



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

March, 2014 Monthly Newsletter

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Elections:

Issues and Programs:

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Upcoming Events

MARCH

Mar 27 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., **upper** level, 7:00 PM. See article below.

APRIL

Apr 10 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., **upper** level 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2014) DPDC members are welcome.

Apr 24 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., **upper** level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA

Apr 27 **8th CD Democratic Party Convention**. See article page 2.

Digest of Contents

Page 2:

- **Call to Convention:** 8th CD Dem Party Convention, April 27th.
- **Johnsrud presentation well received.**
- **Majeski throws hat in ring for AD-1 seat.**

Page 3: Chair Cohn addresses legislature's suppression of voter's rights

Page 4: Estella Lauter focuses on morality in politics as it pertains to Scott Walker.

Page 5: **Outrage page.** Editor Bill Perloff discusses some of the recent outrageous actions of our legislature.

Need to renew your membership? Simple. Print the membership form on page 6, fill it out, and mail it with your check to our PO Box shown on the form. Please, do it now while it is fresh in your mind.

THANK YOU!

Busy March Membership Meeting: Election Targeting Analysis, and Selecting 2014 Resolutions

The March 27th membership meeting will be both interesting and engaging with two main activities. Bill Perloff will lead off with an analysis of target populations to gain the roughly 1,000 additional votes we need in a non-presidential election year to win Assembly District 1, and contribute toward winning the Gubernatorial and Senate District 1 elections.

The second part of the meeting will be devoted to discussion of proposed resolutions and voting to select the 10 resolutions to forward to the 8th CD convention.

Resolutions must be no more than 100 words, and must be in a format illustrated in the resolutions from 2013 appended to this newsletter. If you wish to submit a resolution for consideration at the March 27th meeting please submit it in electronic form, preferably as a "Word" document, to Rod Bohn (erbohn@charter.net) **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, MARCH 25**. Additional background information was sent to the membership via email on March 12th. Please contact Bill Perloff (wperloff@me.com, 920-839-9282) for questions.

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

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



CALL TO CONVENTION

8th Congressional District Democratic Party Convention

Sunday, April 27, 2014

WHERE: The Rendezvous
E896 County Road N, Luxemburg, WI
Phone: 920-845-2066

SCHEDULE: 9:00 AM Registration opens
10:00 AM Convention opens: Speeches by elected officials and invited guests
12:00 Noon Registration closes, lunch is served
1:00 PM Convention resumes
Election of officers
Election of 1-3yr. member and 1-1yr. alternate to the State
Party Platform & Resolutions Committee
Resolutions debate and selection
3:30 PM Adjourn

REGISTRATION:: \$30 per person, Delegates, Alternates, guests if registered by April 14th, includes lunch.
\$37.50 after April 14th.
Two ways to pre-register by April 14th:
1. Send your check, made out to 8th CD Democratic Party, to Bill Perloff, 8th CD Treasurer, 9527 North Bay Dr, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202
2. Use ActBlue to register safely over the internet. Just click on the link below, or paste the link into your browser. You can then use a credit card to register.
<https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/8thcd2014>

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to attend as a delegate or alternate, you should notify the Door Dems Party Chair (Garrett Cohn, gucohn@gmail.com or 920-559-2557) before April 14th.

This is an energizing and exciting event, and is a great way to make contact with Dems from our neighboring counties, from Marinette to the norths to Outagamie to the south.

Johnsrud's Remarks Well Received

Arnie Johnsrud, candidate for the Democratic nomination for WI Assembly District 1 seat, spoke before a very attentive audience at the February 27 membership meeting.



Arnie Johnsrud

Throughout his presentation he demonstrated the ability to connect readily with voters.

His strategy of discussing key issues through real-life examples of their impact on family and friends resonated well with the audience.

Johnsrud indicated his understanding of these issues is bolstered by his diverse background as educator, farmer, Bay Ship Building employee and veteran. He ably demonstrated the breadth and depth of this asset by skillfully responding to an audience question relating to agriculture.

[Thanks to Naomi Rowley for this article.]

Majeski Declares AD-1 Candidacy

Joe Majeski, retired Elementary Principal and Director of Special Education at Sevastopol School has declared his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the Assembly District 1 seat.



