

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Message from the Chair

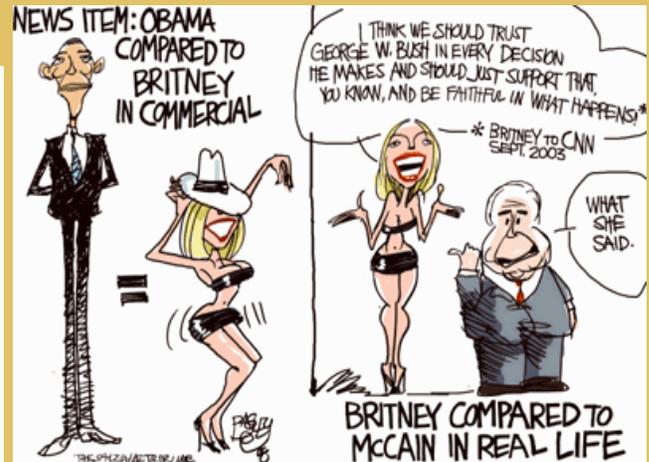
We are now less than three months to go until election day. The Republican Party's national campaign rhetoric recently took an ugly (but predictable) turn and there is sure to be more of this over the next three months. While there has been much talk of this being a Democratic year, that will not happen by accident. Any amount of time that you can volunteer is extremely valuable.

We will at times have more than one (or more than two) events simultaneously, so there will never be a lack of volunteer opportunities. Thank you so much for your support thus far.

Fabio Burgos
Chair
La Crosse County Democratic Party

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UPCOMING COUNTY PARTY EVENTS

Hillary Clinton Keynote Night

Tuesday August 26th Timber Square 426 2nd Ave N
Onalaska WI 608-781-9999
Speakers to be announced

DNC Acceptance Night Speech

Train Station Bar B Q 601 St. Andrews St LaCrosse
7pm-?

Labor Day Parade and Laborfest

Monday, September 1st Lineup location TBA

Ron Kind Corn Roast

Friday, September 5th 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
La Crosse County Fairgrounds West Salem
Volunteers needed. Please contact 782- 3444.

Cheryl Hancock Fundraiser with Barabara Lawton

September 10th with
Jennifer Shilling
5-7 Pump House

LCDP September Party Meeting

September 15th 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Port O'Call UW-LaCrosse
Movie Night: "Uncounted"

La Crosse County Democratic Party Fall Dinner

Saturday, October 18th 5:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Concordia Ballroom 1129 La Crosse St. La Crosse
Dinner, Music, Silent Auction, Door Prizes

The Truth About John McCain and Social Security

By Joel Wendland

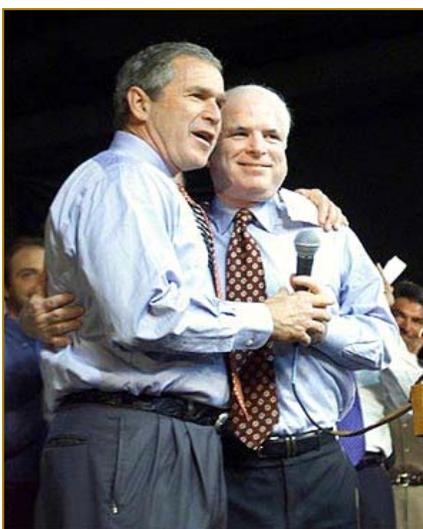
8-15-08

Social Security turned 73 yesterday, Aug. 14th. That's two years older than John McCain, a beneficiary of Social Security who receives close to \$2,000 per month from the program, despite recently describing it as "an absolute disgrace." But if McCain has his way and becomes president, Social Security would be dead by the end of his administration.

In a July townhall forum, McCain expressed his dislike for the program, saying, "Americans have got to understand that we are paying present-day retirees with the taxes paid by young workers in America today. And that's a disgrace. It's an absolute disgrace, and it's got to be fixed."

As his voting record shows, McCain supports privatization of the program, leaving retirees and the disabled as well as future retirees dependent on the whims and unpredictability of the market. If current

beneficiaries relied on the market for their retirement income, they would have lost their shirts as a result of the recent economic troubles.



McCain's proposal is an exact replica of the Bush plan that failed to pass in Congress in 2003 and in 2005. As reported in the Wall Street Journal last March, McCain said, "I believe that private savings accounts are a part of it – along the lines of what President Bush proposed. I campaigned in support of President Bush's proposal and I campaigned with him, and I did town hall meetings with him."

