

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

LAXDEMS.COM

January 2019 Newsletter

We Need Your Ideas, Suggestions, Thoughts and Opinions

Message from the Chair



WE WANT YOU!

At the January 28 LCDP regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., we would like to engage members on a number of issues. We want your ideas, suggestions, thoughts and opinions on several items.

First, let's brainstorm on how to reach out to millennials and Gen-Xers, rural residents, and people of color. For example, should we consider setting up times and locations outside of the regular Monday evening meeting to meet with members of these groups? These meetings could be set up as informal listening sessions to learn what is important to these individuals. The membership committee and officers can implement your suggestions. The goal is to broaden the membership of the LCDP beyond aging baby boomers and retirees.

Second, to assist our effort to reach out to underrepresented groups, we need to develop our connections with groups and individuals in the La Crosse



Upcoming Events

LCDP Executive Board Meeting,
Monday, January 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724
Main St., La Crosse, WI.

**Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
Community Celebration**
Monday, January 21, 2019, Viterbo
University Fine Arts Center Main
Theater, 7 p.m. The Martin Luther King
Jr. Leadership Award will be presented.
The keynote speaker for this year's
event will be activist and author David
Dennis, Sr., whose speech will focus on
what it means to be an American.

LCDP Regular Meeting
Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:30 p.m.,
Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724
Main St., La Crosse WI. **NOTE:** This
a change from the usual third Monday
so members may attend the La Crosse
Community Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration at Viterbo University on
Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

area. So we are asking members to list organizations and groups in which they are involved (e.g., New Direction, Sierra Club). Go to <http://www.couleeprogressives.org/> for examples of progressive organizations in the La Crosse area.

Third, many of you participated in election activities (e.g., phone-banking, canvassing, working the

office reception desk) this summer and fall. Let's continue that energy and look for ways to stay involved at the LCDP level. At the January meeting, an overview of committees and opportunities for involvement will be provided. Think of committees as "teams" on which we work together for common goals. Depending on your interest, expertise, and skills, you might consider joining a "team" related to membership, fund-raising, events, community outreach, candidate recruitment, or communications, to name a few. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact the chair if you are interested in working on a committee (mikejeromesmuksta@gmail.com).

On a broader level, The DPW website (<https://www.wisdems.org/our-party/caucuses>) states that "DPW Caucuses are a great way to get involved in the Democratic Party of Wisconsin while focusing on issues of special interest to you. They provide members with the unique opportunity to make connections and build relationships within our DPW family. Current DPW members can join any of our caucuses at no additional cost either by signing up with a caucus officer or by signing up here: www.wisdems.org/joinacaucus." Caucuses include the American Indian Caucus, the Black Caucus, the Environmental Caucus, the Labor Caucus, the Latino Caucus, the LGBT Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the Rural Caucus, the Veterans Caucus, and the Women's Caucus.

So, there are many ways to become involved in 2019 and to build upon our successes in 2018. Please consider these possibilities.

Save the Dates for Conventions

3rd Congressional District Convention. Plans are underway for the 3rd Congressional District Convention that will be held on May 4 or May 11, 2019. La Crosse or Eau Claire are two host cities under consideration. Once a final decision is made, details will be provided. Delegates to the 3rd CD Convention are automatic delegates to the DPW State Convention.

The 2019 Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention

will be held Saturday, June 1 & Sunday, June 2, 2019 at the Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, 1611 W Canal St, Milwaukee, WI 53233. <https://www.paysbig.com/>

Hotel Rooms

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin has a block of rooms set aside for convention guests with a special rate of \$149. Rooms in the DPW block are on a first come, first serve basis. In order to receive the group rate, guests must reserve their room(s) no later than May 1, 2019. Please note there is a large convention in downtown Milwaukee over that weekend as well and hotel rooms will be scarce. In addition to the host hotel, the DPW is in the process of securing room blocks at other nearby properties that have shuttle service to the casino. Once the convention website has been created, that information will be posted. <https://www.wisdems.org/events/2019-wisdems-state-convention>

To reserve a room, guests can either:

