



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## August, 2008 Newsletter

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## Convention Climax Party, August 28<sup>th</sup>

Join fellow Democrats at the Ladder House Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup> to watch Barack Obama accept the Democratic nomination for President of the United States in front of 75,000 people in Denver. Share this defining moment in history with your friends and fellow committed activists, become energized and prepared to work for Senator Obama's victory.

The party starts at 8:00 PM at the upper level of the Ladder House, 38 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Sturgeon Bay (one door from our DPDC Coordinated Campaign Office). The cost is \$10 per person to cover the refreshments; a cash bar is available.

You can expect to be excited and inspired by the events and Senator Obama's eloquent vision for change. We'll see you there!

## DPDC Office Opening a Great Event

More than 60 people attended the gala opening of the Democratic Party of Door County Coordinated Campaign Office at 62 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Serving Democratic Candidates along with the Party, the office provides an efficient and effective way for campaigns to work together for their mutual benefit.

With Gail Kagen, wife of Congressman Kagen, as the featured speaker, there was lots of excitement and enthusiasm for our new "digs" and the campaigns to take back our country at state and national levels. Over 40 attendees volunteered to work in or out of the office in support of Democratic candidates. The photos below convey some of the flavor of the event.



**Laurel Brooks and Olivia Lowery preparing lemonade. Chair, Estella Lauter readying volunteer sign-ups.**



**Volunteers visiting the office**



**Waiting for the festivities to begin**



**Gail Kagen addressing the crowd**

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

To reach us: DCDems@hughes.net, on the web at [www.DoorCountyDems.org](http://www.DoorCountyDems.org), or PO Box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST

Aug 22

**Fundraiser for Congressman Kagen**, featuring special guest **Senator Herb Kohl**. Tiletown Brewery, 200 Dousman St., Green Bay, 12:00 Noon - 1:30. Suggested donation \$100, though any amount will be appreciated. RSVP to Gil Landau, by phone at (920) 255-9355 or by email at gil\_landau@kagen4congress.com.

Aug 26

**League of Women Voters Assembly Candidate Forum**, Sturgeon Bay City Hall, 7:00 PM. This will feature the two Democratic candidates, Chris Baeb and Dick Skare. Come and learn about the candidates, **and remember to vote on September 9<sup>th</sup>**.

Aug 28

**Convention watch party**, Ladder House, 38 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, upper level, 8:00 PM. In lieu of our regular membership meeting, See article on page 1.

### SEPTEMBER

Sept 9

**Primary election day**. Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Be sure to vote and make your voice heard! Voter turnout is usually light for primary elections, so each vote carries great weight.

Sept 20 or 21

**Fundraiser for Congressman Kagen**, Date and details TBA. Save the dates, this will be a great party.

### OCTOBER

Oct 16

**Democratic Unity Rally**, At the Ladder House, 38 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, upper level, 7:00 PM. Congressman Kagen has been invited. Our Assembly candidate will also attend and speak.

### NOVEMBER

Nov 4

**Election Day**. Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Every vote is critical in what will be three close races for President, Congressional Representative, and Assembly Representative.

## Obama Yard Signs **Free** to Members!

No, your eyes are not deceiving you. Yes, Obama yard signs are available. And each member family, **whose membership is current for 2008**, is eligible to receive one free. Others may purchase a yard sign for \$5.

Claim your yard sign at the Party office, 62 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. (920-559-8200) or at the Convention Watch Party on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Volunteers Needed

Now is the time to roll up your sleeves and get to work volunteering at our Coordinated Campaign Office. We especially need phone bank volunteers who can work for two-hour shifts from 5:00 - 7:00 PM, or 7:00 - 9:00 PM. It is easy, fun and **really** important. We will train you and provide you with scripts.

During the day or evening, we need volunteers to do data entry. The work is also easy and not too technical, but really important. Our goal is to contact every voter in the county whose preference for the presidential and congressional elections is not yet known.

There are many other volunteer opportunities such as providing food for phone bank volunteers, canvassing neighborhoods, doing "doors" with the candidates, putting signs together, preparing mailings, helping drive voters to the polls on election day, and a myriad of other tasks.

