

Co-Chairs' Message:

Our schools are in deep trouble because of cuts to their funding, but Walker can find money in his budget to subsidize rich folks to send their kids to private schools. The Republicans cannot seem to find money to upgrade and repair our roads, but they can find Foxconn \$3B dollars practically overnight. There is not adequate money for rural internet, but Walker can find \$10M for a large donor if he will merely keep 90% of his workforce in Wisconsin.

Has our activism failed? The rallies, the protests, the emails, and letters been for naught? Not exactly. The pace of legislation favoring particular firms has slowed, the Republicans are at least arguing about how to get money to start to work on roads, a pittance has been allotted for rural internet, and after six years of cumulative cuts of \$6B from schools, \$600M was restored to them.

Do not become discouraged! Do not cut back on your activity, increase it. Attend the Voting Rights rally planned for September 23rd in Cameron Park, check the remaining parades and plan to walk in one or more of them; write those letters and emails; volunteer to help in an LCDP activity; above all do not, do not, quit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Democratic Day of Action

On September 11, the DPW will be sponsoring a statewide deep canvassing project as part of the Democratic Day of Action. The canvass will be held in the morning to accommodate those who want to attend the Fighting Bob Fest in the afternoon. This will be an extensive effort, with a well-written script and clear goals. Training will be provided just prior to the canvass launch (the exact time and location will be forthcoming). Call 608-783-0172 if you want to take part in this important effort.

Next Regular Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the LCDP will be held on Monday, September 18, at the Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House. At this meeting, we will review the results of the SWOT analysis we performed at the last meeting (see article on page 4 of this newsletter), and our speakers will be Tim Burns and Rebecca Dallet, candidates for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Hope to see you there.

Ron Kind's Corn Roast

(See article on page 2 of this newsletter.)

Voting Rights Rally

On September 23, the LCDP will be sponsoring a voting rights rally in Cameron Park, as part of US Constitution Week. Moderated by John Medinger, former Mayor of La Crosse, speakers will focus on gerrymandering, voter ID laws, and other voter suppression efforts. If you wish to volunteer for this event, please contact Wayne Goeldner at 262-339-7875.

Fall Dinner

The LCDP annual Fall Dinner/Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 21. The fundraising team is asking for donations for the silent auction. In the past, we have been successful with gift cards, new decorations, jewelry, books, games and sports items. Theme baskets of area foods and beverages are also popular. We will need to record the value of donated items. To drop off your donations, please call: Kris Troyanek – 769-5988, or Barb Clark – 498-6150.



Spring Election - An Opportunity for Public Service

By Vicki Burke – past Chair, LCDP

Many of you are looking for ways to get involved and make a difference. Local elections are coming up in February and April 2018, and these provide a great opportunity to serve your community.

All of you live in a city, town, or village governed by a board or council. All of you reside in La Crosse County. You also live in a school district. Many of these boards or councils will have positions that will be filled in the February 2018 Primary and April 2018 General Elections. You must be at least 18 and reside in the district in which you wish to serve.

There is also a partisan (Democrat, Republican, etc.) seat that will be filled in the April election. The La Crosse County Treasurer has resigned, and these elections will be held in February (primary) and April (general) as well. If you have a background in accounting, consider this position. This position is being filled in April, instead of in November, because of the current Treasurer's resignation.

There is help available for those who think they might want to serve by running for one of these positions. Through its Spring Into Action program, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) urges members to think of serving their communities in an elected position. I am an elected member of the La Crosse County Board and have experience running for election and helping others to do so as well. I am participating in the Spring Into Action project.

If you are interested, or would like information on seats that may be up for election in your districts, call or email Vicki Burke at vburke0737@aol.com or call or text 608-792-5854. I can help or put you in contact with others who may help you as well.

**“We all do better
when we all do better.**

~ Paul Wellstone

Message From Ron Kind:



Even in turbulent times, there's one thing you can always count on around this time of the year – my corn roast!

On September 15th, I will be hosting the 16th Annual Old-Fashioned Wisconsin Corn Roast from 6-9 p.m. at the La Crosse County Fairgrounds in West Salem.

For those of you who haven't been to this event in the past, or need a refresher, the Corn Roast is a free event (although donations are gratefully accepted) where everybody in the community can gather for some good old Wisconsin fun.

We provide brats, beer, and, of course, freshly roasted corn for everyone in attendance, as long as supplies last. Entertaining for the night will be Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen, who will be playing polka tunes all evening.

