

## August 2017 Newsletter

### Co-Chairs' Message:

Our local paper, the *La Crosse Tribune*, recently ran an article authored by Steve Peoples and Bill Barrow of the Associated Press. The headline and subhead read, "Dems looking for message: Trying to clarify what they stand for." The national party has been working on developing a core message to voters – trying to simplify that message as well as providing the meat behind it.

Amazingly, even with the Russia scandal overwhelming the White House, an extremely unpopular healthcare plan stalled in the Senate, and no major GOP legislative achievements to point to, Democrats at the national level still seem to be having some difficulty telling voters what our party stands for. The slogan they have come up with, A Better Deal . . . , is meant to show that we are the party of working people by emphasizing improving wages, boosting job-training opportunities, fighting corporate mergers, lowering prescription drug prices, and creating jobs.

Wisconsin's gubernatorial race is still in its early stages, but one candidate sums up our party philosophy as, We Care About People. That could be the jumping off platform for many of our core platform issues, such as healthcare for all, voting rights, climate change, reproductive rights, racial discrimination, economic equality, and others.

Democrats win only when our voters are inspired to turn out in large numbers, and we need a bold, hopeful platform and bold, courageous candidates to generate enthusiasm among voters. Many believe we need to embrace a solidly progressive agenda



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Monthly Meeting

Please plan on attending the Monday, August 21, 2017 Regular meeting. Nate Timms will speak on rural activities, but the bulk of the meeting will be YOUR MEETING! We will be seeking your input on what we can do to increase involvement with the LCDP, how we can improve the Party, how we can interest millennials, and what we can do to make our monthly meetings more meaningful to all our members. Come prepared to share your constructive ideas for taking our party forward. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main Street, La Crosse.

#### LCDP Annual Fall Dinner

October 21, Concordia Ballroom,  
5:00 p.m.

#### Upcoming Parades

August 13, Bangor Fun Daze Parade,  
12:00 noon

August 19, Holmen Kornfest Parade,  
11:00 a.m.

September 4, La Crosse Labor Day  
Parade, 10:00 a.m.

September 10, Mindoro Spanferkel  
Parade, 1:30 p.m.

September 28, Torchlight Parade,  
7:00 p.m.

September 30, Maple Leaf Parade,  
10:00 a.m.

if we want to win back the Congress and ultimately the Presidency. We need to put forward our positive vision for the future, because we are, in fact, the majority of people in America.

We need to look ourselves in the mirror and admit that Trump won because Democrats were unable to galvanize voter turnout. Voters didn't get excited about our message, and we didn't articulate a message that voters could clearly get behind.

Right now, the Democratic establishment continues to play mostly defense against Trump, and seems to still struggle with their "message," even though many people can get behind a platform that includes Medicare for All, Free College Tuition, Voting Rights, Criminal Justice and Immigrant Rights. Certainly, we might not win all these progressive measures in Congress. But being willing to fight for these measures would attract Americans desperately looking for a positive alternative to Trump and the Republicans.

### Volunteers Needed

As part of our program to increase outreach to rural communities, we will be conducting a series of listening sessions, on healthcare and other topics, beginning in the fall. We need moderators for these listening sessions, so we are looking for volunteers who would be interested in taking part in training sessions to prepare them. The training will be in active listening and issue framing. Please contact Susan Goeldner at 608-518-6121 if you would like to volunteer.

# Interacting with Voters at the La Crosse Interstate Fair



Our La Crosse County Democratic Party again manned a booth at the La Crosse Interstate Fair. Even though the rainy weather kept attendance down for the first couple of days, overall, our booth was a great success -- we have received new memberships, and many people were interested in learning more about our party.

We interacted with many people, and asked them to write down their top issues. We talked with them about healthcare, the environment, education costs, etc., to spark additional conversation.

We look forward to following up with many fair attendees to address questions they had about party activities, etc., and we look forward to an even more exciting booth next year. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our booth a success.

## Bring Back Paper Ballots????

Adapted from an article from the June 30 Arizona Republic,  
by Glenn Harlan Reynolds

People are finally beginning to realize that the only way we may be able to ensure voting integrity is to bring back the use of paper ballots. Both parties are now apparently worried about the potential perils of paperless voting.

While it is true that there is no real evidence that any votes were actually changed by hackers in the 2016 election, the possibility is now being taken seriously. We feel sure that the Russians were attempting to hack into our voting machines. In our democracy, people have to believe that their votes will be counted honestly, or they will question the legitimacy of the system itself.

In some ways, paper and ink is a solution. When you cast a vote on a voting machine, that machine records only who you voted for. But a paper ballot captures other information as well, such as ink color, handwriting, etc.

If a bad actor has access to a voting machine that is attached to the internet, he can change all the votes, or as many votes as he wants, at once. To change a lot of paper ballots, however, means one needs physical access to those ballots, and they would likely show some evidence of tampering. Paper ballots are not completely fraud-proof, but they can't be influenced by someone halfway around the world.

Maybe the time has come to mandate paper ballots, and also add other steps to ensure voting integrity. Vote counting systems should be transparent, and audited regularly. Voter registrations should be regularly audited to remove voters who have died or moved away.