In 2006, McCain voted for the Social Security Reserve Fund, a Republican Party proposal that would shift Social Security's annual surpluses over to private investment companies – many of the same people who brought you the subprime mortgage crisis and the credit crunch, not to mention the dot.com bubble, oil speculation, and the Enron fiasco – and turned into risky private accounts.

In 2005, McCain supported a Social Security plan that could require deep benefit cuts or a massive increase in debt. That same year McCain voted against legislation that would prioritize Social Security solvency over tax cuts for the wealthy. And, in 1998 McCain voted twice to replace Social Security's guaranteed benefits with income from risk-based private investments.

McCain also pushes the faulty notion that Social Security is in an immediate financial crisis, though the Social Security Trust Fund managers and other independent observers repeatedly have shown that the program will be financially solvent for decades to come. Ignoring these fact, McCain pushes ahead with his claim, insisting that cutting benefits is the only way to "save it" as well as balance the federal budget .

According to an estimate reported on by [New York Times columnist Paul Krugman](#), benefits under McCain's dubious proposals on Social Security and taxes would be slashed by as much as three-quarters .

Contrary to McCain's claim that gutting Social Security would balance the federal deficit, the Bush-McCain Social Security privatization plan would worsen the deficit, cost taxpayers \$1 trillion in initial costs and another \$5 trillion over 20 years. And this bill would simply be in the form of a fat payoff to private investment companies.

With its record, why would taxpayers want to trust Wall Street with their retirement security ?

In response to McCain's receipt of Social Security benefits, Alliance for Retired Americans President George Kourpias said, "John McCain receives nearly \$24,000 each year in Social Security. If he thinks Social Security is a 'disgrace,' why doesn't he mark "return to sender" on the envelope ? "

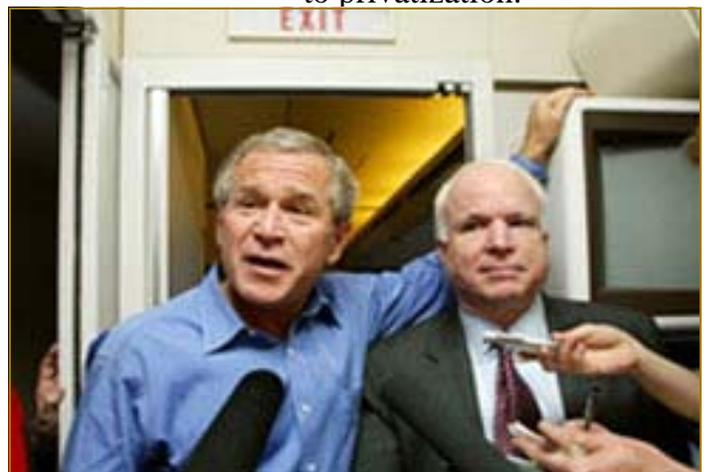
In a press statement, Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama pledged to block privatization efforts. He said, "As President, I will protect Social Security for today's seniors and future generations . "

Obama stated that strengthening the program is a goal of his. "That means strengthening Social Security's solvency while protecting middle class families from benefit cuts, tax increases or increases in the retirement age," he noted.

Commenting on McCain's dislike for the program, Obama added, "It means treating Social Security not as a political football or describing it as an 'absolute disgrace,' but instead honoring it as the cornerstone of the social compact in this country . "

Social Security is one of the longest-lasting public programs because it works and it helps retirees bridge a financial gap that keeps millions out of poverty.

Say not to John McCain and to privatization.



The Candidate we Still Don't Know

August 17, 2008
Op-Ed Columnist

The Candidate We Still Don't Know

By [FRANK RICH](#)

AS I went on vacation at the end of July, Barack Obama was [leading](#) John McCain by three to four percentage points in national polls. When I returned last week he still was. But lo and behold, a whole new plot twist had rolled off the bloviation assembly line in those intervening two weeks: Obama had lost the election!

The poor guy should be winning in a landslide against the despised party of Bush-Cheney, and he's not. He should be passing the 50 percent mark in polls, and he's not. He's been done in by that ad with Britney and Paris and by a new international crisis that allows McCain to again flex his Manchurian Candidate military cred. Let the neocons identify a new battleground for igniting World War III, whether Baghdad or Tehran or Moscow, and McCain gets with the program as if Angela Lansbury has just dealt him the Queen of Hearts. Obama has also been defeated by racism (again). He can't connect and "close the deal" with ordinary Americans too doltish to comprehend a multicultural biography that includes what Cokie Roberts of ABC News has [damned](#) as

the "foreign, exotic place" of Hawaii. As The Economist [sums up](#) the received wisdom, "lunch-pail Ohio Democrats" find Obama's ideas of change "airy-fairy" and are all asking, "Who on earth is this guy?"

