

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

February will be an exciting time in Wisconsin as the Presidential race finally gets into our neck of the woods. Please watch your email for updates on campaign events. At the LCDP February 18 meeting there will be a presentation on single payer health care. In addition, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin will have a presenter at this meeting regarding the delegate selection process for the National Convention in Denver.

Thanks to all party members who participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. city-wide celebration on January 21st, despite snowy weather. Although the mainstream media tends to only focus on Martin Luther King the civil rights leader, we must remember that he was among the foremost anti-war voices in the nation as well as someone who helped organize striking workers at the end of his life.

Whether our primary issue is the ending the war in Iraq, access to healthcare, reproductive rights or protecting American workers, we must strive to be attentive to the concerns of everyone in our party. All of these concerns are intertwined, and in each case the Republican party stands opposed to progress.

Fabio Burgos
Chair - LCDP

In this issue:

- Does John '100 Years' McCain Agree With Bush's Signing Statement On Iraq? **P. 2**
-www.thinkprogress.org
- Democratic Leadership Institute (DLI) Information **P. 3**
- If McCain's A Moderat, I'm The Easter Bunny **P. 4**
-By Peter Dreier, via The Huffington Post
- Membership Renewal Form **P. 6**



UPCOMING EVENTS

DPW Founder's Day Gala

Saturday, February 16, 2008
5:30p.m. Pre-reception, 6:00p.m. Gala
Midwest Airlines Center - Milwaukee, WI
Senators Clinton & Obama both to attend
For more information, please contact the DPW at 608-260-2021 or send an email to:
Email:founders@wisdems.org

LCDP General Party Meeting

Monday, February 18, 2008
7:00-9:00 P.M. Ho Chunk Nation
3 Rivers House, 724 Main St. La Crosse
(Single Payer Health Care Presentation & National Convention Delegate Information)

Wisconsin Presidential Primary

Tuesday, February 19, 2008
PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE

LCDP Spring Fling/St. Pat's Day Party

Saturday March 15th, 5:30 P.M.
Loren Kannenberg & Karri Kline residence
322 23rd St. South, La Crosse

3rd CD Convention

Saturday March 29 Jake's Northwoods
1132 Angelo Rd. Sparta, WI
8:30 A.M. Registration, 9:30 A.M. Start

1st Tier National Convention Delegate Selection

Sunday, April 6, 2008, 12 noon—2 P.M.
Cartwright Center (Port O'Call Room) - UW-La Crosse

Democratic Leadership Institute

April 12-13, 2008 - Devil's Head Resort
Merrimac, WI - See Page 3 for details.

LA CROSSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Our Elected Officials

Governor James Doyle

Office of the Governor
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-1212 / (608) 267-8983 Fax
Email: wisgov.state.wi.us/contact.asp,
www.wisgov.state.wi.us

Lt. Governor, Barbara Lawton

Room 19, East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701
(608) 266-3516 / (608) 267-3571 Fax
Email: ltgov@ltgov.state.wi.us
www.ltgov.state.wi.us

Senator, Russ Feingold:

716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5323 / (202) 224-2725 Fax
Email: russ_feingold@feingold.senate.gov
<http://www.feingold.senate.gov>

Senator, Herb Kohl:

330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5653 / (202) 224-9787 Fax
Email: herb_kohl@kohl.senate.gov
Webpage: <http://www.kohl.senate.gov>

Congressman, Ron Kind:

1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: (202) 225-5506, Fax: (202) 225-5739
Email: ronkind@mail.house.gov
Web page: <http://www.house.gov/kind/>

Assembly Representative,

Jennifer Shilling:

State Capitol 120 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53703-8953
Ph: (608) 266-5780
Local: (608) 788-9854
Email: rep.shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov

94th Assembly District Representative Mike Huebsch

Room 215 West, State Capitol,
P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708
Phone (608) 266-2401 or (888) 534-0094
(608) 786-3512 / (608) 282-3694 Fax
email: rep.huebsch@legis.wisconsin.gov