All votes need to be counted, because no vote counts unless it is properly counted. And, even if it's counted, it doesn't really count if it's changed by hackers.

If we don't prepare for ballot security in upcoming elections, there is no way of knowing what damage could be done.

## Message From Ron Kind:

After more than eight years of threatening to repeal Obamacare, it looks like Congressional Republicans have finally showed their hand. It turns out they never had a plan to fix health care or make it more affordable. This was abundantly clear with the Senate's repeated failure to pass any repeal bill.

There is no doubt that the failure to repeal the Affordable Care Act is a victory for those who have fought for affordable quality health care. It is a victory for people like Sarah from La Crosse, whose three-year old daughter Madelyn has faced a lifetime of complex medical challenges including vision loss, seizures, and developmental and mobility delays. Because of Obamacare, Sarah and her family don't have to worry that Madelyn could be denied the life-saving health coverage she needs.

I strongly believe that credit for this victory lies with many of you and the millions of Americans across the country who called their representatives and shared their stories, and made sure that people knew what was at stake. Thank you for all that you have done.

However, there is still more work to do to make sure that all Wisconsinites have access to affordable health care. Many Wisconsinites still pay far too much for health care, and the future stability of the health insurance markets remains in question. I have called on Congress to stay in session during August to lower the costs for Wisconsinites and small businesses and take action to stabilize the health insurance markets. It is time to work together and recognize what works in health care, fix what doesn't, and lower health care costs for all Americans.

Our work is not done. Join me in keeping up the fight for affordable quality health care!

# Our Wisconsin Revolution – La Crosse Chapter

By LCDP member, Arlene Vrlec

*Editor's Note: In response to the 2016 Presidential Election, a number of progressive groups were formed, to harness the passion and energy generated after Trump's Electoral College win. People who organized these groups felt the need to reach out to the voters who felt left behind and pave a new path forward. Our LCDP is working in conjunction with many of these groups, one of which is featured in this article.*

Our Wisconsin Revolution (OWR) is a grassroots movement focusing on local involvement, statewide support, and a national presence through our parent organization, Our Revolution. Our focus in La Crosse, and throughout Wisconsin, is on public education and member development. Our residents, our citizens, need to know what's happening in our country, our state, our county, and our city. Another major focus of OWR is candidate recruitment and development. Our goal is to increase citizen action by having a more informed populace, promoting civic activity, and increasing both the number and diversity of candidates for public office.

Our first event, Meet Your City Government, was held on June 27th with the goals of demystifying city government and increasing citizen involvement in local government through participation in neighborhood associations, serving on boards and committees, and running for office. A follow-up event, Meet Your County and State Government, is planned for October, where the emphasis will be on running for office. A 45-minute panel discussion will be followed by a social hour where attendees can talk face-to-face with elected officials.

OWR is a state chapter of Our Revolution, one of four state chapters founded thus far. Early in 2017, interim organizing members of OWR traveled throughout Wisconsin, holding meetings in over 25 locations. To date, at least 20 local chapters have been formed in Wisconsin, with more in the making. Our statewide convention was held in Stevens Point on June 23-24. Seven at-large board members were elected, bylaws were adopted, and a short platform approved. Two board members from each of the eight CDs will be elected in August.

La Crosse Chapter meetings are held from 7:00 - 8:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers House in La Crosse.

For more information, contact us at [owrlacrosse@gmail.com](mailto:owrlacrosse@gmail.com), or on facebook [@owrlacrosse](https://www.facebook.com/owrlacrosse).

# Liberals in Hiding?

From the June 18 New York Times, adapted from an article by Seth Stephens-Davidowitz

Which state is most interested in impeaching President Trump? Bet you didn't know it's Montana!

Google shows Montana with the highest number of searches with the words "impeach" and "Trump." Alaska and Idaho are also in the top 10. What does this mean?

To understand this seeming phenomenon, we need to look at the political geography of the United States. Because Montana, Alaska and Idaho consistently vote Republican, they are classified as red states. But the interesting thing is, these states also have higher concentrations of liberal activists. Numbers of liberal activists don't exactly match up with the red-blue divide.

For example, take the candidacy of Jill Stein, for the Green Party in 2016. Alaska and Montana rank in the top 10 states where she got her highest support, beating both New York and New Jersey. Alaska and Montana also rank in the top 10 for visits to Daily Kos, a website popular among progressives.

Red states in the mountain region tend to have more liberal activists, relatively speaking, than blue states in the mid-Atlantic or Midwest. Montana has a small percentage of Democrats (although one is the governor and another is a senator), but a large number of liberal activists. On the other hand, Illinois has a large percentage of Democrats, but a relatively small percentage of liberal activists.

At this point, the topic of impeachment still has a fairly narrow appeal. Over the next few months, as we follow the various investigations surrounding the President, the Google search patterns can be tracked. When the impeachment movement spreads beyond the hard-core liberals and reaches regular Democrats in Illinois, New Jersey and other blue states, we will know that it has gone mainstream.

