

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

LAXDEMS.COM

May 2017

Summer activities are nearly upon us, and this summer we have a lot to accomplish. We need to take advantage of the energy that is pulsing in Wisconsin. There's a new DPW Chair to elect at the state convention. To help delegates make their choice, the current chair, Martha Laning, and her two challengers, Joe Donovan and Bryan Kennedy, will speak and answer questions at our May Regular Meeting. Come to the meeting, ask your questions, and listen to the candidates. Then, go to the convention, enjoy yourself, and vote.

An important project this summer is to update the Voter Activation Network (VAN) for La Crosse County. We need to find out who all those persons with unknown affiliations are and encourage them not only to vote, but to vote Democratic and join the party. This is a big ask, but it will be a rewarding one and necessary to help Democrats carry Wisconsin in 2018.

Another activity is to get our brand name visible and establish what we are by our actions. To this end, the EB is investigating LCDP T-shirts to wear in parades, while doing community service projects like the Mail Carriers Food Drive, and for members to purchase for their own use.

In addition, we are going to work to make our regular meetings more interactive, with breakout sessions and other participatory activities. Come to the next meeting and take part !

Please select one or more of the activities we are undertaking, and get involved this summer. If we do not flip the state and U. S. Senate next year, we are in for a very long, cold political winter.

Susan Goeldner and J. D. Wine

Please Read and Take 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!

Upcoming Events

Regular monthly meeting will be held on May 15th at 6:30 p.m. in Room 102, Carl Wimberly Hall (formerly North Hall), UW-La Crosse. We will have the candidates for DPW Chair speaking and taking questions and the first reading of the Constitution and Bylaws revisions. Kiosk parking is available in the nearby ramp. You will need your license plate number and cost is \$1.00 an hour (after 7:00 p.m. is free).

The DPW State Convention is in Middleton June 2nd through 3rd at the Madison Marriott West, 608-831-2000, 1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton, WI, 53562. Those desiring to be delegates contact J. D. Wine or Susan Goeldner.

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 / 608-783-0172

Vice Chair: Paul Kruse

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Treasurer: Diane Oldani Wulf

608-780-7007

Secretary: Dave Wulf

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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.

Member Report on Koch Bros. "Free Speech" Event At UWL

by Mark Neumann

I recently received an announcement that Americans for Prosperity was helping to sponsor a "Free Speech" forum at the UW La Crosse Student Union on April 20th. I was free that evening, so I decided to take it in. As my wife says, I need to make efforts to get out of my bubble and listen to others besides my favorite progressive free speech makers. Arriving a little late, I missed the introduction of the guest speaker. Even so, after listening to him for a while, I got the impression that he must have been a radio commentator with his own talk show. All his opinion arguments were sharp and tight. Very well-rehearsed.

In summary, I think he was advocating for the tolerance of all speech on our university campus short of falsely yelling fire in a crowded cinema. As I listened, I noticed that his use of language to defend his position made me uncomfortable because it seemed unnecessarily laden with antagonizing words and "us-against-them" references.

There was a time that I too favored tolerance for the expression of all truthfully held opinions in the marketplaces for exchange of ideas that universities represent. These days I feel that tolerance is not enough, and I prefer hospitality. I think that hospitality depends on an essential respect and appreciation for the person expressing an opinion in the exercise of free speech. Tolerance by itself is not enough to reap the full benefits of free speech.

I enjoyed listening to the students express their ideas. Their conversation was quite respectful and wonderful. They impressed me by their hospitality for a guest speaker on their campus whose speech was, for me, a challenge to tolerate.

Editor's note: **The Koch Bros. have been donating large sums of money to major universities to start up Economic and Political Science institutes. The catch being certain courses must be taught at them.**

Adapted from the New York Times – Matt Flegenheimer

At a small town in Pennsylvania recently, people were expressing disappointment with their November voting choice. “Just like any other damn president,” sighed a home-care worker and the mother of two active-duty Marines. She had voted for Donald Trump because she expected him to improve conditions for veterans and overhaul the health care system. Now?

“Political bluster,” she said. She wondered aloud how Senator Bernie Sanders might have fared in the job.

