



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## January, 2014 Monthly Newsletter

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### Upcoming DPDC Events

#### **JANUARY**

Jan 23 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., lower level, 7:00 PM. Mary Burke is the speaker. See article below.

#### **FEBRUARY**

Feb 13 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2014) DPDC members are welcome.

Feb 27 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 7:00 PM program TBA.

### Digest of Contents

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### Don't Miss Mary Burke at January Membership Meeting

Mary Burke, the only currently declared Democratic candidate for Governor will be the speaker at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> DPDC membership meeting.

As director of strategic planning at Trek Bicycle, started by her father, she built Trek into a company with nearly 1,000 employees, a payroll of \$50 million, and annual purchasing over \$40 million in goods and services from other Wisconsin companies.

Ms. Burke served as Secretary of the WI Dep't of Commerce in the Doyle administration, attracting new business to Wisconsin and helping small businesses start and grow. Her efforts led to 84,000 more Wisconsin jobs than there are today.

She has a strong commitment to education, founding a public-private partnership between the schools and community to help close the achievement gap. The program resulted in 80% of participants attending 2 or 4 year colleges. Inspired by the success of the program, she ran for and won a seat on the Madison School Board.

All are invited to hear her vision for Wisconsin as she strives to bring jobs and opportunity to Wisconsin families. The meeting is Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Sturgeon Bay Library, lower level. A brief membership meeting will follow Ms. Burke's presentation.



**Mary Burke**

## Message from the Chair:

### From Where I Sit: Satisfaction is the Enemy of Progress. Are You Satisfied?

It is less than 300 days until the Election of 2014. Your Democratic Party has reviewed the reasons we have lost past elections by an average of 500 votes are so and are now following a Strategic Plan to change these results. We have won “top of the ticket” elections—President Obama, Senator Tammy Baldwin for example, but not the local contests. We have decided we will present the differences between our Democratic Values and those of the Republicans more strongly than in past campaigns.



**Chair Garrett Cohn**

We need a few of you to help—ADD YOUR VOICE--Don't be afraid! We have planned volunteer efforts not to take more than an hour or two a week—from home mostly (on your computer)—

telephone calling will be handled differently than previously. My request for help in this note does not include telephone calling.

Task force groups are based on Letter Writing, (on a supervised schedule) Social Media posts, including Twitter, Blogs and Website Publishing to name a few.

Additionally we want to provide a Rapid Response baseline to quickly respond to the Governor's and other's actions which we will prove are detrimental to the citizens of our state. These are just examples of projects we need help on.

The State Democratic Party is lending their research abilities and knowledge to Door County to aid us in replacing Garey Bies.

So, if you agree with me that it is insane to continue doing the same things and expect different results, contact me at 920-559-2557 or [gucohn@gmail.com](mailto:gucohn@gmail.com) and add your voice to those calling for change.

## Community Events for Democrats

### FROST/NIXON - A READING OF THE PLAY

It is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of David Frost and Richard Nixon's historic encounter. A staged reading not only recreates the on-air interview, but the around the world behind the scenes maneuvering between the two men and their camps as negotiations were struck. Secrets are revealed..all leading to the moment when they would sit facing each other in the court of public opinion.

**Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> 7 PM** The Depot Performing Arts Center 341 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue—FREE ADMISSION Donations Appreciated.

### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: PANEL DISCUSSION

The purpose, myths and progress of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will be examined in an informative, non-partisan, panel discussion on **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>** as part of the monthly “Community Health Information Programs” (CHIP).

CHIP is sponsored by a group of Northern Door County churches to provide information on health-related topics to the community.

The January panel discussion is the first in a two-part series, with a panel consisting of two local physicians and Brian Stevens from Ministry Door County Medical Center (MDCMC), moderated by Matt Luders, Community Outreach Coordinator at MDCMC. The program will be at the Sister Bay Baptist Church, 4:00-5:30 PM.



Thanks to Toles and the Washington Post

*“We can have democracy in this country, or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we can't have both”*

*Justice Louis Brandeis*

**My take on it, by Estella Lauter:****Poverty Again and Again: “Necessitous Men are not Free Men”, FDR 1/11/1944**

The discussion of poverty, like so many other neglected national problems that have been ground to a pulp in conservative think tanks, has reached the point of absurdity. No one should have to rehearse the



**Estella Lauter**

arguments *ad finitum* for the successful policies that have made a positive difference in the lives of so many citizens since Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and Lyndon Johnson’s “War on Poverty.”

In seventy years, no more successful policies have been found than Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, unemployment insurance, food stamps, income tax credits, various kinds of aid to dependent children, and support for veterans. These programs have made a significant difference in the quality of life of millions of people, and to talk about terminating them or bargaining for them is worse than nonsense. It is a moral outrage.

