**The La Crosse County Democratic Party November 2020 Newsletter – The Democratic Voice**

**Upcoming Events**

Monday, Nov. 2, 6 p.m.

LCDP Zoom Executive Board Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82151486831?pwd=dHpPUzF5a29COGlWb0FyWFJUNVlLdz09>

Tuesday, Nov 3, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

General Election

Virtual Election Night Watch, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83781948829?pwd=ZW5SSnhBRlhlRDVKMnpGMDFneTdZQT09](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83781948829?pwd%3DZW5SSnhBRlhlRDVKMnpGMDFneTdZQT09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1G2Kq5mdrPGJuk8ml7Gkqh)

Dial by location 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Monday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.

LCDP Zoom Regular Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81641580992?pwd=c05mdyttbDlHYTlJeUFLbnI5ekNNdz09>

Election of 2021 Executive Board

**VOTE NOV 3.**

Don't let anything stop you from voting!

If you have not voted yet, plan to vote with the following options in mind:

\*\*Place your ballot in your municipal clerk's official ballot drop box if one is available. A trusted friend or relative can do this for you if easier or necessary. Check with your municipal clerk (<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/MyMunicipalClerk>) to learn about the deadline for leaving your ballot in a drop box. For the City of La Crosse voters are asked to deliver their correctly completed absentee ballots only in the GREEN drop box on the north side of City Hall.

\*\*Walk your correctly completed absentee ballot into your polling place on Election Day, November 3. Check here to find your polling place (<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/FindMyPollingPlace>). You should be able to leave it with one of the poll workers so that you won't need to stand in line.

\*\*As long as you haven't mailed, deposited or handed in your ballot, you can vote in person at your polling place from 7 AM to 8 PM on Tuesday, November 3.

\*\*Curbside voting is an option if you are unable to go into your polling place because of COVID. Your poll workers will be available to assist with curbside voting. If you need help with your absentee ballot--witnessing or delivering it--call the LWV Voter Helpline, 608-285-2141.

\*\*If you are not registered to vote, you can register at your polling place on Tuesday, Nov. 3.If you wish to register to vote at your polling place, you must bring a photo identification (driver’s license, state issued ID, passport, military ID, etc.) and proof of your residency. Examples of proof of residency include Wisconsin Driver License or ID, utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government documentation or lease with your name on it at your current address.

\*\*If you encounter any problems at your polling place on Election Day, contact the Democratic Party of Wisconsin Voter Protection Hotline at 608-336-3232.

**Time Off for Voting.** Wisconsin statute requires every employer to give employees three consecutive hours off for voting on election days even if you have time to vote before or after work. <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/6/III/76>

“Any person entitled to vote at an election is entitled to be absent from work while the polls are open for a period not to exceed 3 successive hours to vote. The elector shall notify the affected employer before election day of the intended absence. The employer may designate the time of day for the absence. No penalty, other than a deduction for time lost, may be imposed upon an elector by his or her employer by reason of the absence authorized by this section. “

**Virtual Election Night Watch, Nov 3, starting at 9 p.m.**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83781948829?pwd=ZW5SSnhBRlhlRDVKMnpGMDFneTdZQT09](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83781948829?pwd%3DZW5SSnhBRlhlRDVKMnpGMDFneTdZQT09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1G2Kq5mdrPGJuk8ml7Gkqh)

Meeting ID: 837 8194 8829 Passcode: 320630

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 837 8194 8829

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/u/koj1e4m14](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/u/koj1e4m14&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw3FB5qnw-QsRklEjhJio4Li)

**Trumpery – One More Reason Not to Vote for Trump**

Adjective: showy but worthless

Late Middle English – denoting trickery, from Old French tromper, to deceive

For synonyms and related words for trumpery, go to <https://www.merriam-webster.com/thesaurus/trumpery>

**Creative Yard Signs**



**DPW Voting Media Event**

On Saturday, October 24, the DPW Early Voting bus visited La Crosse for a media event. From left to right, Reps. Billings, 32nd Senate candidate Brad Pfaff, Rep. Doyle, and 94th Assembly candidate Josefine Jaynes spoke to the media about the importance of voting in 2020.

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**2021 Executive Board Candidates**

Per Article 5, Section 1 of the LCDP Constitution, notice is given that the election for the 2021 Executive Board will be on Monday, November 16, 2020, at the LCDP Zoom regular meeting, 6:00 p.m. Members in good standing by November 11to vote.

**Officer Candidates**

**For Chair-William Garcia** joined the Executive Board of LCDP in 2020 and served as Chair of the Communications committee, where he helped reinvigorated LCDP's social media accounts.  He was honored to serve as a delegate from the 3rd District at the 2019 and 2020 Wisconsin State Democratic Convention. A teacher for almost 20 years, much of his activism centers around education policy and youth social services, though he is also passionate about Medicare For All, sensible gun control, social equality and curbing climate change. He currently teaches College Writing and English Literature at UW-La Crosse. A lifelong Democrat, he is looking forward to the hard work ahead of strengthening Wisconsin’s Democratic Party and securing wins for the Democratic candidates in 2020.

