

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

November 2021 Newsletter

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

Elections for the 2022 La Crosse County Democratic Party Officers and Board at November Meeting!

We will be electing Officers and At-Large Executive Board members at this month's Regular Membership meeting. To vote, you need to be present at the meeting and your party membership in place.

To check your membership status, please contact our Treasurer, David Wulf, at treasurer@laxdems.com.

Procedure:

Elections will be conducted via Google Form. The link will ONLY be available at the meeting to ensure only those attending can vote.

To ensure anonymity, each member will be emailed a Voter ID, which you will enter onto the ballot instead of your name. This will ensure only those eligible to vote cast a ballot.

Results will be announced at the end of the November meeting.

2022 Officers:

All officer and executive board positions will be up for election. These include four Officer positions: Chair (Co-Chairs), Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary; as well as five At-Large Executive Board members. Below are pictures and bios of the candidates. Each candidate will speak for a few minutes at the November meeting before the election.



Chair:

William Garcia

2022 will be a watershed moment for La Crosse County. As the biggest county in the only swing district in Wisconsin, the La Crosse County Democrats are set

to be center stage of the 2022 Midterm

Upcoming Events



LCDP Monthly Exec Board Meeting

Time: Monday, November 1, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
<https://zoom.us/j/96620303875>

LaX Waking Up White Collaborative

LCDP members wishing to continue or begin their exploration and education about racism and antiracism are encouraged to register for one or more of the programs offered through November by the La Crosse Waking Up White Collaborative: <https://www.laxwakingupwhite.com/>

LCDP Monthly Membership Meeting

Topic: LCDP Monthly Meeting
Time: Monday, November 15, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
<https://zoom.us/j/94140042855?pwd=OEFXOEEdYjJlId0Z0SjZuRTI3OVlTQT09>

All LCDP meetings will be returning to online only during the current COVID-19 outbreak. We are monitoring the situation closely and hope to return to in-person meetings in the near future.

The Zoom link for all regular meetings is: <https://zoom.us/j/94140042855?pwd=OEFXOEEdYjJlId0Z0SjZuRTI3OVlTQT09>

elections, setting the tone for the remainder of Biden's first term and beyond. I will continue to work tirelessly to reelect Governor Evers, replace Ron Kind and protect the 3rd CD for Democrats. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we prepare for this election and continue working on community service that supports our values and ideals. Thank you for your trust in me.

November 15 Regular Meeting Presenters:

Amanda Goodenough, Social Responsibility Speaks, speaking on her work for Justice, Equity and Diversity in La Crosse.

and

Wisconsin Senate Candidate Peter Peckarsky. Visit his website at <https://www.peckarskyforwisconsin.com/>

Vice Chair:

Ed Burgess

It has been another long excruciating year. We have a new president and new challenges. As an enthusiastic Democrat I hope to be part of the successful reelection



of Tony Evers and the election of a replacement for Ron Johnson. We have only one functioning party and there is much to do to improve the lives of ordinary citizens. If all of us don't contribute we may lose our democracy. I have the desire to help move this country, this state and this city to a better future. I believe we are on the cusp of historic change but to do so we need to move the Republican party out of the way. I have served on the board for several terms and have done my best to contribute to our success. I have been managing our Facebook page and have been a part of the push for a permanent office. I would like to continue serving on the board to help continue our forward momentum.

Treasurer:

David Wulf

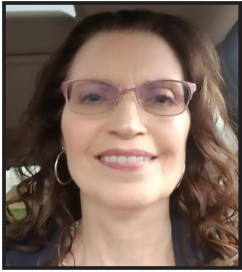
I am running for treasurer to ensure the finances of the LCDP are properly administered and reports are filed on time with the WI Ethics Commission.



Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

This will be my 5th year on the Executive Board having previously served as Secretary and Vice Chair. I believe in good governance and right now only the Democratic Party is the only responsible party in the USA.



Secretary: Diane Wulf

Diane Oldani Wulf and her husband Dave have lived in Onalaska since 1992 and has been a member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party (LCDP) for over 25 years. Her political hero is US Senator Paul Wellstone. Paul said, "If we don't fight hard enough for the things we stand for, at some point we have to recognize that we don't really stand for

them". She is the founder of the Onalaska Schools' Food Pantry and has been very active in the community, serving in elected positions for a number of organizations. She previously served three years as the LCDP treasurer and is currently serving her first year as secretary; she is also proud to be serving her tenth year on the Onalaska Common Council. She would be honored to serve again on the LCDP Executive Board.

