

DEMOCRATIC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

Message from the Chair:

I have enjoyed serving as chair and co-chair the last two years. They might be called "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat." We started 2009 with a great Inaugural celebration for all Americans and ended 2010 with a devastating election for Democrats.

Although we are recovering from the elections, it is important that we get together to celebrate the holidays. Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share. We will provide coffee and punch. Bring your own beverage if you would like something else. Keith Knutson has offered the party room at his apartment complex for our party. He lives in Market Square Apartments, 415 King St. Enter at either end and go to 4th floor parking ramp. He will try to have the entrance doors open, if not the access is 175. Once the you get into the apartment building access, go to 5th floor, center of the building, where the party room is located. The 5th floor is the first floor of apartments over the parking ramp. The party starts at 5, so we will have someone there to help at 5 p.m. If you have trouble getting in, call my cell phone (608-792-5854).



(Pictured- Vicki Burke, Chair 2009-2010 and Andrew Londre, 2011 Chair)

There are many people who helped me during these two years. I thank Kris Troyanek, treasurer. I could not have done the job without an efficient, quality treasurer. Paula Stanek is an excellent secretary! Helen Kelly and J.D. Wine were great vice-chairs with which to work. Serving my first year with Pablo Ruiz was a great time for me. Thanks to Bob Freedland, Keith Knutson, Andre Londre, Justin Fons, and Marcia Wine for serving on the board. Thanks to Jesse Compo and Armas Cravins who are wonderful representatives for the College Democrats! I am happy to be able to continue to work with many of you.

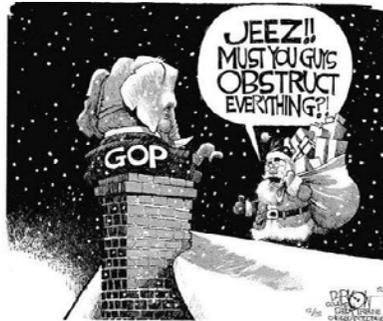
Congratulations to the new officers and board for 2011. Officers are Andrew Londrew, chair; Monica Kruse, vice-chair; Kris Troyanek, treasurer; Paula Stanek, secretary. I will serve as immediate past chair. At-large Executive Board members are Paul Kruse, Paul Hackner, Marcia Wine, Tina Pohlman, and Helen Kelly. Armas Cravins and Jesse Campo are the College Democrats representatives.

Starting Jan. 1, 2011, your membership year will be determined by the date you join or renew. A membership form can be found at www.laxdems.com. Or you may send in your payment. Please send the amount with your name and address to La Crosse County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 1861, La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

Vicki Burke

Chair
La Crosse County Democratic Party

DECEMBER CARTOON OF THE MONTH



UPCOMING COUNTY PARTY EVENTS



Holiday and General Meeting, 5 p.m.

NOTE TIME CHANGE, 5 p.m.

December 20th.

Holiday party at 415 King St., Market Square Apartments. Enter at north or south of parking ramp. Take elevator to 4th. Fl. Enter 175 code to gain admittance. Watch for signs.

January General party Meeting, Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m.

Ho Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse.

Excerpt: What is the DREAM Act?

Courtesy: CNN.COM



The Dream Act would make immigrants eligible for citizenship if they go to college or join the military. The administration feels this would strengthen the economy and the military. The following is a Dec. 8, 2010, CNN article on the Dream Act.

Washington (CNN) -- A soon-to-be law school graduate with a 3.8 average, Cesar Vargas wants to serve in the U.S. military.

But under the law Vargas won't even be able to hold a job after he graduates, much less enlist. He is in the country illegally after being brought to New York from Mexico as a child.

"All I want is the opportunity to serve my country and to give back to the country that has given me so much," Vargas said. "... We're not a problem. We're the solution."

The House and Senate could vote as soon as Wednesday on a bill -- the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, or DREAM -- that would grant citizenship eligibility to thousands of young illegal immigrants like Vargas if they go to college or serve in the military.

"The president and I have said repeatedly we have to educate our way to a better economy," Education Secretary Arne Duncan told reporters Wednesday. Passing the bill, he said, is "the right thing to do for our country."

Duncan, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and congressional Democrats held a news conference on Wednesday to push for passage of the measure.

"These are not the individuals that are a threat to our public safety or our security," Napolitano said. "This is an area where ... our nation's immigration laws have not kept up with our nation's needs."

The White House has touted the bill as a measure that will strengthen the nation's military and its economy.

The DREAM Act would create a path to citizenship for immigrants who entered the United States illegally as children under the age of 16 and have lived in America for at least five

years, obtained a high school or General Education Development diploma and demonstrated "good moral character," according to a White House fact sheet.

Even then, only a six-year conditional status would be awarded, and before moving to the next phase the students would need to meet additional requirements -- attending college or serving in the military for at least two years, and passing criminal background checks.

