

## October 2017 Newsletter

### Co-Chairs' Message:

The September 17 edition of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* contained an article that should give all of us hope. The article was co-authored by our own Congressman Ron Kind, and a conservative Republican Congressman from the eastern part of the state, Jim Sensenbrenner.

The title was, "Let's keep bipartisanship alive," and it focused on the fact that both men have made cooperation a priority even in today's hyper-partisan political climate. The article states that both men work hard to take the responsibility of public service seriously.

Between the two of them, they have sponsored more than 20 pieces of bipartisan legislation so far this year, including the AFFIRM Act and the National Scenic Trails Parity Act.

The article goes on to say that our state is neither blue nor red, but rather purple with a long history of leaders from both parties. So, the state's leaders should take a bipartisan, common-sense approach to problem solving, with a culture of respect and appreciation for one another. Although these men have different ideological beliefs, they will continue to look for ways to solve the problems of the people in our state – and all Americans – by working across the aisle and actually working on "compromise," a word that seems often to be forgotten in today's political environment.

The true meaning of compromise is that neither side is completely happy with the outcome – because both sides have to give on some issues to reach an agreement that all can live with. Disagreements will always happen, but it is possible to find common ground.

Both Congressmen will continue to encourage open discussions, listening and respecting each other's point of view. Hopefully everyone in Wisconsin's statehouse and the US Congress as a whole will once again embrace bipartisanship as the way to solve our problems.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Next Regular Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the LCDP will be held on Monday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House. At this meeting, we will be hearing from Ysabel Hernandez, a community activist from Venezuela. (See article on page 3.)

#### Fundraiser for Dana Wachs

A "Meet and Greet" fundraiser for Dana Wachs, Democratic Candidate for Wisconsin Governor, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 18, at the home of Roz Schnick, 3039 Edgewater Lane, La Crosse. Contributions will be accepted, but are not required for attendance. Please RSVP at [events@danawachs.com](mailto:events@danawachs.com) and list "La Crosse Dana Wachs Event" in the email.

#### Fall Dinner

The LCDP annual Fall Dinner/Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 21, at the Concordia Ballroom, with cocktails at 5:00 and dinner at 6:00. **The fundraising team is asking for donations for the silent auction** - gift cards, new decorations, jewelry, books, games, sports items, and theme baskets of area foods and beverages. We need to record the value of donated items. To drop off your donations, please call Kris Troyanek – 769-5988 or Barb Clark – 498-6150. Also, we still need volunteers to help with the dinner. Please call Kris Troyanek if you can help.

#### Canvassing

The next canvassing event will be held on Nov. 4 and 5. Further details will follow. If you are interested, please contact Fleming Beaver at [flemingb@wisdems.org](mailto:flemingb@wisdems.org).

### Supreme Court Candidates Speak at LCDP September Meeting

by David Wulf, LCDP Secretary

Two candidates for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Tim Burns and Rebecca Dallet, spoke at the LCDP regular meeting on September 18, explained their respective positions and why they believe they should be elected to the highest court in the state.

The wide-open race was created when Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman announced earlier this summer that he would not seek re-election. So far, Burns, Dallet and Sauk County Circuit Court Judge Michael Srenock have entered the race. The February 20, 2018 primary will narrow the field to two for the general election on April 3. Although the race is officially nonpartisan, Burns and Dallet are courting Democratic voters while Srenock is courting Republican voters.

Tim Burns is a Madison attorney who said he "has 26 years of experience standing up to giant insurance companies." He said he will be "an unshakeable champion for progressive values." According to Burns, right-wing judges have been chipping away at opportunities for everyday people for the past 45 years. He said we have an opportunity to change the Court to a progressive one over the next few years, and he currently has endorsements from two prior Wisconsin Supreme Court candidates (JoAnne Kloppenberg and Ed Fallon).

Rebecca Dallet has been a Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge since 2008. Prior to that, she was a prosecutor in Milwaukee County for 12 years and worked as a federal prosecutor in the late 1990s. Dallet said she is running for the Supreme Court because it is broken, using the Court's decision to shut down the John Doe (Gov. Walker) investigation as an example. She wants to return independence, fairness and balance to the Court. Her website lists over 100 county circuit and municipal court judges who have endorsed her, including five La Crosse County Circuit Court judges.

After their presentations, both candidates held one-on-one sessions with meeting attendees and answered several questions.

Thanks to both Tim and Rebecca for joining our meeting!



College Dems hard at work recruiting new Party members.

## Message From Ron Kind:

Another week, another attempt by Senate Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They'll stop at nothing to turn back the clock on the progress we've made under President Barack Obama. Each time they get more brazen, this time attempting to waive a Congressional Budget Office Score they know would have revealed the truth behind Cassidy-Graham. Just like every other attempt at tax breaks for the wealthy in the guise of healthcare, this plan would have left people with pre-existing conditions unprotected and cause millions to lose their health insurance.

