

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

October 2019 Newsletter

Please join us for our
61st Annual La Crosse County Democratic Party
Fall Dinner Fundraiser
Saturday, October 26, 2019

Social Hour with Appetizers 5:00 ★ Dinner 6:00 ★ Speaker 6:30
50/50 Raffle ★ Silent Auction

Special Guest:
Matt Rothschild
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Concordia Ballroom, 1129 La Crosse St., La Crosse

Join us for our biggest fundraiser of the year!

The 2020 presidential election will be the most consequential of our lives. *Join us* to eat, hear from a well-known political commentator, and share ideas and stories about our visions for a return to sanity and people-focused government.

Our menu: garden salad, lasagna (with or without meat, vegan and gluten free options), bread sticks or garlic bread, cheesecake with fruit topping. Our caterer is ServesYouRight. You may bring an appetizer to share from 5 to 6 p.m. if you wish.

The suggested donation is \$20 for adults, \$5 for children six years old and under. We gratefully accept additional donations if you are able. If you cannot attend, please consider donating to help sponsor this event and future projects.

Funds raised from the dinner, the 50/50 raffle, the silent auction, and your donation will help us rent and furnish a local campaign office, train election volunteers, host local voter educational and motivational events, and more.

Our special guest: Matt Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, former editor and publisher of *The Progressive* magazine.

See page three to learn more about our speaker.

Reserve and pay online at laxdems.com/FallDinner19 OR print, complete, and return the form below with your check payable to LCDP.

Name: _____ Phone/Email: _____

Suggested donation: \$20 per person. Children six and younger, \$5 each.

TOTAL number of children attending: _____ x \$ 5.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL number of those age 7 and up: _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

ADDITIONAL donation to the LCDP = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
LCDP and send to:

LCDP

PO Box 1861

La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS? # VEGAN _____ # VEGETARIAN _____ # GLUTEN FREE _____

Please contact treasurer@laxdems.com with any questions.

United We Win Elections, Divided We Lose

By Dave Wulf

In two of the last five presidential elections, Democrats and progressive-minded voters managed to bungle two critical contests. I am referring, of course, to the Gore v. Bush contest of 2000 and the HRC v. Trump contest of 2016. These missed “Dem favored to win” opportunities have had devastating consequences for the United States and the rest of the world.

Democrats have a knack for allowing achievable wins escape their grasp and allow Republicans to achieve election victories. The Hagedorn v. Neubauer WI Supreme Court election last April was a good example. Perhaps you have heard the political axiom “Democrats fall in love, Republicans fall in line”. Republicans are incredibly disciplined when it comes to uniting their voters in elections and keeping their legislators in line with what party leaders want. I attribute some of this to Democrats being the party of the “big tent” in which we embrace people from all creeds, colors, yearnings for change, etc. Republicans, in my view, are the party of favoring special-interest group profiteering over the public interest. Politics is really about “one man’s bane is another man’s butter”.

The reason I am writing this article is to remind LCDP members that after Democrats pick our presidential candidate next summer, we must unite around this candidate and not vote for a third-party candidate, or worse-not vote. In the 2000 presidential election, Ralph Nader tipped the election to George W. Bush and Dick “Darth Vader” Cheney via the Green Party. Al Gore didn’t help his cause with poor debate performances and spending the last week of the campaign trying futilely to win his home state of Tennessee rather than crisscrossing the state of Florida like Bush. Despite his poor choice of DINO Joe Liebermann as a VP running mate, Gore could have, should have won that contest. He would have made a great president as well as Hillary Clinton. Even though she blamed FBI Director James Comey for her loss (which is mostly true), she ran an uninspiring and lethargic campaign. Two-thirds of her TV ads were anti-Trump, not about what she stood for. After every campaign rally she insisted on flying back to her home in New York. Trump, on the other hand, held multiple rallies almost every day right up to election night. Neither did it help that the Green Party, once again, siphoned off enough votes to give Trump an Electoral College victory in Wisconsin and elsewhere. A large number of Bernie Sanders supporters either voted for Trump or didn’t vote at all in retaliation to the shabby treatment Sanders received by the Democratic National Committee, Clinton campaign and various state parties.

As a reader of the USA Today newspaper, I find their editorials to be mostly spot on. In the last couple of months, two editorials featured “Never Trumpers” who said they wanted to vote for the 2020 Democratic presidential candidate if the candidate wasn’t “far left”. This should be a big hint that the next election is ours for the taking if we don’t go off the rails and nominate a candidate that espouses ideas unacceptable to independents and moderates. Take the \$15/hour minimum wage initiative for example. I don’t favor this idea because it is arbitrarily high. The minimum wage was never intended to be a living wage. The 1968 minimum wage of \$1.60/hr was the all-time high when adjusted for inflation. It would be \$11.76 in today’s dollars. This should be the maximum in my opinion. This does not mean that candidates should avoid proposing big, bold ideas. There are many things needing big change now (e.g. the climate crisis for instance). We need radical change now, if not yesterday, to save the planet. We need to break up big business monopolies, undo the reckless Bush/Trump tax cuts, shore up Social Security and Medicare, and reduce the cost of prescription drugs and health care. The list goes on and on. Why is it that Democrats strive to govern responsibly while Republicans keep pushing their “cut taxes and never raise them” mantra and that governmental regulations are bad?

