

# THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

LAXDEMS.COM

June 2017

This is truly an exciting time to be a Democrat !!!

The angst, depression, and hopelessness we felt last November have pretty quickly given way to feelings of increased vigor, determination and activism as the Trump Administration seems to be bent on self-destruction. Many of us recognized that their collective lack of government experience could lead to trouble, but their level of naiveté and hubris in their repeated contacts with high-level Russians seems beyond the pale.

Good news for us is that Democratic fundraising is extremely robust, as we plan for defeating many of the members of Congress who have failed to call out Trump for his nefarious activities.

Locally, our LCDP has welcomed approximately 50 new members since November, and we are working with many other local Progressive groups to combine our efforts toward similar goals. In fact, our national Democratic Platform is the most progressive in the Party's history, and lays out the plan for moving America forward.

The LCDP has many exciting events planned for future months, including our Annual Picnic, on June 19 at 5 p.m. in Copeland Park. This will be a great opportunity for all our members to bring along interested, like-minded folks who may not have become party members as yet. Also, we will have a booth at the Interstate Fair in West Salem from July 19th to the 23rd. This would be a great opportunity to meet and talk to many people about how the Democratic Party stands for economic fairness and security for both rural and urban areas, quality and affordable education for all, and the right for health care and safety for all Americans. We want to get all party members, old and new, involved in these and many other important volunteering efforts in months to come.

Our party is really active this year, and we need everyone to take part to ensure our success !

Susan Goeldner and J. D. Wine

## **Please Read and Take Note**

La Crosse County Democratic Party t-shirts are available! Sizes are S-XXL for a donation of \$15 each. They will be available at monthly party meetings and events. You can also contact Diane Oldani Wulf to place an order at 780.7007 or [eap11111@aol.com](mailto:eap11111@aol.com).

## **Some Facts On Your LCDP Membership**

The best and easiest way to renew your La Crosse County Democratic Party membership is through your local county treasurer. Once you are a member of the county, then you are also a member of the 3rd Congressional District (3rd CD) and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW). You only need to submit membership dues once a year to be a member of all three. It is unnecessary to submit duplicate memberships through the county and also through the state. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Diane Oldani Wulf, your current LCDP treasurer, at 608.780.7007, or at [eap11111@aol.com](mailto:eap11111@aol.com).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **ANNUAL JUNE PICNIC FUND RAISER FOOD, FUN, DOOR PRIZES!**

Come join us as we will be having our annual picnic on Monday, June 19th, at Copeland Park. The picnic begins at 5:00 p.m., with food served at 5:45 p.m. Brats, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and a \$10 donation per person (children 6 and under are free). There will be food, lively discussion, a 50/50 raffle, and door prizes.

## 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

608-518-6121 / 608-783-0172

### Vice Chair: Paul Kruse

608-783-6206

### Treasurer: Diane Oldani Wulf

608-780-7007

### Secretary: Dave Wulf

608-799-8977

### At-Large Board Members

**Sara Bentley**

**Ed Burgess**

**Obbie King**

**Carolyn Smith**

**Kris Troyanek**

**Past Chair: Vicki Burke**

**College Representative**

**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.

## Member Report on Public Education Advocacy at the WEAC CRUE La Crosse Office

by Pete Klitzke

On May 16, I attended a workshop on Building Community Partnerships through Public Education Advocacy, held at the WEAC CRUE Region 4 La Crosse office.

This was not a school funding workshop, as I had originally thought, but rather a seminar to connect public education advocates within WEAC, local public school districts, and community groups. School funding was discussed at length, however.

In addition to CRUE, WEAC, the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, School Districts of La Crosse and Onalaska, WREA (Wisconsin Retired Educator Association La Crosse chapter), New Directions (progressive advocacy group in La Crosse), Western Wisconsin State AFL-CIO representative, and retired educators from the area were in attendance.

Take-Aways from the Workshop

Mary Jarvis collected comments and recommendations for action to advocate for public education. She facilitated discussion on the benefits and importance of public education to local communities, and society in general, as well as the present and future assaults to public education.

Jeff Levrich shared the numerous assaults on public education funding and image.

Potential Action Issues

Immediate actions (state level with local ramifications) can be: calling (postcard) campaign to sponsoring/co-sponsoring State Senators (Jennifer Shilling) and State Representatives (Jill Billings, Steve Doyle) and the governor; Letters to Editors of area newspapers.