1. Call Potawatomi Hotel & Casino directly at 1-800-PAYSBIG or 844-217-4100 and mention the Democratic Party of Wisconsin room block
2. Use the DPW room block link by clicking here: http://reservations-paysbig.webhotel.microsdc.us/bp/search_rooms.jsp?groupCode=DEM05302018



- Sen. Jennifer Shilling, D-La Crosse, and Rep. Jill Billings, D-La Crosse, for their analyses on the La Crosse Tribune Tribecast, Episode 3, Dec. 11, 2018, of the lame duck session in Madison and what this meant for the Tony Evers administration.
- Rep. Steve Doyle, for his opinion piece on the lame duck session, "Legislative changes were mean-spirited," in the La Crosse Tribune, Dec. 11, 2018.

Notice of Change of Date for the January LCDP Regular Meeting

The January regular meeting of the LCDP will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 28, 2019. This is a change from the third Monday of the month to the fourth Monday of the month. The Executive Board voted to change the date so that LCDP members could attend the La Crosse Area Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration on Monday, January 21, 2019. Doors open at the Viterbo University Fine Arts Center Main Theatre on Jan. 21 at 6:15 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m. The keynote speaker for this year's event will be activist and author David Dennis, Sr., whose speech will focus on what it means to be an American. Mr. Dennis participated in a lunch counter sit-in and was a Freedom Rider on interstate buses in 1961. He is an advocate for voting rights and quality education as constitutional rights.

Inaugural Events



2019 Wisconsin Inauguration Ceremony, Monday, January 7, 2019, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Wisconsin State Capitol.

The inauguration of Tony Evers as the 46th governor of the state of Wisconsin, Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, Attorney General Josh Kaul, Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, and Secretary of State Douglas La Follette. General admission will be very limited and is standing room only.

The Inaugural Gala is Monday, January 7, 2019, 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center 1 John Nolen Drive Madison, WI, 53713

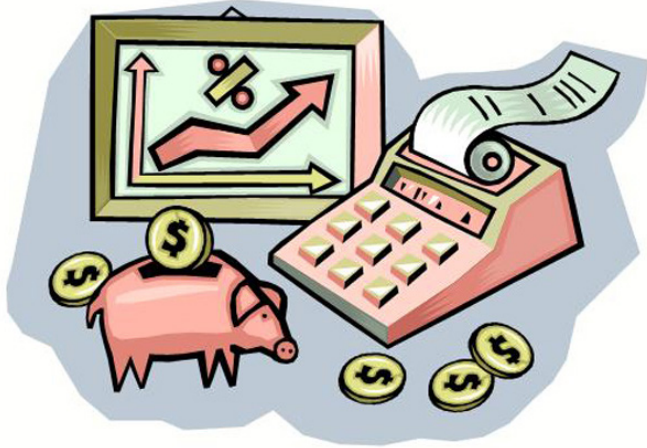
Ticket required for entry. Net proceeds will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee

Ticket cost is \$35. <https://ourwisconsinourvalues.org/inauguration-events/2019/1/7/inaugural-gala>. Hotels in downtown Madison that have room blocks for the event. <https://ourwisconsinourvalues.org/hotels/>

Holiday Social

Approximately 30 individuals attended the LCDP Holiday Social at Earl's Grocery and Saloon on Tuesday evening, December 18, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Good food, good conversation, and a good time was had by all!

YEAR-END REPORT FROM YOUR OUTGOING TREASURER



On January 1st, 2018 the beginning balance was \$11,824.06; on December 31st, 2018, the ending balance was \$11,858.12. I will present a full year-end treasurer's report at the January 28th, 2019 regular monthly meeting for everyone's review.

I have been asked to reflect what the party's treasury and executive board support. Let me touch on the high points:

The La Crosse County Democratic Party maintains a web site, email address, and phone. We also provide a monthly newsletter (both an e-version and a mailed version for those without internet access). We provide a meeting room for our members to hold monthly meetings.

We purchased a number of promotional items this year for donation/promotional purposes (i.e., yard signs, bracelets, buttons, wristbands, bumper stickers, I'm a Democrat fan). In the past two years we have also developed and printed a new member brochure and a membership brochure for tabling events.

