



### HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY NEW ADMINISTRATION

The year begins with the swearing in of legislators at both the state and national level. We hope you will join us for the Inauguration event honoring President Barack Obama on January 20th. We must mark this historic occasion with a celebration.

While we celebrate our success in the voting booth we realize the immense responsibility for Democrats as we now have majorities in the House of Representative and the Senate at the national level and the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly. We also have a Democratic President and Governor for the first time in many years. President-elect Obama has said, "This is our time."

The theme of the Presidential Inauguration is "Restoring America's Promise." But future President Obama knows he can't do it alone. He needs you and me to help make this happen. As a local party we need your continued support. When we call or write and ask for your help, I hope you will be willing to answer as you did during the campaign, "Yes We Can!".

As co-chairs, we will work to continue what Past President Fabio Burgos has accomplished. We will continue to try to grow the membership, have a positive presence in the community, maintain a strong financial position, and promote and support Democratic Party principles.

At our first meeting on January 26th we will discuss possible plans to accomplish these goals. Such items include; maintaining an office and developing committees will be discussed. We hope you will join us, along with the other officers and Executive Board members listed in this newsletter, in making 2009 a successful year for Democrats.

Vicki Burke & Pablo Ruiz ,  
Co chairs  
La Crosse County Democratic Party

### UPCOMING COUNTY PARTY EVENTS

#### La Crosse Inaugural Event

Tuesday January 20th  
6:00 pm dinner at 7:00  
Raddison Hotel Ballroom  
200 Harborview Plaza LaCrosse  
Tickets are \$20  
Contact Vickie Burke at 792-5854 or  
Pablo Ruiz at 738-8251

#### LCDP General Party Meeting

Monday January 26th 7:00 pm  
Ho Chunk Nation 3 Rivers House  
724 Main St. LaCrosse  
Topics to be discussed;  
LCDP Office Future

## Garrison Keillor's essay on Barack Obama Sitting on top of the world

Be happy, dear hearts, and allow yourselves a few more weeks of quiet exultation. It isn't gloating, it's satisfaction at a job well done. He was a superb candidate, serious, professorial but with a flashing grin and a buoyancy that comes from working out in the gym every morning. He spoke in a genuine voice, not senatorial at all. He relished campaigning. He accepted adulation gracefully. He brandished his sword against his opponents without mocking or belittling them. He was elegant, unaffected, utterly American, and now (Wow) suddenly America is cool. Chicago is cool. Chicago!!!

We threw the dice and we won the jackpot and elected a black guy with a Harvard degree, the middle name Hussein and a sense of humor—he said, "I've got relatives who look like Bernie Mac and I've got relatives who look like Margaret Thatcher." The French junior minister for human rights said, "On this morning, we all want to be American so we can take a bite of this dream unfolding before our eyes." When was the last time you heard someone from France say they wanted to be American and take a bite of something of ours? Ponder that for a moment.

The world expects us to elect pompous yahoos, and instead we have us a 47-year-old prince from the prairie who cheerfully ran the race, and when his opponents threw sand at him, he just smiled back. He'll be the first president in history to look really good making a jump shot. He loves his classy wife and his sweet little daughters. At the same time, he knows pop music, American lit and constitutional law. I just can't imagine anybody cooler.

It feels good to be cool, and all of us can share in that, even sour old right-wingers and embittered blottoheads. Next time you fly to Heathrow and hand your passport to the man with the badge, he's going to see "United States of America and look up and grin. Even if you worship in the church of Fox, everyone you meet overseas is going to ask you about Obama, and you may as well say you voted for him because, my friends, he is your line of credit over there. No need anymore to try to look Canadian.

And the coolest thing about him is the fact that back in the early '90s, given a book contract after the hoo-ha about his becoming the First Black Editor of The Harvard Law Review, instead of writing the basic exploitation book he could've written, he put his head down and worked hard for a few years and wrote a good book, an honest one, which, since his rise

in politics, has earned the Obamas enough to buy a nice house and put money in the bank. A successful American entrepreneur.

Our hero who galloped to victory has inherited a gigantic mess. The country is sunk in debt. The Treasury announced it must borrow \$550 billion to get the government through the fourth quarter, more than the entire deficit for 2008, so he will have to raise taxes and not only on bankers and lumber barons. His promise never to raise the retirement age is not a good idea. Whatever he promised the Iowa farmers about subsidizing ethanol is best forgotten at this point. We may not be getting our National Health Service cards anytime soon. And so on and so on.

So enjoy the afterglow of the election awhile longer. We all walk taller this fall. People in Copenhagen and Stockholm are sending congratulatory e-mails—imagine! We are being admired by Danes and Swedes! And Chicago becomes The First City. Step aside, San Francisco. Shut up, New York. The Midwest is cool now. The mind reels. Have a good day.





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DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

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Meeting**

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House  
724 Main St. LaCrosse  
Topics to be discussed;  
LCDP Office Future  
Developing Committees

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,  
Vicki Burke Co-Chair Pablo Ruiz Co-Chair Leandra Dahlin 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

**REMINDER REGARDING MEMBERSHIPS**

If you renew or sign up for membership after October 1, 2008, you are a member of the La Crosse County and State of Wisconsin Democratic Parties through December 31, 2009. See the membership form below.



**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009!**



*Yes please enroll me, and/or my family, as a member of the  
La Crosse County Democratic Party for 2009!!*

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

**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

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!

*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 \_\_\_\_\_