It seems almost churlish to look at some actual facts. No presidential candidate was breaking the 50 percent mark in mid-August polls in 2004 or 2000. Obama's average lead of three to four points is marginally larger than both John Kerry's and Al Gore's leads then (each was winning by one point in [Gallup surveys](#)). Obama is also ahead of Ronald Reagan in mid-August 1980 ([40 percent](#) to Jimmy Carter's 46). At [Pollster.com](#), which aggregates polls and gauges the electoral count, Obama as of Friday stood at 284 electoral votes, McCain at 169. That means McCain could win all 85 electoral votes in current toss-up states and still lose the election.

Yet surely, we keep hearing, Obama should be running away with the thing. Even Michael Dukakis was beating the first George Bush by [17 percentage points](#) in the summer of 1988. Of course, were Obama ahead by 17 points today, the same prognosticators now fussing over his narrow lead would be predicting that the arrogant and presumptuous Obama was destined to squander that landslide on vacation and tank just like his hapless predecessor. The truth is we have no idea what will happen in November. But for the sake of

argument, let's posit that one thread of the Obama-is-doomed scenario is right: His lead should be huge in a year when the G.O.P. is in such disrepute that [at least eight](#) of the party's own senatorial incumbents are skipping their own convention, the fail-safe way to avoid being caught near the Larry Craig Memorial Men's Room at the Twin Cities airport.

So why isn't Obama romping? The obvious answer — and both the excessively genteel Obama campaign and a too-compliant press bear responsibility for it — is that the public doesn't know who on earth John McCain is.

The most revealing poll this month by far is the [Pew Research Center survey](#) finding that 48 percent of Americans feel they're "hearing too much" about Obama. Pew found that only 26 percent feel that way about McCain, and that nearly 4 in 10 Americans feel they hear too little about him. It's past time for that pressing educational need to be met.

What is widely known is the skin-deep, out-of-date McCain image. As this fairy tale has it, the hero who survived the Hanoi Hilton has stood up as rebelliously in Washington as he did to his Vietnamese captors. He strenuously opposed the execution of the Iraq war; he slammed the president's response to Katrina; he fought the "agents of intolerance" of the religious right; he crusaded against the G.O.P. House leader Tom DeLay, the criminal lobbyist Jack Abramoff and their coterie of influence-peddlers.

With the exception of McCain's imprisonment in Vietnam, every aspect of this profile in courage is inaccurate or defunct.

McCain [never called](#) for Donald Rumsfeld to be fired and didn't start criticizing the war plan until [late August 2003](#), nearly four months after "Mission Accomplished." By then the growing insurgency was undeniable. On the day Hurricane Katrina hit, McCain [laughed it up](#) with the oblivious president at a birthday photo-op in Arizona.

STAFF NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

PHONE BANKING

We are currently running phone banks and calling volunteers at all hours with a major push from 5-9pm

CANVASSING

Canvasses are happening every weekend. Please sign up or contact us at 608-785-5860 so we can schedule you

SIGN UP FOR NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

go to [my.barackobama.com](#) and sign up for neighbor to neighbor print canvass lists from home and enter the data from home this is a great way to help out with the campaign and get involved on your time!

DATA ENTRY

As with every campaign plenty of data entry just come on in!

McCain didn't get to New Orleans for [another six months](#) and didn't sharply express public criticism of the Bush response to the calamity until this April, when he traveled to the Gulf Coast in desperate search of election-year pageantry surrounding him with black extras. McCain long ago embraced the right's agents of intolerance, even spending months courting the Rev. John Hagee, whose fringe views about [Roman Catholics](#) and [the Holocaust](#) were known to anyone who can use the Internet. (Once the McCain campaign discovered YouTube, it [ditched](#) Hagee.) On Monday McCain is scheduled to appear at an Atlanta fund-raiser being [promoted by Ralph Reed](#), who is not only the former aide de camp to one of the agents of intolerance McCain once vilified (Pat Robertson) but is also the former Abramoff acolyte showcased in McCain's own Senate investigation of Indian casino lobbying.

Though the McCain campaign [announced a new no-lobbyists policy](#) three months after The Washington Post's [February report](#) that lobbyists were "essentially running" the whole operation, the fact remains that McCain's top officials and fund-raisers have past financial ties to nearly every domestic and foreign flashpoint, from [Fannie Mae](#) to [Blackwater](#) to [Ahmad Chalabi](#) to the [government of Georgia](#). No sooner does McCain flip-flop on oil drilling than a [bevy of Hess Oil family members and executives](#), not to mention a lowly [Hess office manager and his wife](#), each give a maximum \$28,500 to the Republican Party.