The message should be opposition to proposed legislation limiting school boards' referenda to surpass the state funding caps on public school districts. There are six (6) separate State Senate bills that are being deliberated in five (5) separate State Senate committees. Any one of the bills would restrict local school boards from holding referenda to exceed state funding caps for operations and/or capital expenses. These bills appear to be an attempt to overload opposition groups, thereby preventing them from mounting effective opposition to this erosion of school districts' local control.

## Health Care - Is It Going In Reverse?

excerpted from The New York Times, May 7

By Nelson D. Schwartz and Reed Abelson

In cities and towns across the country, workers who once walked out of factories at the end of each shift now stream out of hospitals.

For example, in northeastern Ohio, manufacturing employment has fallen nearly 40 percent since 2000, but the number of health care jobs in the region has jumped more than 30 percent in the same period. Three of the 10 largest employers in Akron now are hospitals. The large economic role health care now plays in America increases the risks posed by the Republicans' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Although the unemployment rate is now the lowest in more than a decade, the health care industry has been doing much of that hiring, adding jobs at more than three times the rate of the rest of the economy since 2007. And that growth is not limited to hospitals. With the expansion of Medicaid enrollment, nursing homes, outpatient centers and medical labs also have grown.

The boom in health care did not begin with the Affordable Care Act. That sector was one of the few parts of the economy that the last Great Recession did not really affect, and it has flourished under both Republican and Democratic presidents. Hospitals, in particular, have been able to grow in recent years, with more patients now covered by either Medicaid or insurance purchased in the exchanges. Some 20 million people gained coverage under the federal health care law, and hospitals have been hiring many new employees.

Health care workers have been watching the developments in Washington, and some are uncertain about the future of their jobs. Safety-net hospitals and academic medical centers that cater to low-income populations would be hardest hit by the cuts that have been proposed. Not to mention the bill's effect on patients, some of whom have gained access to care for the first time. When people don't have access to this care, they will go back to emergency rooms for their primary care, which takes our country back to a place it was a decade ago.

This will make it harder for hospitals to look for ways to provide care at lower costs, while they will have to prepare themselves to absorb the loss of paying patients.

## Voter Suppression

Excerpted from an Associated Press article

by Christina A. Cassidy and Ivan Moreno

Wisconsin's voter ID law, said to be among the most restrictive in the country, is doing what Republicans intended it to do all along. One estimate says that some 300,000 eligible voters in the state lacked valid photo IDs heading into last November's election, and therefore were unable to vote.

There are many examples - the Navy veteran whose valid out-of-state driver's license did not suffice, the dying woman whose license had expired, the recent graduate whose student ID was deficient, or the ill 66-year old who lost her driver's license right before Election Day. She brought her Social Security and Medicare cards as well as a county-issued bus pass with her photo, but she was turned away.

In the end, Wisconsin's 10 Electoral College votes went to Trump, who defeated Clinton by a mere 22,000 votes. But the battle over voter ID laws continues. Under current law, Wisconsin voters must present a driver's license, state ID, passport, military ID, naturalization papers, or tribal ID to vote. A student ID is acceptable only if it has a signature and a two-year expiration date. Those who don't have an ID can cast a provisional ballot that will be counted only if they return with the proper ID within a few days of the election.

Critics of the law have maintained that it undermines democracy and leads to the disenfranchisement of minority voters, who tend to vote Democratic. Many believe it was intended to target blacks who don't have a car and depend on public transportation to take them shopping, to the doctor, to the grocery store, to the voting booth and to a local DMV office to get proper identification. It is estimated that in the 10 states with voter ID laws in 2012, more than 10 million eligible voters lived more than 10 miles away from a state ID-issuing office that is open more than two days a week.

Overall, nearly 3 million people in Wisconsin voted last November, about 91,000 fewer than in 2012. Milwaukee, a stronghold for Democrats, reported that 41,000 fewer people voted there than in 2012.

If Democrats are allowed to vote, we have the numbers to win every presidential election and a majority of Senate seats.



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

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La Crosse County Democratic Party,  
Diane Oldani Wulf, Treasurer.  
The contents herein are not authorized by  
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](http://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](http://www.laxdems.com)

Authorized and paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party, Diane Oldani Wulf, Treasurer

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\*Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
\*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 \_\_\_\_\_