will be represented.

When decisions about jobs creation are made employers, educators, unions and communities will be represented.

This is fundamentally different from the present status quo.

We will be represented when the important decisions are made.... so we will be the winners!

After all, Scott Walker is the very best governor someone else's money can buy... right now, Wisconsin is for sale to the highest bidder and the current bid is approaching \$35 million. The RECALL election really does matter and each of us must do everything we can to ensure the state we love will not be sold to the highest bidder.

Not registered to vote? No problem; you can register at the polls on election day. For details see the article on page X.

Thomas Paine's Words for Today

Thomas Paine presaged our situation in Wisconsin with the following quote (for "country" substitute "state"):

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.

(thanks to Scott Wittkopf from "Badger Democracy" for the quote)

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

To reach us: DCDems@hughes.net, on the web at www.doordems.org, or PO Box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Upcoming Events

June

- Jun 5 **Election Night Party**, Kitty O'Reilly's Irish Pub, 59 E Oak St, after 8:00 PM.
- Jun 8-9 **Democratic Party of WI Convention**, Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, WI. Contact Allin Walker (920-493-2912) for more details if you wish to attend.
- Jun 14 **Open Discussion Forum**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., lower level, 4:30-6:00 PM. Topic: review of the election.
- Jun 14 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library (**note location**), 107 S. 4th Ave., 7:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2011) DPDC members are welcome.
- Jun 28 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA.

JULY

- Jul 26 **Annual DPDC Picnic**, Sawyer Park. Details in the June newsletter.

Skating on the River of a Million

[The following original poem by Francha Barnard was read by her to open the Thomas Paine dinner festivities. Ed.]

Did you eat your Wheaties this morning, Scott Walker,
your HUMPF breakfast of champions?

Did you drink your fortified orange juice to stiffen
your spine;
down your caffeine-filled coffee to jump-start your
tiny heart?

Did you shower, dry and pat on the gunpowder
that's available in pockets all over the state now?

Did you shave off those black, cynical whiskers
and lacquer your hair with a veneer of compassion?

Did you don your armor of lies and open the door
to much colder Wisconsin air today?

Did you set out skating on the river of a million
recall names
to work at the Statehouse that's not the people's
house anymore?

Careful, Scott Walker, the ice is cracking;
your armor is dragging you under.

Digest of Contents

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- **Review of Thomas Paine Dinner and Gray Donkey Sale**
- **Page 3: The war on women:** Estella Lauter details the Republicans regressive agenda.

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- **Register to vote on election day:** The information needed to register and vote at the polls on election day.
- **Membership matters:** Update on membership.

Thomas Paine Dinner and "Gray Donkey" Auction a Great Event

Our 3rd Annual Thomas Paine dinner and "Gray Donkey" Auction was a huge success - 84 attendees mingled and "shopped" the silent auction before dinner.

Following a fine meal catered by the Cornerstone Pub, the program began with an original poem from Francha Barnard (adjacent article). Mike Tate, Democratic Party of WI Chair gave a stirring and optimistic speech about our recall prospects.

Stump speeches by Jamie Wall, candidate for 8th CD Congressional seat, and Arnie Johnsrud and Pat Veerer, vying for nomination to be the Democratic candidate for the 1st Assembly seat, rounded out the evening.

The successful silent auction was capped by formation of a large consortium by Vic Cerinich that bought the "Gray Donkey" and donated it to the Party office!



Mike Tate



Chair Allin Walker



Our "Gray Donkey"

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:

The Republican “War on Women”: A Clear and Present Danger

When you are considering how to talk with (or write to) your friends and neighbors in the next few days before the June 5th election, because you MUST do this if you do NOT want Wisconsin to become WISSISSIPPI, please think about the bumper sticker: Why Would A Woman Vote Republican? (available from the DPDC office for a donation). The Old Party may once have been Grand (say, in its support for the abolition of slavery), but now it is directed by a network of “ol’ boys” who have reverted to some very old (and rancid) ideas about women and girls.