Gaby Pacheco was brought to the United States from Ecuador as a child. The honors student said she has lived in America for 18 years, and "I'm an American. The only thing is, I haven't had a path, I haven't had a way to legalize my status."

Under the DREAM Act, the path to citizenship would be long, she said, "but it would give us the opportunity to serve."

Not everyone is on board with the plan. The bill could grant amnesty to more than 2 million illegal immigrants, Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, the ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, said last week.

"Mass amnesty is not the only problem with the DREAM Act," he said. "The bill allows illegal immigrants to receive in-state tuition at public universities, placing them ahead of U.S. citizens. The bill also is a magnet for fraud."

The White House, however, disputes that the bill will give amnesty, noting in a fact sheet that "it requires responsibility and accountability of young people who apply to adjust their status under the DREAM Act, creating a lengthy and rigorous process."

It also points out that DREAM Act beneficiaries would not be eligible for federal grants, such as Pell Grants, to attend college. "Undocumented youth adjusting to lawful permanent resident status are only eligible for federal student loans which must be paid back, and federal work-study programs where they must work for any benefit they receive," according to the White House.

"This is not some dream road, easy-picking concession of the Congress of the United

States, of the government, to American citizenship," said Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Illinois, who delivered an impassioned plea on behalf of the measure. "No Pell Grant. I'd like to see you get through college without a Pell Grant. No government assistance ... no health care. Nothing. Nothing but your own faith and your own determination and your own work to get you through school. And nothing but your own work, your own determination to join the military."

Beneficiaries will receive in-state tuition in their state of residence, the same as any student, he said.

The Congressional Budget Office has said the measure would cut the federal deficit by \$1.4 billion and increase government revenues by \$2.3 billion over the next decade. And that doesn't even take into account the contributions made by future doctors and lawyers who will benefit from the DREAM Act, Gutierrez said.

"The son should never be held responsible for the actions of the father," he said. "These are our class valedictorians. These are the brightest, the smartest. ... They love this country. This is the only country they know."

Rep. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, said the young people had no say in the decision to come to the United States. "They were the kids brought in the back of a car, or the back of a truck ... but they grew up believing America is home."

Some members of Congress have said a lame-duck session is not the right time to pass such legislation, he said, but "when will it ever be the wrong time for fairness and justice?"

Young people who do not fulfill the act's requirements will lose their legal status and would be subject to deportation, according to the White House fact sheet. DREAM Act applicants would be responsible for paying the processing fees associated with their applications, and would be subject to "rigorous criminal background checks and reviews."

**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)
110 King Street, Suite 203
Madison, WI 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

IW-La Crosse College Democrats
www.uwlacrossecollegedemocrats.com

College Democrats of Wisconsin
www.wiscollegedems.net

Coulee Progressives
www.couleeprogressives.org

**PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

Chair: Vicki Burke
Phone: (608) 792-5854
vburke0737@aol.com

Vice-Chair: Helen Kelly
Phone: (608) 784-7610
hzkelly_law@centurytel.net

Treasurer: Kris Troyanek
Phone: (608) 782-3135
ktroyanek@charter.net

Secretary: Paula Stanek
Phone: (608) 780-5961
paulastanek@aol.com

Board Members:

Marcia Wine
Phone: (608) 783-0172
mrswineiii@charter.net

Bob Freedland
Phone: (608) 796-1076
bobsadviceforstocks@lycos.com

Keith Knutson
KaKnutson@viterbo.edu

Justin Fons
Phone: (262) 424-4704
fons.just@students.uwla.edu

Andrew Londre
Phone: (608) 769-5845
andrew.londre@gmail.com

UW-L College Dems Co-Chair: Liz Guck
Phone: (218) 341-9356
guck.eliz@students.uwla.edu

Immediate Past-Chair: Pablo Ruiz
Phone: (608) 738-8251
pablomruiz3@gmail.com

**PAC, PARTY &
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**

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



Hope you have taken the time to go to our reconstructed website at www.laxdems.com. Thank you to those who have helped with funding this project. Our monthly maintenance cost is \$50. If you would like to make a specific donation for the website, please send your contribution to La Crosse County Democratic Party, PO Box 1861, La Crosse, WI 54602-1861. Candidate links are on the website.

LCDP UPCOMING EVENTS

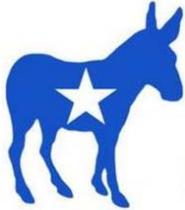
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La Crosse County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
P.O. Box 1861
La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

*Authorized and paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party,
Vicki Burke Chair Kris Troyanek Treasurer
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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 or visit us online at: LaxDems.com



It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2011!



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 or Student
- \$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 _____

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Email Address _____

Occupation _____

I would like to support the LCDP with a donation of _____

*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 _____*