Such discussions ought to be OFF THE TABLE. Even with these successful measures, the U.S. lags behind many other nations in providing the necessities of life for its citizens. According to a recent report from UNICEF (“Measuring Child Poverty”, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Report Card 10, ([www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc10\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc10_eng.pdf)) the proportion of children living in poverty in the United States is 34<sup>th</sup> highest out of 35 economically advanced countries. We have a higher child poverty rate than Greece, Spain, Bulgaria, and Latvia, and a lower rate only than Romania.

I have written about this before. Over 50 million people are at or near the poverty line (which has been adjusted only for the cost of food since 1969) and others are only one accident away from it.

The next time we hear another worn argument for withdrawing some supposed “benefit” to a person in need, it should be appropriate to stop the conversation and refer to what most Americans have long understood to be the promise of our Constitution to assure life and liberty to *all of us*.

Roosevelt was both correct (except for his gender pronouns) and morally right: “necessitous [wo]men are not free [wo]men.” The fixation of those on the political right with individual freedom is nothing short of preposterous for those who cannot provide the basic necessities of life for themselves or their families. It is our responsibility as a democratic nation to ensure that our economic system does not disenfranchise its citizens—either at the voting booth or in the marketplace. The term “working poor” is nothing short of an abomination. Those who work should not, by definition, be poor in a society such as ours.

Harvey Kaye’s message “Obama Should Look To Roosevelt In Fight Against Inequality, Right Wing,” posted on *The National Memo*, 12/12/14 ([www.nationalmemo.com/obama-should-look-to-roosevelt-in-fight-against-inequality-right-wing/2/](http://www.nationalmemo.com/obama-should-look-to-roosevelt-in-fight-against-inequality-right-wing/2/)), provides an apt reminder that Roosevelt did not believe that his work on the issues of equality and justice for all was done by January 11, 1944, when he delivered his 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Message on the State of the Union.

“Reaffirming his administration’s commitment to the vision he had articulated in his 1941 Annual Message—the vision of the Four Freedoms: Freedom of speech, Freedom of worship, Freedom from want, Freedom from fear—Roosevelt now called for an Economic Bill of Rights for all Americans.”

Although the United Nations has long accepted a profile of human development that includes these freedoms, the present US House shamelessly takes no responsibility for two of Roosevelt’s freedoms—from want and fear—and takes every opportunity to raise a specter of fraud among the poor along with a specter of fear that requires automatic weapons for self-defense, thereby making themselves into the underdogs that need protection from the state! Surely they need counseling for paranoia instead, and I hope the ACA will eventually help to deal with our rampant problems of mental health.

Dr. Kaye, who has spoken at DPDC events several times, makes it clear that Roosevelt understood the threat from the political right far better than Obama does.

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## Poverty: Again and Again, continued from page 3

Roosevelt understood that the language of the Constitution was not enough, that we would require a list of Freedoms and a statement of the need for an Economic Bill of Rights to supplement the first 10 Amendments in order to fight the political battles that were already under way even before World War II was over.

I urge you to consult Kaye's article for Roosevelt's Second Bill of Rights, which includes many of the things Democrats have been fighting for ever since Roosevelt won his fourth term in office later in 1944 (for example, the right to a job that provides adequate food, shelter, clothing,

education, medical care and retirement, and the right to freedom from unfair competition or domination in business).

His words may need to be adapted and expanded to better represent the concerns of the present, but I believe that the adoption of some such agreement IS necessary to avoid the harmful bickering that continues to occur in each new Congress and state legislature that is controlled by Republicans about the nature of our commitments as Americans to a democratic society where people are not in more or less constant danger of economic ruin.

**Bill Perloff:****2014: The Republican Assault on Wisconsin's Citizens Continues**

*[Editor's note: The coming year will be difficult for many, if not most, of Wisconsin's citizens. The Walker administration and Republican-controlled legislature have already started the assault on traditional Wisconsin values, benefiting a few large corporations and wealthy donors. The following summarizes a few of the upcoming issues brought to our attention by the WI Budget Project, State Senator Chris Larsen, State Senator Kathleen Vinehout, and Tom Beebe from The Institute for Wisconsin's Future.]*

**EDUCATION**

Assembly Bill 459, just introduced, expands state-supported independent, often for-profit, charter schools across the state, and removes local school boards from the process. It could lead to large networks of voucher schools that transfer state aid from public schools to unregulated private schools, and is another step toward privatizing the Wisconsin education system.<sup>1,2</sup>

In a contentious seven-hour committee hearing, opposition came from educators, school administrators, school board members and citizens. Though two Republican members of the committee expressed some reservations, the bill has support from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Koch Brothers-supported American Federation for Children, so is likely to pass the committee and be referred to the full Assembly. Stay tuned for developments.