State Senator Dan Kapanke

Madison Office, Room 104 South,
State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882,
Madison 53707-7882
Phone (608) 266-5490 or (800) 385-3385
Fax (608) 267-5173,
Local, (608) 782-3975
email: sen.kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov

2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Barack Obama for President

P.O. Box 802798
Chicago, IL 60680
(866) 575-8480
<http://www.barackobama.com>

Obama La Crosse Campaign Office

127 South 6th St. La Crosse
Contact: Graham Clumpner, (360)927- 0160
or Casey Giltner, (920)410-6668

Hillary Clinton for President

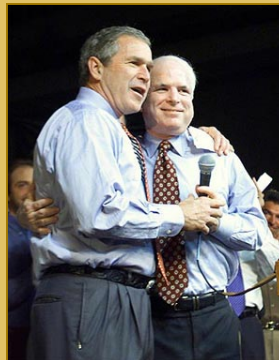
PO Box 2361<
Chester, VA 23831
(804) 545-3472 (Tel)
<http://www.hillaryclinton.com>

Clinton La Crosse Campaign Office

Exchange Building, 205 5th Ave. South
Suite 324, La Crosse

DOES JOHN '100 YEARS' MCCAIN AGREE WITH BUSH'S SIGNING STATEMENT ON IRAQ?

VIA THINKPROGRESS.ORG



Earlier this week, when President Bush signed the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, he issued a

little-noticed signing statement, claiming that provisions in the law - including the barring of funds for permanent bases in Iraq - could be disregarded.

Democrats in Congress were quick to condemn Bush's stealth measure. On the Senate floor, Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) called it "the clearest signal yet that the Administration wants to hold" the "option" of permanent bases "in reserve." Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) said Congress expects Bush to "faithfully implement all of the provisions of the [act], not just the ones he happens to agree with."

In a statement, Sen. Joe Biden, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called Bush's signing statement "outrageous" and constitutionally questionable:

It is outrageous for the President

to suggest that Congress cannot bar the use of funds - something clearly within the power of Congress under our Constitution - for the construction of permanent bases in Iraq.

Conspicuously absent from the debate over Bush's signing statement is Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). In the past, McCain has spoken out aggressively against signing statements, saying they are "wrong" and that they "should not be done":

"I would never issue a signing statement," the Arizona senator said at a Rotary Club meeting in Nashua, adding that he "would only sign it or veto" any legislation that reached his desk as president.

Perhaps McCain is keeping silent because he shares Bush's goal of an indefinite, long-term presence of American troops in Iraq. Last month, McCain said it would be "fine with" him "if we maintain a presence in" Iraq for "a hundred" years.

The question arises as to what's more important to McCain: his anti-signing statement pledge or an indefinite presence in Iraq? ■

**LA CROSSE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

**Democratic National Com-
mittee (DNC)**

430 S. Capitol St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
(tel)202-863-8000
www.Democrats.org

**The Democratic Party of
Wisconsin (DPW)**

222 W. Washington Ave. Suite 150
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 255-5172 (tel)
(608) 255-8919 (fax)
www.wisdems.org

**Democratic Leadership
Council (DLC)**

600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-0007(tel)
www.DLC.org

Ron Kind for Congress

P.O. Box 184
La Crosse, WI 54602-0184
608.782.3444
608.782.4433 (fax)
www.kindforcongress.org

**Progressive Patriots Fund
(Russ Feingold, Chair)**

PO Box 628008
Middleton, WI 53562
(608) 831-1308 (Tel)
(608) 831-1348 (Fax)
www.progressivepatriotsfund.com

Coulee Progressives

www.couleeprogressives.org

**LCDP MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

The LCDP needs volunteers now to for party building and 2008 election preparation. We need a special effort in '08, particularly in the 94th Assembly District. The membership committee will coordinate this effort. Please contact either:

Vicki Burke at 781-0737 or
irelandvicki@aim.com

Nathan Montgomery at 780-6654 or
nmontgo20@aim.com

Hank Zumach at 457-2545 or
zumach@mwt.net

**DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (DLI)
INFORMATION**

The 2008 Democratic Leadership Institute will take place on April 12-13th, 2008 at the Devil's Head Resort & Convention Center in Merrimac. There is an activist track and a student track. For

more information, please contact Steve Gillitzer at (608) 260- 2412 or email: DLI@wisdems.org

