

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

August 2019 Newsletter

Trump, (White) Nationalism, Race, and “the Other”

by Michael Smuksta

Trump has engaged in racist tropes against people and nations of color from the very beginning of his candidacy in June 2015. It is clear that he is a racist white nationalist engaging in white identity politics.

Recall his comment "When Mexico sends it people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. ... They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists." Note the sentence "They're not sending you" that labels people of color as "the other." He used similar derogatory language to describe the Central American refugee caravans seeking asylum in the United States. In doing so, whiteness as an identity establishes superiority over minority populations of color.

He referred to Haiti and African nations as "shithole" countries during a discussion of immigration with U.S. Senators in January 2018. He falsely claimed that 15,000 Haitian refugees "all have AIDS" and 40,000 Nigerian visitors would never "go back to their huts" in Africa. A telling comment was his statement "We should have more people from places like Norway" because they are like him (i.e., white). (As an aside, my question is why Norwegians would want to come to the U.S., given their high standard of living.)

Trump provided a preview in July of how he will conduct his re-election



Upcoming Events

LCDP Executive Board Meeting,
Monday, August 5, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Ho
Chunk Nation Three Rivers House, 724
Main St., La Crosse

Bangor FunDaze Parade, Sunday,
August 11, 11 a.m., Bangor, WI -
Marchers needed

Holmen KornFest Parade, Saturday,
August 17, 11 a.m., Holmen, WI -
Marchers needed

LCDP Regular Meeting, Monday,
August 19, 6:30 p.m., Ho Chunk Nation
Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La
Crosse. Pre-meeting social at 6:00 p.m.
Bring finger food and/or non-alcoholic
beverages. The main item of business at
the meeting will be the second reading
and voting on the proposed amendments
of the Constitution & Bylaws

AFL-CIO Labor Day Parade, Monday,
September 2, 10 a.m., corner of Gillette
and Kane Streets on the north side of La
Crosse - Marchers needed

LCDP Executive Board Meeting,
Tuesday, September 3, 2019, 6:00 p.m.,
Ho Chunk Nation Three Rivers House,
724 Main St., La Crosse

campaign. On July 14, he attacked
four congresswomen of color who
have criticized his policies - Reps.
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.,

Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., Rashida
Tlaib, D-Mich., and Ilhan Omar,
D-Minn. – using the trope that these
women should “go back” to where they
came from, even though Ocasio-Cortez,
Pressley, and Tlaib were born in the
U.S. and Omar is a naturalized citizen.
At a recent campaign rally the crowd
chanted “send her back” when Trump
disparaged Rep. Omar.

On Sunday, July 28, Trump
attacked House Oversight and
Reform Committee Chairman Elijah
E. Cummings, D-Md., stating his
Baltimore area congressional district
was a "rat and rodent infested mess,"
and followed that up with a tweet
calling the Rev. Al Sharpton a “con
man,” a classic psychological projection
by Trump.

The Baltimore Sun on July 27
published a highly critical editorial of
Trump in its defense of Rep. Cummings
and the city of Baltimore, providing
additional reasons why Trump must be
defeated in November 2020:

“We would tell the most dishonest
man to ever occupy the Oval Office,
the mocker of war heroes, the gleeful
grabber of women’s private parts,
the serial bankrupter of businesses,
the useful idiot of Vladimir Putin
and the guy who insisted there are
‘good people’ among murderous neo-
Nazis that he’s still not fooling most
Americans into believing he’s even
slightly competent in his current post.
Or that he possesses a scintilla of
integrity. Better to have some vermin
living in your neighborhood than to be
one.”

Notice: Second Reading and Voting on Proposed Amendment and Revision to the LCDP Constitution and Bylaws

The second reading and voting on the proposed amendments of the Constitution & Bylaws will be on August 19, 2019 at the LCDP regular meeting at the Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers House, 724 Main St, La Crosse. There will be a pre-meeting social at 6:00 p.m., so please bring finger food and/or non-alcoholic beverages. The regular meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.

