



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

March, 2008 Newsletter

## Executive Board

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John Franz, Treasurer  
Ben Meyer, Past Chair  
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## Committees:

### **Communication:**

Jim Adams, Board liaison  
Phil Hansotia, Board liaison  
Bill Perloff, Board liaison  
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### **Elections:**

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### **Membership:**

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Allin Walker, Board liaison  
Chris Wendler

### **Issues, Resolutions, Survey:**

Phil Hansotia, Board liaison

### **Budget and Fundraising:**

Barb Perloff, Chair  
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## March Membership Meeting: Caucus Training, Candidates, and Resolutions

The March 27<sup>th</sup> membership meeting will seem like a DPDC version of "March Madness", chock full of important and informative activity. We will meet at the Nasewaupsee Town Hall, on County Rte. C across from the Southwest corner of Cherryland Airport, and will **start at 6:00 PM** because of the full agenda. Food will be served. Major agenda items are:

1. Presentations by candidates for contested "non-partisan" offices in the April 8<sup>th</sup> election. We have invited all candidates in contested elections to make a brief presentation to the membership. Find out who shares a progressive perspective. Offices and candidates invited are:

**Baileys Harbor Town Supervisor** - Barbara Anschutz, Robert Schultz, Bryn Skrivanie-LeClair.

**Gardner Town Supervisor #3** - Bob Steinberger, Mark Stevenson.

**Washington Town Supervisor** - Doug Huffman, Terri Moore, Elizabeth Holmes.

**City of Sturgeon Bay Alderperson District 2** - Ronald Vandertie, Mark Schuster (write-in).

**Sevastopol School Board** - John Moravec, Mike Kaye, George Evenson, Jane Luebker.

**Southern Door School Board** - Kelly Tassoul, Brenda Olsen, Chuck Bretl, Perry DeGrave.

**County Board Supervisor, District 3** - Patrick Olson, Bob Ryan.

**County Board Supervisor, District 7** - Phillip Whipple, Ben Meyer.

**County Board Supervisor, District 17** - Nancy Bemmann, Kari Anderson.

**County Board Supervisor, District 19** - Hugh Mulliken, Donald Sitte.

2. Training for the County Caucus to select potential delegates to the Democratic National Convention (see the article on page 2). The "nuts and bolts" of this fairly complicated process will be explained by a representative from the State Democratic Party. Anyone considering becoming a Delegate or Alternate at the National Convention should attend the training. There will be lots of practical information, and tips for increasing your chance to be selected.
3. Review and discussion of draft resolutions for submission to the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention in April, and selection of the 10 resolutions to be submitted. Last year, six of our 10 submissions were adopted by the 8<sup>th</sup> CD and forwarded to the State Party.

Attached to this newsletter are 16 draft resolutions prepared by the Issues, Resolutions, Survey Committee for consideration at the meeting. Members may submit additional resolutions at the membership meeting, but must have 25 copies to hand out to the members attending.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In order for additional resolutions to be considered, 25 copies **must** be available so that the membership has an opportunity to consider the detailed statement. Please refer to the attached draft resolutions to see the format used. Resolutions should be limited to approximately 100 words.

Come out and help identify the issues and positions that will be reflected in our 2008 State Party Platform. It all begins with the counties.

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

Thurs. Mar 27 **Membership meeting**, Nasewaupsee Town Hall, County C, at 6:00 PM. See article on p. 1. **Note time change.**

### APRIL

Tues. Apr 1 **Spring election.** Remember to vote.

Thurs. Apr 4 **Deadline** for submission to the DPW of statement of intent to seek election as a delegate and support of presidential candidate. See adjacent article.

Sun. Apr 6 **County Caucus for delegate selection**, Bertschinger Center, Rte. 42 in Egg Harbor. Registration 12:00 Noon, voting from 2:00-4:00 PM. See adjacent article.

Thurs. Apr 10 **DPDC Executive Board meeting.** Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM.

