

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

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July 2017 Newsletter

Co-Chairs' Message:

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin has adopted the slogan, Unite, Vote, Win for this election cycle.

The party has two options to try to fulfill this mission – the old path and a new path.

The old path is to keep doing what we have been doing in the same old ways. We were not reaching out to other groups, we were satisfied with trying to get known left-leaning voters turn out to vote, and we essentially left the playing field to the Republicans during the off years as we concentrated on fundraising. The new path, which we are following now, is to be active during the off year: we are establishing our brand as Democrats through reaching out to other groups and getting involved in community activities; trying to expand our voter base; expanding our party membership; encouraging membership involvement; and, of course, fundraising.

There is still some disagreement at the national party level as to which path to follow, and some disagreement within our own county party. Our Executive Board, however, has elected to follow the new path – we have designed LCDP T-shirts to promote our brand and increase membership. We have reached out to other progressive groups and have encouraged the establishment of a clearinghouse website for the Coulee Region to help coordinate activities of the many groups that have sprung up since Trump's election. The results of these efforts have been a significant increase in membership, increased attendance at monthly meetings, increased participation in party activities, and the welcome addition of many active and talented people.

None of this would have been possible without a commitment of effort and money from the membership and, as your



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please plan on attending the Monday, July 17th, 2017 Regular Meeting where the second reading and vote on the Constitution and By-Laws will occur. Kathleen Vinehout will speak at the meeting. **Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.** Meeting will be held at Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main Street, La Crosse.

La Crosse Interstate Fair, West Salem, July 19-23. The LCDP will have a booth, and we need volunteers to fill various shifts. The fairgrounds are located on County Road M, just off Highway 16 in West Salem. Please contact Diane Oldani Wulf at 608.780.7007 if you can spare a few hours on any of those 5 days.

co-chairs thank you, we are encouraging even greater participation. The more we work and unite behind an effort to grow, the more we seek to expand our voter base, reaching out to rural and other communities. The more we can spread our message to the general public, the more we can achieve the DPW goals of Unite, Vote, Win. Let's not fail those who are being left behind by Republican policies.

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 LCDP events. To place an order, you can also contact Diane Oldani Wulf at 780.7007 or eap1111@aol.com.



We've Got A New Look

For those LCDP members who have been receiving this newsletter by e-mail, you will notice some changes in format with this edition. Formerly, two different versions of the newsletter were prepared – one for print and one for e-mail – now, we will prepare only one version, which will be both e-mailed and hard mailed to our members. We hope you like the new look of the newsletter, and welcome your comments. Please contact Susan Goeldner at 608.518.6121.



Our Annual Picnic Was A Great Success

The Annual LCDP Fundraising Picnic was a huge success, as you can see from the picture above. Seventy-five party members enjoyed music (provided by Vernon County musicians Wayne Sherry, Wayne Kile, and Bob and Philothea Bezin, and our own Ralph Knudson, who plays a mean fiddle!) along with a delicious meal of brats, hot dogs, and a wide variety of side dishes, salads and desserts, all provided by party members.

Several party members also took the opportunity to renew their memberships, and a number of door prizes were awarded, as well as a 50/50 raffle. Ralph Knudson (yes, the fiddler) of the Events Committee gave a short description of the ACA listening sessions that have already begun and will be continued, and expanded, in upcoming months. This is just one example of the many activities our committees are now undertaking to reach out to our neighbors, and we are looking for volunteers to help conduct these listening sessions. Susan Goeldner, who recently returned from a vacation in Canada, also mentioned the fact that Canadians are quite happy with their healthcare system, refuting Republicans' arguments against a government-funded healthcare program. No Canadian citizen is in jeopardy of going bankrupt because of a catastrophic illness.

Elected officials Ron Kind, Jen Shilling and Jill Billings also enjoyed the festivities.

Juneteenth In La Crosse

Ten party members, proudly wearing their LCDP T-shirts, joined in the 3rd annual Juneteenth Day of Remembrance celebration in La Crosse at the South Side Neighborhood Center and Poage Park on Sunday, June 18. Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States on June 19, 1865.

Today, Juneteenth commemorates African-American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing and for assessment, self-improvement and planning the future. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions joined hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. In understanding the conditions and experiences of others, we can make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

The celebration in La Crosse was organized by the African American Mutual Assistance Network, Inc. led by Cecil Adams. For those attending it was a time to enjoy food, music and conversation, and to renew old acquaintances, make new connections and build networks for acting in the common good. We look forward to next year's celebration.

Wisconsin Job Creation Continues To Lag Behind

Adapted from an AP article in the La Crosse Tribune

Recent figures from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics show that Wisconsin was among 28 states that lost manufacturing jobs in 2016, and our state continues to trail the national rate of overall job creation.

Wisconsin lost nearly 3,800 manufacturing jobs from December 2015 to December 2016. This decline was far steeper than the national average in the factory sector. Private sector jobs in the state showed an increase of 0.5 percent, but that puts us 33rd among the 50 states. The national average for job creation was more than double Wisconsin's increase.