In conclusion, there is a saying in the manufacturing design world that “the enemy of the good is the perfect”. You may not like a Democratic presidential candidate in their entirety but the alternative of electing a Republican will have far worse consequences. Until the United States implements ranked-choice voting like some other countries, we must stick together and vote for our Democratic candidate(s).



Upcoming Events

Canvass with Rep. Steve Doyle,
Friday, October 4, 10:00 a.m.
and 1:00 p.m.. Meet Steve in
the parking lot of Center 90 in
Onalaska.

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

**Fourth Democratic
Presidential Primary Debate,**
Tuesday, October 15, and
possibly Wednesday, October 16,
CNN - NY Times

LCDP Regular Meeting,
Monday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.
Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers
House, 724 Main St., La Crosse

LCDP Annual Fall Dinner,
Saturday, October 26, 2019
5:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m., Concordia
Ball Room, 1129 La Crosse St.,
La Crosse, WI , Go to [https://
laxdems.com/FallDinner19](https://laxdems.com/FallDinner19)
for details and reservation
information.



Canvass with Assembly Representative Steve Doyle

in Onalaska on Friday, October 4, 2019. Meet Steve in the parking lot of Center 90 in Onalaska at 10:00 and again at 1:30. Steve will buy lunch at Señor Villa at around 12:30 in appreciation of your time and effort.

At about 4:00, canvassers are invited to the Doyle farm at N5525 Hauser Rd. for burgers, refreshments, puppies and alpacas.



Silent Auction at the Fall Dinner

Please contact Barb Clark at (608) 498-6150 to make arrangements to drop off items for the silent auction or if you have any questions. Please do so by Wednesday, October 23. You may also bring items to the October LCDP regular meeting on Monday, October 21, at the Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers House.

Monday, October 21, 2019 LCDP Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Speaker: At the LCDP October regular meeting, we are pleased to welcome Andrew Disch, Wisconsin Political Director for the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRC), a labor organization that represents nearly 27,000 union members and their families from 46 local unions in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. He will talk about various issues related to organized labor, including legislative goals of the NCSRC, a brief history of laws impacting unions, and strategies to counter the Republican anti-union movement.

New Business: The important item of new business will be nominations for the 2020 Executive Board. The nominating committee will report the names of nominees, and additional nominations can be made from the floor at the regular October meeting. The election will be at the November regular LCDP meeting. (Article VI, Section 1 on the LCDP Bylaws).

Guest Speaker at our Fall Dinner Fundraiser

Matt Rothschild has been the executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign since 2015. Before that, Matt was editor and publisher of *The Progressive*, a magazine founded in 1909 by "Fighting Bob" La Follette. His opinion pieces have run in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *LA Times*, the *Miami Herald* and many other newspapers. He's appeared on *Nightline*, NPR, C-SPAN, Wisconsin Public Radio, WORT, The Devils Advocate, and WISC-TV, where he does election night commentary. His book, *You Have No Rights: Stories of America in an Age of Repression*, chronicles violations of civil rights under the Bush/Cheney regime. And he edited an anthology called *Democracy in Print: The Best of the Progressive, 1909-2009*. We have invited presidential primary candidates and Senator Tammy Baldwin to speak at this event. If Senator Baldwin or a candidate accepts our offer, we will reschedule Mr. Rothschild. Speaker updates will be available on our Facebook page and web page.



Climate Crisis Presentation

Thanks to the presenters about the Climate Crisis at the September meeting: Anna Durall, a Central High student and leader in the La Crosse Fridays for Future movement, Cathy Van Maren on Green New Deal legislation, and Kathy Allen, an environmental scientist who leads the Coulee Region Sierra Club's Ready for 100 team. All three presented scientific data describing the existential threat that climate changes poses.

September 14th and 21st Days of Action

Around two dozen volunteers attempted just shy of 1000 doors during the first "official" canvass to gear up for 2020. Doors were knocked in La Crosse and Onalaska. This was part of a statewide Weekend of Action that reached tens of thousands of voters.

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming "One Year to Win" canvass on November 2-3, 2019. Contact Peter Klitzke at plklitzke@gmail.com, 608-780-6037 if you are willing to help.



ChancesR Volunteer Thank You

About thirty individuals who have volunteered their time in previous campaigns enjoyed food, conversation, a Democratic Party trivia contest, door prizes, and news about Days of Action and grassroots organizing at ChancesR on Saturday, September 7.



PARADES!

September was a busy month for parades. Thanks to the many individuals who marched in the Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Labor Day, the Mindoro Spanferkel Parade, the Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade, and the main event of the Oktoberfest Maple Leaf Parade. Marching in support of our elected Democrats is important and provides great visibility for them and the LCDP.



Labor Day Parade Marchers



Maple Leaf Parade Marchers



Torchlight Parade Marchers

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

608-769-5286

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

Don Harkness

Obbie King

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.

Paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party.

Received _____
 Renewal Month _____

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'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