Joe Majeski

A lifelong resident of NE Wisconsin, Majeski is very concerned about groundwater contamination associated with large farms. Other key concerns are unaccountable voucher schools siphoning funding from public schools, expanding broad-band access to rural areas, and retaining local control of governmental functions.

Joe will introduce himself to the membership and present his candidacy at the April 24th membership Meeting.

Message from the Chair:

From Where I Sit: Republicans Want to Suppress Voters Rights

The Republican leadership of Wisconsin is sending a clear message to working families, minorities, seniors and students that their participation in our democracy is not wanted. This is yet another cynical and shameful attempt to take away voting rights. It undeniably adds up to their seeking to gain unfair partisan advantage.



Chair Garrett Cohn

Each election season the media decries low voter turnout in the United States. Is it not, therefore, ironic that the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Elections reported out SB 324, a bill which **limits the time period and hours during which voters can vote "absentee-in-person" before Election Day**. Previously passed by the Wisconsin Assembly as AB 54, SB 324 **restricts the authority of county, town, and municipal clerks** to set hours and days that they are open.

The Senate version further **restricts the authorized issuer of absentee ballots to the Clerk (and no other staff)**. By limiting the authority to issue ballots to one person, the proposers are clearly seeking to exhaust or inconvenience the clerks (many of whom in rural areas have other, full-time jobs). By limiting evening and eliminating weekend hours, the legislation limits opportunities for rural people, working people, the elderly, the religious and the disabled to vote.

Apparently, government "...of the people..." means only those people free to vote during working hours on weekdays.

In addition to SB 324, Republicans in the legislature have also proposed eliminating Election-day voter registration (EDR), currently used by 10 - 15% of voters. **This move would prevent thousands of eligible voters from casting a ballot**, cost Wisconsin taxpayers over \$11.3 million to implement, and violate at least two federal voting rights laws.

I won't go further and list the ten states that allow EDR, of which Wisconsin with Democratic Governor Patrick Lucey and a Democratic Assembly, was the third in 1975 to approve it, nor the several states due to implement it within the next three years.

Even if Gov. Walker does sign SB 324, and the Republicans succeed in passing legislation eliminating EDR, they won't become law unless they survive the inevitable legal challenge to the constitutionality of this attempt to restrict the right to vote of minority, elderly and working class voters. But even if it gets overturned this bill will still indicate the venal mentality of the Republican leadership.

I wonder, of the 5 Republican assembly candidates, which one(s) have the common sense and decency to break from the lockstep Republican platform and represent their entire constituency?

(Data from "Final Report on the Impacts and Costs of Eliminating Election Day Registration in Wisconsin" by the Governmental Accountability Board, February, 2013 with assistance by Kewaunee Democrat John Rybski)

JOIN

Senator Tammy Baldwin

for coffee, pastries and conversation
in support of her campaign

Saturday, April 5th, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Kavarna Coffehouse
143 North Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54303

To RSVP and contribute online, go to:
www.tammybaldwin.com/GreenBay
or to send contributions:
Tammy Baldwin for Senate,
PO Box 696, Madison, WI 53701



My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**If You Think Scott Walker is a Moral Governor, I Have a Bridge to Sell**

I recently had an alarming conversation with an old friend who works with various religious and ethnic groups in Madison, who reported that he often hears from these folk how glad they are that they “finally have a moral Governor” in Wisconsin!

**Estella Lauter**

I don't know a lot about Madison politics, where it is apparently possible to have a spirited argument about Gov. Doyle's relationship with WI Indian Nations and other sore points among Conservatives, but I think the current television ads already show the GOP effort to position Walker as upstanding and Doyle/Burke as liars. I think we have to respond to this issue immediately, not only to rebut misleading accusations but also to stake out some moral ground of our own as Democrats.

What these groups mean by a “moral Governor” is one who speaks against abortion. In my view, this should be a personal medical issue, not one to be legislated by people who cannot know the particulars of every WI woman's history well enough to govern it by the blunt instrument of law, so a governor's position on abortion should not even be a topic of discussion, much less a *sine qua non* for election.

On the other hand, a governor's morality in applying the laws that are already passed—laws about campaign finance, about use of government offices and resources for campaign purposes—definitely SHOULD be an issue because they are relevant to his ability to govern the state.

