

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

June 2020 Newsletter

La Crosse County Delegates to the Democratic Party National Convention

At the Tier 2 3rd Congressional District (CD) Virtual Caucus on May 17, 2020 to elect delegates to the Democratic National Convention, LCDP member Margaret Wood was elected on the fourth ballot as one of the two female Biden delegates from the 3rd CD. Lance Tryggstad, La Crosse Fire Department Captain and also an executive board member of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, was elected on the second ballot as the one alternate delegate from the 3rd CD. Congratulations to Margaret and Lance, and also to LCDP and 3rd CD Secretary David Wulf, who finished third in the balloting as a delegate for Biden and second in the alternate balloting.

LCDP Delegates to the 2020 Virtual DPW State Convention

At the May 18 LCDP regular meeting, the members approved the following individuals to represent the La Crosse County Democratic Party at the 2020 Virtual DPW State Convention on Friday, June 12, 2020: Rosie Brooks, Jacquelyn Brown, Vicki Burke, Jan Fischer, William Garcia, Fred Giese, Peter Gorski, Monica Gorski, Kevin Hundt, Obbie King, Ralph Knudson, Paul Kruse, Carla Kutter, Ron Malzer, Jenifer Shilling, Cathy Van Maren, Paul Weber, Jeff Wildt, Margaret Wood, Diane Wulf, David Wulf, Diane Wulf. The Chair noted that delegate slots were still available until Friday, May 20, so Barbara Fischer was added to the delegate list. Auto-delegates are Jill Billings, Steve Doyle, Ron Kind, and Michael Smuksta.



Upcoming Events

Monday, July 6, Virtual LCDP Executive Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, July 20, Virtual LCDP Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.



What's Cookin'?

“Safer at Home” with its restaurant closings probably led to many of the LCDP members doing more cooking and trying new foods in April and May. So, this is an invitation to submit a recipe tried for the first time that was really liked. Complete the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/y8bhe95w>. We will collect and post some of the favorites on the LCDP website and/or the LCDP Facebook page. Extra points for healthy, immune building recipes that will keep all Democrats healthy so they can vote! Thanks to Marcia Horvath, who puts the monthly newsletter together, for the title “What’s Cookin?” and some suggested wording.

Meet Ralph Knudson, New At-Large Executive Board Member

At the May 18 regular LCDP meeting, the members present approved Ralph Knudson to fill the 2020 unexpired at-large LCDP Executive Board position vacated



when Ashley Skoczynski moved out of the county. Ralph is a retired physician who specialized in the family medicine with the Gundersen Health system. Dr. Knudson stated to the members that he has “long felt that that the Democratic party has been and should be the party which represents those without individually strong economic or influential power, by providing a strong articulation and action plan for basic shared values. Those values should strongly emphasize equal representation, empathic learning and understanding of each other's unique challenges and needs, a strong defense of social and legal justice, fair opportunity for all to pursue their potential, and above all...that our communities are the foundations of strength we all need, share, and contribute to for our individual well-being.” Dr. Knudson has been active in grassroots organizing on the issue of healthcare.

“**Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.**”

~ *Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from the Birmingham Jail*

Trump Is a Danger to Our Democracy

Edited by Dave Wulf

Note: I read several online articles with a common theme of Trump's behavior over the Memorial Day weekend. They were Michael D'Antonio, "On Memorial Day Weekend, Trump Shows His True Self," Jill Lawrence, "As coronavirus deaths near 100,000, Trump makes America exceptional in all the wrong ways" and David Siders, "Trump's 'rigged election' talk sparks fear of post-election chaos." Below are excerpts from the articles with some of my editing.

While spending two days golfing over the Memorial Day weekend, President Trump unleashed a torrent of angry Twitter posts full of vile, baseless conspiracy theories and falsehoods.

Trump again demonstrated that as his drive for re-election begins in earnest, he will not alter the formula that got him to the Oval Office. His methods depend on divisiveness, anger, and activist rage. Trump is using them as he did in 2016 to energize his base.

Research has shown that many people find their sense of well-being and self-esteem rises when they feel anger or hatred of others. What the Wall Street Journal recently described as "the pleasure of hating" can bring people together to act against a common enemy whether that enemy is real or imagined. In life before politics, Trump conjured up pop culture enemies like Rosie O'Donnell so he could engage in public fights against someone he hated. In his current job, where the consequences are real and serious, he has used the same process but infused it with conspiracy theories about "Deep State" opponents.

