



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

April, 2008 Newsletter

## Executive Board

Estella Lauter, Chair  
Bill Perloff, Vice-Chair  
Mary Horn, Secretary  
John Franz, Treasurer  
Ben Meyer, Past Chair  
Jim Adams  
Rod Bohn  
Laurel Brooks  
Warren Demmin  
Phil Hansotia  
Dave Murphy

## Committees:

### **Communication:**

Jim Adams, Board liaison  
Phil Hansotia, Board liaison  
Bill Perloff, Board liaison  
Lisa Van Laanen

### **Elections:**

Chuck Lauter, Chair  
Pat Miller  
Nancy Skadden

### **Events:**

Challoner Brown, Chair  
Eileen Andera, Cty Fair Chair  
Rod Bohn, Program Board  
liaison  
Laurel Brooks, Social Events  
Board liaison  
Norma Jean Ek  
Dave Murphy, Social Events  
Board liaison

### **Membership:**

Bill Perloff, Chair  
Allin Walker, Board liaison  
Chris Wendler

### **Issues, Resolutions, Survey:**

Phil Hansotia, Board liaison

### **Budget and Fundraising:**

Barb Perloff, Chair  
John Franz, Board liaison

## March Membership Meeting: Busy and Productive

Whew! The marathon March membership meeting covered three important activities: Training for the County Caucus to select potential National Convention Delegates, presentations of candidates for contested races for County Board and other nonpartisan offices in the April election, and review and selection of resolutions to be forwarded to the 8<sup>th</sup> CD convention.

Fueled by great snacks and sandwiches from Dave Murphy, and brownies and cookies from Mary Horn, the meeting was deemed a success by all attending.

Steve Mellenthin from the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, and chair of the Democratic Party County Chairs Association, gave a powerpoint presentation explaining the details of conducting a County Caucus to select individuals as candidates for election at the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus to be delegates to the Democratic Party National Convention in August.

Key features included transparency of the election process, pledged delegates in proportion to the votes received in the February 19<sup>th</sup> primary election, and gender balance where possible.

Steve also discussed the political strategy and tactics to be elected a delegate at the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus. This included demonstrating one's commitment to the Democratic Party by becoming a "Neighborhood Leader" and establishing a Democratic Party presence in one's neighborhood.

Three candidates for Door County Board of Supervisors made presentations to the membership. Donald Sitte, candidate in District 19, spoke of his commitment to preserving wetlands and opposition to any increase in the County budget or taxes.

Hugh Mulliken, the incumbent and candidate for District 19, reiterated his strong support of environmental preservation, and said he was promoting a ban on plastic bags and phosphates in detergents. He expressed concern about a projected five percent increase in the County budget, but pointed to unavoidable increases in costs. (Mulliken was re-elected in the April 1<sup>st</sup> election)

Ben Meyer, past-president of the DPDC, and a Sturgeon Bay Alderman from Districts 1 and 2, was a candidate for County Board District 7. He envisioned serving as a liaison between the city and county governments. He spoke of bringing a "transformative" approach to politics by continuing to knock on doors and keep constituents actively involved in the political process. (Ben was elected on April 1<sup>st</sup>)

Phil Hansotia presented for discussion the 16 resolutions attached to the March newsletter. A 17<sup>th</sup> resolution was presented from the floor. After extensive discussion, a vote selected the 10 resolutions below to forward for consideration at the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention on April 27<sup>th</sup>. The resolution titles are listed. The complete resolutions are linked to the website (address below):

- School funding reform
- Social security tax on all earned income
- Repeal tax cuts for those with incomes above \$250,000
- Study and protection of Great Lakes
- Repeal of USA Patriot Act
- Universal health care
- End the war in Iraq
- Minimum wage to be a living wage
- Repeal the "No Child Left Behind" Act
- Support collective bargaining

The meeting ended with a sense of accomplishment and optimism.

## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

Thurs. Apr 24 **Membership meeting.** Bertschinger Community Center, Rte 42, Egg Harbor, 7:00 PM. See article in adjacent column. The Executive Board will meet at 5:30.

Sun. Apr 27 **8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention**, at Woods Golf Club, 530 Erie Rd., Green Bay. Registration opens at 9:00 AM, convention starts at 9:30 AM. Cost is \$30 at the door. The deadline for delegate appointments has passed, but any members can attend the convention.