With the GOP establishment determined to pass something to appease the big money donors that fuel their dark money groups, we have to be ready for anything. We have made it past the end of September so they can no longer use budget reconciliation to jam through their legislation. But we can't let

down our guard for even a minute – not until we've fought all the way through to November of next year and taken back the House and Senate.

I'll keep watch in Washington and vote against anything that would hurt Wisconsinites. I need you to do your part back home by knocking on doors and signing up for the next opportunity to canvass or make calls near you. If we do our part in educating our neighbors, they'll know Democrats have their backs – and that the GOP would have kicked millions of people off the healthcare they need just to give the wealthiest people in the nation a tax break if it weren't for a few brave Republicans who did the right thing.

Thanks for all you do,  
Ron Kind



Photo courtesy of Brad Pfaff



Two “Champion of the Wisconsin Way” awards were presented at Ron Kind’s Corn Roast. These are awarded to volunteers selected by legislators. Steve Doyle nominated Monica and Paul Kruse for their assistance in county board elections, as well as helping Steve with his canvassing efforts. Jill Billings nominated Wanda Spraggon for her support of Democratic candidates and their platforms, as well as helping with petitions and canvassing. Congratulations to all these award winners!



## Bridge-Building Canvasses

The picture to the left shows a group of our LCDP members getting ready for a morning of canvassing some of our La Crosse neighborhoods. Led by Fleming Beaver, our state Regional Organizing Director, the team split up to knock on doors and stimulate conversation with residents.

They used Active Empathetic Listening techniques, which have long been used in mediation, de-escalation and trauma situations. These techniques include:

- Sensing – being attentive to verbal cues and body language
- Processing – repeating back what is heard
- Responding – asking clarifying questions and sharing connective stories

The goal of this canvassing is to build connections with potential voters, laying the groundwork for future conversations. If you are interested in taking part in future canvassing events, please contact Fleming at [flemingb@wisdems.org](mailto:flemingb@wisdems.org).

# Shortage of Workers in Wisconsin?

Several Wisconsin newspapers, including the *La Crosse Tribune* and the *Wisconsin State Journal*, have been reporting of late on the severe shortage of workers in Wisconsin. Employers in many industries are having trouble finding workers, both skilled professionals and those with a high school diploma and some additional training. Efforts are being made to address the “skills gap,” even as the reality sets in that we have an actual shortage of people.

To sustain economic growth, companies must be able to attract a high-quality workforce. But our population growth is slowing and even shrinking in some parts of our state. Many factors are contributing to the worker shortage, including an aging workforce and baby boomers retiring. In Wisconsin, certain factors may make the shortage worse, such as a broad manufacturing base that is increasingly automating, replacing high school graduates with more highly skilled workers. Also, our state has a comparatively poor record of attracting college graduates.

Employers today are demanding more advanced skills for good-paying jobs. And, for work that can be done totally on-line, employees can be located anywhere. So, if these companies can't find Wisconsin workers, they hire workers from other states.

Gov. Walker and his Republican cronies have continually cut funding to our state's University system, but the only solution seems to be to graduate more people with technical educations.

And that brings us to the subject of Foxconn.

## Where Will the Employees Come From?

Many state business officials have expressed doubt as to where Foxconn is going to find all the employees they are predicting. Gov. Walker and other Republicans believe people will migrate to Wisconsin to fill these labor needs. But preliminary analyses show that as many as half of the construction workers and Foxconn workforce could come from other states, especially Illinois. Walker disputes that number.

Factory workers at Foxconn would make at least \$20 an hour plus benefits, but some Democrats don't believe that level of pay will entice enough workers from other parts of the country to move to Racine. Moreover, Foxconn has historically been very cutthroat about its margins. If they are unable to attract workers, will that encourage them to automate?

In another example, Milwaukee is bidding for Amazon's new second headquarters, but the city will have to prove it can provide enough technology workers. The winner will reportedly need to show a plan to increase technology graduates, and Wisconsin would need to promise to build a talent pipeline. The difference in the bid will be access to technological talent, and Milwaukee is not known as a technology hub.

The shortage of trained workers in Wisconsin, coupled with these companies' needs for highly skilled technological employees, seems to result in a dilemma that some state officials are choosing to ignore.

# Call for Nominations for the Executive Board

The nominations for the LCDP Executive Board positions for 2018 are now open. The positions to be filled are Chair (since we will be operating under our new Constitution and Bylaws at this election, this could be Co-chairs), Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and five at-large seats. Qualifications and duties for the various positions can be found in the Constitution and Bylaws. Qualified LCDP members can nominate themselves or, if you know someone who is qualified and would be an asset on the Executive Board, you may nominate him or her with permission.

