

## DEMOCRATIC NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

### Message From The Chair

What is already the biggest campaign office in recent memory is getting bigger. In cooperation with the Obama campaign, the LCDP has rented additional space connected to our office at 127 S. 6th St. in La Crosse. The additional space is needed for additional Obama staffers and volunteers. In addition, we will be holding general party meetings at the office from this point through the election.

As anyone who has been at the office can attest, the level of activity during June and early July is comparable to an October-like level of activity in past election years.

I would recommend as we celebrate our nation that every citizen read Barack Obama's speech on patriotism given in Independence, Missouri last week. It can be found at <http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/post/stateupdates/gG55dC>. It is a great explanation of why we are working so hard to elect him President of the United States and why we are working to elect Democrats of the same philosophy to Congress and our state legislature.

Fabio Burgos  
Chair, La Crosse County Democratic Party

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By: Joseph Palermo, Via The



## UPCOMING COUNTY PARTY EVENTS

**La Crosse Interstate Fair**  
July 16-20, County Fairgrounds, West Salem  
Volunteers needed  
Contact Marcia Wine to volunteer: 783-0172

**July General Party Meeting & Midsummer Obama Campaign Kickoff**  
Monday, July 21st  
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.  
Democratic Party Headquarters  
127 6th St. S. La Crosse, WI  
Speaker: UW-L Political Science Professor Joe Heim on the national political outlook & Obama Regional Field Coordinator Roger Low will also speak

**Tara Johnson Fundraiser with Senator Russ Feingold**  
Saturday August 9th, Time TBA  
Freight House Restaurant  
107 Vine St. La Crosse

**Bangor Fun Daze Parade**  
Sunday, August 10, 2008  
Meeting Location TBA

**Cheryl Hancock Fundraiser**  
Wednesday, August 13, 2008  
1925 Main St., Home of Dorothy Lenard  
La Crosse, WI Time TBA

**Holmen Cornfest Parade**  
Saturday, August 16th 11:00 A.M.  
Meet at Holmen Aquatic Center

**August General Party Meeting**  
Monday August 18 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.  
127 S. 6th St. La Crosse, WI  
Speaker: State Senator Pat Kreitlow

**Labor Day Parade and LaborFest**  
Monday, September 1st  
Lineup location TBA

**Ron Kind Korn Roast**  
Saturday, September 6th  
La Crosse County Fairgrounds  
West Salem, WI Time TBA

**September General Party Meeting**  
Monday September 15  
LCDP Movie Night: "Uncounted"

## REPRESENTATIVE JEFF WOOD LETTER EXPLAINING HIS DECISION TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT, 7/8/2008

*Text of Wood letter:*

Anyone who knows me knows I cherish my independence. Not just as an American and a Veteran, but as an elected official. By being the only legislator out of 132 to vote against their party's budget and stand up to leadership to represent the Chippewa Valley, I've demonstrated my independence under the toughest circumstances. It has been an honor to be your Representative in the State Assembly for the past six years and I hope I represent you with the integrity you deserve. I first joined the party of Ronald Reagan because I believed it was the party of fiscal responsibility and limited government. I don't know that Reagan would recognize the current Republican Party. It appears the party has left me and a lot of other Republicans I know behind. I was especially sad to see a Vietnam Veteran and my colleague Terry Musser of Black River Falls, as well as many others, step down because of frustrations with the State party.

There have been many of us frustrated with the party because of the abandonment of the principles we believed the party stood for. Whether it is the abandonment of the basic principles of never committing troops without a defined mission and exit strategy, or the continued squandering of our children's future by excessive borrowing and spending, we have continually watched principle being replaced with political expedience at both the state and federal levels. McCain has now embraced the irresponsible borrow and spend policy that just last year he said was morally reprehensible. He has also pledged years of commitment of our troops to participate in a nation building strategy for Iraq, our party once opposed, which includes outlawing private firearms for

citizens in order to secure the peace.



