



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

July, 2008 Newsletter

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Our Coordinated Campaign Office is Open! Gala Formal Opening On July 26th to Feature Local and CD Notables

Your Door County Dems have opened an office for the campaign season jointly with the Obama, Kagen, Baeb and Skare campaigns. Located at 62 S. 3rd Avenue, the space is serving as a Coordinated Campaign Office. This arrangement represents a relatively new concept in organizing campaigns. Instead of each campaign having an office entirely on its own, we are linking the offices and sharing the resources. Instead of declaring a hands-off approach before the Primary in the Assembly race, we are supporting both candidates equally.

The Party is serving as the umbrella organization. That is, we rented the office space, paid the deposit, arranged for the internet connection and phones, and so on. The campaigns will pay some of the rent and will reimburse us for calls. There will be some times when each campaign retreats into its own space. But for the most part, we will work together in the Party office on the tasks that serve all the campaigns—calls, mailings, signs, voter registration--whatever. There will always be something to do when you come to the office. And it will always be for a candidate you may vote for—not someone in another part of the country. We have plenty to do right here.

For us, the concept is an outgrowth of the Wellstone approach to elections, which presents the process of electing candidates as a three-legged stool: the energetic candidate with a fire in the belly to make a difference; the campaign organization to help the candidate win; and access to the issues of the community. If we have one but not the other two, we are unlikely to win.

The Party has been raising consciousness about, and working on issues since the beginning of 2005. We are joining with the campaigns to develop our skills in support of candidates from the Presidential to the House to the Assembly races, and to the County if anyone steps forward for offices there.

The offices are open, volunteers are busy, and much work is under way. The DPDC is a reservoir of volunteers to help support all of our candidates. We must, and will, produce a Democratic sweep in November.

A formal opening is planned for Saturday, July 26. The opening will be one of 100 events on that day throughout Wisconsin in support of Barack Obama for President. Featured guests will be Sturgeon Bay Mayor, Tom Voegelé, County Board Supervisor, Ben Meyer, Gail Kagen, wife of Congressman Kagen, and our two candidates for the Democratic nomination for the 1st Assembly District, Chris Baeb and Dick Skare. Come and visit the facilities, share some refreshments, and learn how you can help.

The office is located between the 3rd Avenue Cafe and The Red Room, and opens onto 3rd Avenue in front and the large city parking lot in back.

The Wellstone program has another triad for us to remember. The winning campaign has three elements: money, volunteers and time. Of those three, time is the most crucial because it is finite. Therefore, we urge you to participate NOW in the campaigns and to encourage your friends to become active as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

JULY

- July 26 **Carlsville Parade**, 10:00 AM. Assemble at 9:00 at Schopf Dairy on County I, a mile east of Rte. 42 .
- July 26 **DPDC Coordinated Campaign Office Grand Opening**, at the Party Office, 62 S. 3rd Avenue, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. See article on page 1.
- July 27 **Forestville Parade**, 11:00 AM. Assemble at 10:00 at County J and Mill Rd., near the Forestville Dam.
- July 31 **DPDC Membership meeting**, Bertschinger Center, Rte. 42, Egg Harbor, 7:00 PM. (**Note change from 4th Thursday**) John Herms and Shirene Hansotia, CIA counter-terrorism specialists, will present a program on "Spies Like Us. See adjacent article.

AUGUST

- Aug 26 **League of Women Voters Assembly Candidate Forum**, Sturgeon Bay City Hall, 7:00 PM. This will feature the two Democratic (Chris Baeb and Dick Skare) and one Republican candidates. Come and support our Democrats.
- Aug 28 **Obama nomination acceptance speech party**, Ladder House, 38 S. 3rd Ave, upper level, 8:00 PM. In lieu of our regular membership meeting, we'll watch the convention and Senator Obama's acceptance speech in the company of fellow Democrats. Cost is \$10 for refreshments. There will be a cash bar.

SEPTEMBER

- Sept 4 **September membership meeting**, place TBA, 7:00 PM (**Note change in date from 4th Thursday**), Assembly Candidate Forum. Our two candidates for the Democratic nomination for 1st Assembly, Chris Baeb and Dick Skare will make presentations and answer questions submitted by the audience. **Mark your calendars!!**

OCTOBER

- Oct 16 **Democratic Unity Rally**, At the Ladder House, 38 S. 3rd Ave, upper level, 7:00 PM. Details to follow, but save the date.

CIA Operatives to Present at July Membership Meeting

The July membership meeting will feature CIA operatives John Herms and Shirene Hansotia in "Spies Like Us", a discussion of their work at the CIA over the past 20 years, and insights into contemporary national intelligence issues. Our speakers are eminently qualified to address these topics.

