

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

May 2021 Newsletter

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

Necessity Drive Benefiting



of La Crosse on May 14 from 9am - 3pm.

The LCDP, answering President Biden's call for a Democrat Day of Service in May, is holding a Necessity Drive. We are asking community members to donate necessities that our area food banks constantly need, including:

Feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, conditioner, paper towels, wipes, laundry soap, dish soap, diapers and any other items people might need to support themselves in this pandemic time.

LCDP will have two drop-off sites. Just bring your supplies and we will get them to Wafer.

North: The Habitat for Humanity ReStore. 3181 Berlin Drive, La Crosse.

South: People's Food Co-Op. 315 Fifth St. S in the parking lot.

We are also looking for a few volunteers to work a two-hour shift collecting supplies on Saturday, May 15. Contact Merry Kocar at treasurer@laxdems.com or call LCDP at 608-769-5286

The LCDP Exploration of Racism Discussion Group

The LCDP Exploration of Racism Discussion Group and Book Club continues meeting the fourth Friday of every month. Our next meeting will be held virtually on Monday, May 24th at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. Visit www.laxdems.com/2021bookclub for more information and to register to attend.

Upcoming Events



LCDP Executive Board Monthly Meeting, May 3, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94686543184?pwd=RnRCVUdUVGVHhQ092VkJ2SXBMD0FCZz09>

By phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 946 8654 3184

Passcode: 991130

LCDP Monthly Regular Meeting
Time: May 17, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94057727965?pwd=d3NYNVFMBkVnOUtCbXkyZlF5ZkZjQT09>

By Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 940 5772 7965

Passcode: 317669

LCDP Exploration of Racism Book Club and Discussion Group
Time: May 24, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register at www.laxdems.com/2021bookclub

Attorney General Josh Kaul and 2022 Democratic Senate Candidate Dr. Gillian Battino will be attending our May 17 Monthly meeting. Please consider joining to find out about their important work for the state and their upcoming campaigns.



LCDP is forming a team for the first annual Khiav Rau Cia Siab Virtual 5K Run/Walk fundraiser to celebrate Hmoob American Day on Friday, May 14th, 2021. Check out www.ciasiabinc.org to learn about the important work they do.

The team is called LCDP/Forward. The cost to register is \$30. In addition, the team fundraising goal is \$250 (now \$225). The 5K Walk/Run is virtual, so you can participate from anywhere!

If you want to join this team, LCDP/Forward,

1. Go here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/LaCrosse/Khiavrauciasiabinc>
2. Click SIGN UP
3. Register
4. At the bottom of the page choose YES you would like to create or join a Group/Team
5. Find LCDP/Forward and join it OR make your own team (up to 6 people) OR enter as an individual.
6. Before you finish, you'll have a chance to donate toward the fundraising goal if you wish.

If you don't want to join the team but could contribute a little bit toward the goal, please visit this link to make a contribution: <https://runsignup.com/Race/109088/Donate/1eEcBfgDSUFmw4Qn>

THANK YOU

Thank you to our 2021 3rd Congressional District and State Democratic Convention Delegates. We appreciate your time and energy as we meet to determine the future path of our party. The 3rd CD convention will be held May 8 and the State Convention on June 5-6. We will have a recap of the proceedings in our June and July newsletters.



EXECUTIVE BOARD SPOTLIGHT



Terry Benson
At-large Board Member

Hello La Crosse County Democrats. I am Terry, a new member of your executive committee. I am writing to you on the evening that the Minneapolis jury found Derek Chauvin guilty on all counts. The prosecution’s case was riveting to watch and masterfully presented by Attorney General Keith Ellison and his team. A.G. Ellison and Governor Walz have demonstrated the effect of positive Democratic leadership in government. As I tearfully listened to the verdict, I was thankful for their hard work. For us, the challenges of the 2022 election loom large. In upcoming elections, Attorneys General are going to be “front and center.” Democrats in those positions make a difference. The killing of George Floyd and the four years of the Trump presidency have exposed the naked truth of racism in our country. Painful as it is to see, it requires our attention.