Such is one view from a swing county of a swing region of a swing state that powered Trump’s improbable victory. In consecutive presidential elections, this district in Pennsylvania had delivered Republican nominees their narrowest margins of victory in a congressional district. Mitt Romney won it by one-tenth of a point in 2012. Mr. Trump prevailed by two-tenths, attracting many of the relatively affluent and educated white suburban voters who were expected to vote for Hillary Clinton.

The result is a patch of purple political terrain sorting itself generally into three camps: those with regrets about supporting Trump, those without them and those who cannot believe anyone supported him in the first place.

Many still trust him, but wonder why his deal-making instincts do not seem to be translating. They admire his zeal, but are occasionally baffled by his tweets. They insist he will be fine, but suggest gently that maybe Vice President Pence should assume a more expansive role.

Perhaps most forcefully, they question when they will begin to see more of that word they were promised, the outcome that voters were supposed to be “sick and tired of” by now, in Trump’s campaign estimation. WINNING.

This article is adapted from USA today, Fredreka Schouter and Maureen Groppe

During the presidential campaign, Trump repeatedly promised to “drain the swamp” of special interests and lobbyists in Washington. To no one’s big surprise, the reality has been quite different. Former campaign aides, fundraisers and others with ties to President Trump and Vice President Pence have attracted dozens of new lobbying clients in Washington, raking in more than \$2.2 million in lobbying fees in the first months of the administration.

Brian Ballard, a longtime Florida lobbyist and a fundraiser for both Trump’s campaign and inaugural committee, appears to lead the pack, signing up 20 federal clients since opening his Washington lobbying operation this year. His company, Ballard Partners, has earned more than \$1.1 million in a three-month period, new lobbying reports show.

Ballard is one of more than a dozen White House allies

(USA Today continued)

launching new firms, taking new jobs in lobbying firms or signing up new clients this year as companies and other interests look for ways to shape policy in the Trump administration. In a statement, the White House said that Trump had a “great number of highly talented people working on his campaign. It isn’t a surprise those who did not choose to join the administration are highly successful in whatever endeavor they undertake. There is no legal restriction from former campaign aides having positive relationships inside and outside the White House,” the statement said.

Ballard’s federal clients include the private prison firm, GEO Group, which recently won a \$110 million federal contract to build the first immigration-detention facility of the new administration. In addition, Ballard’s firm has landed lucrative deals to represent two foreign interests – the ruling Socialist Party of Albania and the Dominican Republic.

Other pro-Trump lobbyists adding clients to their rosters include Bill Smith, who served as Pence’s chief of staff in Congress and the Indiana governor’s office, and Corey Lewandowski, Trump’s first campaign manager. Smith’s clients include Microsoft and AT&T, while Lewandowski’s include the government of Puerto Rico.

Fred Wertheimer, president of the watchdog group Democracy 21, said the lobbying activity by Trump allies demonstrates one “way Washington works to the disadvantage of the American people. You have individuals with close ties to elected officials who cash in on their relationships. This represents the complete opposite of what candidate Trump repeatedly claimed he would do something about.”

Message from Congressman Kind

This week is the last, best chance for Congressional Republicans to pass their disastrous health care plan. President Trump and Congressional Republicans had a big defeat last week not being able to pass the Affordable Care Act repeal they’ve all been campaigning on for years.

We can’t take for granted the inter-party divisions that helped stop this bill last time. It sounds like the House Freedom Caucus has endorsed the new repeal bill so we need to keep up the pressure on any and all Republican that might support this bill.

When Democrats make their voices heard, we win. We stopped the Congressional Republicans’ health plan. The newest spending package doesn’t include money for the wall, leaves ACA in place, and funding for Planned Parenthood intact.

I’m with you in opposing this measure, but your calls to my office can still help.



La Crosse County Democratic Party
P. O. Box 1861
La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

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Diane Oldani Wulf, Treasurer.
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any candidate or candidate's committee.

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 broadening of our base preparing for 2018.

You may send a contribution to:
LCDP, P. O. 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:

- \$10 Senior, Student, Limited Income
- \$25 General Membership (1 member)
- \$35 Pairs (up to two members)
- \$45 yearly Activist (up to 3 members)
- \$75 yearly (family)
- \$120 Supporting Membership
- \$240 Friend
- \$600 Patron

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

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*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:

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