With your help we can identify those voters who may respond to further contacts, persuade the undecided voter, reinforce our "base", and "get out the vote" (GOTV) as election day approaches. On November 5<sup>th</sup> it will be too late to say "I wish I had done more".

To volunteer, call the Party office (920) 559-8200, or Party Chair, Estella Lauter, (920) 839-2741.

## Obama Campaign for Change Flourishing in Wisconsin

Barack Obama's Campaign for Change in Wisconsin is building organizational momentum across the State. Since June, the Wisconsin Campaign for Change has opened 26 offices, attended by more than 4600 enthusiastic supporters and volunteers who have come out to voice their desire for a new kind of leadership in Washington and get involved. Our Coordinated Campaign Office is one of these. More offices are set to open in the coming days, until the entire state is engaged.

## The Lowdown on the CIA Featured at July Membership Meeting by Mary Horn

An account of their interesting, but dangerous life working for the CIA was given at the July 31st meeting by Shirene Hansotia and John Herms.

Explaining that the CIA does human intelligence work and does not drive policy, Shirene told us the CIA's mission is to gather information and hand it over to other governmental agencies. To learn how to do this, she underwent a one-year CIA training program that taught her such things as how to go to other countries and convince people to pass on intelligence secrets. She was taught how to shoot a variety of weapons; how to use defensive driving to evade an ambush; how to use explosives; and how to live undercover, among other skills.

Because a country cannot use its military for covert operations, the CIA has its own para-military army and navy. John was a para-military officer conducting covert actions, was also an instructor in the CIA training program. He had served as a WMD inspector in Iraq after the first Gulf war, and knew that no WMD's had been found, in contrast to the administration's claims.

The operation of the CIA has become politicized, to the detriment of the country's security. Vice-President Cheney came to the CIA and told them "This is what we want to hear from you". A similar response was given to Joe Wilson by President Bush in response to his report on the "Niger yellowcake" hoax.

Shirene and John reported that we are not safe from attack, in part because of CIA failures. To learn more about the CIA and its operation, they recommended two movies: "The Good Shepherd", and "Mr. Wilson's War".

Shirene and John now work for a private intelligence organization.

## Field Organizer Changes

Our Obama Campaign Field Organizer, Carrie Chesnik has been assigned to new responsibilities and will be replaced. She has done a great job and will be missed.

Olivia Lowery, the Field Organizer for the Kagen Campaign has also moved on and has been replaced by Maggie Huber (we'll have a photo in the next newsletter).

Maggie is a recent graduate of law school in Illinois, and has committed herself to work on Dr. Kagen's campaign before undertaking regular employment. We welcome Maggie and look forward to working together in our coordinated campaign.

## A Letter from Sen. Feingold



Dear Wisconsin Democrat,

As a Progressive heavily involved in your county party, I don't have to tell you how important this year's election is. At the state level, we have a great opportunity to increase our margins in the State Senate and retake the State Assembly so that our Governor has a legislature more willing to move Wisconsin in the right direction come 2009. In the 8<sup>th</sup> CD, Congressman Steve Kagen has been a tireless advocate on behalf of his constituents and his reelection this November is going to be vital in our efforts to turn our country around following eight years of the Bush Presidency.

However, I don't have to tell you how important a role Wisconsin will play in electing our next President. No other state in the country has been closer these past two Presidential elections than Wisconsin. That's why it's up to each and every one of us to do everything we can to ensure Barack Obama wins Wisconsin – and the presidency – come Election Day this November.

I've enjoyed working with Senator Obama and I'm proud to support his campaign. With his strong Midwestern roots and his dedication to public service, Senator Obama understands, like we do, the values of hard work, standing up for what's right, and making our country a better place for us, our children and our grandchildren.

At both the state and federal level, Senator Obama has been able to reach across party lines and work with members from both parties to help move our country in a better direction. From fighting to create jobs, to making health care available and affordable to all Americans; from fighting for our rights and freedoms, to ending the war in Iraq, Senator Obama has the strength and leadership ability to get our country back on track.

