



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

January, 2009 Newsletter

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Issues, Resolutions, Survey:

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Budget and Fundraising:

Come to the DPDC Inauguration Watch Party and Community Service

Our busy year will kick off with the event for which we have all waited: the inauguration of President Barak Obama. Your DPDC will sponsor an inauguration watch party at the Ladder House, upper level, 38 S. 3rd Ave., Tuesday, January 20, starting at 10:00 AM. This will allow time to see the festivities, the Vice President inauguration, the Presidential inauguration and the inauguration address. Munchies will be served. Beverages and full lunches may be purchased.

President-elect Obama and Vice President-elect Biden have suggested that in honor of Martin Luther King Day on January 19th, that each of us perform some community service that day. In keeping with this concept, the **price of admission to the Inauguration Watch Party will be a donation of canned or packaged food, or clothing.** As an organization, we shall collect the individual donations and deliver them to Feed and Clothe My People for distribution to the less fortunate in our community.

Join your fellow Democrats in viewing this exciting historic event that will start our country on the path to restoring the cherished values and principles which have made us great and which have been trampled for the past eight years. See you on Tuesday!

State Senator Hansen to Speak at January Meeting

The January 22nd membership meeting will feature State Senator Dave Hansen (D-30), the assistant Senate majority leader for the 2009-10 legislative session. Senator Hansen represents parts of Green Bay as well as parts of Brown, Oconto and Marinette counties. He will discuss the plans to address the current budget crisis, and other high priority items on the Democratic agenda. We will meet at the Sturgeon Bay Library on 4th Ave. and Nebraska Street, upper level at 7:00 PM.

Now that Democrats control both houses of the legislature and the Governor's office, we have the opportunity to effect real change in legislative priorities. Come and hear about priorities and plans from one of those who will lead our state for the next biennium.

Come also to sign up for a committee, volunteer to work at the Party office, help with a fundraiser, or other activities.

The first 40 members who come to the meeting and have renewed membership for 2009 (or do so at the meeting), will receive one of these beautiful 4.5x6 inch commemorative stickers from MoveOn.org.



Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

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

Message from the Chair:**A New Board for the New Election Cycle 2009-10**

Amidst all the excitement of the upcoming Inauguration, your Democratic Party of Door County has sworn in an Executive Board with six continuing members and six new people elected at our December membership meeting.



**Estella Lauter,
DPDC Chair**

Before listing them and saying a few words about what each person brings to the Board, I want to thank the departing members—Laurel Brooks, Phil Hansotia, and Ben Meyer, along with David Murphy and Allin Walker, who resigned in the spring—for modeling a high degree of commitment and service. Thanks too, to our Committee Chairs Barbara Perloff, Chuck Lauter and Challoner Brown, who were not Board members but without whom we would have been hard put to get everything done.

In addition, I want to thank all of those previous Board members who kept the Party going in darker days and helped to bring Democrats out of the shadows in Door County.

The returning members of the Board are Mary Horn, a retired teacher (Co-Chair); Bill Perloff, retired physician and head of Pediatric Critical Care at UW-Madison (Vice Chair); John Franz, retired postal worker (Treasurer); Rod Bohn, a retired pharmacist; Jim Adams, a retired history teacher; and myself, a retired university professor and writer (Co-Chair).

The new members include Patti Podgers, freelance writer and administrator at the Door County Auditorium (Secretary); Terry Bobbe, retired teacher; Michelle Jacobson, teacher and Gulf War veteran; Olivia Lowery, administrator for the Steel Bridge Foundation and campaign manager for Dick Skare's Assembly campaign in 2008; Charlie Most, former Liberty Grove Town Chair, and Chair of the County Board, candidate for the WI Senate in 2006, and currently a candidate for Liberty Grove Town

Chair; and Dennis Skahen, retired communications expert.

Three members serve on DPW committees (Bohn, Lauter and Perloff). Five (Adams, Bobbe, Franz, Horn, Jacobson) belong to unions. Two have served in the military (Jacobson and Skahen). Ages range from the twenties to the seventies. Two (Lauter, Perloff) have attended Camp Wellstone for training in political activism and campaign organization and two (Lowery and Most) have run campaigns. Although many of us worked in the non-profit sector, we have plenty of experience in government and business as well.

The Board does a lot of the heavy lifting in an organization like ours, but we hope to see strong committee participation from our membership. While we have identified some committee chairs, there are several chair openings, notably for the Elections and Fundraising Committees, and membership is open on all committees. We have considered adding some new committees (Legislative Watch, Parades, and Youth) if there is sufficient interest. This is discussed in the article on page 3. We encourage you to get in on the ground floor of these organizations and shape their work for the coming elections.

Our attention must be sharply focused this year to deal with the sheer number of elections: partisan elections in which there will be Democratic candidates, and non-partisan elections in which we support one of the candidates—the WI Supreme Court and Superintendent of Education in April 2009, and the Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. House, WI Senate and WI Assembly all in 2010!

We have already begun to raise money to support candidates for these offices. Now we need the volunteers to begin staffing the office, making calls and dropping literature! Please be as active as possible in keeping Door County blue in 2009-2010.

Give any member of the Board or committee chair a call to let us know what you can do for your County!

“Frost/Nixon” Fundraiser to be Held in Late January

The tentative date is Tuesday, January 27th at 2:00 PM, for a private showing for Door Dems of “Frost/Nixon”, the movie version of the award-winning Broadway play.

Based upon the dramatic interview of ex-president Nixon by David Frost, in which he discusses “Watergate”, it reminds us of the

seductive nature of power. The showing will be at the Sturgeon Bay Cinema, 1820 Alabama St. Although a fundraiser for your DPDC, admission will be only \$10 per person and will include a soft drink and popcorn (less than the cost of a public showing plus refreshments). Come out, join your fellow Dems and see this first-run drama!