Thurs. Apr 24 **Membership meeting.** Location TBD, 7:00 PM. Discussion meeting, with small groups discussing topics, including:

- Role of "superdelegates".
- Plans for the election season
- Neighborhood leader campaign

Sun. Apr 27 **8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention**, at Woods Golf Club, 530 Erie Rd., Green Bay. Registration opens at 9:00 AM, convention starts at 9:30 AM. Cost is \$25 if preregistered, \$30 at the door. Contact Estella Lauter (920-839-2741) if you wish to be a delegate (delegates must be members of DPDC with dues paid for 2008). Pre-registration checks should be sent by April 14 to:

Ken Flood  
8<sup>th</sup> CD Treasurer  
802 West Prospect Ave.  
Appleton, WI 54914

### MAY

May 4 **8<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus**, location TBD, voting will take place from 2:00-4:00 PM. See adjacent article.

### JUNE

Jun 13-14 **Democratic Party of Wisconsin convention**, Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center. Details to follow.

## County Caucus: Mysteries of the Delegate Selection Process Revealed

On April 6, 2008, County Democratic Parties throughout Wisconsin will meet to select candidates to be "district-level" delegates at the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, CO, August 25-28. The Convention should be an incredibly exciting and energizing event, and attract considerable interest in attending.

The Wisconsin 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is eligible to send six delegates, three males, three females, and one female alternate. The process for selecting these delegates from the, presumably, much larger number of candidates is a bit complicated (understatement). A timeline may help clarify the process:

DATE	ACTIVITY
3/27/08	A representative from DPW will come to our March meeting to explain the process (and hopefully, correcting any errors in this article).
4/4/08	Those who wish to be delegates must have completed a form from DPW entitled "Statement of Intent and Pledge of Support for Candidates for Delegate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention", and submitted the form to the DPW office by 5:00 PM on this date. The form can be obtained from DPW's website: <a href="http://www.wisdems.org">www.wisdems.org</a> , or by phone at 608-255-5172. On the form is a space to pledge support to the presidential candidate of your choice.
4/6/08	At the DPDC caucus (time and location in adjacent column), we will break into one sub-caucus for Obama, and one for Clinton. We can elect up to 15 delegate candidates (apparently 9 for Obama and 6 for Clinton). Voting continues until candidate delegates have a majority of votes in their sub-caucus.
5/4/08	At the 8 <sup>th</sup> CD Caucus, the candidate delegates elected at the County Caucuses vote to choose the six National Convention delegates and one alternate (the distribution between Obama and Clinton is based on their proportional vote in the CD).

The strategy to improve chances of getting elected is to ensure that there all 15 slots from our County are filled, so that those who really wish to be Delegates come to the CD Caucus with a bloc of votes. This means that at least 15 people must submit the forms to DPW, and attend the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Caucus, even if they don't wish to go to Denver.

## Executive Board Openings

There are currently two open positions on the DPDC Executive Board, one for someone from Northern Door County, the other at-large. At least one of these should be female. Contact Chair Estella Lauter for more information (920-839-2741).

**Message from the Chair:****Re-Framing the Economic Debate**

While we are waiting for a clear Democratic Presidential nominee to emerge, and hoping that democratic processes will trump Beltway interests, we have some time to think more carefully about the issues that face the nation.

The top issue in the polls right now is our economic condition. One does not have to be an economist to see that something is seriously wrong—not just with our habit of deficit spending and the amount we have spent on the war in Iraq, and not just with the housing market or inflation, but with the theory that got us into this mess. Although everyone agrees that the neo-con terms of debate (“trickle-down” benefits vs. increased taxes) are bankrupt, they continue to dominate our discussions.

To those of us who assumed economic responsibility before the anti-tax crusades, it seems obvious that taxes are the dues we pay for reliable services that create a civil society.

There is an economy of scale that is often best provided by good government. The idea that government is always bad is as false as any other overgeneralization. And we have seen no proof in over thirty years that “supply side” policies promote growth or security for any but the wealthiest members of the society. Still, the anti-tax machine grinds on.

In his article “Transforming the Liberal Checklist” (*The Nation*, March 10, 2008, 28-30), New York State Senator Eric Schneiderman calls for us to move beyond the “transactional politics” that has dominated the past year in Congress. It is all about being pragmatic and making deals within the system at hand—which is usually fine if checks and balances are in place.

