



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

June, 2008 Newsletter

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## Fun(d)raiser a Huge Success

What a great party! Seventy-five members and supporters of our DPDC shared a festive, fun-filled and inspiring evening. Organized by Barbara Perloff with assistance from Challoner Brown, Laurel Brooks, Jim Adams and a host of volunteers, the affair had something for everyone.

High point of the evening was a stirring speech by Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton. She expressed optimism that we would soon have a Democratic President who "sees government as a force for good rather than an object of contempt". She also predicted Democratic majorities in our State Senate and Assembly.

She identified key state issues which need to be addressed in the next biennium including: universal health care; quality schools; opportunity for all for post-high school education; and implementation of the Great Lakes Compact, so essential to our environment and economy. Lt. Gov. Lawton was frequently interrupted by applause and was accorded a standing ovation by the enthusiastic crowd.



**Some of the 75 attendees**



**Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton**

The evening was made all the more inspiring by dramatic presentations of excerpts from speeches by notable Democratic activists made by members of the DPDC. In a program conceived by Laurel Brooks, the speeches reminded us of our roots, nourished by commitments to fairness (see Estella Lauter's editorial), equality for all, and our responsibility for the common good. Famous Democrats present in spirit were: Bella Abzug, represented by Patti Podgers; Mario Cuomo, represented by David Clowers; Dennis Kucinich, represented by Dana Brooks; John Kennedy, represented by Laurel Brooks; and Jesse Jackson, represented by Allin Walker.



**Patti "Abzug" Podgers and Dana "Kucinich" Brooks**

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## Upcoming Events

### JUNE

Jun 13-14 **Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention**, Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center, June 13-14. See article on page 4.

June 22 **Little Sturgeon Parade.** Assemble 10:00 AM at Hwy C and CC (at Little Brown Jug Tavern). Parade starts at 11:00. We need at least six volunteers to march, carry our banner and hand out stickers. Please come and show our strength. Call Peter Sigmann to volunteer ([peter@sigmann.net](mailto:peter@sigmann.net), or 920-824-5193).

Jun 26 **DPDC Membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, lower level meeting room, 7:00 PM. Activist training for DPDC members and campaign volunteers (see article on page 4). Executive Board will meet at 5:30.

June 28 **Olde Ellison Bay Days Parade.** Assemble at the Shepherd of the Bay Church, Rte. 42 south of Ellison Bay at 10:00 AM. The Parade starts at 11:00. Six volunteers are needed. Please call Wally and Rita Brandt to volunteer (920-854-4078).

### JULY

July 4 **Baileys Harbor Parade.** This is the big one. Assemble on Summit Rd., just off Rte. 57 at the south end of town at 9:00 AM. The parade begins at 10:00. Six volunteers are needed. Please call Wally and Rita Brandt to volunteer (920-854-4078).

July 4 **Egg Harbor Parade.** Go from Baileys Harbor over to Church St., just off Cty. Rd. E in Egg Harbor. Assemble at 12:00-12:30. The parade begins at 1:00. Six volunteers are needed. Please call Wally and Rita Brandt to volunteer (920-854-4078).

July 31 **DPDC Membership meeting**, Bertschinger Center, Rte. 42, Egg Harbor, 7:00 PM. **(Note change from 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)** John Herms and Shirene Hansotia, former CIA analysts, will present a program on Inside the Intelligence World.

## Fun(d)raiser Continued from Page 1

Considerable humor, much of it raucous and wonderfully tasteless, was provided by YouTube videos selected by Jim Adams. Our President and his minions' foibles and failures were on display, accompanied by much laughter and commentary.

Many new and gently used items were for sale at the "White Donkey" silent auction, including a pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution inscribed and autographed by Senator Feingold. Bidding was intense. Winning bidders went home happy, and the silent auction brought in over \$1,000.

As a bonus for ten lucky raffle ticket holders, the beautiful geranium table decorations were given out at the end of the evening.