The deadline for signup is Friday March 21st. ■

**2008 LA CROSSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD
OFFICERS & MEMBERS:**

Executive Officers:

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792-0878
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783-0172
[Email:jwine@charter.net](mailto:jwine@charter.net)

Kris Troyanek, Treasurer
769-5988
[Email:ktroyanek@charter.net](mailto:ktroyanek@charter.net)

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317-9717
[Email:ericshellcam@aol.com](mailto:ericshellcam@aol.com)

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[Email:bobsadviceforstocks@lycos.com](mailto:bobsadviceforstocks@lycos.com)

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IF McCAIN'S A MODERATE, I'M THE EASTER BUNNY

BY PETER DREIER
VIA THE HUFFINGTON POST

Funny how the right-wing echo chamber is reverberating in the mainstream media. Consider an article in Saturday's New York Times about the fast-fading presidential hopes of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. According to the article, Bloomberg's chances are "diminished by the success of Senator John McCain, a moderate candidate..." and because "Mr. McCain's centrist views" appeal to the same people that Bloomberg had hoped to attract.

Moderate? Centrist? Is this the same John McCain whose voting record and views since his election to the Senate in 1986 have consistently been conservative, even reactionary?

During the past year, right-wing opinion-makers and politicians -- including Rush Limbaugh and other radio talk-show hosts, the Religious Right leaders like James Dobson, and the Romney and Huckabee campaigns -- kept repeating the mantra that McCain was a "liberal." In her New York Times column last week, Gail Collins, trying to figure out how these adults could be so worked up about McCain, concluded, correctly: "These people are nuts."

This seems like a reasonable description of Limbaugh,

Dobson and their ilk. But how do we account for the reporters on Collins' own paper, plus the rest of the establishment press, who continue to define McCain as a moderate and a centrist, in the face of so much evidence to the contrary?

Indeed, McCain keeps insisting that he's a conservative, a "foot soldier in the Reagan Revolution," but the right-wing attack machine has so far prevailed in defining him otherwise. Exit polls showed that evangelical and conservative voters were more favorable to Romney and Huckabee. Now McCain, the likely GOP nominee, is trying to win them back. He's not worried that they'll vote next November for Obama or Clinton (as Ann Coulter has threatened to do as a protest against McCain), but that they'll stay home on Election Day.

Eventually, most of the right-wing fanatics will make peace with McCain, and may even contribute to the 527 political groups that, allegedly independent of McCain's official campaign, will embark on a mud-slinging campaign against Obama or Clinton like they Swift-Boated John Kerry in 2004.

But, as Ari Berman wrote in an article, "The Real McCain" in *The Nation* two years ago

(December 15, 2005), "McCain has always been far more conservative than either his supporters or detractors acknowledge." On foreign and military policy, economic policy (like taxes, aid to the poor, and regulating business to protect consumers, workers and the environment), and issues like abortion and gay rights, McCain has consistently taken conservative positions. In recent years, he has co-sponsored a handful of bills with Democrats on immigration reform and campaign finance reform, that violated GOP orthodoxy, and cast an occasional vote (for example, initially opposing Bush's tax cuts for the rich, a position he has now reversed) that fueled the right-wing's over-reaction. But these votes are rare exceptions, hardly indications that McCain would govern from the center.

These rare votes, however, have considerable weight in the National Journal's ratings of senators on the conservative-liberal dimension. During his first decade in the Senate, McCain consistently scored in the 80s (100 being the most conservative). In the late 1990s, as he began thinking about running for president, he cast a few votes that broke ranks with the Republican party line and reduced his overall conservative ranking, but he still scored in the low-

and mid- 60s.

The nonprofit nonpartisan group Project Vote Smart compiles the ratings of various interest groups on its website, along with each congressman's key votes on each major issue. Consumer and environmental groups, civil liberties groups, labor unions, groups that advocate for women's rights, groups that voice the concerns of small family farmers, and groups that advocate for public schools, children, and the poor consistently give McCain low marks. Even the Disabled American Veterans gave McCain a bare-bones 20 percent rating in 2006, the most recent scorecard. In contrast, groups representing big business and social conservatives (such as the American Conservative Union) rank McCain among their loyal supporters.