Recent emails surrounding the John Doe investigation of actions leading up to the 2010 election clearly show that Walker did know what was going on in his Milwaukee offices among his associates and did nothing to stop it. Serious misuse of veterans' funds was involved in one case. Several judges have held those associates responsible with jail sentences for breaking the law. While I understand that federal investigators may not have been able to prosecute Walker directly because he may not have dirtied his own hands in the specific operations (a faulty concept that let George Bush and Dick Cheney off the hook for supporting torture after 9/11), the electorate MUST hold Walker responsible for his actions in the coming election.

As news stories frequently reveal, he has continued along the same path in setting up a

handpicked council to oversee economic development in WI. Not only has money gone missing, but also Republicans have emerged as the main beneficiaries of his plan! These transgressions are not difficult to understand, and they must be presented to the public over and over again.

Important as it is to name Walker's failures to live up to the moral standards of government in WI, it is perhaps even more important to educate the public about the basic principle that morality in government consists in discharging the duties of one's office according to the law and in line with the principles of equality and justice that are established in both the federal and the state constitutions. (Note that in the 2011 Recall, our failure to educate the public about legitimate reasons for recalls made it possible for Republicans to make the election seem illegitimate, even though their candidate had entered public office through a recall himself!)

The requirement of moral action in office and in campaigns has been applied many times in the past in Wisconsin. In the Nineties, several legislators were held criminally responsible for violation of campaign rules. It should not be hard to make the case with a bit of research.

Each time our candidates have come to speak in recent months and years, we have asked them to articulate a positive vision of how Democratic policies have worked and can work to create a state that was worthy of its reputation for clean government, excellent health and social services, superior educational opportunities, sound environmental policies *and* good business opportunities. Inevitably the candidates focus on specific issues—often those forced on them by negative advertising. Maybe we are the ones who have to articulate this vision.

It is our bad fortune that the media, and especially the press, is apparently paralyzed in Wisconsin. While we hear something nearly every day about the political mess Governor Christie has made in New Jersey, we hear virtually nothing in WI (outside of *The Progressive* or the *Capital Times*) about the far more serious moral mess Walker has created here, and certainly no one in New Jersey hears about it. In some circles, he even seems to be a reasonable candidate for President!

For example, when the *NY Times* sent a reporter to do an article on Walker recently, s/he interviewed a suburban principal who touted the extra money he had been able to save f since Act 10. Yes, BUT where was the rest of the story?

(Continued on page 4)

I learned last spring at a County Board meeting that NWTTC had saved \$6 million by cutting the paid preparation time for teachers from 15 minutes to zero. Everyone was supposed to be impressed; I was shocked.

First, as a retired professor in the UW System, I cannot imagine walking into a college-level classroom without preparation, and 15 minutes is hardly enough time to get the equipment running in a studio or workshop to say nothing about deciding how to present material wisely to a new group of students in each class.

A policy of payment for teachers restricted to the hours in the classroom shows no understanding of education whatsoever; it is

downright exploitative and therefore *immoral*. Where are the stories in our media about the effects of Walker's draconian cuts on the lives of citizens *and on the values that are compromised*? If we do not tell these stories, who will?

So instead of joining another circular discussion of taxes that begins and ends with economics and leaves out both principles and people, let's talk about what we want Wisconsin to look like in five or ten years. If the highest officer in state government can support his associates in breaking the law during his campaign and then rehire them, what will that say about who we have become?

OUTRAGE Page

Featuring Some of the Most Egregious Recent Legislative Doin's

[Editor's note: As the legislative session draws to a close, special interests have "popped out of the woodwork" to grab their "piece of (or sometimes the whole) pie." Some of the most egregious legislative actions are described below using excerpts from cited sources]

Suppression of the Right to Vote

The most fundamental Constitutional right is the right to vote and elect those who govern. The transparent effort of the legislature to create impediments to registering and voting is designed to affect mostly demographic groups that tend to vote Democratic.

Discussed in more detail by Chair Garrett Cohn on page 3, this is nothing less than an attack on the fundamental democratic process. If passed and signed into law, these measures will no doubt engender legal challenges to their constitutionality.