**For Vice-Chair- David Wulf** is a resident of Onalaska and is retired after a 34-year career in Quality Assurance. In the last four years he has served three terms as Secretary and one term as Vice-Chair. Dave first became active in politics in the 1990 U.S. Senate race in Minnesota to elect Paul Wellstone. Dave and spouse Diane answered a campaign call to assemble 10,000-yard signs and Wellstone narrowly won the contest. If you want social and economic justice, you have fight for it by electing fair-minded, caring politicians. That is why Dave serves on the LCDP Executive Board.

**For Secretary: Diane Wulf** was apolitical the first three decades of her life.  Upon meeting then candidate Paul Wellstone in 1990, she had the realization she was a Democrat all along.  Since marrying and then moving to Onalaska in 1991, she has been active in the community, serving in elected positions for a number of organizations.  She is also the founder of the Onalaska Schools’ Food Pantry.  She served three years as the treasurer for the La Crosse County Democratic Party (LCDP) and is currently the Council President and 2nd District Alderwoman for the City of Onalaska.  One of her favorite Wellstone sayings is, “Never separate the life you live from the words you speak”.  She would be honored to serve on the LCDP Executive Board once again.

**For Treasurer: Merry Kocar** Merry Kocar is new to our La Crosse County Democratic Party.

She recently retired from teaching after a career spanning over 30 years.  Merry has taught diverse subjects in diverse settings from  Adult Basic Education in northern Wisconsin, including the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation to special education, Spanish, and social studies in small rural school districts. While living in northern Wisconsin, Merry was a member of the Hayward Community Schools Board of Education.  Merry ended her career as an academic interventionist for elementary students at the La Crescent-Hokah Elementary School. She has a master’s degree in Specific Learning Disabilities and Emotional/Behavioral Disorders.  Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with majors in Spanish and political science.

Education is very important to our nation’s social and civic fabric.  Merry is a fervent proponent of Free Appropriate Public Education for all and is frustrated beyond belief by the current Republican/federal educational policies.

**Five At-Large Executive Board Representatives**

**Terry Benson** is a retired WI Probation and Parole Agent, Social Work degree, UW La Crosse. Political activism and union involvement for her have early roots. Her mother served three terms as an Idaho Democratic Party State Representative. Her father was a labor union activist and immigrant from Cornwall, England. Until the pandemic, she was active in general elections as a door-to-door canvasser for DP candidates. Since retiring, she has volunteered with adult English language learners at Western Technical College, with the nonprofit Hillview Urban Agriculture Center, with Sacred Grounds Drop-in Center serving low income and homeless people in La Crosse, with Grow La Crosse, and has been on the La Crosse EarthFair Committee since 2015. She is a member of AFSCME Union retirees. She believes an “all hands-on deck” approach is needed to focus on an ever-growing list of crucial problems facing humankind: environmental pollution and climate change; lack of affordable healthcare for all; income inequality; systemic racism in all areas of our society; lack of affordable housing...to name just a few.

**Ed Burgess** has served as a past At-Large Executive Board representative and also as Vice-Chair. He willingly worked many hours at the LCDP office in the 2020 campaign. His father was a career diplomat in the State Department which provided Ed the experience of living in various countries and Washington, D.C. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in history and worked at the Museum of African Art. His various work experiences include employment in small construction companies, running his own remodeling business, and serving as a quality control manager for several multimillion-dollar projects. After his family moved to Holmen, he joined the local union of carpenters and worked for design/build company in La Crosse for over 20 years. He is a progressive who believes that the Democratic Party is an agent of good government. He is eager to continue contributing to the LCDP in many ways.

**Vicki Burke** began volunteering in 1968 and have continued it through 2020.  I have served as LCDP Chair for 5 years and was a member of the Ex. Bd. For 20 plus years.  I ran for State Assembly twice and have been a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention 4 times. I taught public high school, 3 years in Beaver Dam and 32 at La Crosse Logan High School, serving as English Dept. Chair and coaching Forensics and directing plays and musicals during those years.  I currently serve on the board of Coulee Region United Educators-Retired and an alternate to the WEAC-Retired Association. I believe Ex. Bd. members should attend events held by campaigns and elected representatives.

**Fred Giese** has been an active volunteer and leader on boards of directors for many community organizations for the 30 years when he lived in Monroe, WI, including two terms on the Monroe city council. He was active in political campaigns. He moved to La Crosse in 2017, joined the LCDP in 2018, and remains active in political campaigns. He volunteered to work at the LCDP office, canvassed, and has phone banked numerous times for primary and general election candidates in 2018, 2019, and 2020. He would like to improve the diversity of our county organization and increase community outreach. He also would work to open communication with Republicans for the purpose of solving common problems and hopefully flipping them to the Democratic Party.

**Dr. Ralph Knudson** has long felt that that the Democratic party has been and should be the party which represents those who are 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. As a medical practitioner, he has seen the distortion over several decades of medical care, when it has been driven by a growing profit motive rather than by a mission of service.  Adequate and effective personal and public health is a community good which affects us all and should be supported as such to benefit the whole community. Our individual health or illness affects those around us, and vice-versa.