This year, we are also honoring two of the finest heroes in Wisconsin. Not only are they veterans who served their country with distinction, but they're still actively involved in our communities to this day. Petty Officer Marty Severson and Staff Sergeant Louis Ferris will both be honored as two of Our Wisconsin Heroes!

There also will be numerous special guests, including elected officials from around western and central Wisconsin, along with other candidates for statewide office that you can get to know.

Please join us in celebrating Our Wisconsin Heroes at the 16th Annual Old-Fashioned Wisconsin Corn Roast.

If you'd like to RSVP or volunteer, please call Erica at our office at 608-782-3444.

Carbon Fee Resolution Responses

In our last issue, we included the Carbon Fee Resolution that we were sending to our elected officials. Below is the response we have received from Mayor Tim Kabat. Additional responses can be found on our website.

Hi David –

Thanks for bringing this to my attention. I appreciate it. We are "all in" at the local level, and are making progress to reduce our carbon emissions as an organization. We continue pushing for projects and programs to further reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and lessen our carbon footprint.

Thanks again.

*Sincerely,
Tim Kabat
Mayor, City of La Crosse*



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 eap11111@aol.com.

Foxconn Deal – Good or Bad for Wisconsin???

Recently, State Senator Jennifer Shilling and State Representative Jill Billings held a listening session about Taiwanese electronics maker Foxconn's plan to build a \$10 billion plant in Wisconsin. They answered many questions concerning the effects of this plan on the citizens of our state.

No one argues the potential value of adding up to 13,000 well-paying jobs to our employment rolls. However, this particular proposal raises several caveats that all Wisconsin citizens should be aware of:

- The deal carries an unprecedented price tag -- \$3 billion over 15 years, or \$200 million per year, in state tax incentives. This amount does not include local incentives to fund infrastructure improvements.

- Foxconn has a record of delaying or failing to deliver on large projects elsewhere, including a large plant in Pennsylvania that never materialized.

- Foxconn would pay almost no income tax, meaning the multi-billion dollar tax credits would be paid to the company in cash.

- Because of the facility's expected proximity to Illinois, many of its suppliers and workers may come from south of the state line, reducing the economic impact to Wisconsin.

- No timeline for the actual creation of jobs has been provided.

- The proposal would exempt Foxconn from the requirement that state agencies prepare environmental impact statements on plant construction and operation.

- Foxconn also would be exempted from obtaining state permits for a wide range of activities, including filling wetlands, building on lake or river beds, changing the course of streams, and building artificial waterways.

- Foxconn builds LDC panels. What if there is a major technology change within the next few years and this product is no longer in demand? Or a competitor is quicker than Foxconn to adapt to changing technology?

- There are no guarantees that workers would not eventually be replaced by robots.

- Why build a plant in Wisconsin, when labor in the Far East is so much cheaper?

- Even if everything goes as planned in the best case scenario, Wisconsin taxpayers would not see a return on the billions of dollars of incentives for 25 years.

Can Wisconsin afford this "great deal"?

Union Difficulties in the South

Adapted from an editorial in The New York Times, August 13, 2017

Workers at a Nissan plant in Mississippi recently voted against forming a union. Veteran workers, who mostly opposed the union, make \$26 an hour, less than the nearly \$30 an hour for similar automakers in unions – but almost twice the median hourly wage in Mississippi.

Organizing workers in the South has been difficult. Employers and anti-union politicians tell them that unionization will threaten their jobs, so they stick with what they have rather than risk it.

This dynamic depresses wages in the South and throughout the country. The pay at this Nissan plant is actually trending down, and the company has hired thousands of contract workers who are paid less than employees. Nonunion pay scales in the South hold down wages for unionized car plants in the North because managers hold them up as benchmarks in negotiations.

Low wages in the South also make it difficult to raise the federal minimum wage. Increasing the minimum wage to \$15, they say, would be too hard on employers in the South. But owners and executives have grown richer, so they could afford to pay more. Doing so would actually cut their costs by lowering turnover and increasing productivity.

This low pay also causes imbalances of federal taxes and spending – Washington sends far more to several Southern states than their citizens pay in taxes.

Raising wages in the South is essential for our nation's prosperity. Unions could align with foreign carmakers' strong unions in Japan and Germany and pressure those companies to give American workers the same rights. Southern politicians could stop union bashing during organizing drives, such as took place during an effort to organize Volkswagen workers in Tennessee in 2014.

