

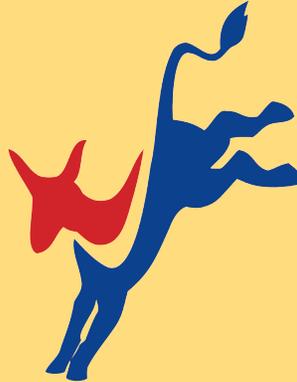
May 2019 Newsletter

Message from Executive Board Member Ed Burgess

I have been a Democrat all my life. I have an early memory of watching in person the Kennedy motorcade during his inauguration. My parents were Democrats and were thrilled by the election of JFK. My father was a Foreign Service officer working for the State Department. When he was assigned to the US Embassy in Prague, Czechoslovakia, we were on the front lines as he represented our country overseas.

I vividly remember when I was in the embassy school on the first floor when the embassy was stormed by demonstrators who broke glass in every window and car. We huddled under the desks but fortunately no one broke in. The American school was attended by the children of many of the diplomats from other countries. There were 100 different nationalities represented there. I had quite the education in playground diplomacy.

I believe in the Democratic ideal, that government has the potential to improve people's lives. Our party has been at the forefront of enacting legislation that has made life better for ordinary citizens. Social security, Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act are some of these accomplishments that most Americans depend on. I first became politically active, besides voting, during the campaign that elected Jennifer Shilling to the Wisconsin Senate. That was a win, but for the most part we watched Scott Walker take our state backwards. Now we see a similar assault being waged in Washington. The Republican Party has embraced a President who lacks basic morality, civility and patriotism. They will see that fear and hate are not a sustainable way of maintaining a base of support. Out of our



Upcoming Events

3rd CD Convention, Saturday, May 4, 2019, Lunda Center, Western Technical College, 319 7th St. N, La Crosse
Registration starts 9:00 a.m., Call to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

LCDP Regular Meeting, Monday, May 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Ho Chunk Nation Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse, WI

DPW State Convention, Saturday & Sunday, June 1-2, 2019 Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, 1611 W Canal St., Milwaukee, WI 53233

greatest frustrations we will see great legislative victories.

I believe that if we all put our oars in the water and work together we can put our party firmly back in control so that we will have a return of good governance. The challenge of this time is to move past the Trump presidency. Can government once again affirm and reflect the positive nature of our love for our fellow man and woman?

There is much to be done. Global

warming is occurring. I really like the clear, broad outline of the Green New Deal even though the details are still a little hazy. Let's invest more in carbon free technology. We need a path to a sustainable future so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the planet.

We need to restructure our society so that upward mobility is available to all. The wealth generated by this country needs to be shared by all, not just on social justice grounds, but because our system of government and our economy work best when 'The People' enjoy the fruits of their labors. One way to do this is to rebuild our aging infrastructure.

We again need to rein in Wall Street and monopolies. The tax laws need to reflect the need for the wealthy to pay their fair share. Election laws need to be passed to reduce the outside influence of money on our elections.

We need to again become a positive leader on the world stage. Let's set aside religious strictures against birth control and encourage family planning so that we see human populations reduced to levels that are sustainable for us and the animal kingdom.

Finally, we are going to have to codify the rules of expected behavior for the presidency. We can't afford another Donald Trump. He has trampled all over previous codes of conduct. Candidates must not be allowed to accept help from foreign governments, especially our enemies. Republicans ranted about Benghazi, but remain silent about the clear danger of Russia's meddling in our elections. We have an executive branch that is ignoring the oversight role of congress. We need to rethink the Special Counsel regulations and reaffirm the independence of the Department of Justice and the FBI. It's clear we need a broom to clean out an administration that will go down in our history as the worst ever.

W I S D E M S

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN

3rd Congressional District Convention in La Crosse

The 3rd Congressional District Convention will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Western Technical College Lunda Center, 319 7th St N in La Crosse.

