

DEMOCRATIC NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2010

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the La Crosse County Democratic Party! We are excited to have Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett as a candidate for governor!!

Happy New Year!! It seems like only yesterday that we celebrated the inauguration of President Obama. This has been a difficult year because of the economy, but we see signs of better days. President Obama works to solve the many problems he inherited.

The elections of 2010 are very important!! The opposition will spend millions on defeating our candidates. You must get involved. We will be asking for your help early and often in 2010.

Along with Senator Feingold, we are involved in providing an office. This will be costly for us, but it is a necessity in an election year. Please consider giving your time or contribution to help maintain this office.

We will not have a holiday party in December, but will wait until January when we will do something on the night of the State of the Union message. In February we look forward to a Grand Opening of the Sen. Feingold/LCDP office in La Crosse. In March we will again celebrate St. Pat's Day at the Loren Kannenberg/Kari Kline residence.

Vicki Burke

Chair
La Crosse County Democratic Party



UPCOMING COUNTY PARTY EVENTS

Tom Barrett Visit

5-7 p.m., Monday January 18
City Brewery Hospitality Center,
1111 Third St. S, La Crosse

February General Party Meeting

Feb. 15-7 p.m. Ho Chunk Three Rivers
House 724 Main St., La Crosse
Henry Sanders, Lt. Gov. Candidate
will be visiting!

January General Party Meeting

Monday, January 18, Ho Chunk Three
Rivers House 724 Main St. 7 p.m., La Crosse.
Vote on constitutional and by-law changes.

State of Union Event/Holiday Party (To Be Announced)

March General Party Meeting, March 15-7 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Party and fundraiser
Saturday, March 20, 6-9 p.m.
Home of Loren Kannenberg and Kari Kline,
322 S. 23rd. St., La Crosse.



Why I Still Believe In This Bill

Jacob Hacker: The Godfather Of The Public Plan Explains Why He *Still* Believes In The Health Care Bill

Now that the core demand of progressives has been removed from the

Senate health care bill--namely, the public health insurance option--should progressives continue to support the effort?

...

It would therefore be tempting for me to side with Howard Dean and other progressive critics who say that health care reform should now be killed. It would be tempting, but it would be wrong.

Since the first campaign for publicly guaranteed health insurance in the early twentieth century, opportunities for serious health reform have come only rarely and fleetingly. If this opportunity passes, it will be very long before the chance arrives again. Many Americans will be gravely hurt by the delay. The most progressive president of my generation--the generation that came of age in the anti-government shadow of Ronald Reagan--will be handed a crippling loss. The party he leads

will be branded as unable to govern.

The public option was always a means to an end: real competition for insurers, an alternative for consumers to existing private plans that does not deny needed care or shift risks onto the vulnerable, the ability to provide affordable coverage over time. I thought it was the best means within our political grasp. It lay just beyond that grasp. Yet its demise--in this round--does not diminish the immediate necessity of those larger aims. And even without the public option, the bill that Congress passes and the President signs could move us substantially toward those goals.

As weak as it is in numerous areas, the Senate bill contains three vital reforms. First, it creates a new framework, the "exchange," through which people who lack secure workplace coverage can obtain the same kind of group health insurance that workers in large companies take for granted. Second, it makes available hundreds of billions in federal help to allow people to buy coverage through the exchanges and through an expanded Medicaid program.

Third, it places new regulations on private insurers that, if properly enforced, will reduce insurers' ability to discriminate against the sick and to undermine the health security of Americans.

These are signal achievements, and they all would have been politically unthinkable just a few years ago.

Progressives have good reason to be angry. Yet we should harness our anger to fix the bill--now and every year from now. The current bills in Congress do too little to help Americans immediately; their main actions are delayed for years. If and when legislation passes, progressives should demand immediate concrete actions to make the promise of a reform a reality more quickly and more effectively.

So a bill must pass. Yet it must be a better bill that passes. And it must be understood by the President, the Congress and every American as only a step--an important but ultimately incomplete step--toward the vital goal that the campaign for the public option embodied: good affordable health care for every American.



Organizing for America Deputy Director Jeremy Bird contributed an exclusive story to the *Huffington Post* this morning, taking stock of OFA's progress so far:

"Twelve months ago Organizing for America was little more than a big idea. Yes, we had the Obama for America email list -- an incredible tool -- but what we wanted to do was unprecedented. For the first time ever, we set out to transform a political campaign into a long-term grassroots effort driven by issues and a commitment to organizing at the local level.

Back then -- before the Recovery Act fight, the health care battle and the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor -- we liked to say we were building the plane as we flew it. And we were. We had thousands of volunteers, but not one staffer in the states. Today, we have permanent offices in all 50 states and active volunteers in every congressional district. We've built a lasting infrastructure that's already translated into success in legislative organizing, and we're eager to train our fire on the elections later this year. ...

The fact is, every policy President Obama pursued in 2009 has either been passed by Congress, or is on the cusp of becoming reality. Did we get every single thing we wanted? Nope. The Rolling Stones were right -- you can't always get what you want. But I am incredibly proud of what OFA accomplished in 2009 thanks to the leadership of our volunteers and our incredibly talented staff of organizers.



FIGHT BACK
against Republican spin!

**Defend your
representatives
and your values by
writing a
letter to the editor!**



PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Wisconsin State Senate
Democratic Committee
www.SSDC-Wi.org

Wisconsin Assembly
Democratic Campaign Committee
www.AssemblyDemocrats.com

3rd Congressional District
Democratic Party
Melanie Franklin, Chair
(715) 659-4964
www.3rdDems.net

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)
w.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

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

2010 LCDP EXECUTIVE BOARD

2010 LCDP Board Members *Executive Officers:*

Chair: Vicki Burke
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vburke0737@aol.com

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Secretary: Paula Stanek
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Immediate Past-Chair: Pablo Ruiz
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LA CROSSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Our Elected Officials

Governor James Doyle

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(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
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www.ltgov.state.wi.us

Senator, Russ Feingold:

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<http://www.feingold.senate.gov>

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Washington, DC 20510
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Email: herb_kohl@kohl.senate.gov
Webpage: <http://www.kohl.senate.gov>

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Washington, DC 20510
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Email: ronkind@mail.house.gov
Web page: <http://www.house.gov/kind/>

Assembly Representative,

Jennifer Shilling:

State Capitol 120 North
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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
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Fax (608) 267-5173,
Local, (608) 782-3975
email: sen.kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov



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and Kari Kline,

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,

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 or visit us online at: LaxDems.com

Vicki Burke Chair Kris Troyanek Treasurer

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IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010!



*Yes please enroll me, and/or my family, as a member of
the La Crosse County Democratic Party for 2010!!*

*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 _____

*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 _____