THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

January 2021 Newsletter

Note: if a link doesn't open, simply copy and paste in your browser.

LCDP in 2021

While we rightfully celebrate the hard won victories of 2020, it is already time to look ahead to what needs to be done in the new year.

As always, our top priority will be electing Democrats and people who uphold Democratic ideals to local, county and statewide offices. This year will see School Board, Municipal, and County elections, as well as the statewide Superintendent of Public Instruction. Even though many of these offices are non-partisan, that does not prevent the LCDP from helping organize candidates who share our values and vision for the future. We hope to help connect voters and candidates, so that our group will be informed of the best options for all offices.

Additionally, given the break from federal and most state campaigns, 2021 will also be a time for LCDP to organize and prepare for the future. 2022 will be another busy election season, as we work to protect Governor Evers and our slate of wonderful statewide officeholders, to expand our reach in the Wisconsin Legislature and, especially, work to defeat Republican Sen. Ron Johnson in his reelection bid.

Getting ready for these important 2022 races means getting organized now. We want to greatly expand our membership, so that we have the people and the money needed to mount a fierce campaign. We will work diligently to advertise the work done by the LCDP and help people see that involvement with the party nets positive results in the community. Additionally, we hope to make LCDP a vital source for information about candidates, elections, the party and especially positions that unite all Democrats. Finally, we want to grow to become a hub for community involvement in Democratic policies and ideals.

So, get ready, we have a lot of work to do, and the 2022 elections will be here before we know it.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 4, 2021, LCDP Virtual Zoom Executive Board Meeting, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 LCDP Regular Zoom Meeting, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Guests: Candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction

Monday, February 1, 2021, LCDP Virtual Zoom Executive Board Meeting, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The 2020 LCDP Office is now closed. Once the COVID epidemic is past, we will consider future options for office space. Monthly meetings will continue to be held virtually for the time being.

Thank You, Michael Smuksta and the Outgoing Executive Board Members

The LCDP Executive Board would like to thank Avery Van Gaard, Cathy Van Maren, and Obbie King for their service on the 2020 LCDP Executive Board. Thank you for your hard work and commitment during a very eventful campaign year. Special thank you to Michael Smuksta for his three years of leadership as Chair. During Michael's leadership, La Crosse was pivotal in helping elect a full slate of Democratic state officials in 2018 and the successful election of President-Elect Joe Biden in 2020. Thank you for all of your hard work. In 2021, Michael will continue to serve on the Executive Board as past Chairperson.

Suspected Phishing Attempts Using treasurer@laxdems.com

Recently, someone has been sending out emails using the treasurer@laxdems.com email address to ask for bitcoin transactions. These are fraudulent. For safety, please know that LCDP will only contact members because of membership renewals or officially sanctioned fundraisers advertised on our website and in the newsletter. Always donate directly at laxdems.com, never click on a link in an email.

WILLIAM GARCIA

I am proud and humbled to have been elected Chair of LCDP for 2021. I moved to La Crosse, WI in 2018 to teach College Writing and English Literature at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. Before that, I worked in public education as an English teacher at high schools in Texas, Michigan and India. I am a proud member of the American Federation of Teachers Union Local 6502. When not teaching or politicking, I can often be seen directing or acting with the La Crosse Community Theatre.

While I have been active in Democratic campaigns since I was a teenager, it was the election of Donald Trump in 2016 that motivated me to deepen my involvement with the party, especially at the local level. I swore I would do everything in my power to make Trump a one-term President. This meant officially joining the party as soon as I moved to La Crosse, volunteering for Gov. Evers in 2018, joining the LCDP Executive Board in 2020 and campaigning for our Democratic candidates, first as a founder of "Elizabeth Warren for La Crosse", and then as a volunteer and phone banker for Joe Biden and Brad Pfaff. It has been rewarding, and sometimes exhausting, work, but having a new President in the White House on January 20 makes it all worthwhile.

As Chair, I hope that LCDP will be a place where the various wings of our party can come together to consider policies, formulate ideas and join together in electing the best officials we can. Because Democrats have considerable advantages, both in terms of population and the popularity of our ideas, the GOP's favorite strategy has been to divide us from within, pitting moderates against progressives. My biggest goal is to make LCDP a place that counters this strategy, showing that we can discuss, debate and disagree while still supporting each other in working for the greater good.

Please feel free to contact me at lcdpwi@gmail.com or at (608) 769-5286... I am always willing to listen to ideas about making LCDP a better community party.

LCDP Meeting Date Change

LCDP Monthly meeting has been moved to Tuesday, January 19 so as not to conflict with Martin Luther King Jr. Day. At the January meeting, we will be joined virtually by all four candidates for the statewide office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The primary will be in February with the General election scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Join us to hear directly from the candidates as they lay out their platform and answer questions.

The current candidates are:

Sheila Briggs: https://www.briggsforkids.com/

Joseph Fenrick: https://fenrickforeducation.com/

Troy Gunderson: https://www.troyforstatesup.com/

Jill Underly: https://underlyforwi.com/

In 2021, LCDP will host a monthly book/film/life discussion group for interested members and others about racism - what is it, how does it affect everything, how can we become antiracists. The sessions will be held on the fourth Monday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. over Zoom until we are able to safely meet in person again. In addition to these monthly meetings, we'll also encourage participants to attend other local programming around this topic.

January's book is *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. The book is available as an e- or audio-book from Overdrive, Wisconsin's digital public library, from the Winding Rivers Library System, or on order through book sellers like Pearl Street Books. We will also provide links for participants to view a fall 2020 local forum on the topic to be included in our January 25 discussion.

To participate, please visit www.laxdems.com/2021bookclub. More details and access information will be forwarded to you.

We encourage all LCDP members to attend the La Crosse Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration which will be held on Monday, January 18 and will be online. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II.

www.laxwakingupwhite.com/events.html

Please consider joining us in 2021 on this important journey.

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

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

La Crosse County Clerk
Ginny Dankmeyer (Democrat)
(608) 785-9581

La Crosse County District Attorney
Tim Gruenke (Democrat)
(608) 785-9604

La Crosse County Treasurer
Amy Twitchell (Democrat)
(608) 785-9711

LCDP Executive Board Officers

Chair: William Garcia
512-660-2610

Vice Chair: David Wulf
608-799-8977

Treasurer: Merry Kocar
608-512-5253
Secretary: Diane Wulf
608-780-7007

Past Chair: Michael Smuksta
608-769-5286

At-Large Board Members:
Terry Benson
Ed Burgess
Fred Giese
Ralph Knudson
Ron Malzer
College Representative: Savannah Zuzick (UW-L)

Follow the LCDP on

twitter and Instagram

@lacrossedems @lacrossedems

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 lcdpwi@gmail.com or 608-769-7286. A PDF of the minutes with an UNAPPROVED watermark will be sent to you. 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 lcdpwi@gmail.com or 608-769-7286.

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 lcdpwi@gmail.com or 608-769-7286.

La Crosse County Democratic Party

LaxDems.com

As the LCDP prepares for 2021 and beyond, your membership and participation are more important than ever. Your membership fees help fund the LCDP office and infrastructure, community outreach, candidate recruitment and campaign assistance up and down the ballot. Membership also gives you a voice in the operations and policy of the Wisconsin Democratic Party and the National Democratic Party platform. There is always a need for volunteers, and we can always find a way for you to help.

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/lcdpmbrform)
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.

La Crosse County Democratic Party
P. O. Box 1861
La Crosse, WI 54602 -1861

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

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