Trump intuitively knows the power of this game. The more anger people feel, the less they are inclined toward moderation and compromise. The enraged are also likely to feel more motivated to vote against the object of their hate. Add Trump's ability to demonstrate feelings of hatred and revulsion -- take a peek at his rallies -- and it's as if he is broadcasting an official sanction for everyone to shed the restraints of decency and give free rein to their impulsive hatreds.

Is the president's rage sincere? His affection for theatrics and performance argue that it's all game. On the other hand, as we watch the president stagger through the Covid-19 emergency, we should consider that the cruelty, the arrogance, the rage and deviance are not an act. He is only truly himself when expressing disdain for others or love for himself. Hatred and conceit are his comfort zones, and he returns to them whenever he's under pressure. No president capable of caring for the country would demonstrate the kind of crude and self-serving behavior that Trump exhibits.

Trump believes that anyone whose views differ from his must be an enemy. He surrounds himself with sycophants and gets rid of people who dare to contradict him. He nominates extreme right-wing (and often unqualified) personnel to high government positions.

Trump is dangerous to democracy with his pathological lying. Nearly half of Trump's statements fact-checked by PolitiFact fall into the "false" or "pants on fire" categories. The Washington Post Fact Checker calculates that as of mid-April, President Trump had made 18,000 "false or misleading claims." Even more dangerously, Trump disrespects the role of the free press; routinely insults women, journalists, governors, foreigners, immigrants and people of color; treats the Justice Department as his personal law firm; uses his failed impeachment as license to purge government watchdogs; and ignores, belittles and contradicts his own law enforcement, intelligence agencies and science experts.

Trump's increasingly amped-up rhetoric surrounding the

integrity of the November election is beginning to bring center stage a previously muted conversation. With the president lagging behind Joe Biden in public opinion polls six months before the general election, his opponents are becoming increasingly anxious that Trump may attempt to undermine the results of the election if he loses. Or worse, attempt to cling to power regardless of the outcome.

"He's already set the stage to say it's rigged," said Pete Giangreco, a Democratic strategist who has worked on nine presidential campaigns. "This is part of the Trump autocrat playbook. There's no way this guy's going to win the popular vote, and it's at least 50-50 he's going to lose the Electoral College. So, he's got to come up with something else." Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen once predicted in congressional testimony that there "will never be a peaceful transition of power" if Trump loses.

We need to end this nightmare with a decisive Democratic victory in November.

Updates Related to the Covid-19 Pandemic

LCDP Office at 1323 Gillette St. - The Democratic Party of Wisconsin has instructed all DPW staff (for La Crosse - Scott Arnold, Peter Klitzke, and Evan Brandes) to continue working from home through June 30. State headquarters **strongly** encourages local Party offices to remain closed at least until the end of June. The DPW and county parties are united with respect to our public-health-forward approach, so as to protect the safety of each other and Wisconsinites across our state as much as possible. When the LCDP office reopens, we will follow the La Crosse County Public Health Guidelines.

The Annual LCDP June Picnic Cancelled - The Executive Board voted to cancel the LCDP Annual June Picnic due to the COVID-19 pandemic and CDC/Gov. Evers guidelines regarding the gathering of large groups of people. We are investigating an alternate activity. Keep posted.

Campaign Signs - The Chair has received inquiries regarding Biden yard signs. We are waiting for information from the DPW and the Biden campaign, as well as state candidates. Nate Timm, Chair of the DPW Rural Caucus, is interested in finding rural locations with good visibility to begin posting large 4x4 signs for Biden. The goal is to place 450 4x4 signs throughout Wisconsin, or about 6 signs per county. If you are willing to post a sign, or know someone who might be willing, contact Nate Timm at 608-220-0139 or nptimm571@gmail.com. He has instructions on how to create these signs. If you would like to become part of a sign creation team, contact Nate as well.

Nomination Papers - Thanks to all the individuals who signed nomination papers for the various candidates at the county and state levels.

La Crosse Interstate Fair, July 15-19 - The La Crosse Interstate Fair Agricultural Board will decide on June 8 whether to cancel or hold the Fair with modifications due to Covid-19. If the Agricultural Board decides to hold the Fair, the consensus of the LCDP Executive Board is to not participate in this year's Fair due to health concerns related to Covid-19.

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: Ed Burgess

608-799-1944

Treasurer: Cathy Van Maren

608-315-2693

Secretary: David Wulf

608-799-8977

At-Large Board Members:

William Garcia

Obbie King

Peter Klitzke

Ralph Knudson

Avery Van Gaard

College Representative: Savannah Zuzick (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 2019 and continue activities into 2020, 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