



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

January, 2008 Newsletter

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January Membership Meeting Highlights

Protecting Wisconsin's Children: School-Funding Reform

WI State Assembly Candidates Will Also Speak

An exciting program will kick off our first membership meeting of Election Year '08, as we **"Get ready, get set, GO"**.

Mr. Tom Beebe of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES) and the Institute for Wisconsin's Future (IWF) will provide a critical look at the need for school-funding reform and a plan to achieve it. Topics to be discussed include:

- The challenges facing Wisconsin's children and schools
- How schools are funded
- How districts are coping with revenue problems
- What we expect from our schools
- A new idea - adequate funding for all children
- Investing in the futures of our children and schools



Tom Beebe

Mr. Beebe is a journalism graduate of UW-Madison, and became the youngest newspaper publisher in the state when he purchased the Fennimore Times in 1974. He has served as assistant to two Superintendents of Public Instruction, and coordinated the "School Performance Report", the state's educational accountability tool. He was also a member of the Fort Atkinson School Board for six years.

Since 2000 Mr. Beebe has been a staff member for WAES, a diverse, statewide coalition of 150 organizations working toward comprehensive school-funding reform. He also serves as an outreach specialist for IWF, a statewide non-partisan policy research and community education organization. WAES and IWF have joined forces to address the critical need to fund our schools so that *all* children will have the opportunity to succeed, no matter their special needs.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear brief remarks from the two declared Democratic candidates for the 1st Assembly District Seat in the State Legislature, which includes Door and most of Kewaunee Counties. They are:

Christopher Baeb, a lifetime resident of Luxemburg. Chris works at the Proctor and Gamble paper mill, is active in the union there and head of the Union Committee on Political Education. He is married with two children. He characterizes himself as "A working class guy... Working for You".



Chris Baeb

Richard Skare, owner of The Cookery restaurant in Fish Creek and community activist. Dick has served as a member and chair of the Gibraltar Town Board, as well as a director of numerous civic organizations. He is married with two adult children. He considers himself a problem solver.



Dick Skare

There will be a chance to hear a short statement from each about their reasons for running and the issues that are most important to them. This is only an introduction to the candidates. We will have many more opportunities to get to know them better.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

January Membership Meeting, Thursday, January 24, 2008, 7:00 PM, Sturgeon Bay Library, basement meeting room. See article on page 1. The Executive Board will meet at 5:30.

Deadline for submission of resolution topics to Resolutions Committee, Friday, January 25, 2008. See article below.

February Membership Meeting and Fundraiser, Sunday, February 17, 2008, 4:00-6:00 PM, the Ladder House Restaurant upper floor, 38 S. 3rd Avenue, Sturgeon Bay. Presidential Primary Mock Debate Fundraiser. See article in adjacent column. **Note change in date and time from 4th Thurs.**

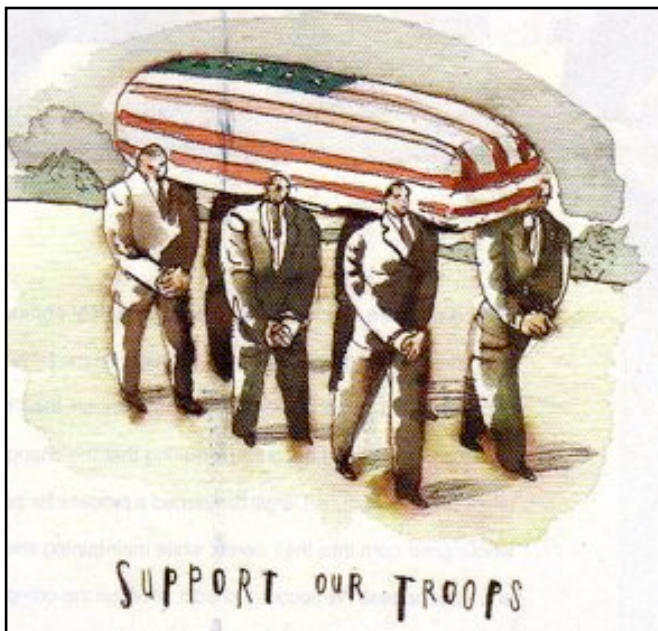
Democratic Presidential Primary Election, Tuesday, February 19, 2008. Be sure to vote.

March Membership Meeting, Thursday March 27, 2008, 7:00 PM, Nasewaupée Town Hall, Discuss and vote on resolutions to be submitted to the 8th CD Convention; Democratic National Convention Delegate selection training.