We also hosted a number of social events (St. Patrick's Day Party, annual June picnic, Fall Dinner, Victory Party, Holiday Party) and tabled at a number of community events (Progresstival, La Crosse Interstate Fair, Juneteeth, Fighting Bob Fest, Pride 2018). Hosting and participating in these events take time, energy, and money, and because of the support of our membership, we continue to have a presence in the community. We also supported our local candidates by marching in a number of parades (Holmen KornFest, Spanferkel, June Dairy Days, Labor Day, Torchlight, and Maplefest). We also provided financial support to the UWL-College Dems for attendance at their annual convention and donated for ads to the Union Herald and to the Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO for events. And speaking of an event, the Fall Dinner this year netted \$2,666.99 (which included the dinner, raffle, and silent

auction). Thank you to all who attended and contributed and volunteered to make this event a success!

For the mid-term election in 2018, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) did not fund our coordinated campaign office as much as in past years, and a number of our members and non-members alike responded when we sent out a call to sponsor the office for a day. We were able to finance and support the majority of our office for six months. Our local electeds also contributed to support our office. A lot goes in to support a coordinated campaign. After securing the site, we as a county party also provided the Wi-Fi and office equipment and supplies and food that goes into supporting an office, along with coordinating the many volunteers needed to staff the office as well as supporting the coordinated campaign staff.

This year we also decided it was more important to get our message out via yard signs so we chose not to ask for a suggested donation as we have in the past. Instead, many requested signs went out the office door without a donation given but many others more than made up by giving larger amounts.

Throughout the year when members were renewing their membership, they would add an additional donation amount. This is also so appreciated! One hundred percent of your donation stays with the La Crosse County Democratic Party, whereas only 45% of your actual membership stays with the local county party (53% goes to the DPW, 2% to the 3rd CD).

Why do I mention all of the above? Because it takes the support of members like you to make all of this happen. We need people to show up and march in parades and volunteer to serve food and help organize events. We also need people to financially support all of the events we participate in. Thank you everyone for supporting the La Crosse County Democratic Party! Because of our supportive membership, the treasury is beginning 2019 in a sound financial place. We will be well positioned going into the 2020 presidential year.

On a closing note, I have considered it an honor that you have placed your trust, faith and confidence in me the past three years to serve as your treasurer, and I sincerely thank you. I only step away from the executive board in 2019 as I want to concentrate more of my time to my elected position on the Onalaska Common Council.

I wish the 2019 Executive Board well! There are many members who are returning, along with newly elected members who are stepping up to serve for the first time. Join me in wishing them a great and productive 2019!

Your outgoing La Crosse County
Democratic Party Treasurer,
Diane Oldani Wulf

Walker Leaves Behind a State Divided

by LCDP Member Keith Knutson:

Reprinted from the La Crosse Tribune, Dec 23, 2018

Before vacating his office in January, Gov. Scott Walker signed into law policies as radical as when he entered eight years ago. His 2010 election victory rode on the deeply agitated tea party movement. Walker delivered on their demand to reject Barack Obama's presidency, especially the Affordable Care Act.

Upon securing office, the new governor was recorded on video telling a wealthy Beloit campaign contributor he would achieve his objectives by implementing a divide-and-conquer strategy.

He commenced his divisive politics by rejecting the expansion of Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act. As a result, Wisconsin now lags behind Minnesota and Iowa, both of whom entered into the program, in reducing the number of uninsured citizens. Whereas our neighbors benefit from increased federal dollars to cover increased Medicaid costs, Wisconsin, the cheese state, stands alone.

Digging our fiscal hole even deeper, he refused to raise taxes for road maintenance while emphasizing automobile highway transportation over any other viable alternative. Undoubtedly, one reason he lost re-election were the campaign ads reminding our citizens of "Scott holes" all over the state.

His ideological zealotry led him to strip our public employee unions of their negotiating capacity through Act 10. Targeted especially toward teachers, today we not only suffer a teacher shortage, but our educational training and institutional structures have been deeply undermined. Their replacement with a laissez faire certification process does not portend well for the future.