As a father of three it is important to me to make sure we make the tough decisions now and not place our children in deeper debt or without the freedoms our forefathers died for. But at the same time Republicans put the country in deeper debt, and they continue to try and prove Benjamin Franklin wrong in attempting to buy us security by sacrificing liberty. They have mandated every citizen carry a new National ID card and eroded our rights to due process with the suspension of habeas corpus, promotion of torture, and retroactive immunity for telecom corporations that eaves drop on our private conversations without a warrant or just cause. They have over committed our troops without a clear mission or definition of victory, and failed to support them when they come home. As a veteran, I find this deeply offensive. They have weakened this country, not strengthened it.

At first the idea of running as an Independent made me think of the conventional wisdom that you just can't win. Independents simply don't have the money or the

volunteers to run a competitive campaign. I considered stepping down this year despite the fact that I love my job and believe that any honest assessment of my record will show I do it very effectively. Then I realized that to surrender a seat that I believe I represent well, instead of standing up for what I believe in, would not be the honorable thing to do. I could have simply stayed quiet; without any opposition cruised to re-election. But how could I look myself in the mirror? In discussing this with my family my nine year old daughter said, "Do the right thing, you'll never regret it." It is harder to practice than to preach, but it's true.

I want to thank everyone who has supported me with this difficult decision. I know not everyone who has supported me in the past will continue to. The one thing that made me hesitate the most was the thought that many people who I have considered friends will be personally offended with my decision. I hope that is not the case, and I hope you can respect if not agree with this decision. An elected official should do what they believe is right regardless of the personal consequences. It's our job.

I hope you'll support me as the Independent candidate for the State Assembly because you know I'll fight to keep taxes affordable, schools responsible, and government accountable. I'll fight for you and only you. In every vote, I'll understand the issue as well as any legislator, and try to do the right thing. That is the only thing I can promise you, but it's a promise, I've proven, I'll keep.

Thank You,  
Your Independent voice in the State Legislature,  
Representative Jeff Wood

## DEFEAT THIS PHILOSOPHY; VOLUNTEER AT LCDP OFFICE

2008 is one of those rare years where there is little difference between national and state issues.

Dan Kapanke and Mike Huebsch have the same attitude as George Bush and John McCain: hostility or indifference

towards public education, middle class access to health care and a woman's right to choose. Helping to defeat Dan Kapanke and Mike Huebsch is also helping elect Barack Obama President of the



End the Trifecta in '08

United States, and vice-versa.

Please visit and volunteer at the La Crosse County Democratic Party Office at 127 S. 6th St, (608) 785-5866. Even an hour here and there makes a huge difference.

A reminder that the office also has a MySpace page at the following link: [myspace.com/demofficelax](http://myspace.com/demofficelax). Please stop by to view the office and to volunteer. ■

## LCDP OFFICE WISH LIST

**Thank you** to all who responded to our wish lists in the May and June newsletters. However, the office will have continuing and additional needs as we approach November. The following items would be much appreciated: white copy paper, printer ink, toilet paper, Kleenex, healthy food (:), diet soda, and general office supplies (particularly labels, pens, staplers and staples!!).

This list is NOT EXCLUSIVE. Please contact the office at (608)785-5866 to Please help support those who will be volunteering from now until Election Day. ■

## VOLUNTEER HONOR ROLL

The following people have volunteered at the LCDP Office: Judy Alf, Cynthia Arauz, Stan and Ceal Berg, Vicki Burke, Maureen Carroll, Emeron Christianson, John Cleveland, Rachael Collins, Amanda Coughlin, David Goode, Linda Goodwin, Sharon Hampson, Mary Kocar, Mary McKnight, Barb Reithel, Amanda Coughlin, Jim Ryan, Jan Stacey, and Marcia Wine. We apologize if any names were missed. The time you have spent in the office has been much appreciated.