To make a nomination, you need to contact a member of the Nominating Committee, which is composed of the following members:

Peter Gorski: peter.k.gorski@gmail.com, 312-231-9884

Pete Klitzke: plklitzke@gmail.com, 608-780-6037

Jeff Wildt: jeffwildt6701@aol.com, 608-781-4833

Nominations must be made by the Regular October Meeting. Nominations can also be made from the floor at that meeting.

## Neighborhood Democracy in Venezuela

The La Crosse County Democratic Party is proud to announce that Ysabel Hernandez will be the speaker at our Regular Monthly Meeting on October 16 at 6:30 at Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House. Sra. Hernandez is 66 years old, a mother of two and grandmother of four. For the past 15 years, she has served as the president of her small neighborhood government, serving approximately 520 families in Petare, one of the poorest sectors of Venezuela's capital city, Caracas.

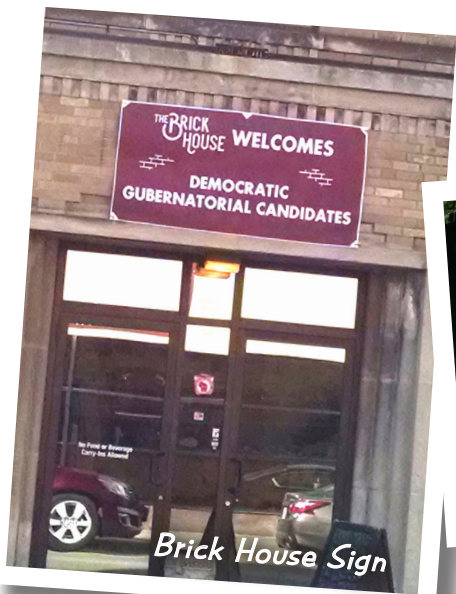
She is an unabashed supporter of the recently deceased president, Hugo Chavez, as well as his controversial successor, Nicolas Maduro. She is eager to share her personal experiences and recount to us the problems and challenges confronting her neighborhood, while exploring the questions that are at the heart of her activism. Does “democracy” benefit the rich and the powerful most? Can the system be “reformed” to better address the needs and concerns of the poor?

The views presented by Ysabel are her own. The LCDP hopes this presentation will stimulate discussion regarding how Ysabel's two questions could be answered here in the USA.

## Kenosha Doesn't Want Foxconn

The city of Kenosha has withdrawn its bid to land Foxconn. Mayor John Antaramian told Gov. Walker in a letter, citing . . . “without significant adjustments to specific current state laws impacting local municipalities, we would be unable to support and/or absorb the development of the project.” He expressed frustration that Kenosha's concerns with the Foxconn incentives bill have not been adequately addressed, and said that their voice had not been heard.

# VOTING RIGHTS RALLY SEPT. 23rd CAMERON PARK



Brick House Sign



Mayor Tim Kabat, Wayne Goeldner,  
Former Mayor John Medinger



Peter Gorski and  
Monica Hofmann



Rally Sign



More Rally Signs



The Dem table



Jill Billings



John Medinger  
holds the mic for  
Emily Bunting



Keith Knutson



Mike Smuksta

## Voting Rights Rally was Huge Success!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Voting Rights Rally at Cameron Park on Saturday, September 23. John Medinger, former Mayor of La Crosse, moderated the event, and speakers focused on gerrymandering, voter ID laws, and other voter suppression efforts.

Jen Shilling, Jill Billings and Steve Doyle gave some rousing comments, along with those from several Democratic gubernatorial candidates. After the rally, people joined us at the Brick House to speak with the candidates one on one.

Even though we experienced an unexpected early fall heat wave that day, this was an exciting event, and we got lots of good visibility for our party!

## 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 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)

Tony Schwartz, who ghostwrote *The Art of the Deal* for Donald Trump, identifies what he believes are deeper origins for the president's divisive behavior:

**“To survive, I concluded from our conversations, Trump felt compelled to go to war with the world. It was a binary, zero-sum choice for him: You either dominated or you submitted. You either created and exploited fear, or you succumbed to it ... This narrow, defensive outlook took hold at a very early age, and it never evolved. ‘When I look at myself in the first grade and I look at myself now,’ Trump told a recent biographer, ‘I’m basically the same.’ His development essentially ended in early childhood.”**

Some of our LCDP members apparently have not been receiving some, or all, of the email blasts we have been sending out in the last few months. These notifications include our monthly newsletter (if you do not receive a hard copy version) and approximately 4-6 announcements each month, informing our members of upcoming events, etc. Our records indicate that all members ARE receiving these, but in some cases certain recipients appear to have been dropped.

If you believe you are missing any of these emails, please contact Diane Oldani Wulf at 608-780-7007, or at [eap11111@aol.com](mailto:eap11111@aol.com), and we will do our best to resolve the issue.

## 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!

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).



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](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).

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_