Adding insult to injury, Walker told the nation in 2016 he was ready to be president and confront global terrorism, since he had taken on citizen protesters in our state capitol. This example shows us Walker's political psychology of divide and conquer is deeply ingrained. It is no accident he was the first Republican presidential aspirant to abandon the field in 2016.

Upon return to the state after his short-lived presidential campaign, he continued presiding over the transfer of public education resources to private schools through vouchers. Without a significant infusion of money in the next state budget, we will further undercut our K-12 system. Gov.-elect Tony Evers' experience as state School Superintendent will be severely tested, as he addresses the mess Walker has left us.

For the 2012 general election, Walker and legislative

Republicans implemented a secretly drawn representative district map. Arguably, it is the most severe gerrymander in the country. Despite the governor losing re-election this year, his party still won a grossly disproportionate number of Assembly seats while losing a majority of the total vote.

Early in the Donald Trump presidency, Walker worked through him to secure the Foxconn flat-screen production in southeastern Wisconsin. The terms of the \$4 billion of tax benefits the Taiwanese corporation will receive are now under close public scrutiny.

According to the Tax Policy Institute, Foxconn's "refundable" tax credits mean the state will most likely pay the company the amount of the credits, even when there is no tax liability. This is because our state waives income on manufacturing production. Of course, such liabilities come at the expense of future budgets.

Additionally, the Legislative Audit Bureau now recommends the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. (a Walker creation) make changes in order to avoid paying Foxconn for work not done in our state. Without such cleanup of Walker's shoddy negotiations, we will not accrue the expected economic growth multiplier effect from the tax credits.

Is it any wonder Walker leaves office denying his successor the power to appoint WEDC board members? He also leaves denying our state the right to withdraw from Republican litigation attempting to eliminate the ACA.

Republicans still in government hope the public will forget all of this. We must not forget, because we aspire to better, fairer, and more responsible governance than what Scott Walker delivered over the last eight years.

“We all play a role in this democracy. We need to remember the power of every vote. I continue, too, to keep myself connected to a force that's larger and more potent than any one election, or leader, or news story — and that's optimism. For me, this is a form of faith, an antidote to fear.”

~ Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

Our Elected Officials

Governor-elect Tony Evers (D)

Office of the Governor
115 East State Capital
Madison, WI 53702
Ph: 608-266-1212

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

LCDP Executive Board Officers

Chair: Michael Smuksta

608-784-4219

Vice Chair: Peter Klitzke

608-780-6037

Treasurer: Cathy Van Maren

608-315-2693

Secretary: David Wulf

608-799-8977

At-Large Board Members:

Sara Bentley

Ed Burgess

Obbie King

Mark Neumann

Avery Van Gaard

Past Chair: Peter Gorski

College Representative: Adam Vlach (UW-L)

Correction:

The December "Democratic Voice" on p. 3 listed Stephanie Boebel as the College Representative on the LCDP Executive Board. On December 13, The UW-L College Democrats Executive Board elected Adam Vlach as the new chair of the UW-L College Democrats and he will join the LCDP Executive Board. Welcome Adam!

Posting of Unapproved Minutes

A couple of LCDP members have expressed an interest in receiving regular minutes prior to the next regular LCP meeting. If you want to receive the minutes early, please contact the LCDP secretary, Cathy Van Maren, at cathyvanmaren@gmail.com or 608-315-2693. She will mail them as a PDF with an UNAPPROVED watermark. No hard copies will be sent.

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 Cathy Van Maren, your current LCDP treasurer, at 608-315-2693, or at treasurer@laxdems.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 David Wulf at 608-608-799-8977 or davidpwulf@aol.com.



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

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For the LCDP to build upon its success in 2018 and continue activities into 2019, we are going to need volunteers and funding. The party is only as strong as the engagement of its members and friends. And that is where you come in. We have many opportunities for you to volunteer your skills. Also, please consider a contribution of any amount to help support activities and events to broaden our base.

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.

Paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party.

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

*Contributions are not tax deductible for federal tax purposes. State law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

I recommend contacting as a possible member:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____