In addition to the fun and fellowship enjoyed by all, the "fun(d)raising" part of the evening was a great success. Proceeds from the event, more than \$1,700, will be used to help cover the expense of an office for the election season. Thanks to all who made the affair possible, and to all who attended.

## DPDC Presence Felt at Maifest

The Maifest Parade on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> was blessed with cool, fair weather, large crowds, and a strong Democratic presence. Led by our new 10 foot wide banner (photo below), Democrats were out in force representing the Party and Congressman Kagen (photo), who was present meeting and greeting, as were Assembly candidates Christopher Baeb and Dick Skare.



**Message from the Chair:****Fairness Above All**

By now everyone knows that the Democratic Party Rules and By-laws Committee (RBC) upheld the rules for the timing of selection of delegates to the 2008 National Convention that it drafted in 2005, passed in 2006 and reaffirmed in 2007. This is as it should be. RBC rules require that



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

non-compliance by any state must result in an "automatic, severe reduction in the number of delegates the state can send to the Convention."

Some will say that the decision to seat the full delegations from Florida and Michigan but to allow each delegate to cast only half a vote was not severe enough; others may think it is too severe. I think, however, that the decision was a statesmanlike compromise that seeks to include the two states (whose delegates did not directly disregard the rules) at the same time it sends the message that state parties cannot willfully disregard a Party's rules with no consequences.

The rule regarding the timing of primaries was neither new nor arbitrary. It reflected a longstanding decision to respect the state laws of Iowa and New Hampshire and not to allow other states to precede them. It reflected a consensus that the primary presidential primary season is already incredibly long and outrageously expensive compared with those of other democratic countries.

Although a Party can not dictate to a state when a primary or caucus takes place, it does have the Constitutionally-protected right to enforce its own rules. Those rules clearly say that the RBC may refuse to seat the delegates selected by a state that is found not to be in compliance with Party rules, or that it may force the state to hold an alternative Party-run process.

Each state had to submit its plan for the selection of delegates by May 2007, and each was judged in compliance or not in compliance with the rules by mid-September 2007. When Florida and Michigan were found not to be in compliance, apparently there was an additional agreement by all the candidates not to campaign in those primaries and (in most cases) not to be placed on the ballot in those states.

Although Ms. Clinton did not challenge the rules in September 2007, she later decided not to follow them, and recently she has asked in ways that are not much to her credit for their suspension. I do not find sufficient merit in her arguments to repeat them here, and I am much relieved that the RBC did not

cave in to the massive pressures that were mounted at the meeting.

After the debacle of 2000 and continuing questions about the fairness of the 2004 count in Ohio and other places, not to mention the ruthless campaign strategies that have characterized Republican politics since 2002 and the alarming tendency of the Clinton campaign to reproduce those tactics, fairness is paramount in this election.

This decision of the RBC was fairly made in an open meeting where there was time and opportunity for presentations of all points of view—in the tradition of the Democratic Party, which pledges in its rules "an open party."

There has been no sign of discrimination in the Party's exercise of this decision. The rules were made before the candidates appeared. No doubt they are not perfect, but they were democratically accepted and presented to the states and the candidates long before the primaries began.

As the Party discovered once before, in the election that pit Jimmy Carter against Ronald Reagan after Ted Kennedy's challenge to the rules failed at the Convention, there is a potentially high price to be paid if internecine disputes are carried too far. Democratic commitment to open discussion and transparency within the Party must not be extended to the point where we allow any one group of constituents to rip the Party apart with disastrous results for the country. We must be fair not only to our members but also to voters at large.

I speak as a woman who devoted my professional life since 1972 to the study of and advocacy for women's issues, but I also speak as the chair of our Door County Democratic Party. Although I have waited more than 30 years for a viable woman candidate for the presidency of the US, I am appalled by the risks that some of Clinton's feminist supporters are apparently willing to take in the service of this desire. The election of this one woman is not in any way comparable to the fight we must energize for choice, equality in access to health care, the eradication of poverty, an end to the idea that war is the answer to every problem between nations.

