

## December 2017 Newsletter

### Co-Chair's Message

As 2017 draws to a close, we look forward to election year 2018 with great hope and enthusiasm. Recent Democratic wins in Virginia, New Jersey and other places across the country have shown that our grass-roots, bottom-up approach to energizing voters and volunteers is working!

Martha Laning has reported that recent statewide canvassing efforts have included volunteers from both Our Wisconsin Revolution and Indivisible groups. She also reports that data is being gathered not only through phone calls and knocking on doors, but also using texting and the Internet. All signs point toward a great year for Democrats in Wisconsin!

The LCDP will continue to build on our successful efforts of 2017. We updated our Constitution and Bylaws, which hadn't been done since 2010, instituted a Social Media policy, redesigned our website, developed a working document for committees, held a successful Voting Rights Rally, developed a membership recruiting brochure and a new member brochure, implemented a member volunteer letter and form that produced a robust volunteer database, revamped our newsletter, streamlined our communications with members, developed a list of Party principles, all while taking in many new members.

Several activities will be ongoing into the new year, including honing our Party messaging and continuing our conversations with rural residents around health care and other relevant issues.

Congratulations to our new Executive Board members, elected at our regular meeting on November 20. New Co-Chairs Michael Smuksta and Peter Gorski are poised to lead the LCDP into the future, and they will be supported by a fresh cast of new Board members, as well as veterans Diane and Dave Wulf, Obbie King and Sara Bentley.



### Upcoming Events

There will be a fundraiser Meet and Greet for **Matt Flynn** (Democratic candidate for Governor) at the home of Susan and Tan Pham on Tuesday, December 12, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., 1309 Main Street, La Crosse.

The LCDP Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 18, at The Brick House, 228 5th Avenue South (across from Cameron Park) at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a food item to share with others. Because of health codes, however, no homemade items may be brought into the building. Only commercially prepared (store-bought) items may be brought. The kitchen will be open, so members also can order off their menu. The party will be held on the second floor in the ballroom - an elevator is available for our use. And, the LCDP will be paying for the first \$100 in drinks! Hope to see you there !

The suggestion has been made to include the upcoming events of other like-minded groups in our newsletter. Because these events are so numerous and are already being compiled by others, we have decided to merely direct our members to those existing sources of information. Please refer to [driftless-blue.net](http://driftless-blue.net) and <https://tinyurl.com/cpdaily-calendar> for information about upcoming activities of many other groups.

We are leaving our new Executive Board at a much better starting point than where we were at the beginning of 2017. Please continue to support this new Board with their requests for volunteer efforts going into this crucial election year.

### Politics in Southwest Wisconsin

*This article is excerpted from a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel series: State of Flux / Wisconsin in the age of Trump, by Craig Gilbert.*

Rural southwest Wisconsin voted in a large majority for Donald Trump in the wave of desire for political change. But today that frustration with politics seems undiminished by his election, and is aimed in all directions – including Trump's.

One Richland Center voter wants Trump to stop tweeting and behaving like a bad child. She also notes the do-little Congress, two parties that can't work together, continual division, the media circus around Trump, and the swamp that hasn't been drained.

Many others in this area also echo that discontent. Hillary voters are appalled by Trump – Trump voters who are still happy with Trump don't like Congress and Trump's critics – Trump voters who now are critical of Trump (and there are many of those) are either resigned or exasperated at his behavior.

What is interesting about this part of Wisconsin? What makes its politics interesting to outsiders? The answer is that it offers a window into the trends and tumult of the Trump era. It is populated largely by blue-collar white voters, a demographic group that got Trump elected. It is economically challenged, often cited as an ingredient in Trump's election. And it contributed to the huge rural wave that accounted for Trump's victory in Wisconsin.

But the region also defies some of the trends. Nationwide, rural white communities are overwhelmingly Republican. But the Driftless area (which extends into Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois) contains the largest cluster of blue and purple counties in rural, white America. Neither party dominates this region – its voters go this way and that. Party loyalties are weak in this region, and help explain a history of big election swings,

**Continued on Page 2**

## Continued from Page 1

such as from Obama to Trump. More than half the communities in southwest Wisconsin voted for both Obama and then Trump.