**A grown man who is so insecure as to seek affirmation in a group of teenagers is not a man with the maturity to lead a nation. A man who is so self-absorbed as to make every utterance about himself and his needs is not a man with the vision to elevate a nation.**

**~ Dan Rather, commenting on Trump's speech at the Boy Scout Jamboree**

## Missions Unaccomplished

From the Associated Press, by Jim Drinkard and Calvin Woodward, as printed in the La Crosse Tribune, June 25.

We have all become painfully aware of President Trump's penchant for stretching the truth, exaggerating, and out-and-out lying. The June 25 edition of *The New York Times* listed the lies he has told from his inauguration up to June 21. In fact, he told lies or falsehoods every day for his first 40 days!

In a recent visit to Iowa, he was in rare form.

He said it was his idea to build his "wall" as a solar wall, so it would pay for itself and Mexico would have to pay much less money. Truth is, several others floated this idea over the past months, including one company that actually submitted a bid for the wall's construction. Trump also, during the campaign, characterized solar power as being "very, very expensive" and "not working so good."

He said we have achieved a historic increase in defense spending. Truth is, he has proposed a large increase, but Congress is still debating and is nowhere near deciding. A \$25 billion increase has been achieved this year, but that is the same amount the Pentagon has received seven times in the past 15 years.

He said he was going to put into effect legislation that would prevent immigrants from using welfare for at least five years. Truth is, President Bill Clinton signed that law in 1996. People in the country illegally are prohibited from those benefits completely.

He said homebuilders are starting to build homes because he had removed "ridiculous regulations that don't make sense." Truth is, housing starts have actually fallen in the past few months, and regulations on homebuilders come largely from local governments, not the federal government.

He said he has cut some regulations to help farmers, namely regarding water use. Truth is, he didn't get rid of the regulations he was talking about. He merely signed an Executive Order directing the EPA to review a rule protecting clean water. The rule prevents the use of some pesticides and herbicides, and is still under review.

Question is: When are his supporters, his "base," going to start caring that he continually lies?

**"Politics is not about power.  
Politics is not about money. Politics  
is not about winning for the sake  
of winning. Politics is about the  
improvement of people's lives."**

*~ Paul Wellstone*

## July Meeting Activities

At our July meeting, we held the second reading of the LCDP Constitution and By-laws, and they were both approved by the necessary majorities of attending party members.

Also, the following carbon resolution, introduced by Peter Gorski, was also approved.

"Whereas, climate change is a grave and imminent danger to Wisconsin, the United States and the entire human race and

Whereas, the scientific experts in this subject have come to a universal agreement that this change is driven primarily by human activity and the emission of carbon gases

Therefore, the La Crosse County Democratic Party endorses economic policy designed to decrease emissions and slow climate change, including but not limited to a fee on carbon."

This carbon resolution will be sent to Representatives Doyle and Billings, State Senator Shilling, Congressman Kind, U.S. Senators Baldwin and Johnson, Mayor Kabat, and Chairwoman Johnson of the La Crosse County Board.



## A Call for Letter Writers

At the last LCDP Regular Meeting on July 17, attendees reviewed and rated several potential topics that could be developed into Letters to the Editor. A number of our members already are seasoned letter writers, but, for those who may never have written a letter, and want to, we also included a Tip Sheet for Writing Letters to the Editor. (FYI, the *La Crosse Tribune* will accept letters from each individual writer only once every 30 days, and each letter can be no longer than 250 words in length.)

Because of the limitations the paper puts on submitting letters, our goal is to get more people involved in our letter-writing program. The topics selected by most meeting attendees as being of greatest importance to them were climate change, voter suppression, and the assault on reproductive rights, but many others were also mentioned, among the following:

- Healthcare / Medicare for All
- Rural Community Development / Broadband
- Wisconsin-specific issues, including roads, infrastructure and clean water
- Gerrymandering
- Public Education

If any of these topics, or others, excite you, let us know what points you would like to make in a Letter to the Editor, and we will help you draft the letter. Send a note to Susan Goeldner at [egoelds@gmail.com](mailto:egoelds@gmail.com). If you don't want to sign the letter yourself, we will find someone else to affix a signature.

Let's get several letters submitted in the next month!

## Our Elected Officials

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

**Senator Ron Johnson (R)**  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. Office Building  
Ph: 202-224-5323

**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: 608-782-2785

**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

**Governor Scott Walker (R)**  
Office of the Governor  
115 East State Capital  
Madison, WI 53702  
Ph: 608-266-1212

### 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](mailto: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

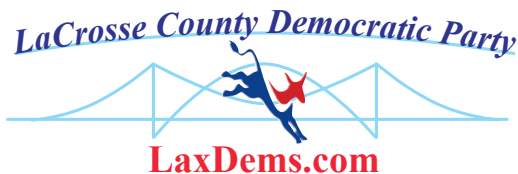
A couple of LCDP members have expressed an interest in receiving regular meeting minutes prior to the next regular meeting. For those of you who want to receive the minutes early, please contact our secretary, Dave Wulf, at [davidpwulf@aol.com](mailto:davidpwulf@aol.com) or 608.799.8977. He will email 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](mailto: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  
 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 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](http://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](http://www.laxdems.com).

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 Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 \_\_\_\_\_