Any of the Democratic candidates in this election cycle was better equipped to lead these fights than any Republican we can imagine, to say nothing about John McCain. There are plenty of significant historical roles left for Clinton to play with distinction. At this point in world history, after women have had the opportunity to lead several countries, we cannot justify the belief that only a woman can address women's issues, or that any woman will do that better than a man.

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## Fairness Above All, Continued from Page 3

The most important role Clinton could play now in my view would be to work wholeheartedly to get the Democrat with the most delegates by mid-June elected to the White House so that we can all get on with the crucial task of re-creating a nation that is committed in deed as well as in word to the great principles on which it was founded.

One of the most important principles embedded in the Constitution, although it is not mentioned directly, is fairness (even in the horrifying decision to treat slaves as 3/5 of a person). Clinton has had a fair chance to win the nomination. If that does not happen in the primaries (which assign delegates on

### June Membership Meeting: What Wins Elections and How to do It

Do you want Democrats to win in November? Are you ready to help achieve victory for our State Assembly, Congressional and Presidential candidates, but aren't sure what to do? If so, you will want to attend our June membership meeting and find out the Why, What, When and How of volunteering in the election campaign season now under way.

Our Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC) will play a crucial role in supporting our candidates, especially by mobilizing volunteers, the heart and soul of every campaign. Members of Party leadership, and DPW N.E. Wisconsin field organizer, Terisa Lueth, will provide background and training in the wide variety of volunteer activities available. Simulations and role play will help give everyone the confidence to be effective volunteers.

Come to the meeting and find out how much fun and how rewarding it is to be part of a team with activities that range from marching in parades, to registering voters, to phone banking, to serving as a ward captain or neighborhood leader, to getting out the vote (GOTV). These are only a few of the ways each of us can help ensure that a progressive agenda is implemented at state and national levels.

There is great satisfaction in registering a new voter, or successfully encouraging a sporadic voter to go to the polls, especially when you are building support for our candidates.

Too busy to volunteer? Just remember this: the morning **after** the election will be too late to say, "I wish I had done more!"

The meeting will be Thursday, June 26, at the Bertschinger Center on Rte. 42 in Egg Harbor at 7:00 PM. Refreshments will be provided. Come on out and have fun learning some new skills.

the basis of the popular vote, state by state), she and her supporters must not be allowed to tear her Party apart.

The category of super delegates was not created to serve the will of any candidate but rather the good of the Party and the country *as a whole*. The rules were not made to be broken. In her campaign, Clinton has tried valiantly to convince us, among other things, that "experience is all." Instead, I think, fairness is much more important to Democrats across the nation—and perhaps also across the world.

### Attend 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 resolutions, and election of officers and DNC representatives.

Although we were entitled to send 21 delegates, only 14 have expressed interest and have been appointed. They are:

Jim Adams  
Eileen Bohn  
Rod Bohn  
Challoner Brown  
Holly Erskine  
Tim Erskine  
Gerri Friedberg  
Phil Hansotia  
Chuch Lauter  
Estella Lauter  
Kubie Luchterhand  
Barb Perloff  
Bill Perloff  
Diane Slivka

Members of our County Party who have been appointed as representatives of the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to State Convention Committees are:

Rod Bohn - Platform and Resolutions Comm.  
Estella Lauter - Platform and Resolutions  
Bill Perloff - Rules Committee

Although it is past the deadline for appointing delegates and alternates, any members of the Party may still attend the convention. It should be an energizing and exciting event and well worth the time. Contact Estella Lauter (920-839-2741, or [estella.lauter@gmail.com](mailto:estella.lauter@gmail.com)) for hotel information and to arrange carpooling.