The delegate list was submitted to the 3rd CD Chair on April 20th, but you can still attend as a volunteer or as a guest. Volunteers are needed to monitor the doors and complete other tasks. You can register online as a guest with a credit or debit card using the links at https://3rddemswi.nationbuilder.com/pay_registration_online and choosing the \$15 Guest option.



Pre-meeting Social

Social before the May 20 LCDP Regular Meeting

Please join your fellow Democrats for a pre-LCDP meeting social at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2019 at the Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse. Bring some finger food or non-alcoholic beverages and have some lively conversations with fellow Democrats.

David Bowen, candidate for the DPW Chair, is tentatively scheduled to speak to the LCDP members at the meeting. David Bowen is currently DPW 1st Vice-Chair and Wisconsin Assembly District 10 Representative.

Save
the
Date

The annual LCDP
summer picnic fundraiser
at the Copeland Enclosed
Shelter is on June 17, 2019
from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Join your fellow LCDP
members for a
convivial evening.
More details to follow.



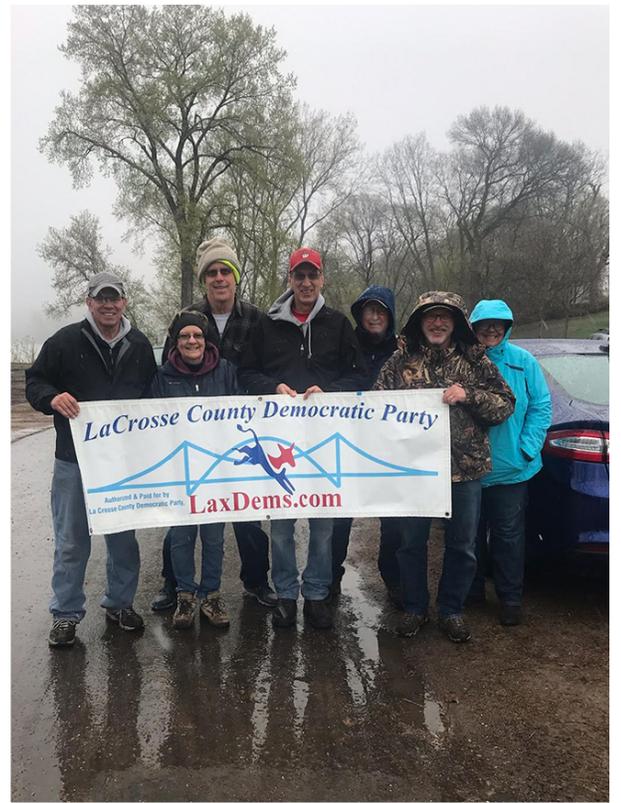
“If you want to preserve - I'm very serious now - if you want to preserve democracy as we know it, you have to have a free and many times adversarial press. And without it, I am afraid that we would lose so much of our individual liberties over time. That's how dictators get started.”

~ John McCain



Habitat For Humanity

NEIGHBORS DAY 2019 VOLUNTEER LCDP DAY OF SERVICE



Some of the hardy LCDP members who washed windows or raked wet and snowy leaves and sticks in sleet and snow on Saturday, April 27 as part of the LCDP team for La Crosse Neighbor's Day. We made a difference to at least three homeowners that day, especially at the one home where we raked a year's worth of leaves of 29 lawn bags. Our goal and challenge is for LCDP to become known for our days-of-service contributions.

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

~ *Franklin D. Roosevelt*



- To our elected state officials Senator Shilling and Representatives Billings and Doyle for holding budget listening sessions in late March and April.
- To LCDP members Don Harkness, Carol and Peter Klitzke, Mark Neumann, Ralph Knudson, Barry Schockmel, and Kris and Michael Smuksta for volunteering as part of the LCDP team for the 2019 Neighbor's Day.