Deadline for submission of Declaration of Candidacy forms for would-be delegates to the Democratic National Convention, Sunday, April 4, 2008. See adjacent article.

First tier (County) Caucuses for delegate selection for the Democratic National Convention, Tuesday, April 6, 2008, 2:00 PM. Location TBD.

Second tier (Congressional District) Caucuses for delegate selection, Wednesday, May 4, 2008. Location TBD.



By Barry Blitt

From *The Atlantic*, November 2007

Selection Process Begins for Delegates to the Democratic National Convention

Would you like to be one of the 48 at-large WI delegates to the Democratic National Convention, August 25-28, 2008, in Denver CO?

The process is complex (we will provide a detailed description of the steps in the February newsletter), but starts with accessing the Declaration of Candidacy and Pledge of Support forms from the DPW website: www.wisdems.org. These must be filed with the State Party by April 4th.

On April 6th, the 1st tier (County level) caucuses will be held to select delegate candidates from each county. On May 4th, the 2nd tier (Congressional District) caucuses will select from the county caucus delegate candidates the delegates to submit to the State convention.

Final selection of delegates and alternates will be made at the State convention, June 13-14, 2008, in Stevens Point.

Prior to the 1st tier caucuses, the State Party will provide training sessions to the County and CD (dates TBD) to help ensure that the selection process is carried out correctly.

Delegates are expected to pay their own expenses for travel, food and lodging at the convention.

Presidential "Candidates" to Debate at February Meeting/Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for **Sunday February 17th**, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, at the Ladder House, two days before the WI Democratic Presidential Primary, for a chance to hear (indirectly) from the presidential candidates seeking your support in the primary election. There will also be a "white donkey (elephant?)" silent auction.

Surrogate candidates, highly knowledgeable in the candidates' views and positions on issues, will debate and answer your questions with the goal of winning your vote.

Will the straw vote at the end of the meeting presage the results of the WI primary election? Come and participate and find out.

The debate serves three important purposes:

1. We will come away from the debates more knowledgeable about each candidate's views and plans, and better equipped to make a decision on February 19th.
2. The \$10 admission fee and "white donkey" auction will help your Door County Dems provide strong support to our slate of local, state and national candidates
3. We'll have fun and fellowship!

Message from the Chair:**Get Ready, Get Set, GO! Play a Role in this Historic Election**

This year progressive Democrats could make a more significant difference than has been possible for decades.

As the editors of *The Nation* point out (“Election ‘08” in the 1/ 7-14 / 08 issue, printed December 19, 2007), we have already brought about something that was unthinkable as recently as 2004. The leading Democratic candidates are all able to speak proactively about global warming, withdrawal from Iraq, health care *for everyone*, a foreign policy based on diplomacy, workers’ rights, and the responsibility of government to meet the needs of all its citizens (p.1).

Still, issues surrounding immigration policy and the “war on terror” remain dangerous, and a number of important issues have insufficient traction—namely, a genuinely progressive tax policy, the need for public investment in schools and infrastructure, reorientation of the criminal justice system, a plan to reverse media consolidation (p.2), investment in “green” energies to stimulate the economy, alternatives to the “free” market economy for corporations, and so on.

The Nation’s editors chose not to endorse any one candidate because, in view of these omissions, “what is needed most now . . . is a movement to surround the candidate, to brace his or her resolve, to press for the best platform and to hold him or her accountable for implementing it if elected” (p.2).

Like the voters recently polled by Democracy for America and other progressive organizations, they favor Dennis Kucinich’s proposals, but he has not mobilized the popular support they think is necessary to achieve a fully progressive realignment.



**Estella Lauter,
DPDC Chair**

The article finds much to admire in each of the three frontrunners, but also notes causes for concern, and ends with the hope that “a progressive insurgency will make its influence even more deeply felt” in the coming weeks of 2008, when “no matter which candidate is chosen, progressives will have to build the public support” not simply to win the election but to transform the country (p.6).

From this point of view, we may thank Iowa and New Hampshire for *not* sewing up the nomination and thereby allowing the media to narrow our Platform to a few talking points selected by pundits and pollsters.

Our job is to keep up the pressure on our candidate of choice, on the media, and on the electorate to clarify the real differences among positions until we are sure that the person who is elected will do what needs to be done to restore equality, social justice and opportunity to *all* citizens (among other progressive values).