### MAY

May 3 **Kewaunee County Democratic Party Jack Kennedy Dinner** (formerly the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner) at the Hotel Stebbins, 201 Steele Street, Algoma. Congressman Kagen and candidates for the 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly Seat have been invited. Social hour at 6:30, dinner at 7:00. Cost is \$18 per person.

For reservations, contact Bob Entringer at (920) 487-3814.

This is a great opportunity to join with fellow Democrats from the 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District and kick off joint campaign efforts.

May 4 **8<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus** to elect delegates to the Democratic National Convention, UW-Green Bay, Wood Hall, 2424 Nicolet Dr, Green Bay, WI, voting will take place from 2:00-4:00 PM. See article page 3.

May 8 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, 5:00 PM, location TBD.

May 22 **May membership meeting and Fun(d)raiser**, Ladder House, 38 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 6:00 PM. See adjacent article.

### JUNE

Jun 13-14 **Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention**, Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center, June 13-14. See adjacent article.

## Key Decisions to be Made at April Membership Meeting

The April 24<sup>th</sup> membership meeting will provide a forum for discussion and decisions about Party activities between now and the November election along with an opportunity to provide DPDC input into formation of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2008 Party Platform. Agenda items include:

- Timing and nature of office space rental. Representatives of the Assembly and Congressional campaigns will be present to consider sharing of space and expenses.
- Plans for fundraisers in May (see article below), at our Annual Picnic in July or August, and a Pre-election Rally in October.
- Plans for Parades and other events from spring through fall.
- Discussion of the Draft DPW Platform attached to this newsletter. County parties can recommend changes up to May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Delegate recruitment for the DPW Convention (see article below).
- Discussion of role of "Super delegates".

## May Fun(d)raiser Ahead

Mark your calendar to save May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the date of our May Membership meeting and Fun(d)raiser to be held in the upper floor of the Ladder House in Sturgeon Bay. Festivities will start at 6:00 PM.

The fun evening will feature a variety of entertainment, a "White Donkey" silent auction (no white elephants!), a delicious cold buffet supper, and cash bar. Tickets for all of this are only \$25 per person, and will help to support our election-year activities on behalf of Democratic candidates.

More details will be available in special announcements in early May. Come and bring friends and supporters.

## Be a Delegate to the DPW State Convention

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin will hold its 2008 convention in Stevens Point at the new Holiday Inn on Route 10 on June 13-14.

It should be an exciting and energizing event, with State and Congressional political leaders speaking, presentation of the 2008 DPW platform, and election of officers and DNC representatives.

Our Democratic Party of Door County is eligible to send 20 delegates and 20 alternates to the convention. They must be paid-up members for 2008. If you would like to attend as a delegate, please contact Estella Lauter, DPDC chair ([lauter@uwosh.edu](mailto:lauter@uwosh.edu)), or Bill Perloff, vice-chair, ([wperloff@hughes.net](mailto:wperloff@hughes.net), or 839-9282) by May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Message from the Chair:****Learning From the April Election: "For everything there is a season..."**

Although we can celebrate the fact that Ben Meyer won a seat on the County Board and Hugh Mulliken retained his seat in the April first election, we must also mourn the loss of Kari Anderson's seat (by seven votes!) and take careful stock of the race for WI Supreme Court Justice.



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

There is no point in beating ourselves up for Justice Butler's loss, as some would have us do. First, it is highly unlikely that a win for him in Door would have changed the overall result. The statewide vote was 49% for Butler and 51% for Gableman, with only 14 of the 72 counties fully committed to Butler, including Dane, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Portage, Eau Claire, Sauk, Rock, LaCrosse, Ashland and Bayfield. Although the first five of those counties are noted for having strong Democratic parties, the last five are not, so it is unclear how much a political party can accomplish in a non-partisan election. Three other counties with undistinguished Democratic parties went 50/50.

We were in a group of five counties (including Outagamie) that went 48/52—better than any of the counties around the Bay and out to the Lake; by any number of measures, our county party is the strongest of these five, and Outagamie County is the home of Lawrence University where Butler got both a BA and an honorary doctorate.

Butler did not campaign here, but we included a message urging support for him from Sen. Russ

Feingold in our March newsletter, and at least one party member from the local legal community circulated an e-mail supporting him. The League of Women Voters issued a helpful voter's guide.

