



A long time party member with octogenarian status made a statement at the end of the February Regular Meeting. I am paraphrasing, but basically it was: We need to take action. Just debating and discussing is not enough. With new outrageous statements and policy announcements appearing almost daily from Trump and the Republicans, discussing is not enough. With more and more people who have no power, who have no voice, and who have very little hope, discussing is not enough. With throngs of people eager to get involved, discussing is not enough. Our octogenarian party member understands what many members do not. The iron is glowing hot - let's grab a hammer and start striking.

Your Executive Board's committees' plans are starting to come to fruition. We will soon have activities planned that will establish our party brand in the county instead of letting the Republicans do it, which will point out the hypocrisy of the GOP toward the ACA, roads, water, schools, taxes, and other issues, and which will raise funds for these endeavors. What we need are volunteers to do these things - volunteers to write letters to the editor, serve at events, knock on doors or make phone calls, to serve in the numerous tasks involved organizing the data for use, and, in general, to donate their time and treasure.

To that end, the Volunteer Committee has mailed out a letter calling for volunteers, along with a form requesting what activities you feel comfortable in doing. Please look for this mail, fill out the form and mail it back in the enclosed envelop. Volunteers will be the hammer. Let's provide it, while the iron is still hot.

Thank you for all you have done and all you are going to do. Let's turn 2018 into a tsunami wave for the good guys. You, not anybody else, are the one to do it.

Susan Goeldner and J. D. Wine

Please Read and Take and Note

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please look at your mailing label to see when your membership expires. Use the membership information found in this newsletter to renew. Thank you for your continued support!

VOLUNTEER FORM

you should have received a volunteer form to complete in the mail. If you haven't already done so, please complete this form and return it in the enclosed envelope. We need a very high response to this to reduce the number of follow up calls the Volunteer Committee will have to make. This effort is crucial to our success this year. Thank you.

CALLING ALL LETTER WRITERS

The key to the success of the Democratic Party in upcoming elections will be a strong core of volunteers - volunteers who are willing and eager to do a wide variety of tasks and activities that will spread the message that the Democratic Party is the party of working people and inclusion, and the one that will fight for living wages, universal health care, sound public education, and maintenance of the social safety net.

One fairly easy way you can take part is by helping us develop a strong Letter to the Editor program. Our goal is to have a minimum of two letters each week appear in the La Crosse Tribune.

Because the paper will accept only one letter from each individual writer every 30 days (250 words or less), it is necessary for us to call on a number of our members who are willing to write letters. You

(continued in second column)

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

(letters writers continued)

can either write a letter from scratch or we can supply a draft form with the talking points and you can modify it to fit your ideas and style.

We want to focus on topics of immediate interest, possibly one specific topic each month. For March, that topic will be the ACA.

Our Communications Committee is exploring the possibility of setting up a short letter-writing workshop in upcoming weeks. If you are interested in this, please contact Susan Goeldner at 608 518 6121, or cgoelds@gmail.com.

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

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608-780-7007

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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.

FARMING and HEALTH CARE

From Vermont Public Radio –

Kathleen Masterson – Feb. 21

There are many challenges to farming for a living: It's often grueling work that relies on unpredictable factors such as weather and global market prices. But one aspect that's often ignored is the cost of health care.

A [University of Vermont researcher](#) found that nationally, most farmers cited health care costs as a top concern, from a study regarding the aging and shrinking farm population, and what components are needed to build a prosperous farm economy.

A survey showed that the number one issue facing farmers was the cost of health insurance. This held true for small and large farms: Two-thirds of commercial farmers cited the cost of health insurance as the biggest threat.

Typically, strategies to build a robust farming industry have focused on access to land, capital and changes to market infrastructure.

But when you ask people, 'Well, how many people know a farmer that has an injury? Or a farm family that has a chronic health issue? Or a mental health issue?', everybody's hand goes up, "And that's the one issue that doesn't get talked about -- some of the social needs that farm families have.

One unmarried Vermont farming couple serves as an example. The man is part of a heavily subsidized plan through [Vermont Health Connect](#). The woman is covered by Medicaid because her income falls just below the threshold.

With government assistance, right now health insurance

would no longer be eligible for Medicaid. Or if health care policy changes, their subsidies could go away. Both scenarios would have very real impacts on their farm business, increasing their payments from a combined \$60 per month to \$800 per month.

The whole situation gets even trickier if or when the couple were to get married. That would bring their shared income above the Medicaid line, meaning they'd have to pay a significantly higher price for health insurance. And then — someday — there are kids to consider. Would the husband have to try for a part-time, or even full-time, job to get benefits that would cover them all?

Nationally, slightly more than half of [farmers also work off the farm](#). Historically, it has been women who work two jobs, but that dynamic is changing as more women are getting into full-time farming. And the need to work another job just to support the farm is a real roadblock to growing a "prosperous, bright farm population."

Advisers who work with farmers need to be better prepared to help them navigate the ever-changing world of health insurance.

The woman in our example says if it weren't for the Affordable Care Act, she likely wouldn't have health insurance. "I think that the subsidies have been crucial for us to have been able to start our farm, and to be able to keep our personal costs low for the first few years," she says. And, many farmers have mentioned to the researcher that they're considering getting an off-farm job or even liquidating the business because they're worried that the health insurance situation could change.

(I think this shows that, with hard work, there are votes to be gained from Trump voters in 2016, J. D.)

TRUMP'S HALF BAKED POLICIES AND OUR FARMERS

From an article in USA Today, Feb. 21,

written by Paul Davidson

President Trump's proposed trade policies could hit our Midwestern farmers hard. Mexican Senator Armando Rios Piter will introduce a bill requiring Mexico to stop buying corn from the US and instead buy from Brazil and Argentina. He maintains that this would give farmers a good idea of how important Mexico is to their livelihoods.

Trump has proposed a 20% tax on Mexican imports to pay for a border wall. He also intends to renegotiate NAFTA as part of efforts to close the trade deficit and bring back factory jobs.

However, that policy could hurt US agriculture, which enjoys a trade surplus with the rest of the world. The US exports about 15% of the corn it produces, with Mexico the top buyer, purchasing 27% of the corn we export annually. A loss of that market would lower prices for Midwest corn farmers.



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 La Crosse, WI 54601-1861

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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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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 _____