While reporters at The Post and The New York Times have been vetting McCain, many others give him a free pass. Their default cliché is to present him as the Old Faithful everyone already knows. They routinely salute his "independence," his "maverick image" and his "renegade reputation" — as the hackneyed script was [reiterated](#) by Karl Rove in a Wall Street Journal op-ed column last week. At Talking Points Memo, the essential blog vigilantly pursuing the McCain revelations often ignored elsewhere, Josh Marshall accurately observes that the Republican candidate is "graded on a curve." Most Americans still don't know, as Marshall [writes](#), that on the campaign trail "McCain frequently forgets key elements

of policies, gets countries' names wrong, forgets things he's said only hours or days before and is frequently [just confused](#)." Most Americans still don't know it is precisely for this reason that the McCain campaign has now [shut down](#) the press's previously unfettered access to the candidate on the Straight Talk Express.

To appreciate the discrepancy in what we know about McCain and Obama, merely look at the coverage of the potential first ladies. We have heard too much indeed about Michelle Obama's [Princeton thesis](#), her [pay raises](#) at the University of Chicago hospital, her [statement](#) about being "proud" of her country and the [false rumor](#) of a video of her ranting about "whitey." But we still haven't been inside Cindy McCain's [tax returns](#), all her [multiple homes](#) or [private plane](#). The Los Angeles Times [reported in June](#) that Hensley & Company, the enormous beer distributorship she controls, "lobbies regulatory agencies on alcohol issues that involve public health and safety," in opposition to groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The McCain campaign told The Times that Mrs. McCain's future role in her beer empire won't be revealed before the election.

Some of those who know McCain best — Republicans — are tougher on him than the press is. Rita Hauser, who was a Bush financial chairwoman in New York in 2000 and served on the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board in the administration's first term, joined other players in the G.O.P. establishment in [forming](#) Republicans for Obama last week. Why? The leadership qualities she admires in Obama — temperament, sustained judgment, the ability to play well with others — are missing in McCain. "He doesn't listen carefully to people and make reasoned judgments," Hauser told me. "If John says 'I'm going with so and so,' you can't count on that the next morning," she complained, adding, "That's not the man we want for president." McCain has even prompted alarms from the right's own favorite hit man du jour: Jerome Corsi, who Swift-boated John Kerry as co-author of "Unfit to Command" in 2004 and who is trying to do the same to Obama in his [newly minted best seller](#), "The Obama Nation."

Corsi's writings have been repeatedly promoted by Sean Hannity on Fox News; Corsi's publisher, Mary Matalin, has praised her author's "scholarship." If Republican warriors like Hannity and Matalin think so highly of Corsi's research into Obama, then perhaps we should take seriously Corsi's scholarship about McCain. In recent articles at [worldnetdaily.com](#), Corsi has claimed (among other charges) that the McCain campaign received "strong" financial support from a "[group tied to Al Qaeda](#)" and that "McCain's personal fortune [traces back](#) to organized crime in Arizona."

As everyone says, polls are meaningless in the summers of election years. Especially this year, when there's one candidate whose real story has yet to be fully told.

Thank you

August Volunteer Honor Roll:

The following people have volunteered at the LCDP Office:

Judy Alf, Cynthia Arauz, Stan and Ceal Berg, Nancy Burfield, Maureen Carroll, Emeron Christianson, John Cleveland, Rachael Collins, Amanda Coughlin, David Goode, Linda Goodwin, Sharon Hampson, Susan Hessel, Paul Holden Merry Kocar, Mary McKnight, Scott Ott, Barb Reithel, Jim Ryan, Jan Stacey, and JD & Marcia Wine. We apologize if any names were missed.

The time you have spent in the office has been much appreciated.

Special go to two volunteers: Vicki Burke, for her tireless work in the office day after day and to Isaac Rebut for giving unbelievable technical support to the office and for his work on the website. We are very lucky to have them both on our side.

Finally thanks to all party members, particularly Bob and Maureen Freedland, for their generous financial support of the office.



SENATOR MCCAIN AND TROOPS AND SECURITY ARE NO JOKE



Senator McCain, Troops and Security Are No Joke

by John Stoltz
via The Huffington Post

Why is John McCain treating our national security, literally, as a joke?

This week, Senator John McCain made clear that you shouldn't try to combat the rising cost of gas by checking your car's tire pressure, so your car gets more per gallon (something everyone from Al Gore to President Bush, from Joe Lieberman to Barack Obama, from NASCAR to environmental groups say you should do). He's even mocking the idea by handing out "joke" tire pressure gauges, and has a new childish web video out making a joke out of it.