Refer to the copy of the draft of the proposed changes previously sent prior to the first reading at the LCDP meeting on July 22, 2019. At that meeting, the following changes in the draft were made and should be noted:

Constitution, Article X – Endorsement of Candidates in Elections: Delete the draft sections 4 and 5 in Article X of the Constitution

Two sentences in the Constitution and Bylaws were reworded for clarity:

Article X, section 3 of the Constitution:

Section 3. No officer An Executive Board member or designated spokesperson may publicly endorse only a non-Democratic candidate not running on the Democratic Party ticket for any partisan election.

Article X, section 3 of the Bylaws

Section 3. No An Executive Board member or designated spokesperson may publicly endorse only a non-Democratic candidate not running on the Democratic Party ticket for any partisan election.

A quorum of 20 members is required for action. Amendments approved require the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present at the meeting.




Canvass with Steve Doyle

in Onalaska on Friday, August 23. Meet Steve in the parking lot of Center 90 at 10:00. For anyone who can't make the morning canvass, we will meet there again at 1:00. We'll break for lunch sometime between noon and 1:00 at Lindy's in Center 90.



- To the members who contributed \$60 to the WAFER food pantry at the end of the July LCDP regular meeting.



LCDP ANNUAL FALL DINNER

The LCDP Annual Fall Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. The caterer for the dinner is "ServesYouRight." In addition to the usual kinds of items donated for the silent auction, the Events Committee is interested in a few high value silent auction items such as sports memorabilia, spa days, or services for this year's fall fundraiser. Members can donate individually or in combination with other members for the cost of the item. If you would like to donate higher value items for the silent auction, please contact Pete Klitzke, Events Committee Chair at 608-780-6037 or plklitzke@gmail.com.



MARCH WITH DEMOCRATS IN LOCAL PARADES!

Marchers are needed to provide La Crosse County Democratic Party visibility and support Democratic electeds Reps. Billing and Doyle and State Senator Jennifer Shilling at upcoming parades this summer and fall. These are:

Bangor FunDaze parade,
Sunday, August 11 at 11 a.m.

Holmen KornFest Parade,
Saturday, August 17 at 11 a.m.

La Crosse northside Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Labor Day Parade, Monday, September 2 at 10 a.m.

Mindoro Spanferkel Parade,
Sunday, September 8, at 1:30 p.m.

The Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade on the northside of La Crosse, Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m.

The Maple Leaf Parade in La Crosse, Saturday, September 28, at 10 a.m.

Contact Paul Kruse (pwk54@yahoo.com) or Sara Bentley (sarabentley@aol.com) to volunteer.



Wisconsin Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling with booth workers Don Harkness (center) and Austin Stibbe (left).

LCDP Booth at the La Crosse Interstate Fair

By Cathy Van Maren

This year the LCDP had a double booth at the La Crosse Interstate Fair. With two dozen or so presidential primary candidates and lots of important issues to discuss, we wanted to ensure there was space to interact and talk with our neighbors. And it seemed to have worked. We received many compliments on our booth and many visitors stopped to talk, take part in one of the polls, or learn about issues.

Special thanks goes to LCDP board member Ed Burgess who designed and then donated materials, labor, and transportation for our new “side walls,” divider panels that can be easily put up and taken down at the fair and at other events. (You may have come across Ed and his assistants, Jan Fischer and Cathy Van Maren, earlier this summer cutting up raw materials in the Menards parking lot!)

Thanks, too, to the volunteers who set up, staffed, and helped take down the booth: Sara Bentley, RoZ Brooks & Obbie King, Ed Burgess, Vicki Burke, Peter Gorski, Don Harkness, Nancy Heerens-Knudson & Ralph Knudson, Rod Rusch, Janet Slaght, Mike & Kris Smuksta, Austin Stibbe, Cathy Van Maren, JD & Marcia Wine, and David Wulf.

Senator Jennifer Shilling and Representative Steve Doyle visited with constituents at the booth. We even had a visit from acting State Secretary of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Brad Pfaff.

Components stressed education and interaction. Besides information about our elected representatives and county party, we had information about gerrymandering and a display “100 Years of Democratic Progress,” highlighting Democratic programs and legislation like the Rural Electrification Administration, the G.I. Bill of Rights, Social Security, and the

Affordable Care Act that have helped millions of Americans improve their lives.