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

- Jan 20 **Inauguration Watch Party and Community Service**, Ladder House, upper level (38 S. 3rd Ave.), 10:00 AM. See article p. 1.
- Jan 20 **Inaugural Celebration**, The Door County Outpost and Cafe, 4690 Rainbow Ridge Court, Egg Harbor, 5:00 PM. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at special bargain prices. The inaugural address will be replayed on a 100 inch screen for those who could not view it earlier. For more info call 920-868-4321 (This event is not sponsored by the DPDC, but we thought you might wish to know about it).
- Jan 22 **January membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM. State Senator Dave Hansen will speak. See the article p. 1.
- Jan 27 (?) **"Frost/Nixon" Private Showing Fundraiser**, Sturgeon Bay Cinema, 1820 Alabama St., 2:00 PM. See article p. 2.

FEBRUARY

- Feb 12 **Executive Board meets**, Party office (62 S. 3rd Ave.) 6:00 PM. DPDC members welcome to attend.
- Feb 26 **February membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM. Patti Podgers will present a first-hand view of the presidential inauguration.

MARCH

- Mar 12 **Executive Board meets**, Party office (62 S. 3rd Ave.) 6:00 PM. DPDC members welcome to attend.
- Mar 22 **8th Congressional District Fundraiser**, Riverside Ballroom, 1560 Main St., Green Bay, 1:00 PM. Details in the February newsletter.
- Mar 26 **March membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM., Local candidate presentations and selection of resolutions to be forwarded to 8th CD.

Our Working Committees

Our standing committees are responsible for much of the activity of our Party. We are reorganizing our committees for the upcoming election cycle. Please volunteer for one or more committees described below.

Communications provides publicity for meetings and events; publishes the monthly Newsletter; and maintains and updates the web site (and blog); Jim Adams, Bill Perloff and Dennis Skahen currently share leadership responsibility for these tasks.

Elections seeks potential Democratic candidates for partisan and non-partisan offices; provides poll watchers for elections; makes sure that DPDC policies are in compliance with state laws. The Chair is currently open.

Events plans and executes activities (parades, fundraisers, special events and annual traditions such as the picnic, pie party, booyah dinner, the County Fair). Challoner Brown will continue as Chair, but we hope to divide the group into sub-committees. This has traditionally been the largest committee.

Fundraising designs special events such as silent auctions, bag raffles, house parties and dinners, either for the Party itself or for the candidates. It is also solicits contributions from individuals. The Chair is currently open.

Issues, Resolutions and Surveys identifies issues for the county to present to the 8th Congressional District in the form of 10 Resolutions each winter. These compete with other counties' entries to form the 10 Resolutions to be sent forward to the State Convention in June. Phil Hansotia will continue to chair. This group also writes letters to the editors of NE Wisconsin newspapers, and monitors legislators' performance. (We may form a separate Legislative Watch Committee if there is sufficient interest.)

Membership keeps the constantly changing record of members' addresses and contact information, and pursues growth in our membership, up to 293 members in 2008. Our goal is to increase our membership from unions and among the county's youth, since the Party welcomes members at age 14! Olivia Lowery has agreed to chair the committee this year.

Program is new this year. This group, chaired by Jim Adams and Dennis Skahen, will propose programs for the membership meetings, make arrangements for the speakers and the rooms, and work with the Board to represent the needs of our constituents.

In addition to standing committees we have *ad hoc* committees for nominations, revision of our constitution and other occasional tasks.

Pie Party a Tasty, Energizing Success

Despite a winter storm, our second annual Pie Party Fundraiser and membership meeting attracted 35 hungry, loyal Democrats to Bjorklunden for a fun-filled evening.

First priority for attendees was sampling the huge assortment of pies contributed by our members, and selecting among the beautiful pies contributed by local bakeries for the bag raffle.

The first order of business was to present the Bernie Connolly Volunteer Award to Irene Newkirk in appreciation for her yeoman effort in staffing the Party office every weekday during the campaign season.

Then, after a brief "pep talk" from Bill Perloff about the need to stay focused for the upcoming 2009-10 elections, Ben Meyer talked about running for election and what is involved in holding local office (Sturgeon Bay City Council and Door County Supervisor).

Melissa Huizenga, incoming Chair of the Kewaunee County Democratic Party spoke about her plans for the revitalized Kewaunee Dems.

The featured speaker of the evening was Tom Nelson, the new Assembly majority leader now that the Assembly is Democrat-controlled. He emphasized how the turnaround in districts that usually vote Republican demonstrates that campaigns and candidates really do matter.

He discussed the economic issues facing the legislature, and that the projected stimulus package will include funds for infrastructure that will bring as much as \$700 million to N.E. Wisconsin. Tom's energy and enthusiasm inspired all who were there.

Officers and Executive Board members were elected with six continuing from previously and six new members. They are introduced by Co-Chair Estella Lauter in her message on page 2.

The photo vignettes below give some flavor (forgive the pun) of the meeting, enjoyed by all.



Enjoying the pies



Ben Meyer



Rep. Tom Nelson



Melissa Huizenga



Co-Chair Estella Lauter (Rt.) presenting Bernie Connolly Award to Irene Newkirk



The new Board (from lt.): John Franz, Rod Bohn, Michelle Jacobson, Dennis Skahen, Jim Adams, Mary Horn, Estella Lauter, Bill Perloff. Not shown: Terry Bobbe, Olivia Lowery, Charlie Most, Patti Podgers.