

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

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As your co-chairs of the LCDP take office, we would like to take this occasion to thank everyone for all that they did last year. Although the results were not what was wanted, your efforts made La Crosse County a blue bastion in the sea of red. We must not let up in our efforts; we must take advantage of the opportunities this year is going to offer and strengthen La Crosse County to continue to keep Jennifer Shilling, Steve Doyle, and Jill Billings doing their great work in Madison.

Your co-chairs plan to work closely together to diligently initiate efforts to reach out to the community to develop relationships, establish the Democratic brand, and increase our Party's membership and participation. We intend to coordinate closely with the DPW to define the specifics of our "sales message" so we can regain those folks who once voted Democratic but who, in this last election, went over to the Dark Side and voted for Trump. Finally, we will make an effort to coordinate activities with our local elected officials in a continued endeavor to reach voters.

To do this, we need to continue with a level of participation similar to what we achieved last year. It will require determination, but also, volunteers are essential to the success of the efforts in the areas of activity that we are asking you to concentrate on this year. Areas of activity that we are asking you to assist in determining. Below is a list of activities that your Executive Board compiled and we are asking you to add your ideas to the list and select up to three activities, including your own, that you believe are important and that you would be interested in volunteering for. Please, this one small request is what everything else rests on, do not fail here. Send your thoughts on this to J. D. Wine, convener of the Events Committee, at jwine@charter.net or mail them into the P. O. Box 1861, La Crosse, WI 54602-1861 or bring your ideas to the General Party Meeting January 16th.

You have a fine Executive Board this year, determined and willing to work hard to start the process or achieving victory in 2018. All of us want nothing more than success for the Democratic Party, in La Crosse County, Statewide, and Nationally. We look forward to working with each and every one of you in 2017.

Susan Goeldner and J. D. Wine

List of possible areas of activity we could concentrate on in '17.

- 1) Voucher school issue and its effects, especially on rural schools.
- 2) Getting the rural vote back. This could, in a large measure, be combined with number 1.
- 3) Going door to door to the unknown affiliation and non-voting addresses.
- 4) Establishing a relationship with unions and a legal method of communication with them after the wall goes up in '18.
- 5) Reaching out to the different minority segments of the community. Especially relevant if Trump carries through with his discriminatory campaign promises.
- 6) Holding listening sessions in the rural areas.

Please Read and Take and Note

If you are a member of the LCDP and have an email address, we would like send you your news letter by email to save us the cost of mailing out the hard copy which is approximately \$10.00/yr. If you have an email address, please send your email address to me at jwine@charter.com.

If you are not a member we are pleased to send you our news letter, but the cost is becoming prohibitive. We are asking you to send me your email address to receive it via email. If you wish to continue receiving a hardcopy, you may either join the party or we are requesting a donation of \$10.00 to meet the cost of mailing. Thank you.

Our Elected Officials

Senator Tammy Baldwin

717 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: 202-224-5653, Fax: 202-224- 9787

Congressman, Ron Kind

1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: 202-225-5506, Fax: 202-225- 5739

State Senator, Jennifer Shilling

State Capitol 106 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53703-7882
Ph: 608-266-5490, Local: 608-788- 9854

94th Assembly District Representative Steve Doyle

Room 126 North, State Capitol,
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Ph: 608-266-0631 or 1-888-534-0094
Fax: 608-282-3694

95th Assembly District Representative

Jill Billings

Room 4 West State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Ph: 608-266-5780

LCDP Executive Board Officers

**Co-Chairs: Susan Goeldner &
J. D. Wine**

608-784-0766 or 608-783-0172

Vice Chair: Paul Kruse

608-783-6206

Treasurer: Diane Oldani Wulf

608-780-7007

Secretary: Dave Wulf

608-780-7007

At-Large Board Members

Sara Bentley

Obbie King

Carolyn Smith

Kris Troyanek

open

Past Chair: Vicki Burke

College Representatives

Anna Kivi (UW-L)

Any thoughts or suggestions you may have for your Executive Board are greatly appreciated. You can express them by contacting any board member, either by phone or email.

Trump cabinet nominees - something to do NOW

Here is a partial list of Trump cabinet nominees from Democracy for America. Call Senator Baldwin and Congressman Kind to express your disapproval of these folks and request that they do everything in their power to block these, especially Baldwin who will be voting on each and every one of them.

- **SEN. JEFF SESSIONS (Attorney General):** Sessions is a white supremacist who was deemed too racist to confirm to a federal judgeship by a Republican Judiciary Committee in 1986. **If confirmed, Sessions would be responsible for enforcing the country's civil rights laws, despite a history of racist remarks about Black employees, reportedly supporting the Ku Klux Klan, and calling the ACLU and NAACP "un-American."** His anti-woman record is long, including votes against reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act and against bipartisan legislation to curb sexual assault in the military. We cannot let him take charge of the Department of Justice. *continued on page 3*

SCOTT PRUITT (EPA Administrator): Pruitt is a notorious shill for the polluting fossil fuel industry -- which has given him more than \$300,000 since 2002. **Pruitt erroneously claims climate change is "far from settled" among scientists and brags he has "led the charge against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency."**

As Oklahoma Attorney General, he has repeatedly sued the EPA to attack the Clean Power Plan and Clean Water Rule, even passing off as his own a letter written and delivered to him by a big oil company lobbyist that criticized the EPA.