John Herms graduated from The Citadel in 1973. He served in the US Army in Special Forces (Green Berets) and as a helicopter pilot. In 1982 he joined the CIA where he conducted covert action operations in over 30 foreign countries including the Afghan/Soviet War, conflicts in Central America, the Yemen Civil War, the first Gulf War, Somalia, Haiti, the Balkans, and numerous counterinsurgency, counterterrorist, and counternarcotics operations.

As a senior manager in the Agency, he commanded all of the CIA's covert aviation units. After the first Gulf War, he served as a United Nations inspector in Iraq searching for weapons of mass destruction. He is currently serving as an intelligence contractor working in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Shirene Hansotia is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison with degrees in Journalism and Political Science, and from Michigan State University with a Master's in Public Administration. She worked as a journalist in Michigan, as an analyst and writer on welfare reform issues for the Congressional Research Service, and as a community and economic development representative for HUD specializing on low-income housing and poverty issues in Chicago and in the San Francisco Bay area.

In 1999, she joined the CIA, working as a covert operations analyst both at CIA headquarters and abroad, focusing on counterterrorism issues in Africa and the Middle East. She worked in Ethiopia, at Central Command Headquarters in Doha, Qatar, providing intelligence to senior military commanders fighting the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and most recently as an instructor at the CIA's covert training facility. She is also the author of "*Don't Crash My Party!*" a policy roadmap for the Democratic Party, published in 2007. Ms. Hansotia gave a very well received presentation excerpting her book at our November, 2007, membership meeting.

Come to the Bertschinger Center in Egg Harbor on July 31st at 7:00 PM to learn more about the world of covert operations and intelligence gathering.

Message from the Chair:**The Perfect is (Usually) the Enemy of the Good**

I don't know who first said the words in my title, but they seem made to order for the situation we are experiencing in the runup to Election '08. Since the Senate vote on a new FISA bill last week, questions about Barack Obama have been flying across the air waves. No one questions his commitment to civil rights and civil liberties, but exactly what compromises is he willing to make in order to win this election? And what might those actions mean for his Presidency?



**Estella Lauter,
DPDC Chair**

These are reasonable questions that his campaign needs to address, but one good result that his shift from vision to strategy might have is to remind us that no candidate is perfect. We are not electing a messiah. The change that he has promised is not threatened by any statement of policy he has made or will make; it is already under way as a result of his candidacy—in the increased attention of ordinary Americans to the real problems we face as a nation instead of the largely private issues so deliberately crafted by Karl Rove and his ilk in the last two national elections.

When you listen carefully to Obama, his message is not that he has God's ear, or a magic bullet, or a foolproof program for putting the country back on its feet again. The change he promises is in how we will do things—together. That was the secret of his campaign during the primaries, and it is very much in evidence in his pre-Convention organization.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, Door County shares an Obama field organizer with Oconto and Kewaunee. She will make sure that you are contacted before the election and given the opportunity to do something for the campaign. If you accept, you will learn some skills that can be applied to other elections. Whatever the outcome of this Presidential election, in other words, Democrats will have engaged more people than have been involved in the political process since the Sixties.

So why did Obama not stand firmly against a law that would grant immunity to the phone and internet companies that practiced illegal wiretapping—a law that undermines the freedom of citizens to dissent, to express their disagreement in speech and writing, and to defend themselves with a gun if necessary!

Senator Feingold speculated at a fund raising event in the county last week that Obama felt the pressure shared by many Democrats to avoid the accusation of being soft on terrorism—a charge so off-base that it is hard to believe anyone can take it seriously. But of course, a similar charge against John Kerry gave us a new vocabulary for the tactic of attacking a candidate's strength in the media until even the most outrageous slurs gained credibility. We say that the candidate has been "swift-boated." The RNC raised \$100 million in June for ads like that. Having made the commitment not to accept funds from lobbyists in order to make campaign financing reflect the will of ordinary people, Obama can't take on all the other issues that progressives would like. He will have to choose his battles carefully.

As progressives, we are between the proverbial rock and hard place in situations like this one. We must not lose this Presidential election. McCain has been a favorite of the press corps ever since he began to wine and dine them before the election in 2000. The press is feeling the pressure of the internet, so it plays up every possible question about the frontrunner (Obama) and ignores the missteps by the underdog (the so-called maverick—in personality perhaps if not in beliefs and policies). Thus, last week the news buzzed with Jesse Jackson's pugnacious stance toward Obama, and this week the most popular story after the Fed's decision to prop up another huge private industry with public funds seems to have been the cover of *The New Yorker*.

Meanwhile, McCain got a pass on several crucial issues. Did you hear any brouhaha about his remark that Social Security is "an absolute disgrace"? Or his statement that the Maliki government's desire for American withdrawal from Iraq would not affect his determination to keep troops in Iraq indefinitely. I heard him say that he knows how to win a war (and especially the war in Iraq), but the necessary follow-up questions and answers were missing from the report. And then there is his continuing confusion about the players in the Middle East.