These rankings and votes are public information and available on-line to even the laziest reporter, as are news clippings about McCain's membership in the Keating 5 scandal in the 1980s (senators caught in a web of corruption that involved lobbying federal bank regulators to lay off Charles Keating, a campaign contributor whose savings-

and-loan company was under investigation).

But, with some exceptions, the mainstream media have given McCain a free pass, allowing his right-wing opponents to define him as a moderate, without scrutinizing his record. Perhaps because McCain is a somewhat avuncular, charming, grandfatherly guy with a sense of humor who occasionally

But reporters would have to be on a different planet to not recognize that McCain's views on health care reform, global warming, and war put him solidly in the conservative camp. Yes, there are some Republican senators who have even higher conservative scores, showing how far right the party has moved in the past decade. But to call McCain a "centrist" or a "moderate" is to remove

any meaning from those terms. In terms of what McCain would be like as President, think William McKinley, Herbert Hoover, and George W. Bush. His agenda would please the Chamber of Commerce and the social conservatives.

Between now and November, McCain will try to reposition his image to attract the independent and

moderate voters he'll need to win the White House. The media, however, have a responsibility to report objectively about McCain's views, the corporate interests he has served, and his voting record, rather than simply echoing the spin of his own campaign or of the ultra-right. In that context, McCain remains today, as he's been his entire political career, far outside the American mainstream. ■



shows up on "The Daily Show," he doesn't come off as an angry right-wing curmudgeon. Perhaps because he cosponsored a handful of bills with Democrats, and occasionally broke ranks with GOP litmus tests, reporters think he's a real maverick. Or maybe reporters' love affair with McCain stems from the fact that he battled and beat cancer, or that he was a prisoner of war during the Viet Nam war.

**LA CROSSE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

LCDP General Party Meeting

Monday, April 21, 7:00 to
9:00 P.M. Ho Chunk Nation
3 Rivers House 724 Main St.
La Crosse
(Speaker: Scot Ross, One Wis-
consin Now)

**2008 Democratic Party of
Wisconsin State Convention
June 13-14**

Stevens Point Holiday Inn &
Convention Center
Stevens Point, WI

**LCDP Fall Dinner
Saturday, October 18th 5:30
to 9:00 P.M.**

Concordia Ballroom 1129
La Crosse St., La Crosse

**Election Day 2008
Tuesday, November 4th
Polls Open: 7:00am-8:00pm**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Reality has a well-known
liberal bias"
- Stephen Colbert

**La Crosse County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**P.O. Box 1861
La Crosse, WI 54602-1861**

*Authorized and paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party,
Fabio A. Burgos, Chair; Kris Troyanek, Treasurer
The content herein is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.*

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Attention all Party Members:

The Newsletter is now online. If you don't receive the online newsletter and haven't received online updates through the campaign, please update your address by sending an email to: laxdems@yahoo.com

Visit us online at: LaxDems.com



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008!



*Yes please enroll me, and/or my family, as a member of the
La Crosse County Democratic Party for 2008!!*

*Enclosed is payment for dues according to type of
membership requested.*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home/Cell Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

Occupation _____

Assembly District: 94th _____ 95th _____ Ward _____

YES! I am interested in volunteering for party activities!

Please Check Due Structure that applies

- ___ \$25 General Membership
(\$10 each for up to 3 additional members)
- ___ \$ 10 Senior Citizen
- ___ \$35 Pairs (Up to Two Memberships)
- ___ \$45 Activist (Up to 3)
- ___ \$75 Family Membership
- ___ \$120 Supporting Membership
- ___ \$240 Friend
- ___ \$600 Patron
- ___ \$1200 Investor
- ___ \$2400 Benefactor

*Make checks payable to;
The La Crosse County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 1861
La Crosse WI 54602-1861*

I recommend contacting as a possible member

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____