Tim Gruenke, La Crosse County District Attorney, spoke to the members at the April meeting about criminal justice issues, with specific reference to La Crosse. As a follow-up, and in the interest of having members learn more about issues, the following article was originally published in the NY Times, April 5, 2019 and is edited for space considerations.

If Prisons Don't Work, What Will?

by Emily Bazelon, a staff writer for The New York Times Magazine and author of the forthcoming "Charged: The New Movement to Transform Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration."

The United States spends far too much money locking up far too many people for far too long.

A few years ago, a politician had to be brave to say anything like that out loud. Now it's a mainstream and bipartisan view.

In a 2018 survey conducted for the American Civil Liberties Union, 59 percent of respondents said they would be more likely to support than oppose a candidate who supports reducing the prison population. Achieving that goal is now an accomplishment that politicians showcase. In December, Congress by wide margins passed the First Step Act to reduce some drug sentences and improve conditions in federal prisons....

For the candidates, thematically, a starting point should be that wealth should not determine a person's fate in court, and profit should not drive the system. Bail bonds, privatized probation and corporate-run prisons are parasitic features of the justice system. Ending cash bail should be at the top of every candidate's criminal justice agenda. So should getting rid of fines and fees that help fund local governments but trap people in cycles of debt.

Ferguson, Mo., became a symbol of the criminalization of poverty for routinely sending black defendants to jail for failing to pay minor traffic fines. But last November, a new district attorney, Wesley Bell, was elected. On his first day in office, he announced one of the most progressive bail policies in the country — pretrial release, without bail, for misdemeanors and some felonies, unless the prosecutor thinks there is a direct threat to public safety....

The old Ferguson lives on elsewhere. In Texas, 524,000 people were jailed in 2018 for unpaid traffic tickets. Even short stays for nonviolent offenses can wreak havoc with people's jobs and child care. Sparing them needless punishment matters for their lives.

To end mass incarceration, however, exempting

nonviolent offenses from jail time isn't enough. People convicted of violent crimes make up more than half of the country's state prison population.... Reducing sentences ... and changing what counts as a violent felony to begin with — can lower this share of the prison population.

And that fits in with a second theme for candidates: People deserve a second chance, because many grow and change. They robbed to feed an addiction and then got sober. They assaulted someone because they were mentally ill and then got treatment and stabilized. They mature as they age beyond their teens and early 20s. That's why it makes sense to reconsider how long a person should stay in prison after doing some time....

We should also focus on redefining the terms of the public safety debate. Ending mass incarceration, and ensuring fairness throughout the criminal justice system, aren't in tension with public safety. It is integral to it. People tend to uphold the law when they believe it's reasonable and applied evenly. When people have that faith, they are more likely to help the police solve crimes....

In a comprehensive new blueprint for reform, the Justice Collaborative, a nonprofit group, makes an underappreciated and crucial point: "Law enforcement is not the only, or even the most important, answer to addressing cycles of violence."

Adam Foss, president of Prosecutor Impact ... said politicians can be explicit about this approach: "If you're serious about tackling violence, you talk about how to prevent it.... You adopt language used by the doctors and surgeons working on the front lines of this scourge of violence who have been saying for years that it is a public health issue. "

"You talk about stable housing and equal access to education and health care," he continued. "You center it around the survivor community begging for alternative solutions. And you tie it back to public safety so you're changing the terms of the debate."

Finally, incarceration should be the last resort, not the default....When no option other than jail or prison will do, it's important to remember that the vast majority of people who go in also get out. Making sure they have the tools to lead productive lives when they emerge — like job training and access to decent housing — is a public good....

Though some prosecutors and state legislatures are now embarking on serious reforms, there's still so much further to go. Bipartisan support is increasing but still has to build. The candidate for president who makes that happen can reap political benefits — and more important, make America so much better.

Our Elected Officials

Governor Tony Evers

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)

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, David Wulf, at davidpwulf@aol.com or 608-799-8977. He 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 608-799-8977 or davidpwulf@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

Paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party. The contents herein are not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

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 _____