The Trump voters most critical of him today are the ones who are self-described independents, who were drawn to Trump's business background or his vow to put America

first. These voters now have meager expectations for his presidency. Some are embarrassed by the events occurring in his administration, some are upset at his lack of diplomatic and leadership skills, and some bemoan his behavior.

They wanted change, but are discouraged because it isn't happening. They want less noise and more action. They want to move forward . . . Seems like a ripe opportunity for Democrats!



### College Dems

On October 26th the La Crosse College Democrats turned out in force to knock doors, talk to voters, and fight for the kind of Wisconsin (and the kind of America) that we want for the people we care about. The kind that fights for the 99%. The kind that Tammy Baldwin and Ron Kind are fighting for.

### Congratulations and Welcome to our New LCDP Executive Board Members!

The picture to the right shows our members voting for new Executive Board members at the November regular meeting. We had a great turnout for this meeting, and 90 ballots were cast. Prior to the voting, each candidate was able to present a short statement about why he or she should be chosen to serve on the 2018 Board.

New Board members are as follows:

Co-Chairs – Michael Smuksta and Peter Gorski

Vice Chair – Dave Wulf

Secretary – Avery Van Gaard

Treasurer – Diane Oldani Wulf

At large members – Sara Bentley, Austin Goodrich, Obbie King, Pete Klitzke, and Greg Schams.

Also serving on the 2018 Board will be



Susan Goeldner and JD Wine, as past Co-Chairs.

This new Board includes both veterans and brand-new members, and should be well positioned to take us through the all-important 2018 election year.

And a huge thank you to outgoing Board members Vicki Burke, Kris Troyanek, Paul Kruse and Carolyn Smith, for their many years of dedicated service to the LCDP Board, and to College Dem representative Anna Kivi.

## Ron Kind's Message

I'm all for getting rid of special interest tax loopholes and simplifying our tax code. Tax reform is long overdue, but the Republicans are doing anything besides fixing our broken system with their latest bill. They're leaving a legacy of over \$1 trillion in debt for our children and grandchildren.

There is no economic history or data to back up their theory of trickle down economics. Lowering tax rates does not boost the economy, leaving us with no way to recoup the losses we will incur for their benefits to the wealthy.

The Senate just passed their version of the bill in the dead of night without even being able to review the impact it will have on our economy—that's unacceptable. I thought the House version was bad enough when it came to helping the powerful special interests.

I fought hard against the bill when it was in the Ways and Means Committee. Especially the repeal of the Johnson Amendment, that would permit political actions by churches, synagogues, and mosques. This has troubling implications to the role of church and religion in our lives and society, particularly since such institutions are tax-free.

We deserve a bill that works for real American families—not special interests and corporations. I'm ready to continue to fight for hardworking Wisconsinites to protect things like the Work Opportunity Tax Credit that are coming under attack.

Stay vigilant now that the House and Senate bills are heading to a conference committee. Here, they'll work to find a version that both sides can vote on.

When these come back into their respective bodies, we need to be ready.

Thanks for all you do,  
Ron Kind

## 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 124 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)**

## Call for Canvassers

The LCDP will be undertaking a major canvassing effort for the rest of this year and carrying through to 2018. This effort will be in conjunction with the DPW's statewide canvassing program.

We need volunteers to head up this important canvassing effort, leading into the all-important 2018 election cycle. Specifically, we need a Coordinator and three group leaders to be part of the canvassing team. The Coordinator will need to be trained on the VAN system, and a training session will be provided if needed.

The Coordinator will be responsible for getting turfs cut on VAN, getting packets to group leaders, and collecting packets for data entry. The group leaders will coordinate canvasses with their teams – one for West Salem, one for Onalaska, and one for La Crosse.

Please contact JD Wine at [jwine@charter.net](mailto:jwine@charter.net) if you are able to help with this very important activity.

## 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).

## 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

PRSORT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LA CROSSE, WI  
PERMIT NO. 588

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

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.

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

\*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 \_\_\_\_\_