Special thanks to Vicki Burke and Marcia Wine for doing a super job of getting the word out to party members about volunteer opportunities and of course to Katie Naessens and Kat Dellenbach for all their work with volunteers within the office.

Thanks to Vicki Burke, Barb Clark and

Kris Troyanek for their help in setup and food preparation for the LCDP Summer Fiesta on June 16th.

Congratulations to Kat Dellenbach and Graham Clumpner, who were named La Crosse County Field Organizers for the Obama campaign.

Welcome to Roger Low, who will be the Regional Coordinator (3rd Congressional District) for the Obama campaign.

The Feingold Campaign is hiring for three positions: Deputy Campaign Administrator/Technology Manager, Political Outreach Coordinator, and Political Outreach Research Assistant. Please contact Paula Zellner at (715)735-7811 for more details. ■

## LCDP SUMMER FIESTA JUNE 16, 2008



*94th Assembly Candidate Cheryl Hancock addresses the LCDP at the June Meeting at Rowe Park in Onalaska.*





## JOHN MCCAIN AND "SWIFT BOAT VETERANS FOR TRUTH"

BY JOSEPH PALERMO,  
EXCERPTED FROM THE HUFFINGTON POST



In 2004, the Republican Party's "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth," acting as a surrogate for the George W. Bush reelection campaign, launched the sleaziest, most despicable smears against a veteran's war record ever undertaken during an American presidential campaign. This well-heeled group of extreme right-wing Nixonians who were still smarting over John Kerry's work in the early 1970s with Vietnam Veterans Against the War, deployed a tapestry of lies and innuendo to make a mockery out of the United States Navy's decision to award Kerry the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts for his service in Vietnam. So caustic and over-the-top were the Swiftboaters' attacks on Kerry that both George W. Bush and John McCain were forced to squeak out tepid, half-hearted criticisms of the group. But only a couple of days before McCain gushed loving praise for Bush at the Republican National Convention, he blamed Kerry for eliciting the Swiftboat attacks himself because he had made his Vietnam record a political issue in the campaign. That's the way McCain showed his solidarity with a fellow navy vet who served in Vietnam.

The Swift Boat smears against Kerry were qualitatively light-years beyond anything ever cooked up even by Joseph McCarthy or Richard Nixon. The moment the group emerged the New York Times exposed its ties to the Texas GOP and to Karl Rove and the Bush campaign. But the mainstream press gave Bush a free ride to pretend he had nothing to do with his own surrogates.

"Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" was so abrasive and sleazy that the term "Swiftboating" has earned a place in our political lexicon denoting lies aimed at smearing an opponent in a political campaign. The right-wing Regnery publishing house produced the Swiftboaters' hatchet job on Kerry. John O'Neill, who had a 30-plus year grudge against Kerry from the time he

worked for Nixon, made the rounds on ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, Fox News, and NPR pissing all over Kerry's war record while eager "journalists," including Jim Lehrer on PBS, lapped it up and dedicated weeks of "coverage" and commentary. The new meaning of the word "Swiftboat," for which we can thank Rove and Bush (and the media), has had a disparaging effect on the vast majority of real swift boat veterans who served honorably and did not agree with the Swiftboaters' methods or motives. "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" has forever tarnished these veterans' names, and ultimately their service.



At the 2004 Republican National Convention hundreds of people sported purpled band-aids on their fingers mocking Kerry's war wounds that earned him three Purple Hearts. The corporate media thought it was funny.

More than any other act of rank hypocrisy that we have grown accustomed to expect from John McCain his recent embrace of the Swiftboaters to help his presidential campaign is beyond astonishing, especially for someone who is running in large part on his Vietnam record. McCain's new love affair with the Swiftboaters should expose to the mainstream press once and for all that their man -- their father figure and "hero" -- their "maverick" -- is nothing more than a Karl Rove-George Bush clone, a human-political/animal hybrid who jettisoned his ethics and integrity the minute he realized he was poised to become the heir to the glorious Bush legacy.