In fact, we have trailed the national rate of overall job creation since July 2011. The 2016 figures were the worst for our state since the current expansion began after the severe 2008 recession and were the worst of the 6 years since Scott Walker took office in 2011.

Democratic legislators believe the facts and figures speak for themselves and do not paint a picture of success as Walker tries to be re-elected next year.

Message From Ron Kind:

For weeks, Senate Republicans have been operating in secret as they drafted their own version of an Affordable Care Act repeal. With no public hearings, meetings or review, they managed to concoct the perfect bill to please both their wealthy donors and the powerful special interests that control them.

Now that the bill has finally been made public, here are the top things you should know about the bill that Mitch McConnell doesn't want anybody else to find out:

- Out-of-pocket costs will skyrocket for older Wisconsinites, at a time in their lives when they are less likely to be able to afford unexpected medical costs. This is a big step backward and represents a broken promise to take care of our seniors.

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Immigrants Not Responsible For Unemployment

Adapted from an article by Mike McCabe

Those in power in Madison want everyone to notice that the state's unemployment rate has come down a bit. However, they look past other troubling facts, such as wage and job growth behind the national average, a poverty rate higher than it's been in 30 years, and a disappearing middle class. They pay no attention to rising economic inequality, and they hope no one notices that our income gap is growing faster than in other states. In addition, they show no desire to engage the public in any kind of discussion about the challenges that lie ahead.

Many Americans now believe that their kids will be worse off than they are. The U.S. is hurtling toward an increasingly jobless economy, and people can see it coming. But the Republicans look for scapegoats, telling frightened workers that immigrants are stealing their jobs. Or they offer empty promises that closed factories can be reopened and lost assembly line jobs will somehow magically reappear. This is the cruelest sort of hoax.

Today's immigrants aren't replacing yesterday's factory workers on the assembly lines, robots are. Immigration is not the culprit, technology is. Even if new factories replace the old shuttered ones, how many people will work in those plants? Driverless vehicles are coming. When they arrive, what happens to the truck drivers and bus drivers and cab drivers? Workers have every reason to feel vulnerable, and those feelings are only going to intensify.

Fewer and fewer workers have union representation. There was a time when virtually every American household included at least one union member. Today, less than 11% of all Americans belong to a union. Labor unions were an outgrowth of the industrial revolution. That revolution came and went -- unions struggled to adapt but steadily lost membership. Workers lost bargaining power.

In the short term, we can empower working people, from affordable and debt-free education and job training to universal access to everything from health care to high-speed Internet. But in the longer term, if our society is going to hold together in an increasingly jobless economy, we are going to have to renegotiate the social contract. Maybe part of the answer is moving to a 30-hour workweek that Amazon and other companies are trying out. That would make work available to more people. Maybe the time will soon come for a universal basic income. That would require all of us to see the value in making sure no one is left behind.

If minds are open, we can steer clear of the social, political and economic turmoil and upheaval this new economy has the capacity to create. If heads are buried in the sand, chaos will reign.

Good Versus Evil – A Perspective

Adapted from The New York Times, June 18, article by Frank Bruni

The shooting that wounded Republican Congressman Steve Scalise and four others demands soul-searching about the difference between passion and provocation. We are in a dangerous place in how we view, treat and talk about people with whom we disagree.

The internet and social media have changed the game. They quickly connect people with like-minded warriors and can give them the impression of broader support than really exists. Admirers of a responsible politician or cause can coalesce quickly, but so can followers of a hater or crackpot. What people find on the web gives them permission, a sense of affirmation, for what would have once been considered unthinkable. Hence, the 28-year old who showed up armed at a Washington, DC restaurant because he had come to believe that children were imprisoned and sexually abused there by Democrats.

Then came Congressman Scalise's shooter, who belonged to Facebook groups called Terminate the Republican Party and The Road to Hell is Paved with Republicans. Anger these days is being used to run up the number of listeners, viewers and hits. Words can be used to incite, and this is true whether spoken from the right or the left. Our language and images are growing coarser.

Trump, even though playing the victim at times, has been a huge part of the problem. If anyone bears responsibility for today's tone, it is him. He doesn't so much lead the country as to addle it, unhinging anyone in his orbit.

Notably, one of the cops who took on the DC shooter and possibly saved the Congressman's life was a gay black woman – Scalise in his political career has indulged white supremacists and fought against LGBT rights. But some have taken that information and used it to describe Scalise as a "bigoted homophobe" and seeing irony while the Congressman was lying in critical condition.

For many Americans, the "other side" isn't merely misguided – it is absolute evil. This attitude may bring some emotional satisfaction, but it also exacts a terrible price.

“Freedom of speech, the right to dissent, the right to protest, that is what America is about. And politically every leader in this country and every American has got to stand up against any form of violence. That is unacceptable” -- Bernie Sanders

The Jobs Nobody Wants

Adapted from The New York Times, June 11, article by Britt Peterson

Donald Trump should be hiring lots of people right now, since only 123 out of 558 key positions that require Senate confirmation have been nominated or confirmed. Some departments are almost entirely empty below the cabinet-level positions. On top of that, he has lost a number of staffers through resignations and firings.