Cause and effect research is notably hard to do in relation to human beings, but it seems likely that Gableman's win had much more to do with the money that allowed him to do robo calls on the day before the election and to pay for television ads that sought to make Butler appear "soft on crime"—an allegation which is both unfair and irrelevant to the task of the Supreme Court. Much of that money apparently came from the same source outside the state that funded Ziegler's campaign last year, a source that has bought out the high court in at least two southern states. If they are allowed to do this again next year, Wisconsin will be in very sad company, having lost an independent judiciary.

While this loss is serious, as it always is when the better candidate is defeated, we need to learn from it how important it is to win the Assembly seat that will allow Wisconsin to address the questions that these elections have raised about the way judicial campaigns are funded. Our district is fielding two candidates for the Democratic nomination for the First Assembly seat—Chris Baeb and Dick Scare. This is a partisan election where our role and responsibility is clear, whichever candidate is the eventual nominee. If we do not win this seat, we will rightly be subject to blame.

Come to the next membership meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss your role in this crucial effort to replace ideology with reason in our state legislature.

**County Caucus Results**

The DPDC county caucus was held on April 6<sup>th</sup> according to the protocol established by the State Party. We were entitled to elect up to 15 delegate candidates (9 for Obama and 6 for Clinton) who could then compete at the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus on May 4<sup>th</sup> for the total of six delegate and 1 alternate slots for the National Convention available to the 8<sup>th</sup> CD.

A paucity of candidates made our county election a pro forma affair. All who attended the caucus and wished to be delegates were elected.

Those elected to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> CD caucus as candidate delegates are:

For Hillary Clinton- Jeffrey Rosenfeld, Diane Slivka

For Barack Obama- Jim Adams, Joanne Rosenfeld



## If You Care, Renew Now

Do you care about who wins our 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly seat? Do you care about which party controls the WI Assembly? Do you care about re-electing Congressman Kagen and retaining the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives? Do you care about electing a Democratic President? Do you care about the positions adopted by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Democratic candidates?

Your Door County Democratic Party provides the opportunity for you to support these efforts, and to multiply your effectiveness by participating in well organized grassroots campaigns to mobilize supportive voters, and get out the vote on election day. There is a large reservoir of progressive Democratic and Independent views in our county that can be mobilized to support strong Democratic candidates. In addition, even a small county can have an impact on statewide Party resolutions and platform, and the election of our representatives to the DNC, if it has a large and active membership. Our delegate quota to the state convention depends upon our 2008 membership number.

The first step in succeeding is to be sure your membership in our Door County Dems is up-to-date. If you have received this by email, the email will have noted whether you are paid-up. **If you received hard copy, check your mailing label.** If the last line is not '08, then it is time to renew now.

To renew, just print the form below, fill it out and mail it to the address shown. Add a note on the back about your interest in becoming more active in Party efforts and you will be contacted to help.

Thank you for being part of the effort to change the disastrous course our country has followed for the last eight years, and to return Wisconsin to its progressive roots. As Congressman Kagen says, "Together We Will".

## Help Elect Progressive Democrats: Join the Patriot Corps!

Senator Russ Feingold's Patriot Corps Feingold has long believed that a strong grassroots field program is the key to electoral victory. As such, Senator Feingold started the Patriot Corps in 2006 as a way to support important races across the nation. In the lead up to the 2008 election, Senator Feingold will again be hiring, training and sending field staff to key races across the country.



We're looking for at least 20 energetic, personable activists from across the country to participate in our second Patriot Corps program. Once chosen, Patriot Corps members will participate in an extensive, multi-day training program in Milwaukee, WI the first week of September. This training will focus on volunteer recruitment, organizing a canvas, running a phone bank, working with local activists, advanced GOTV training, and staffing a candidate. Patriot Corps members will then be placed on targeted campaigns across the country for the last two months leading up to the election.

While we're looking for organizers with experience, we're also hoping to hire activists with a willingness to work hard for victory this fall.

For more information or to apply for the Patriots Corps Program, please contact Paula Zellner at [zellner@progressivepatriotsfund.com](mailto:zellner@progressivepatriotsfund.com) or 715-735-7811. **All applications must be submitted by Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>.**

## Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This is a  Cell Phone  Home Phone

Email \_\_\_\_\_

County: Door

### Sign me up for:

- \$10 Senior/student/limited income
- \$25 Individual general membership
- \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)
- \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships)
- \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)

### I would also like to join:

- LGTB Caucus  Black Caucus
- Latino/Hispanic Caucus  American Indian Caucus

Return to: Democratic Party of Door County  
PO Box 863  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235