At-Large Officers: (6 people running for 5 positions)



Terry Benson:

Hello La Crosse County Democrats! Due to the pandemic, we haven't been able to meet in person. Without that person to person contact, it has been a challenge to maintain our connection to common goals. However, we have a struggle on our hands in 2022. We need to pull together to re-elect Governor Evers, Attorney General Kaul, get WI

State Senator Brad Pfaff elected to the U.S. Congress and provide Senator Tammy Baldwin with a trustworthy partner in the Senate. Every vote counts as we work to protect our state elected Representatives Jill Billings and Steve Doyle, and elect the next Democratic candidate for WI Senate, District 32.

In my work as a WI Probation & Parole Agent, I persevered through some turbulent times. As a retiree, I would be honored to use my time working for and with you to get THIS done!



Vicki Burke:

Vicki Burke began volunteering in 1968 and has continued through 2021. She has served as LCDP Chair for 5 years and was a member of the Ex. Bd. for 20 plus years. She ran for State Assembly twice and has been a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention 4 times. She taught public high school for 35 years, serving as English

Dept Chair and coaching Forensics and directing plays and musicals. She is currently an elected La Crosse County Board Supervisor, a representative on the board of Coulee Region United Educators-Retired and an alternate to the State WEAC-Retired Association. She can help with membership, office management and fundraising. In 2016 when she served as chair

there were nearly 300 members. She has managed a campaign office during presidential and off years. She is excellent at fundraising, having helped raise over \$20,000 in 2008.



KC Cayo:

K.C. Cayo (they/them) is a senior at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and a community activist. They are interested in running for a seat on the La Crosse Democratic Party Executive Board as an At-Large member to help further diversify the space; as a young person, an intersex person, as somebody who is nonbinary, as someone who is politically

and socially queer, they will bring in fresh perspectives and ideas to the space. They hope that being the first young, queer person in this space will serve as a baseline to invite other marginalized identities to the table as we cultivate conversations and dialogue about diversity, inclusion, and how those ideas align with the upcoming election.



Fred Giese:

I want to continue another term as an at large member of the executive board for the LCDP. I've been an active volunteer and board member. I believe in a broad spectrum of human rights not limited to those spelled out in the Bill of Rights. Human rights such as (and not limited to)- food, shelter, love, health care and income equality. I have lots of

questions. I don't have all the answers. Issues require healthy discussions which allow decisions to be made resulting in action. I would be honored to be an active participant on the executive board addressing the issues LCDP faces on local, state & national level.

Thank you for your consideration.



Ralph Knudson:

For many years, I would consider myself to have been a Name Only Democrat (NOD); doing not much more than consistently voting for Democratic candidates with a nod and a vote on election day. I trusted that the strategy and work to get to that point was for others to be involved. While my politics have always been strongly progressive,

I had felt an uncomfortable disconnect between my limited involvement and my values. It had been too easy for me to criticize and blame the party structure for failures at the polls, or for flawed policy or elected officials if I wasn't part of the process and work.

That changed with the Obama candidacy. I was swept up in the enthusiasm to do more to create change; and knocked on doors and talked to people about their hopes and frustrations. A fresh vision had gotten me involved. I learned how important actual involvement in the process was, and how rewarding and challenging it is to actually do work to make a difference. I also experienced how crucial it was for regular people like me

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

to be an active part of shaping policy and action...and to shape our Democratic Party itself. And now at this time, more than ever before, is the time we need to empower many more "name only" Democrats to become more actively involved. The potential for significant creativity and regeneration of enthusiasm is huge; even as we are reminded over and over again about the obvious risks of failure to be effective.

As a Democratic Party, we have so much more to work with now: our state leadership is eager to engage grass-roots feedback, creativity and involvement. The choices and issues at stake are stark and clear and affect daily lives of most people. We have a year during which we can create multiple opportunities to educate, talk with, recruit dues-paying members, register and enroll voters, mobilize and organize new initiatives and outreach towards many "name only" Democrats who are looking for fresh ways to get their hands on doing more than simply voting on election day. That's why I'm enthused about a year-round office presence and the commitment it will ask of all of us. Such an effort will require many different talents, ideas and perspectives.. and it'll be up to the board to find fresh ways to develop and keep ideas, activities and momentum going. I foresee more person-to-person contacts and organizing over the year. I imagine focus groups helping each other bring local relevance to specific areas of interest and experience, for example.

During my last two years as a board member, I partnered with Cathy Van Maren to facilitate discussion of structural racism's impact on our politics and social power in America.. but also within LaCrosse county as well. The strategy was to use a book discussion group with members of the board, with books such as: "Waking Up White", "Caste", "White Fragility" and "The Sum of Us" as material for study and learning about racism's patterns. The idea is that such patterns do affect us all... especially in areas of justice and power.... We experience the hollowing out of justice and community differently, depending on our racial identity and background..but the ongoing loss is there, and we can't change it until we face it and understand it first. As a result of this effort, our board has a new wealth of ideas and resources to draw upon as we keep working to bring diversity to our local party. We still have much more to do, but we have started what I believe is a key process to being locally relevant.