John McCain has happily accepted large campaign contributions from the following Swiftboaters: Bob Perry, T. Boone Pickens, Carl Linder Sr., Harlan Crow, Jack E. Caveney, Albert Huddleston, and Sam Fox. He has even recently added the prominent Swiftboater, Bud Day, to his stable of war veterans who are currently shilling for his campaign. According to the Federal Election Commission, McCain has raked in over \$600,000 in cash from former members of "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth."

McCain is running for president largely on his "experience" that his Vietnam service gave him. But unlike the treatment his Swiftboating friends and allies dished out to Kerry in 2004 McCain wants discussion of his military record to be sacrosanct. He and his surrogates are whining about recent statements by Wesley Clark and Jim Webb about whether McCain should keep on beating Barack Obama over the head with his military experience. General Clark simply questioned whether the type of experience McCain had in Vietnam automatically qualifies him as an expert in foreign policy and gives him the judgment to be commander-in-chief. All Webb said was that McCain might want to "calm down" a bit his pounding away with his putative monopoly on patriotism and pointed out, correctly, that not everyone who serves (or has served) in the United States military is a Bush-McCain Republican.

If elected president, McCain will use the troops, as Bush has done for almost eight years now, as nothing more than elaborate stage props for his own political propaganda. His junkets to Iraq where he "strolls" in markets with 100 soldiers covering his ass have already shown that he's willing to put American troops in Iraq at risk to stage his own photo ops. That kind of exploitation to serve a right-wing nationalist/corporatist agenda, Bush has clearly shown, is not good for the United States military or for the country. McCain has once again exposed the fact that he is running for Bush's third term. ■



PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL  
CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

**Shilling for Assembly**  
P.O. Box 1261  
La Crosse, WI 54602

**Friends of Tara Johnson (32nd State Senate District)**  
www.TaraForSenate.com  
P.O. Box 426

**Friends for Cheryl Hancock (94th Assembly District)**  
www.Hancock4Assembly.com  
1007 Deerfield St., Holmen, WI 54636  
(608) 526-9197

**3rd Congressional District Democratic Party**  
Melanie Franklin, Chair  
(715) 659-4964 [www.3rdDems.net](http://www.3rdDems.net)

**Wisconsin State Senate Democratic Committee**  
[www.SSDC-Wi.org](http://www.SSDC-Wi.org)

**Wisconsin Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee**  
[www.AssemblyDemocrats.com](http://www.AssemblyDemocrats.com)

**Democratic National Committee (DNC)**  
430 S. Capitol St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003  
(tel)202-863-8000  
[www.Democrats.org](http://www.Democrats.org)

**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](http://www.wisdems.org)

**Democratic Leadership Council (DLC)**  
600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 544-0007(Tel) - (202) 544-5002 (fax)  
[www.DLC.org](http://www.DLC.org)

**Ron Kind for Congress**  
P.O. Box 184 - La Crosse, WI 54602-0184  
608.782.3444 (Tel) - 608.782.4433 (fax)  
[www.kindforcongress.org](http://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](http://www.progressivepatriotsfund.com)



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



**2008 LCDP EXECUTIVE  
BOARD MEMBERS:**

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**LA CROSSE COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**Our Elected Officials**

**Governor James Doyle**

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[www.wisgov.state.wi.us](http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us)

**Lt. Governor, Barbara Lawton**

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Email: [ltgov@ltgov.state.wi.us](mailto:ltgov@ltgov.state.wi.us)  
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<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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sen.kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov)

**LA CROSSE COUNTY  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

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

Concordia Ballroom 1129  
La Crosse St., La Crosse

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

**Quote of the Month**

"All I do is travel, I'm still out meeting with candidates, I do a lot of fund-raising."  
-Mike Huebsch  
on July 17, 2008



**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](mailto:laxdems@yahoo.com)  
Visit us online at: [LaxDems.com](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_