## Did You Know? Candidates Present Striking Contrasts

Now that Senator Obama is the presumptive Democratic nominee, it is especially interesting to note the striking contrast between his priorities and approach with that of his Republican opponent. While not quite comparing “apples to apples” there is much to be gleaned from comparing Senator Obama’s speech following his achieving sufficient delegates to assure nomination, with Senator McCain’s statements and positions on many issues.

What follows are excerpts of Senator Obama’s speech. The complete text is at [www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91136971](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91136971).

“...This election isn’t just about the party in charge of Washington, it’s about the need to change Washington...”

“Change is a foreign policy that doesn’t begin and end with a war that should’ve never been authorized and never been waged...”

“We must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in - but start leaving we must. It’s time for Iraqis to take responsibility for their future. It’s time to rebuild our military and give our veterans the care they need and the benefits they deserve when they come home. It’s time to refocus our efforts on al Qaeda’s leadership and Afghanistan, and rally the world against the common threats of the 21st century – terrorism and nuclear weapons; climate change and poverty; genocide and disease. That’s what change is.

“Change is realizing that meeting today’s threats requires not just our firepower, but the power of our diplomacy... We must once again have the courage and conviction to lead the free world. That is the legacy of Roosevelt, and Truman, and Kennedy. That’s what the American people want...”

“Change is building an economy that rewards not just wealth, but the work and workers who created it. It’s understanding that the struggles facing working families can’t be solved by spending billions of dollars on more tax breaks for big corporations and wealthy CEOs, but by giving a the middle-class a tax break, and investing in our crumbling infrastructure, and transforming how we use energy, and improving our schools, and renewing our commitment to science and innovation. It’s understanding that fiscal responsibility and shared prosperity can go hand-in-hand...”

The other side will ... offer a very different set of policies and positions, and that is a debate I look forward to. It is a debate the American people deserve. ...What you won’t hear from this campaign or this party is the kind of politics that uses religion

as a wedge, and patriotism as a bludgeon—that sees our opponents not as competitors to challenge, but enemies to demonize. Because we may call ourselves Democrats and Republicans, but we are...always Americans first.

“...I have seen people of differing views and opinions find common cause many times during my two decades in public life, and I have brought many together myself. I’ve walked arm-in-arm with community leaders on the South Side of Chicago and watched tensions fade as black, white, and Latino fought together for good jobs and good schools. I’ve sat across the table from law enforcement and civil rights advocates to reform a criminal justice system that sent thirteen innocent people to death row. And I’ve worked with friends in the other party to provide more children with health insurance and more working families with a tax break; ... and to reduce the influence of lobbyists who have all too often set the agenda in Washington.

“...I have found that this cooperation happens not because we agree on everything, but because behind all the labels and false divisions and categories that define us..., Americans are a decent, generous, compassionate people, united by common challenges and common hopes. And every so often, there are moments which call on that fundamental goodness to make this country great again...”

“America, this is our moment. This is our time. Our time to turn the page on the policies of the past. Our time to bring new energy and new ideas to the challenges we face. Our time to offer a new direction for the country we love.

The journey will be difficult. The road will be long. I face this challenge with profound humility, and knowledge of my own limitations. But I also face it with limitless faith in the capacity of the American people. Because if we are willing to work for it, and fight for it, and believe in it, then I am absolutely certain that generations from now, we will be able to look back and tell our children that this was the moment when we began to provide care for the sick and good jobs to the jobless; this was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal; this was the moment when we ended a war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on Earth. This was the moment – this was the time – when we came together to remake this great nation so that it may always reflect our very best selves, and our highest ideals...”