- **STEVE MNUCHIN (Treasury Secretary):** Steve Mnuchin is an ultra-wealthy former Goldman Sachs executive who got rich at the expense of working Americans. **He ran a bank described as a "foreclosure machine" that kicked people out of their houses, using techniques so cold-blooded a federal judge called them "harsh, repugnant, shocking and repulsive," foreclosing on more than 36,000 homes.** He and his family pocketed \$3.2 million in fake profits from notorious Ponzi scheme fraudster Bernie Madoff. Mnuchin will run the Treasury Department to benefit Wall Street, saying his "number one priority on the regulatory side" is attacking Dodd-Frank Wall Street reforms reining in big banks.
- **BETSY DeVOS (Secretary of Education):** Betsy DeVos is another billionaire, committed to destroying public schools, planning to give our schools to Wall Street cronies while imposing a right-wing social agenda at the same time. ***The New York Times* reported that the education policies she helped impose in Detroit led to a "total and complete collapse" of that city's school system.** She once said that her work on vouchers -- taking taxpayer money away from public schools and giving it to religious schools -- helped "advance God's kingdom."

- **REX TILLERSON (Secretary of State):** As CEO of Exxon, Tillerson has specialized in partnering with dictators and human rights abusers from Equatorial Guinea to Qatar to Kazakhstan. **But his closest ties are with Russia, where after billions of dollars in oil deals Vladimir Putin awarded Tillerson Russia's Order of Friendship.** Exxon even complained international sanctions against Russia cost the company \$1 billion. Under Tillerson's leadership, Exxon has faced securities fraud investigations for lying to investors and funding climate deniers decades after it knew the truth about climate change.

An opening in an At Large position has occurred on the Executive Board. Per our bylaws, Article VI, Section 6, ". . .the Executive Board will appoint a person to fill the unexpired term subject to the approval of the members at the next meeting of the organization." Anyone interested in filling this position would contact me by midnight Friday, January 6th at jwine@charter.net or 609-783-0172

How to Move Forward after a Divisive Election

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." - Thomas Edison
My mom came from a family of Republican ranchers and my dad came from a family of Democratic businessmen - and we never lacked for lively dinner conversation. This taught me to listen to different views and find common ground. That approach helped me cut through Washington's toxic partisanship. I worked with many in Congress to pass bills with bipartisan

support. Of course, there will always be legislation that draws fire or divides Congress. I voted for the Affordable Care Act, which is not perfect but is helping millions of people. I was attached relentlessly for this vote, but I still believe that helping people access affordable health care is a worthy fight. And I fought for Medicaid expansion, an important part of the ACA. Unfortunately, fixing our broken immigration system gets more lip service than action. Rather than threatening to build walls or deport people, politicians should pass comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act to keep families together, meet labor needs and crack down on criminals. In the aftermath of this election, I worry that fear and anger are dividing our nation. If these divisions grow deeper, they will be even harder to heal. I urge my fellow Americans to take action in the spirit of lifting each other and our most vulnerable communities. We need more people, not fewer, to participate in civic life - whether you choose to engage by volunteering, educating, protesting, donating, or even running for office. If we want a stronger future, we must model resilience, not resentment, for the next generation of leaders. Cynicism and disillusionment will lead us nowhere. Let's show our young people we are willing to work harder to build the nation that we want. by Ann Kirkpatrick The election in November didn't go my way, but I've been bucked off a horse before. When that happens, you get up and get right back in the saddle. I am ready to join my fellow Americans in looking to the future. . . let's seize those new opportunities -- especially the ones that look like work. . .

From the **Arizona Republic**

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 16th, Regular Monthly Meeting, **6:00** at Ho Chunk Three Rivers House, 8th and Main. Note time.
Monday, January 16th, MLK Day Celebration at 7:00 in the Viterbo Fine Arts Building
Monday, February 6th, LCDP Executive Board Meeting, at 7:00
Monday, February 20th, LCDP Regular Monthly Meeting, 7:00 at Ho Chunk Three Rivers House, 8th and Main Sts.

THINGS WE CAN DO AS PROGRESSIVES AND/OR DEMOCRATS TO MOVE FORWARD IN A POSITIVE WAY

(BASED ON NOVEMBER 30TH MEETING AT HOME OF ROZ SCHNICK) READING MATERIALS (READ AND DIGEST) Article by George Lakoff entitled "A Minority President: Why the polls failed and what the majority can do" to determine what we can do to move forward. This approach is also supported by Martha Laning, Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW). Here is the website for the article:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/a-minority-president_us_5834526be4b030997bc136f7.
Book by Katherine Cramer entitled "The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker".
Summary of future initiatives and positive developments based on column by E.J. Dionne entitled "The good that can come from a Trump Presidency". See Attachment I for the summary of Dionne's column.

INTERACTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE AND OURSELVES

- a. Determine what it means to be a Progressive and/or a Democrat (i.e., basic values) and then proclaim it in a variety of ways and venues.
- b. Define some of the more important issues that need to be addressed. Examples: K12 public and higher education needs and forms of support, etc.
- c. Talk with people you know or have met on the street, shops, airplanes, etc. to join with us to work toward positive outcomes in the next elections. Share your stories and encourage others to not give up.

- d. Truly listen to those that see the world differently than we do and then try to counter those things that either are not true or that can be met in the middle so that we can work together for the common good
- e. Look for people/groups that create a sense of solidarity and relate to them in ways that lift up our spirits; resist crawling into a cave.
- f. Look for ways to engage the millennials and other younger persons and tell our story about what Progressives and/or the Democratic Party have meant and continue to mean to the average person.
- g. Join groups and organizations that are active in supporting the causes we care about (example: Common Cause).
- h. Need ways to find joy and humor in our lives.
- i. Rediscover ourselves and get energized.

SUPPORT OF OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND IDENTIFY POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

- a, If currently not a member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party (LCDP) or DPW, join and become active in helping with messaging, funding, activities, and ideas (DPW website: <http://www.wisdems.org>). If currently a member, become more active. Here are some of the things we can do:
 - i. Contribute to the upcoming permanent La Crosse office being proposed by DPW.
 - ii. Attend LCDP meetings and become active.
 - iii. Interact with and support the DPW efforts for improving positive election results.
 - iv. Become aware of the issues and respond in your own way.
 - v. Help identify good progressive candidates for local/state/national offices.
- b. Do all we can to support our local/state/national elected officials to maintain our elected officials. Understand what issues and programs they support and why; then, immediately start to make the voters aware of these points to gain support for the re-elections of our officials.
 - i. National elected officials-both are going to have tough battles in 2018 given the shift in voters.
 - 1. U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
 - 2. U.S. Congressman Ron Kind, 3rd Congressional District
 - ii. State elected officials in our area
 - 1. State Senator Jen Shilling in 2020
 - 2. State Assembly Representatives Jill Billings and Steve Doyle in 2018

ATTACHMENT I: INITIATIVES AND POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE FUTURE (BASED ON ARTICLE BY E.J. DIONNE, DECEMBER 29, 2016)

- Social and Political Initiatives Already Starting
1. Defending Obamacare
 2. Protecting the environment
 3. Standing up for immigrants and minorities
 4. Preserving civil liberties
 5. Preserving and advancing civil rights and voting rights
 6. Highlighting how Trump's policies contradict his promises to working-class voters
- Positive Developments for the Future
1. Elites and the media are paying attention to the parts of the country that have been falling behind economically and to the despair that afflicts so many, particularly in rural and small-town America.
 2. Us being reawakened to the injustices of both class and race and rededicating ourselves to remedying them together.
 3. Our justified skepticism about Trump is no substitute for fresh thinking about what we will do when we next take power.
 4. Democrats seem to recognize that they need to have a clear, comprehensible and convincing economic message instead of the muddled message they had.
 5. Voters will notice if Republicans fail to apply to Trump the same ethical standards they demanded of Hillary Clinton.
 6. Voters will realize that the Republicans' claims to fiscal prudence will be exposed as fiction if they follow through on pledges to combine large tax cuts, mostly for the rich, with big increases in military spending.
 7. Voters will start counting the costs of Republican budgets and find them too high.
- These include:
- a. Radical budgets to satisfy Republican's ideological enthusiasts, knowing in the past that their policies would never become law.
 - b. Republicans effort to enact their full agenda on shrinking Medicare, Medicaid and other social programs.



La Crosse Democratic Party
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 La Crosse, WI 54601-1861

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 Diane Oldani Wulf, Treasurer
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For the LCDP to do the activities we want to do this year, we are going to need funding and volunteers. The party is only as strong as the engagement of its members and friends. And, that is where you come in. We need you to volunteer and contribute. Please consider a contribution of any size to help us provide the activities, events, and and broadening of our base preparing for 2018.

You may send a contribution to:
 LCDP, PO Box 1861, La Crosse, WI,
 54602-1861

For online contributions go to our web site
www.laxdems.com.

Thank you.

La Crosse County Democratic Party Membership Form
 Please check the dues structure that applies:

- ___ \$25 General Membership
- ___ \$10 Senior, Student, Limited Income
- ___ \$35 Pairs (up to two members)
- ___ \$45 yearly Activist
- ___ \$75 yearly Martin Luther and Coretta King, Jr.*
- ___ \$10 a month John and Jackie Kennedy*
- ___ \$20 a month Harry and Bess Truman*
- ___ \$50 a month Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt*

*Includes all family members
 I would like to support the LCDP with a donation of \$ _____

Total Amount Paid \$ _____ Make checks payable to
 La Crosse County Democratic Party
 P.O. Box 1861
 La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

You may also donate online:
www.LaxDems.com
 AAPF for by LCDP, Diane Oldani Wulf Treasurer

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 *Employer _____ Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution may be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

*Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

I recommend contacting as a possible member:
 Name _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____