But this is no joke. In fact, it's so serious that I'd ask everyone to buy tire pressure gauges - available at sites like this -- because ultimately this is about our national security and our troops. Maybe John McCain wants to mock those things, but I sure don't.

Using less Middle East oil puts us in a stronger position to demand security in the region and fight terrorist organizations which often get much of their funding through oil profits. Using less Middle East oil could also keep us out of future wars, and save the lives of

those Americans serving in uniform.

According to TIME magazine, John McCain's sole idea to "drill here and drill now" won't produce oil until the year 2030, and then it will only be 200,000 barrels per day. In comparison, the government estimates that if everyone made sure their car tires were fully inflated, we could start to reduce our oil consumption by 800,000 barrels per day, right now.

Imagine how much less Middle East oil we would consume if everyone checked their tires and made sure they were at full pressure. Over the course of the Bush administration, that would be about 18.72 billion barrels of oil we could have not gotten from the Middle East. All just by using the simple tire pressure gauge that John McCain thinks is a joke.

Here's something else that is no joke. Senator McCain has gotten \$2 million from big oil, and in return, he's blocking investment into alternative energy, like wind and solar power. Here's just a sliver of what hasn't seen the light of day because Senator No has blocked it: a Renewable Energy Tax Credit Extension Worth 116,000 Jobs Per Year, Billions in Tax Credits For Renewable Energy Production, \$290 Million For R&D On Renewable Energy, Including Wind Power. And,

Senator McCain cast the deciding vote to cut funding for the Rural Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program from \$23 Million To \$3 Million. All of these things would have led to us needing to purchase billions of fewer barrels of oil from the Middle East.

Laughing yet? Because those of us who love America and our troops sure aren't.

Maybe John McCain wants to mock the idea of simple ways we can use less oil and protect America and our troops, while blocking efforts to get off Middle East oil, but we take it dead serious.

This is about America's security and about whether we get sucked into military conflicts in the future to protect oil interests.

I say, show Senator McCain that he and his Big Oil buddies are the only ones laughing. Buy a tire pressure gauge right now to help America start buying 800,000 fewer barrels of oil a day.

Oh, and if you have the extra 89 cents to buy two, send the second one to John McCain with a note -- "America's security is no joke."

Help Defeat These Men!

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 United States, and vice-versa.

Unfortunately Dan Kapanke and Mike Huebsch are extremely well-funded. It is also an unfortunate fact of political life that to fight on an equal playing field, our candidates need money. Please take the time to make a small donation to Tara Johnson and Cheryl Hancock or to support the

local party office that houses their staff. Every little bit may make all the difference in the world.



PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Friends of Tara Johnson (32nd State Senate District)

P.O. Box 426
La Crosse, WI 54602

Friends for Cheryl Hancock (94th Assembly District)

1007 Deerfield St., Holmen, WI 54636
(608) 526-9197

3rd Congressional District Democratic Party

Melanie Franklin, Chair
(715) 659-4964

www.3rdDems.net

Wisconsin State Senate Democratic Committee

www.SSDC-Wi.org

Wisconsin Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee

www.AssemblyDemocrats.com

Democratic National Committee (DNC)

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

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

Democratic Leadership Council (DLC)

600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-0007(Tel) - (202) 544-5002 (fax)
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

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.couleeproggressives.org

2008 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Barack Obama for President

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

Hillary Clinton for President

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

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LA CROSSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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www.wisgov.state.wi.us

Lt. Governor, Barbara Lawton

Room 19, East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701
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Email: ltgov@ltgov.state.wi.us
www.ltgov.state.wi.us

Senator, Russ Feingold:

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(202) 224-5323 / (202) 224-2725 Fax
Email: russ_feingold@feingold.senate.gov
<http://www.feingold.senate.gov>

Senator, Herb Kohl:

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Webpage: <http://www.kohl.senate.gov>

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Email: ronkind@mail.house.gov
Web page: <http://www.house.gov/kind/>

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Jennifer Shilling:

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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
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Fax (608) 267-5173,
Local, (608) 782-3975
email: sen.kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov

**LA CROSSE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**Women's
Leadership Night**

Tuesday August 26th Timber
Square 426 2nd Ave N Onalaska
WI 608-781-9999
6:30-? Speakers TBA

**Cheryl Hancock Fundraiser
with Barbara Lawton**

Sept. 10 5-7pm
Pump House

**LCDP September Party
Meeting**

September 15th 6-9
Port O'call UW-LaCrosse

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

Concordia Ballroom 1129
La Crosse St., La Crosse

Election Day

Tuesday, November 4th
Polls Open: 7:00am-8:00pm

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,

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



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 _____