To me this means supporting folks on their difficult journey for racial equity/reconciliation, police and criminal justice reform. I hope we can commit to this work as Democrats in the Coulee Region by listening to and educating ourselves about the real history that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) have experienced in this country, this state, and this county. It means seeing ourselves through the challenging lens of systemic racism. Most of us who are white folks have experienced privileges from being a part of the

“dominant culture” and carry the biases and prejudices of systemic racism in our thoughts and actions in the form of unconscious bias.

This is complicated. It requires educating ourselves, learning the history, and a great deal of self-examination. But it is not appropriate to look for assistance from our BIPOC neighbors. Obviously, they have lived this history and in real time still experience the health effects, economic effects, over-policing, and human devastation caused by incarceration. In Wisconsin, according to a 2012 study done at the UW-Milwaukee, one in eight black men of working age were incarcerated in either prison or jails.

Now we, white folks, need to do this work with each other.

I am a retired State of Wisconsin Probation and Parole Agent with a Social Work degree from UW-La Crosse. I attempted, during my work life, to be a “bridge” between the community and the correctional system. The goal being to assist people, who often had a myriad of problems, to live a more stable crime-free lifestyle. First hired by the Wisconsin Division of Child Services to work with foster children, I was laid off. Needing employment, I transferred to the Division of Probation and Parole. Yes, believe it or not, in the 1970s and 1980s, social workers were sought out to work as Probation and Parole Agents. As the decades advanced, that began to change. When I retired, most new hires were Criminal Justice graduates. The “bridge” between the community and corrections became less supported, in my opinion.

Enough about me. The good news is that our community has been working hard during the last few years establishing the Waking up White Community Collaborative. Executive board members Ron Malzer and Ralph Knudson have been integrally involved in the advancement of this community effort. Also, LCDP has a monthly book discussion group Exploring Racism. Please join with discussion leaders Cathy Van Maren and Ralph Knudson at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month. It is a comfortable and accepting venue to learn, share, and grow in this important work.

In solidarity,
Terry Benson

Volunteer Opportunities



As we begin to slowly (and safely) reopen this summer, we have some upcoming opportunities to help the LCDP get the word out in our community. Please contact William Garcia at chair@laxdems.com or call 608-769-5286 for more information.

La Crosse Interstate Fair: July 14-18

We need volunteers to work the LCDP booth, pass out information on LCDP and the Democratic Party, and assist our elected officials during meet-and-greets.

Marchers needed for parades!

West Salem Dairy Days Parade: Saturday, June 5 at noon.

And

The Holmen Korn Fest parade: Saturday, August 21 at 11a.m.

CONGRATULATIONS to LCDP-endorsed candidates Dr. Jill Underly and La Crosse Mayor Mitch Reynolds. Your membership and involvement allowed us to give Dr. Underly’s campaign a real presence in La Crosse, with her yard signs being proudly displayed all over the county. Our phone bank volunteers worked tirelessly to get out the vote, which helped Dr. Underly win La Crosse County with 66% of the vote and Mayor Reynolds defeat his opponent by 205 votes. Great work to all!

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

32nd District State Senator Brad Pfaff
State Capitol 22 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707
Ph: 608-266-5490, Sen.Pfaff@legis.wisconsin.gov

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
608-769-5286

Vice Chair: David Wulf
608-799-8977

Treasurer: Merry Kocar
608-512-5253

Secretary: Diane Wulf
608-780-7007

Past Chair: Michael Smuksta

At-Large Board Members:
Terry Benson
Ed Burgess
Fred Giese
Ralph Knudson
Ron Malzer

College Representative: Jenna Dinkel (UW-L)
dinkel4642@uwlax.edu

Follow the LCDP on



twitter

@lacrossedems

and



Instagram

@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 608-769-5286. 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 608-769-5286.

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 608-769-5286.



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.

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/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.

Received _____
 Renewal Month _____

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

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 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.

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