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## Candidate Contrasts Continued from Page 5

Thanks to MoveOn.org for illuminating 10 of Senator McCain's votes and views that present a stark contrast to the vision Senator Obama expressed in the excerpts above. MoveOn entitles this list: **10 things you should know about John McCain (but probably don't)**

1. John McCain voted against establishing a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Now he says his position has "evolved," yet he's continued to oppose key civil rights laws.<sup>1</sup>
2. According to Bloomberg News, McCain is more hawkish than Bush on Iraq, Russia and China. Conservative columnist Pat Buchanan says McCain "will make Cheney look like Gandhi."<sup>2</sup>
3. His reputation is built on his opposition to torture, but McCain voted against a bill to ban waterboarding, and then applauded President Bush for vetoing that ban.<sup>3</sup>
4. McCain opposes a woman's right to choose. He said, "I do not support Roe versus Wade. It should be overturned."<sup>4</sup>
5. The Children's Defense Fund rated McCain as the worst senator in Congress for children. He voted against the children's health care bill last year, then defended Bush's veto of the bill.<sup>5</sup>
6. He's one of the richest people in a Senate filled with millionaires. The Associated Press reports he and his wife own at least eight homes! Yet McCain says the solution to the housing crisis is for people facing foreclosure to get a "second job" and skip their vacations.<sup>6</sup>
7. Many of McCain's fellow Republican senators say he's too reckless to be commander in chief. One Republican senator said: "The thought of his being president sends a cold chill down my spine. He's erratic. He's hotheaded. He loses his temper and he worries me."<sup>7</sup>
8. McCain talks a lot about taking on special interests, but his campaign manager and top advisers are actually lobbyists. The government watchdog group Public Citizen says McCain has 59 lobbyists raising money for his campaign, more than any of the other presidential candidates.<sup>8</sup>
9. McCain has sought closer ties to the extreme religious right in recent years. The pastor McCain calls his "spiritual guide," Rod Parsley, believes America's founding mission is to destroy Islam, which he calls a "false religion." McCain sought the political support of right-wing preacher John Hagee, who believes Hurricane Katrina was God's punishment for gay rights

and called the Catholic Church "the Antichrist" and a "false cult."<sup>9</sup>

10. He positions himself as pro-environment, but he scored a 0 — yes, zero — from the League of Conservation Voters last year.<sup>10</sup>

In case you needed motivation to work hard for Senator Obama's election, just re-read this list!

Sources for these tidbits of information are:

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2. "McCain More Hawkish Than Bush on Russia, China, Iraq," Bloomberg News, March 12, 2008 "Buchanan: John McCain 'Will Make Cheney Look Like Gandhi,'" ThinkProgress, February 6, 2008
3. "McCain Sides With Bush On Torture Again, Supports Veto Of Anti-Waterboarding Bill," ThinkProgress, February 20, 2008
4. "McCain says Roe v. Wade should be overturned," MSNBC, February 18, 2007
5. "2007 Children's Defense Fund Action Council® Nonpartisan Congressional Scorecard," February 2008  
"McCain: Bush right to veto kids health insurance expansion," CNN, October 3, 2007
6. "Beer Executive Could Be Next First Lady," Associated Press, April 3, 2008  
"McCain Says Bank Bailout Should End 'Systemic Risk,'" Bloomberg News, March 25, 2008
7. "Will McCain's Temper Be a Liability?," Associated Press, February 16, 2008  
"Famed McCain temper is tamed," *Boston Globe*, January 27, 2008
8. "Black Claims McCain's Campaign Is Above Lobbyist Influence: 'I Don't Know What The Criticism Is,'" ThinkProgress, April 2, 2008  
"McCain's Lobbyist Friends Rally 'Round Their Man," ABC News, January 29, 2008
9. "McCain's Spiritual Guide: Destroy Islam," *Mother Jones Magazine*, March 12, 2008  
"Will McCain Specifically 'Repudiate' Hagee's Anti-Gay Comments?," ThinkProgress, March 12, 2008  
"McCain 'Very Honored' By Support Of Pastor Preaching 'End-Time Confrontation With Iran,'" ThinkProgress, February 28, 2008
10. "John McCain Gets a Zero Rating for His Environmental Record," Sierra Club, February 28, 2008