As the time window shrinks for getting new confirmations through the Senate before the August recess, the administration has announced only a few new hires. This is partly because of incompetence – several candidates have not made it through the vetting process – and the fact that Trump just doesn't seem too interested in filling the positions. But people are also getting the real impression that Trump is the worst boss in Washington.

Because of the stories about his erratic behavior, his legal issues, and suspicions surrounding the messages given by Sean Spicer and Jeff Sessions, and the firing of Jim Comey, many potential candidates have refused to be considered for key positions. Four law firms refused to represent the president in the Russia investigation, and Kellyanne Conway's husband took himself off the shortlist to head the Justice Department's civil division.

For other Justice divisions, there is the challenge of having to defend a president who seems to tweet away his own defense. For the State Department, people don't want to be performing diplomacy for a president who is not much interested in the practice. For the National Security Team, there seems to be no way that anyone would have any control over Trump's major foreign policy decisions.

Earlier on, there was hope that Trump might operate as a business-friendly Republican. But even people who at first felt a duty to serve are now feeling far more anxious. The field of potential job candidates has severely shrunk.

People still willing to take positions under Trump are likely to be more careerist, more ideological, and older. Younger people seem to want to wait out the administration – but entirely avoiding the effects of Trump's bad management style isn't really an option for anyone.

Constitution And By-laws Revisions

The second reading of the La Crosse County Democratic Party (LCDP) Constitution and By-Laws' revisions will be held at the July 17th, 2017 Regular Meeting. There was an amendment of the revision to the Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, as follows (the amended version is followed by the original revision):

Amended

Article IV - County Organization

Section 1 - The officers of the LCDP shall consist of a Chair or Co-Chairs, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Original Revision

Article IV - County Organization

Section 1 - The officers of the LCDP shall consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. In the event that there is no single nominee for the office of Chair, Co-Chairs may be nominated. Said nomination for Co-Chairs must occur at the October meeting.

Ratification of the Constitution and By-laws requires two readings. The first reading occurred at the May 15, 2017 Regular Meeting. The second reading and ratification will be held at the Regular July 17, 2017 meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of the La Crosse County Democratic Party.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee:

J.D. Wine, Chair (jwine@charter.net)

Vicki Burke (vburke0737@aol.com)

Obbie King (obbie@purplearth.net)

Diane Oldani Wulf (eap11111@aol.com)

Message From Ron Kind Continued From Page 2

- It will allow states to discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, and you can bet that here in Wisconsin, Governor Walker will be one of the first to give insurance companies the power to do so.
- The bill will slash essential health benefits like emergency room visits, ambulance rides, hospital stays and important prescription drugs. Once again, companies will be allowed to peddle plans that take advantage of people and offer high deductibles with little to no guaranteed benefits.

These are the three big things that Senate Republicans hope nobody finds out before they're able to pass their bill. They learned from the debacle around the AHCA that the less the public knows about their plans, the easier it will be for them to vote for what is essentially a tax cut for the rich disguised as health care reform.

That means these are exactly the things that we should be sharing with our friends, family, and neighbors. These are the things we should be demanding remain protected as they are under the Affordable Care Act. Any one of these single things coming to pass could be devastating to large numbers of Wisconsinites, and we need to stand up for what we believe in.

Our fight is more important now than ever-- lives are on the line.

Thank you for all you do,
Ron Kind

Our Elected Officials

Senator Tammy Baldwin

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Washington, DC 20510

Ph: 202-224-5653, Fax: 202-224-9787

Congressman Ron Kind

1406 Longworth House Office Building
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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
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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

Peter Gorski

Obbie King

Carolyn Smith

Kris Troyanek

Past Chair: Vicki Burke

College Representative: Anna Kivi (UW-L)

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and would prefer to receive it via email instead, please contact Diane Oldani Wulf at 608.780.7007 or eap11111@aol.com.

We Welcome Your Input

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.

Posting Of Unapproved Minutes

A couple of LCDP members have expressed an interest in receiving regular meeting minutes prior to the next regular meeting. For those of you who want to receive the minutes early, please contact our secretary, Dave Wulf, at davidpwulf@aol.com or 608.799.8977. He will email them as a PDF with an UNAPPROVED watermark. No hard copies will be sent.

Renewing Your Membership!

You can renew your membership using the membership form found at the end of this newsletter. If you are receiving this newsletter via mail, please look at your mailing label to see when your membership expires. Thank you for your continued support!

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, you are automatically a member of the 3rd Congressional District (3rd CD) and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW). You need to submit membership dues only 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.



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
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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 amount to help us provide the activities and events and broaden our base to prepare for 2018.

You may send a contribution to:
 LCDP, P. O. Box 1861, La Crosse, WI,
 54602-1861.
 For online contributions go to our website
www.laxdems.com.

Thank you.

Become a member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party. Clip bottom of page and send to LCDP.

Received _____
 Renewal Month _____

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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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 _____