To be sure, *The New Yorker's* mistake in judgment deserves attention too. The editor and artist seem to have posited a society like Jonathan Swift's that was sufficiently familiar with satire to look for the implied ideal without being prompted. In our time, however, when "free speech" now involves permission to lie and repeat lies until they are accepted as true, the appearance of this cover on newsstands all over the world is downright

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dangerous. Given the similarities between this piece and the Rove tradition (don't let your Republican friends put the image on a t-shirt!), we can't completely rule out the possibility that the cover was bought. With so few investigative reporters on the job and so many media events to cover, how will we ever know?

Within this context, Democrats cannot expect that Obama or any other liberal candidate to be entirely forthcoming about and uniformly faithful to his or her core political beliefs once the campaigns move outside their supportive audiences. No one can win a contested election without enlisting Independents and members of another Party.

Most Democrats applaud Obama's intention to negotiate with the leaders whom Bush has labelled and dismissed as "enemies." Negotiation implies at least two different positions that must be reconciled in order for either party to move forward. It looks as if we may need to grant him the same right at home. There will probably be more gestures like the one extended to religious organizations to compete

for public funds. They may or may not work out. Obama's strengths as a community organizer and active problem-solver have put him in an enviable position to restore the art of compromise to our gridlocked government.

It seems fair to say that Americans are not as accomplished at strategies of diplomacy, negotiation and compromise as we are with conflicts that result in winners and losers. But maybe to win in this case, we need to be willing to negotiate.

The President and the government we get in 2009 may not be perfect. As Feingold said last week, the country's problems are not going to be solved immediately. But if Obama succeeds in bringing us into the process of government as partners instead of consumers, bystanders and couch potatoes, the results may be very good.

Join in the campaigns. There is something for everyone to do at different times and in different places throughout the county. The process won't be perfect, but it will be really good.

Meet Our New Field Organizers

If you have been to our new office lately, you have undoubtedly seen two young women working hard on the phones or computers, or poring over lists, or teaching volunteers how to do the myriad tasks of the coordinated campaigns. They are our field organizers.

Carrie Chesnik, on the left, is the Door County field organizer for the Obama Campaign for Change (CFC). A Wisconsin native, she started a long career in progressive politics



as a child by helping her parents put out McGovern yard signs. Carrie lives in Appleton, and is in the DPDC office part of most days.

Olivia Lowery is the Door and Kewaunee County field organizer for the Kagen campaign. Raised in Door County, she is a graduate of Gibraltar School and UWGB (majoring in political science, of course). She has worked on several Democratic campaigns, including Jim Soletski's successful bid for the 88th Assembly District seat.

These representatives of the two campaigns have integrated with our coordinated campaign smoothly, and have helped to ramp up our voter contact activity level. Please welcome them when you see them in the office.

The State Convention: Upbeat

At its statewide Convention in Stevens Point on June 13-14, Democratic Party of Wisconsin featured speeches by senators Feingold and Kohl, Representatives Baldwin, Kagen, Kind, Moore and Obey, Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton and Gov. Doyle. Although each speech had been prepared independently, the themes of unity, hope, change and belief in the resurgence of the Democratic Party were evident in all.

The theme of unity was sounded by all, but most significant from Rep. Tammy Baldwin and Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, both of whom had worked hard on Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign. Both thanked Clinton for her historic campaign but expressed enthusiasm for the nomination of Sen. Obama.

At the state level, resurgent democrats are running candidates in 91 of the 99 Assembly districts for the first time in 24 years. Winning a majority in the Assembly this fall would mean, for example, that progressive bills such as the one for "Healthy Wisconsin" that passed in the Senate last year could become law.

Gov. Doyle emphasized that Wisconsin carries a big responsibility in the presidential election as one of the 4-6 states that will likely decide the result.

No one there thought that it will be easy to win the majority in the Assembly, increase the majority in the state Senate and in the House, and win the White House in November, but everyone expressed the belief that "Yes, we can!"

Democrats are Active at Parades Throughout the District

The parade season is in full swing, and the DPDC and Democratic candidates are establishing a strong presence in local parades throughout the County. Little Sturgeon, Baileys Harbor, Egg Harbor, and Brussels are only a few of the recent

ones. We have been well received, with many requests for our literature from members of the crowds of parade watchers. The photos below are a small sampling of marchers and floats for the DPDC and our local candidates.



Our banner leads the way



Harry and Judy Porter with the DPDC float



**Massed Kagen supporters
(Field organizer Olivia is starting her 4-year-old daughter in politics at an early age)**



Baeb campaign truck and young supporters



No one will fail to see the Skare sign