It's not going to be an easy task and I'm going to continue to do everything I can to help him win Wisconsin and the Presidency this year – and if you haven't already, I hope you will join me. Thanks again for all that you do.

With high hopes,

Russ Feingold  
United States Senator  
[www.russfeingold.org](http://www.russfeingold.org)

**Message from the Chair:****The Lowdown on Voter Registration**

At the end of a comprehensive overview of the difficulties faced by representative democracy, Katrina vanden Heuvel says,

"It is long past time to place democracy at the center of our politics, where it belongs. We don't exist just to curse the political darkness but to craft solutions to make America a more perfect union."

The Nation, July 21/28, 2008 (31-40)

One of the many ways we can do this is to make sure that all citizens who are eligible to vote DO vote in both primary and general elections. Vander Heuvel reports that roughly "one-third of all eligible Americans, 64 million people, are not registered to vote"! Therefore, the new Government Accountability Board in Wisconsin has created a program to train citizens to register voters outside the offices of County Clerks.

Even though Wisconsin is one of the few states to allow registration at the polls, many people fail to register, or re-register after a change in address or name, because they don't know where to go, don't want to risk having to stand in line on election day, are out of town on that day, or can't balance voting with working on a weekday. The GAB has made it possible for registered voters to help solve this problem by applying to their own municipal clerk for authorization to register voters in their city, town or village, or to attend a two-hour session that allows them to be deputized to register voters anywhere in the state.

Training sessions were held until the end of July and will resume after the Primary on September 10<sup>th</sup>. If you want to be part of this process, contact your Clerk or Allison Coakley at 608-261-2033, or [allison.coakley@wi.gov](mailto:allison.coakley@wi.gov).

The training includes some interesting facts. For example, in Wisconsin, one may register with a valid driver's license, an ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, the last four digits of a social security number, or, if none of these is available, with a less formal verification of identity. The deputy does not need to see the ID, so if you know your numbers, you don't have to have the verification on hand when you register.

Likewise, a prospective voter must have lived at an address for 10 days in order to vote, but there is a provision for homeless people to register as well if they can use the address of a shelter or even a park bench where they are known to reside!

Deputies do not handle absentee ballots, but they may help prospective absentee voters by alerting people to the option and explaining that it is open to any registered voter for any reason. It involves an application to your municipal clerk, after which you receive a ballot that may be mailed in



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

before the election. It simply requires some lead time. Call your city, town or village clerk for instructions. You may have noticed that deputies from the League of Women Voters have been present at the Farm Market in Sturgeon Bay this summer and at the Fair. Two deputies were also at the DPDC booth at the Fair,

and I had a registration table outside the office in Sturgeon Bay on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Registrations outside the municipal offices stop for three weeks before each election to allow the data to be entered properly and then resume until three weeks before the next election.

You may wonder about the policy of allowing partisan organizations to register voters, but it is entirely legal and within the spirit of the law. Deputies are sworn not to deny any qualified citizen who asks to be registered and not to pressure anyone to vote a certain way, but they are not required to hide their personal allegiances. (The League of Women Voters chooses to do so to maintain its reputation of impartiality.)

The point of these policies is to make the process as open as possible in recognition that many of the laws restricting voting in the U.S. were products of specific efforts to disenfranchise African Americans and immigrant populations. People who register ahead of an election so that their registration has been verified by election day are less likely to succumb to pressures from challengers who raise questions about their identity or residence at the polling place.

Vanden Heuvel makes the important point that what has been called "voter fraud" is a misnomer. In the US, it is rare for one person to impersonate another. Thus the laws that require proof of citizenship will do little to curtail fraud; they will simply disenfranchise the 11% of citizens who don't have a government-issued photo ID. On the other hand, *election fraud* is a real problem that is addressed in S 453 and HR 1281 sponsored by Obama and 20 other Senators.

Vanden Heuvel calls for "a program to ensure that every voter can vote, that every vote gets counted, that money talks no louder than the many and that every challenger gets to make his or her case" --along with media reform and party reform to ensure a "just democracy" (35). Voter registration is only one step in this reform agenda, but it is necessary to all the others. Wisconsin is on the right track. Let's make sure it stays there!