I welcome the chance to continue this work as a board member, and ask for your support.



Ron Malzer:

I'm a retired psychologist, family medicine educator, and grant writer. At this point, my passions are for racial, social, and environmental justice, and for preserving democracy by electing Democrats to oppose the imposition of a right-wing autocracy on America. I'm a frequent contributor of Op-Eds to the La Crosse Tribune and the Madison

Cap Times. I'm married, with two adult children, and three grandchildren age 3 and under.

LCDP Office, Coming Soon:

The proposal for a year-round office for LCDP passed at the October meeting, and the Executive Board is looking for suitable space now.

Please consider donating to our 2022 Office Fund to help us set up an office and begin the important work of preparing for the 2022 election.

Contribute at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lcdp2022office>

Afghan Refugee Assistance



Catholic Charities of La Crosse is collecting volunteer information for the coming influx of Afghan refugees. Visit: <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance> for more information.



Letter Writing Initiative



LCDP Executive Board Member Ron Malzer is spearheading an Op-Ed/Letter to the Editor initiative with LCDP. We will be having weekly (at a minimum) articles that discuss news and opinions about La Crosse and Wisconsin politics. See the articles on our social networks or at <https://laxdems.com/category/news>.



LCDP Podcast

Have you checked out The LCDP podcast, The Democratic Voice, produced in conjunction with WIZM news? Listen and subscribe for opinions and updates of what is happening in La Crosse. <https://www.wizmnews.com/the-democratic-voice-with-william-garcia/>

Ron Johnson and Mitch McConnell Vote “No” on Voting Rights: The Fight Continues

by Ben Wikler, DPW Chair & Ron Malzer, LCDP Board Member
Posted on October 25, 2021 by William Garcia

Last week, the Freedom to Vote Act—a tremendous and urgently-needed bill—went up for a vote in the US Senate. Every Democrat supported it. But Republicans, including Ron Johnson, filibustered it. Until and unless filibuster rules are changed, the bill’s progress has halted. Meanwhile, even though Wisconsin’s Legislative Reference Bureau completed its report and found, once again, that 2020’s election was “safe and secure,” the GOP’s sham investigations—which in fact are naked attempts to justify voting restrictions—continue.

Johnson also voted against removing barriers to vote by making election day a federal holiday, automatically registering voters at the DMV, allowing for online voter registration, guaranteeing same day voter registration, and mandating a minimum of a 15 day early voting period. The Freedom to Vote Act would enshrine Wisconsin’s right to vote, better equip poll workers, prohibit states from banning voters from receiving food or drinks while waiting to cast their ballot, as well as help prevent harassment or intimidation at the polls.

Ron Johnson’s “no” vote was designed to prevent vitally-needed election reforms that would have protected Wisconsin’s voting rights, and would have prevented dark money interests from dumping unlimited and unaccountable donations into elections.

By protecting the dark money influence in our elections, Ron Johnson is once again serving only himself and special-interest allies at the expense of regular Wisconsin’s. No amount of dark money will be able to hide that Johnson has completely failed his duties as a United States Senator. So what now? We go local.

Voter protection—the process of working with individual voters and election administrators to ensure that everyone has the full opportunity to exercise their freedom to vote—used to be a “final stretch of the election” type priority. Today, it’s a year-round fight. We’ve got volunteers phone banking to recruit poll workers. We’ve got staff and volunteers overseeing our year-round voter protection hotline (608-DEM-3232.) We’ve got a whole team on our staff focused on ensuring that voters have the help they need to overcome roadblocks put in their path by Republicans.

And the Democratic Party of Wisconsin isn’t alone—an array of independent organizations are fighting day in and day out to protect the rights of voters and the future of our democracy.

We can and will continue to advocate for legislation like the Freedom to Vote Act. And we can and will duke it out for voting rights in the courts. But through it all, we’re going to organize, organize, and organize—and then organize some more.

For the GOP, attacking democracy is both a strategy for winning power, and a goal once power is won. For us, saving democracy is both key to victory and why victories are worth winning. The battle lines are clear, and the stakes are high.

This is why the work that all of us do is so essential. And it’s a great reason to be proud to be a Democrat.



Thank you to those who marched in the Oktoberfest Maple Leaf Parade. We had a great turnout and a fine time.

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: Vacant

Treasurer: David Wulf
608-799-8977

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

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



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/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.

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