Most of all, the Southern idea that low wages provide a sustainable competitive advantage must end. We need a strategy to raise wages for every low-wage worker.

Another Viewpoint

Editorial writers of the *Chicago Sun-Times* looked at the deal Wisconsin is proposing to attract Foxconn, and reviewed the benefits the state of Illinois would actually realize.

"Best we can tell, it's a crap shoot as to whether luring the giant electronics company to Wisconsin would work out well for you, given the billions of dollars in tax breaks your governor has promised, but it would be terrific for Illinois. It would cost our state nothing, yet up to half of the new jobs could go to our residents, while O'Hare Airport would get the new

international travel business. The best thing that ever happened to Illinois might be losing Foxconn to you, Wisconsin. Much appreciated."

The editorial writers summarized the deal: "Wisconsin would be taking all the risks, even as Illinois enjoyed a nice share of the benefits. The Foxconn plant likely would be located right across the border in Kenosha County or Racine County. The commute from Waukegan to Kenosha is just 16.5 miles. The commute from Zion is ten."

Al Franken, Giant of the Senate

The following are excerpts from Senator Al Franken's (D-MN) latest book, in which he discusses why he is a Democrat. Great reading for all Democrats.

"They tell you in this country that you have to pull yourself up by your bootstraps. And we all believe that. But first you've got to have the boots . . .

". . . You're not supposed to have to be rich or lucky to have a chance to do great things. Opportunity is supposed to be for everyone.

"And that's why I'm a Democrat.

". . . Democrats are still the party of civil rights . . . but Democrats aren't just the party of equality for all – we're the party of opportunity for all. We're the ones who want to give people the boots. We're the ones who stand for the middle class and for those aspiring to it – not because it's the fair thing to do, but because it's the smart thing to do. It's how our country has always worked best . . ."



JD Wine, Pete Klitzke, and Wayne Goeldner, proudly wearing their LCPD T-shirts at the Vernon County Democratic Party Summer Picnic.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

~ Barack Obama

SWOT Analysis

At the last LCDP meeting on August 21, the attendees took part in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis, regarding their thoughts on ways the LCDP should change/improve. A SWOT analysis looks at the overall objectives of an organization and identifies the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieving those objectives. The process has been successfully used by businesses, community organizations, and governmental groups.

This type of analysis allows for creative brainstorming – as participants contribute their individual thoughts, at this stage, there are no bad ideas. Everyone is free to say what they believe. No one is to take any statement personally, or regard any statement as a personal attack, but rather a simple attempt to identify areas to work on. Some off-the-wall ideas may come forth, but group consensus will determine which ideas will be worked on.

To begin the process, our meeting attendees broke up into four groups and rotated around the four categories, identifying items in each category. Then, with all items listed, each participant was asked to select his or her top two items in each category – the two they considered most important, after reviewing everyone's contributions.

At our next general meeting on September 18, we will share the overall results of the SWOT exercise. The challenge then will be to match our strengths to the opportunities we see, and find a way to convert any perceived weaknesses or threats into strengths or opportunities. If weaknesses or threats can't be converted, we will have to find ways to minimize or avoid them.

Initial results showed that the following points scored the highest among the participants:

Strengths:

- Younger progressives being involved
- Strong woman legislators

Weaknesses:

- Lack of consistent message, no public expression of party values or goals
- Urban / rural disconnect

Opportunities:

- Connect with other like-minded groups in the area
- Educate people on the real issues/listen/find issues that resonate

Threats:

- Fuzzy message
- Apathy
- Big corporate money used against Dems

Please come to the next meeting prepared to discuss these ideas and help determine how to move the party forward.

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)

LCDP

Volunteer Opportunities - We need you!

Sept. 9 - **Pride in the Park** - call 608-317-5618
Sept. 11 - **Canvassing Effort** - call 608-783-0172
Sept. 15 - **Corn Roast** - call 608-782-3444
Sept. 23 - **Voting Rights Rally** - call 262-339-7875
Oct. 21 - **Fall Dinner** - call 608-769-5988

Parades - call 608-783-6206

Sept. 10, Spanferkel Parade, Mindoro, 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 28, Torchlight Parade, 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 30, Maple Leaf Parade, 10:00 a.m.

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.

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.

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.



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

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Authorized and paid for by the
 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.

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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Name(s) _____
 Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone () _____
 Email _____
 *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 _____