**Ron Malzer** is a lifelong Democrat, having knocked doors for Democratic candidates since the age of 14. He is now a retired psychologist and family medicine educator who frequently contributes full-length columns on political topics to the La Crosse Tribune and the Madison Cap Times. He sees the difference between the party's two wings-- Progressive and Centrist-- as small when compared with Trumpist autocracy.  His most recent volunteer work has been in the area of racial justice. He introduced the book "Waking Up White" to what is now the "Waking Up White Collaborative". Together with Denise Christy, he compiled the play "Dr. King's Call for Justice: Are We Listening?", performed, among other settings, at the Pump House in January. He strongly supports and has written on behalf of healthcare for all and action to halt destruction of the environment.

**Kapanke and COVID-19**

**Keith Knutson, LCDP Member**

In the first Presidential debate held September 29th, Democratic nominee Joe Biden told Americans that President Trump’s policies regarding the Covid 19 pandemic is on the ballot November 3rd. This has been bad news for Trump’s re-election. Nor is it a helpful campaign issue for Wisconsin Republicans, including 32nd district State Senate candidate Dan Kapanke.

Republican state legislative leaders refuse to bring their chambers into session to work with Governor Tony Evers on a bipartisan approach to the state’s pandemic policies. Instead, staying on the governing sidelines, they join judicial cases, incessantly complaining about the Evers Administration’s efforts to keep us all safe.

St. Croix County Judge R. Michael Wasserman told the leaders state law does not prevent the Governor from issuing new executive orders when emergency pandemic conditions continue to exist. And he reminded them they should actually meet in session if they want to overturn the Governor’s mask-wearing order.

They refuse to engage in their legislative responsibilities. Unfortunately for the leaders, but most especially for Wisconsin residents, they have gerrymandered our state representative districts into their own inability to act. They fear to legislate, at risk of alienating their own handpicked constituents.

In 2011 Kapanke voted for the secretly constructed and grossly misrepresentative districts. It is no accident he was selected by his party’s establishment to run.

Like the Republican leaders, he has determinedly tied himself to Trump’s failed covid response policies. He was an early critic of government efforts to fight the pandemic, attending spring protests of Evers’ Safer-At-Home order. He has even questioned local health agencies collecting pandemic data.

Recently he advocated for a Trump campaign stop here in La Crosse after the President’s initial debate debacle. With our state and this region experiencing an explosive pandemic outbreak, sensible and responsible state and local leaders stopped this ill-advised super spreading campaign aspiration.

And like Trump, science is not a tool Kapanke seems comfortable with in approaching the virus, as it attacks and kills too many of us.

The Democratic candidate, Brad Pfaff, offers our district a hopeful and unifying alternative. He realizes a society-wide pandemic requires a unified commitment to our safety. Everyone must wear a mask, wash our hands, be vigilant in social distancing.

Instead of submitting to Trump’s and Kapanke’s dividing ourselves one against another, Pfaff encourages us to unite against our common threat: the virus. Previous American generations did this in national emergencies. Pfaff honors this lesson, our American heritage.

He knows that insisting upon libertarian individual autonomy in a society-wide emergency is counter-productive and self-defeating. We are stronger together than divided by our selfish desires in the moment. Our freedom cannot be exercised without regard to consequences for our fellow citizens.

It was just one year ago that the Republican controlled Senate rejected Pfaff’s nomination from Evers to serve as Secretary of Wisconsin’s Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. They were offended by Pfaff’s advocacy for spending tax dollars on struggling farmers’ mental health.

The economy those farmers and we all face today is threatened by the pandemic. Pfaff understands what Kapanke does not. We must first address the pandemic, in order to return to economic health.

Pfaff had the compassionate, community-oriented response one year ago for our farmers. He is the candidate who has the appropriate approach now, in the face of Covid 19.

Let’s tackle this challenge together. We are a compassionate and caring people. The pandemic requires that we do this together. We can, and we will, defeat the virus and revive our economy, with the leadership of Brad Pfaff representing us in our State Senate.

**DON'T STOP AT THE TOP Down Ballot** **Democrats on the Nov. 3 Ballot**

Ron Kind, U.S. Representative, 3rd CD

Brad Pfaff, 32nd Wisconsin State Senate

Steve Doyle, 94th Wisconsin Assembly

Jill Billings, 95th Wisconsin Assembly

Tim Gruenke, La Crosse County District Attorney

Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk

Amy Twitchell, La Crosse County Treasurer

**Yard Sign Wires**

You may return the yard signs with wires for Ron Kind, Brad Pfaff, Steve Doyle, and Jill Billings and just the wires from the Biden-Harris yard signs to the LCDP Office at 1323 Gillette Street. The office will be open after November 3 with limited hours on weekdays from noon to 3 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Additional yard sign drop-off locations are:

La Crosse – 120 24th St. S. (leave by left side of house)

Onalaska - 910 Orchid Place (leave by entryway)

Holmen - 121 Lake Street (leave by front steps)

West Salem - 135 Rose Street N (leave by front steps)

French Island - 2806 Bayshore Drive (leave by front steps)