**HEALTH**

Thousands of Wisconsin citizens continue to suffer as the result of the Governor and legislature's decisions about access to health care insurance. By refusing to accept federal expansion of medicaid (BadgerCare in WI), the Governor left 85,000 uninsured, cost WI taxpayers \$109 million

and failed to take advantage of over 10,000 Wisconsin jobs that would have been created. The legislature is now embroiled in attempting to bring the BadgerCare eligibility requirements in concordance with those required by the federal government, causing more pain and confusion among our most disadvantaged citizens.<sup>3</sup>

Western Wisconsin residents are frustrated to find that their cost of health insurance on the federal Marketplace is often thousands of dollars more than that for their neighbors across the border in Minnesota. When they see the success of the State-based Marketplace in the Gopher state, they don't understand why Wisconsin does not create a State-based Marketplace. A bill to do this, written by Senator Kathleen Vinehout languishes in committee.<sup>2</sup> The Governor's efforts to impede access to affordable health care continue, at the expense of our citizens.

**JOBS**

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance has been asked to release more funds to the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), a public-private partnership established by Governor Walker to replace the Department of Commerce, and take the lead in creating new jobs. From its inception WEDC has undertaken questionable granting practices, losing \$50 million in loans, including about \$12 million that were overdue. 2013 has not been a good year for WEDC. A few examples:<sup>3</sup>

- 16 of WEDC's 26 economic development programs failed to meet their goals for 2013.
- WEDC rewrote history by changing their 2013 job creation goal from 50,000 to 20,825 after the fell short by 12,687.

(Continued on page 5)

2014 Issues, continued from page 4

- WEDC had funds to provide \$44.1 million in loans in 2013, but only got \$15 million committed.
- WEDC has \$1 in administrative expenses for each dollar in economic development expenditure!
- Since Governor Walker took office and created WEDC, Wisconsin has dropped from 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation in job growth to 37<sup>th</sup>.

WEDC's irresponsible actions have resulted in economic development programs being taken away from the agency, leaving economic development at the state level in disarray. Though Democrats have offered proposals to reform WEDC, no action has been, or seems likely to be forthcoming.

**TAXES**

Governor Walker has said he is interested in eliminating the state income tax, and raising to sales tax to replace the lost revenue. According to the non-partisan Budget Project,<sup>4</sup> the sales tax would need to be raised to 13.5% to make this revenue-neutral. The result would be that the those in lower 20% of income earners would pay almost \$750 **more** in taxes than at present, and the top 1% of earners, averaging more than \$1 million would pay almost \$44,000 **less**.

The table, reproduced from the Budget Project shows the tax consequences for Wisconsin residents based on income (these figures assume

that refundable tax credits would continue. If not, the tax increase for lower income groups would be even greater). It is clear that replacing the income tax revenue with sales tax would transfer money from the lower income groups to the higher income groups, exacerbating the growing income inequality and expanding poverty.

Let us join others in identifying what a bad idea this is for the majority of our citizens and the economic health of our state.

These issues are only a sampling of the challenges we face in the coming year, and why it is so important to take back the Governor's position, and at least one of the legislative houses. They are also a few of the reasons to renew your membership in the DPDC. Just fill out the form below and send it to our PO Box shown on the form. THANK YOU.

1. [wisconsinsfuture.org/ab549-proponents-surprised-during-uprising-against-bill-in-seven-hour-hearing/](http://wisconsinsfuture.org/ab549-proponents-surprised-during-uprising-against-bill-in-seven-hour-hearing/)
2. [legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/vinehout/PressReleases/Pages/Independent-Charter-Schools-Siphoning-off-Public-Money-to-Private-Interests.aspx](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/vinehout/PressReleases/Pages/Independent-Charter-Schools-Siphoning-off-Public-Money-to-Private-Interests.aspx)
3. [legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/larson/eupdates/Pages/January.9.2014.index.htm](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/larson/eupdates/Pages/January.9.2014.index.htm)
4. [www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org/governor-walkers-tax-shift-plan-would-raise-taxes-for-most](http://www.wisconsinbudgetproject.org/governor-walkers-tax-shift-plan-would-raise-taxes-for-most)

Income Group	Average Income	Average Tax Change
Lowest 20%	\$14,000	+\$747
Second 20%	\$29,000	+\$1,045
Middle 20%	\$47,000	+\$755
Fourth 20%	\$73,000	+\$266
Next 15%	\$113,000	-\$1,509
Next 4%	\$224,000	-\$5,780
Top 1%	\$1,065,000	-\$43,997

**or Renew**

**Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!**

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<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: <b>DOOR</b></p>	<p><b>Sign me up for:</b></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><b>I would also like to join:</b></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: <b>Democratic Party of Door County</b>  <b>P.O. Box 863</b>  <b>Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235</b></p>
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