Wisconsin voters will have the opportunity to speak on February 19th after carefully observing the other primaries and articulating *our* criteria for change.

You can be part of the movement envisioned by *The Nation* in many ways: by participating in the debate we have planned for the Door Dems on February 17th (described on page 2 above); by registering to vote in the WI Primary on the 19th and voting; by speaking out clearly about your reasons for supporting a candidate (so that they are not distorted after the primary to fit some pundit’s theory); by participating in the process of making Resolutions for the WI Democratic Party at our March meeting; and by expressing your values actively in the Democratic campaigns during the spring, summer and fall.

This is the beginning of an exciting year. Take whatever part you can! Help us remake our country’s future!

“White Donkey” Items Needed

The featured “white donkey” (surely *not* a white elephant) silent auction at our February fundraiser needs quality donated items that someone else may treasure.

Please gather a few items that others might want and bring them to the February 17th debate and fundraiser at the Ladder House. We will add them to our silent auction, proceeds to benefit the Door County Dems.

Also, come prepared to bid on items you like, so that no one goes home empty-handed.

Democratic Leadership Institute Ahead

The State Democratic Party will conduct another Democratic Leadership Institute (DLI) this Spring (date TBD). With tracks for training youth, activists and candidates, the two-day DLI trains tomorrow’s Democratic leaders in the practical aspects of effective campaigns as well as inspiring and motivating them. It is a great experience!

The DPDC offers scholarship support to a high-school or college age activist to attend the DLI. Please contact Estella Lauter (839-2741) with nominations.

Time for Membership Renewal

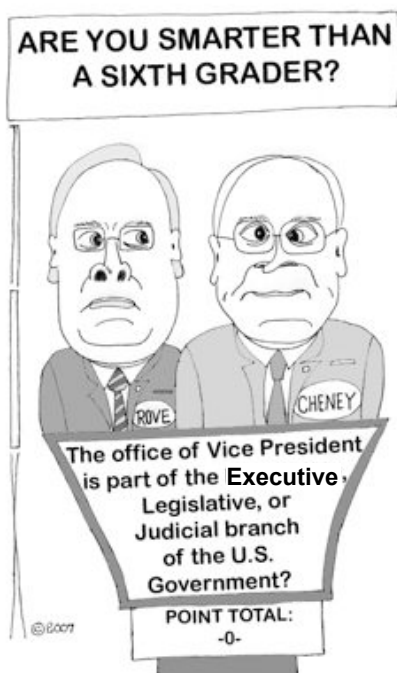
NOW is the time to renew your membership in the Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC) for 2008 if you have not yet done so.

This is **really important** because the number of delegates from Door County to the Congressional District and State Party conventions is determined in part by the number of **paid-up** members for 2008.

The renewal form is on this page. Please print out the form and mail it to our DPDC P.O. box (the address is on the form). If you have received a renewal card from the State Democratic Party, please fill out the card and **return it to the Democratic Party of Door County at our P.O. box.**

Renew now, and please feel free to make a generous donation to our local Party in addition to your membership dues. We are required to split members' dues with the State Party. Donations to the DPDC stay in Door County. Thank you.

A special "thank you" to the 110 new and renewing members who have already renewed for 2008!



Bumper Stickers I Wish I Had Authored

- Bush: End of an Error
- That's OK, I Wasn't Using My Civil Liberties Anyway
- Let's Fix Democracy in this Country First
- If You Want a Nation Ruled By Religion, Move to Iran.
- If You Can Read This, You're Not Our President
- Of Course It Hurts: You're Getting Screwed by an Elephant
- Hey, Bush Supporters: Embarrassed Yet?
- George Bush: Creating the Terrorists Our Kids Will Have to Fight
- America: One Nation, Under Surveillance
- They Call Him "W" So He Can Spell It
- Jail to the Chief
- No, Seriously, Why Did We Invade Iraq?
- Bush: God's Way of Proving Intelligent Design is baloney
- Bad President! No Banana.
- We Need a President Who's Fluent In At Least One Language
- We're Making Enemies Faster Than We Can Kill Them
- Bush Doesn't Care About White People, Either
- Where Are We Going? And Why Are We In This Handbasket?
- You Elected Him. You Deserve Him.
- When Bush Took Office, Gas Was \$1.46
- Pray For Impeachment
- The Republican Party: Our Bridge to the 11th Century
- What Part of "Bush Lied" Don't You Understand?
- One Nation Under Clod
- At Least Nixon Resigned

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