Lobbyists 2 Voters 0

Money talks in recent legislation being "fast-tracked" in just days from introduction to passage, that expands the time period during which lobbyists can contribute to political candidates and elected officials. Expanding the power of special interest lobbying groups like Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce while the legislature is still in session amounts to a pay-to-play style of government that is incompatible with the "Wisconsin Idea".

Another bill, on its way to the Assembly, increases to \$20,000 the amount that a corporation can spend to entice employees to contribute to a candidate.

Corporations cannot contribute directly to political candidates in WI. So CEO's circumvent that rule by asking employees to contribute personally. The problem with this practice is the power imbalance between employer and employee, who is likely to find it difficult to refuse a "request" from the boss.

Asking employees to contribute to candidates is (unfortunately) legal. Spending \$20,000 to do the asking may soon be legal as well.

[The above material is excerpted from Moving Forward: Your United Wisconsin Newsletter, March 10, 2014, and State Senator Kathleen Vinehout Newsletter, Volume 8, March 19, 2014].

Goodbye to Local Control of Sand Mining and Other Environmental Hazards

There are over 100 sand mines in Wisconsin. Most produce sand for "fracking", a process for extracting oil trapped in shale by pumping sand, water and chemicals under high pressure into the shale.

Sand mining is often associated with important environmental and infrastructure hazards, including dust in the air, so thick that children can't play outside, residents near the mines develop asthma, and huge trucks transporting the sand destroy local roadways.

(Continued on page 6)

Outrage Page continued from page 5

Local communities in proximity to the mines have responded to these problems by enacting ordinances requiring sand mines to control dust, and other hazards, and requiring conformity with a comprehensive land use plan.

The bill before the legislature will essentially strip local communities of the authority to regulate sand mines, and will set precedents for every other mineral deposit in Wisconsin.

By a complex set of rules, the bill will invalidate most existing local regulation of sand mines, and strip communities of the ability to protect their residents from adverse environmental, health and economic effects of sand and other mineral mines. Senator Vinehout says "This bill is far more dangerous than its earlier cousin."

[Much of above material came from State Senator Kathleen Vinehout's newsletter, Volume 8, March 5, 2014].

Increasing Income Inequality

"Income inequality" refers to the gap between the income of the very wealthy and that of everyone else. A new report, cited below, finds that income inequality in Wisconsin is widening.

As the table below shows, the share of income for the top 1% peaked just before the great depression, dropped in the mid 20th century as prosperity's rising tide "lifted all boats," and is now approaching that of the 1920's.

Income Share of Top 1% in Wisconsin, %

1928	1974	2007	2011
16.8	7.0	16.2	15.7

Between 1979 and 2011 the average income of the top 1% of earners in WI grew by 104% while the average income of the bottom 99% **dropped** by 0.4%.

In 2011, The top 1% had an average income of \$783,000. In the aftermath of the recession between 2009, and 2011 the top 1% claimed 71% of the total income growth.

Unfortunately, some of the recent actions by the legislature will widen the income gap between the top 1% and the bottom 99%.

Many of the recent WI tax cuts have disproportionately benefitted the highest earners, and cuts to tax credits mean that families and seniors with modest incomes will pay more in taxes. Deep cuts in support for the state university and technical college systems make it harder for WI residents to improve their skills and increase their income.

To tackle income inequality, and the serious social costs it brings, the legislature should raise the minimum wage, promote training and education of the workforce, support working families, and make state taxes more equal across income groups.

[Excerpted from WI Budget Project, Pulling Apart: Focus on Wisconsin's 1 Percent, February 2014].

"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

or Renew

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

^

<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: DOOR</p>	<p>Sign me up for:</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>I would also like to join:</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: Democratic Party of Door County P.O. Box 863 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235</p>
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DPDC 2013 Resolutions

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF DOOR COUNTY

(1) PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF RESOURCES

Whereas, everyone should be entitled to clean and safe water to drink and air to breathe, and

Whereas, the resources of air and water and land are not infinitely renewable, and

Whereas, protective enforcement of environmental regulations has been lax, and

Whereas, community ownership of sustainable, green energy alternatives supports acceptance of them,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin supports funding for enforcement of regulations designed to ensuring clean air and water, sustainability of these resources and local control of green energy alternatives.
(85 words)