Our presidential bean poll stimulated conversations about candidates, their ideas, voting and voting rights, money in politics, gerrymandering, impeachment, and getting active in the upcoming campaigns. While hardly scientific (I know for a fact some Irish children voted!), the poll results showed Kamala Harris (69) and Bernie Sanders (68) were the top vote-getters, followed by Elizabeth Warren (47), Joe Biden (42), Pete Buttigieg (29), Wayne Messam (22), Amy Klobuchar (13) and Jay Inslee (11). Other candidates each received fewer than 10 beans.

Our issues poll was a great way to pull people into the booth and begin a conversation. Each participant had three votes. Top issues proved to be health care and global warming (76 votes each), education (58), gerrymandering (45), unfair tax structure (44), reproductive rights (31), income inequality (30), immigration and clean water (29 each), farm economy (25), student debt (24), infrastructure (22), campaign finance (18), national debt (13), minimum wage (10), unions (6), and election security and Medicaid expansion (5 each). Using the vote totals, we believe we had at least 182 contacts and conversations.

We know that we must energize and turn out a massive wave of voters in upcoming elections to overcome the challenges of dark money, gerrymandering, social media psy-ops, and deliberate voter suppression. We can only do that by listening to and engaging with our neighbors. We hope every LCDP member will consider volunteering to reach out and engage in other upcoming events and at next year's fair. As Vicki Burke, a long-time fair volunteer, says, “Think about working the fair next year. This is a chance to meet voters you don't see at other forums or debates you might attend.”



Important Facts about Immigration to the United States

1. There are approximately 34 million lawful immigrants with green cards or temporary visas who live in the United States. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/17/key-facts-about-u-s-immigration-policies-and-proposedchanges/>
2. Although lawful immigrants make up 75% of the foreign born population in America, only 45% of Americans know this. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/01/16/how-americans-see-illegal-immigration-the-border-wall-and-political-compromise>
3. More than a third of U.S. immigrants over 25 years of age are college educated. <https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2019/01/22/majority-of-u-s-public-supports-high-skilled-immigration/>
4. Visa overstays outnumber illegal border crossings. A 2017 Center for Migration Studies report cites 42% of undocumented individuals were visa overstays. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/visa-overstays-outnumber-illegal-border-crossings-trend-expectedcontinue-n730216> and <https://www.politifact.com/california/statements/2018/aug/24/kevin-mccarthy/mostly-true-visa-overstaysaccount-half-all-people/>
5. There are approximately 700,000 unauthorized immigrants brought here as children who hold work permits and protection from deportation through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act (DACA, or Dreamers). <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/17/key-facts-about-u-s-immigration-policies-and-proposedchanges/>
6. Many of the individuals from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador are women with children fleeing violence from drug cartels and gangs fueled by the demand for cocaine from the United States. <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/2019/03/07/migrant-caravan-made-in-usa/>; <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/03/06/us/politics/undocumented-illegal-immigrants.html>
7. Although there is no national database comparing crime rates of immigrant and native-born Americans, research from Texas and other localized studies concluded that immigrant groups have lower crime rates than native-born Americans. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/fact-check-trumps-claims-illegal-immigrant-crime-rates/story?id=60311860>
8. The conventional belief is that immigrants take American jobs and lower wages, but numerous studies show the opposite: immigrants grow the economy, increase demand for goods and services that they consume creating more jobs and overall increasing average wages. <https://www.factcheck.org/2010/05/does-immigration-cost-jobs/>; <https://www.forbes.com/sites/artcarden/2015/08/28/how-do-illegal-immigrants-affect-american-workers-theanswer-might-surprise-you/#295da6ce771a>

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

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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.

There are three ways to join through the LCDP:

1. Print and mail your check and the form (available also at tinyurl.com/lcdpmbform)
2. Visit laxdems.com/join-the-party and complete your application and payment online.
3. Come to a LCDP event and complete the process and payment in person.

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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*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'm interested in learning more about DPW caucuses:

- ☐ American Indian Caucus
☐ Black Caucus
☐ Environmental Caucus
☐ Labor Caucus
☐ Latinx Caucus
☐ LGBT Caucus
☐ Progressive Caucus
☐ Rural Caucus
☐ Veterans' Caucus
☐ Women's Caucus