“Transformative politics,” on the other hand, “requires us to challenge the way people think about issues, opening their minds to better possibilities” (28). He contrasts the neo-con transformation of discourse about government, taxes and evolution, so that ideas that seemed outrageous in 1977 came to seem inevitable in 2007, with the failure of Democrats to transform attitudes about the environment from 1980 to 2006—even with a champion like Al Gore! Let us not make the same mistake again.

A transformational approach to economics will require us to change the way people think about issues like wealth, taxes, wages differentials,



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

production, consumption, trade, tariffs, profit and savings. Let's take wealth, for example. Current policies come from Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* (1776). He argued that the individual's pursuit of rational self-interest in a free-market competition would lead to economic well-being for everyone.

"Wealth" in this account is profit, growth in productivity, and progress in manufacturing products that people will consume.

Smith did not foresee the fantastic economic gaps between the haves and the have-nots that occurred at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Perhaps they occurred because his ideas were taken to extremes in both periods. It will not be easy to displace this model, despite the evident failure of its latest offspring: "trickle-down" economics.

A contrasting view is espoused in *Development As Freedom* (Random House, 1999) by Amartya Sen, who received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998. Sen argues that the GNP, the profits on stock and the number of billionaires are only a small part of what should be considered in assessing the economic health of a society.

The "wealth" of a nation really depends, in his view, on the freedom of its people to experience their own "agency" -economically, politically and socially, in a transparent system - and to experience security as they do so.

I think this is a message that we can all understand. To assess our wealth as a nation, we would consider, for example, how many people are **free** to work up to the level of their training and education; how many have anything left after their basic needs for housing, food, health care, transportation, education and social connection have been met; how many live with a reasonable expectation of economic, psychological and physical safety; how many are in poverty; how many have access to reliable information that will enable them to make truly informed political choices; how many have in-depth exposure to other cultures and languages; how many public officials are under the thumb of some powerful company or person who seeks to control their vote for other than public good?

An example of this kind of thinking was presented to us at our January membership meeting on school funding in WI. If we continue to view wealth only in terms of growth in profits (an end that seems to justify any means!), and we continue to insist that schools remain within decades-old budget allocations, the quality of education cannot help but suffer.

(Continued on page 4)

## Message From the Chair (continued from page 3)

If we can learn, however, to regard education as an essential indicator of wealth, and make an accurate assessment of what schools need to provide excellent education, we can reasonably ask in-state corporations to pay a fair share of their monetary profits for the privilege of employing well-

educated workers who will guard their own freedoms and those of others.

In this analysis, development (or wealth) depends on freedom. Let's hope our eventual nominee has the freedom to consider such ideas!

## A Must-Read Letter From Senator Feingold

Dear Wisconsin Progressive,

As the Democratic Presidential contest continues to chug along throughout our country, it's important to remember that whoever our nominee and eventual Democratic President is come January 2009, he or she is going to need a Democratic Congress to work with to get our country back on track.

And while much of the talk has been about building on our gains in Congress this election cycle, we cannot forget about the strong Democrats who were elected last time and who now face stiff challenges this November. Here in Wisconsin we need not look any further than Congressman Steve Kagen in the 8<sup>th</sup> CD.

Since coming to Congress, Congressman Kagen has been a leader on a variety of issues - including advancing our combined effort of making universal access to affordable health care a top priority.

He's refused to cave in to the Bush administration's fear-mongering tactics by not immediately passing a flawed extension of the so-called "Protect America Act" - legislation that would weaken privacy protections for American citizens and provide retroactive immunity to telecom



companies. In fact, a phony issue group has run television ads that accuse Congress Kagen and other freshman Democrats of being weak on national security issues - when nothing could be further from the truth.

It's up to all Democrats in the 8<sup>th</sup> CD **and across the state of Wisconsin** to stand and fight for Steve

Kagen leading up to this election. I'm going to continue to fight to keep him Congress and I hope you will join me. For more information, or to join our effort to support Congressman Steve Kagen, please contact the Kagen campaign at 800-255-9355 or [brad@kagen4congress.com](mailto:brad@kagen4congress.com).

With high hopes,

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

## 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