(2) FUNDING IMPROVED HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Whereas a healthy citizenship in Wisconsin provides a basic quality of life and is fundamental to sustaining a competitive workforce, and

Whereas, Wisconsin budget proposals remove an estimated 89,000 citizens from BadgerCare, and

Whereas, Wisconsin can improve health care coverage by creating a Wisconsin-designed, Federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) funded Health Care Exchange System that will gain an estimated 10,500

new Wisconsin jobs and prevent \$120M of related-business tax penalties, now

Therefore, RESOLVED the Wisconsin Democratic Party supports the delay of rolling back BadgerCare until Exchanges are operating effectively as a Wisconsin-designed Exchange System.
(98 words)

(3) ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING

Whereas, the US incarcerates more of its citizens than any other developed country, and

Whereas, many are imprisoned for nonviolent offenses such as possession of marijuana,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin supports alternatives ways of reforming non-violent illegal behavior.
(43 words)

(4) PROMOTING A LIVING WAGE AND WORK FORCE SUPPORT

Whereas, every working person in the country should have access to jobs that pay enough for their family to afford the basics, and

DPDC 2013 Resolutions, Continued

Whereas, the best investment in good paying jobs is education, and

Whereas, collective bargaining ensures fairness, safety, and equality,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin support policies and Legislation that guarantees a Living Wage, the right to bargain collectively and access to work force training for women, minorities and all workers.
(76 words)

(5) ALL EARNED INCOME SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND A MINIMUM TAX

Whereas, Social Security and Medicare are underfunded to be able to provide a critical safety net for older Americans,
and

Whereas, the highest earning Americans pay little or nothing into the systems beyond minimal caps,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin supports a policy whereby all earned income be subject to Social Security and Medicare taxation.
(58 words)

(6) ELIMINATING UNFAIR TAX BREAKS FOR CORPORATIONS AND THE WEALTHY

Whereas, the governor's proposed budget cuts important programs and services, and

Whereas, the governor's proposed budget increases tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations, and

Whereas, corporations depend on public water, sewage, utilities and transportation, and

Whereas, the governor's proposed budget does nothing to address tax loopholes that only the wealthy are eligible for,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin calls on the Wisconsin legislature to eliminate tax loopholes for corporations and wealthy residents and develop initiatives that increase revenues to meet the state's budget requirements.
(96 words)

(7) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Whereas, social issues that invade the private lives of individuals have no place in the political arena, and

Whereas, a woman should have universal access to health care options affecting her future, and

Whereas, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin strives to eliminate discrimination in all its forms and contexts,
and

Whereas, marriage is a social contract between consenting adults,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin supports the right of women to make their

DPDC 2013 Resolutions, continued

own health care decisions, the right of everyone to full contraceptive information and the right of everyone to marry whomever they choose.
(97 words)

(8) CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND EQUAL ACCESS TO MEDIA FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Whereas, campaign finance laws should allow every individual to express support for his or her favorite candidate or issue, and

Whereas, the rules for those who hold broadcast licenses are required to operate in the public interest,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Door County supports that no person, organization, entity or corporation shall have greater influence over the electoral system or access to media based on financial resources.
(70 words)

(9) SCHOOL FUNDING SUPPORT AND SUPPORT FOR THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

Whereas, the current funding formula results in annual shortfalls of necessary funds for staff, services and equipment, and

Whereas, Wisconsin's Technical Colleges provide skilled workers for future economic growth, and

Whereas, all teachers should be supported in their efforts to teach their students properly,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin supports school finance legislation that funds the cost of excellence in K-university education including the Technical College system.
(73 words)

(10) FAMILY CARE IMPLEMENTATION, STATEWIDE.

Whereas Family Care (FC) is offered in 57 Counties as a proven cost-effective, comprehensive, initiative as a State-sponsored "managed care", business-approach to long term care service for adults with Developmental and Physical Disabilities and Chronically ill Elderly, and

Whereas, delaying state-wide implementation places the State at financial risks of Federal Medicaid funds

Withdrawal and steals funds from other critical human service programs...while all

County taxpayers in un-implemented Counties pay taxes for but cannot receive Family Services, now

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin supports implementation of Family Care for all Wisconsin Counties.
(100 words)