Estella Lauter

Oh yes, there are some “ol’ girls” as well who have swallowed the not-so-funny pill of prejudice against other women or the fantasy pill that transforms a fertilized cell into a full-fledged human being with rights to life its mother doesn’t have.

If your friends and neighbors still have any girls or women in their families, they should be invited to think concretely about the possible effects of Republican legislation on the lives of those human beings.

Do they really want a Governor who would deny women the right to sue an employer who has denied them equal pay for equal work?

Do they really want a Governor who champions the idea of life in the form of a fetus over the fully human life of a mother or the health and well-being of children who are already born?

One who sponsors legislation that favors “preaching abstinence” in public schools over teaching the latest scientific information about human reproduction and contraception?

One who would gladly deprive women and girls access to the highly respected services of Planned Parenthood?

One who would limit access to contraception?

One who would legislate what images must be shown to a girl or woman before she decides whether or not to continue a pregnancy, no matter what the psychological, social or medical reasons for the decision are?

One who would require parents to be involved even in cases where parental abuse and incest are involved?

One who would gut the protections provided by prior legislation on violence against women?

These are not hypothetical actions against women. They are either signed into law as of the last WI legislative session or “in the pipeline.” They are signs of a fundamental disrespect for the ability of girls and women to make good decisions about their bodies (without religious indoctrination administered by the state).

They signal to the world that women are not equal with men in the eyes of Wisconsin law under a Republican administration!

Shall I trouble you with statistics? Women are now more than half of our population. Women head more than half of the single-family households. More than half of American women work outside the home --because we must.

When we are forced to have more children than we can support with adequate food, shelter, education and health care, the whole society is at risk. When we are denied equality, the value of equality itself is endangered.

When Republicans choose to ignore these facts in favor of fantasies about women’s “proper” role or a belief in our innate inferiority, they threaten not only the well being of half of the population but our entire way of life.

These Republican policies and laws signal a fundamental disrespect for doctors and teachers who are now subject to regulation by officials without professional qualifications.

They signal a fundamental disrespect for the American democratic principle of separation of church and state, since the impetus for such legislation originally came from the Pope through his politically powerful Bishops on the one hand and from fundamentalist (fanatical, literalist) religious groups on the other.

We have also seen that Walker is not content to control the legislature as if he were its prime minister; he has assumed control of many offices and functions (such as the parole system) and clearly plans to take over the pension system for his own purposes.

What Walker has done to women in Wisconsin, to teachers, doctors, other government officials, and even to members of his own party who did not agree with his policies, he would do to anyone. While he says he believes in individual freedom and the power of the people, he acts against those beliefs.

(Continued on page 4)

The "War on Women" continued from p. 3

The legislation against women is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg. His disrespect will eventually spread to all of us unless we act now to stop it. SO, before June 5th, please have this conversation with anyone and everyone who is old enough to vote.

If the men among your friends and neighbors are not prepared to extend their respect to women, you can at least encourage the women to respect themselves.

Membership Matters

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 March, 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.

Not Registered to Vote?
Register on Election Day at the Polls

Yes, you can register to vote at your polling place on election day. At this time, **PHOTO ID IS NOT REQUIRED.**

You will fill out a form (GAB 131), and will need to provide a driver's license number, or the last four digits of your social security number. You will also need to provide proof of your residence address. A variety of documents will serve this purpose:

- A current and valid WI Driver License or ID Card
- Any other official identification card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit
- An employee ID card, 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
- A picture ID from a university, college or technical college coupled with a fee receipt or 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

If you have moved since May 9, 2012, you should vote at the polling place for your **old** address.

If you have trouble registering or voting call the **Election Protection Hotline 1-866-OUR-VOTE.**

EVERY VOTE WILL COUNT, SO BE SURE TO REGISTER AND VOTE!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	or Renew	
Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!		
Name(s)	^	

Address	_____	
City/State	_____	
Zip	_____	
Phone	_____	
This is a	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone
Email	_____	
County:	DOOR	
	Sign me up for:	
	<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)	
	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	
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