



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

May, 2008 Newsletter

## Executive Board

Estella Lauter, Chair  
Bill Perloff, Vice-Chair  
Mary Horn, Secretary  
John Franz, Treasurer  
Ben Meyer, Past Chair  
Jim Adams  
Rod Bohn  
Laurel Brooks  
Warren Demmin  
Phil Hansotia  
Dave Murphy

## Committees:

### **Communication:**

Jim Adams, Board liaison  
Phil Hansotia, Board liaison  
Bill Perloff, Board liaison  
Lisa Van Laanen

### **Elections:**

Chuck Lauter, Chair  
Nancy Skadden

### **Events:**

Challoner Brown, Chair  
Eileen Andera, Cty Fair Chair  
Rod Bohn, Program Board  
liaison  
Laurel Brooks, Social Events  
Board liaison  
Norma Jean Ek  
Dave Murphy, Social Events  
Board liaison

### **Membership:**

Bill Perloff, Chair  
Allin Walker, Board liaison  
Chris Wendler

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

Phil Hansotia, Board liaison

### **Budget and Fundraising:**

Barb Perloff, Chair  
John Franz, Board liaison

## Lawton to be Featured at Fun(d)raiser

Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton will attend and speak at our Door Dems' Fun(d)raiser on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 6:30 PM at the Ladder House upper level. Renowned for her inspirational style and progressive agenda, Lt. Gov. Lawton is a strong supporter (and a member) of the Democratic Party of Door County. Her talk will be the highest point of an evening filled with high points.

A wonderful cold buffet supper will be served during the early evening with plenty of opportunity for seconds (or thirds), and complemented by a cash bar.

Planned activities will have you alternately laughing, inspired and eager. Funny and pointed political videos from "YouTube" will provide the laughter. Excerpts of speeches of famous progressives presented by local notables will offer a full measure of inspiration. Mark Twain, Clarence Darrow, Bella Abzug and Barbara Jordan are only a few of those whose ideas we'll hear.

And finally, your competitive fires will be stoked by a great "White Donkey" silent auction. Many new and gently used items will be available, including a pocket-size copy of the U.S. Constitution inscribed and autographed by Senator Feingold, and jewelry from Amanda DeWitt and Sommer Stad.

The cost to attend this gala event is only \$25 per person. The proceeds will help us open an office to support Democratic candidates in the upcoming election.

Don't miss this great event. There will be something for everyone and a chance to meet and greet fellow Democrats. PLEASE contact Barbara Perloff to let us know you are coming so we are certain to have enough food. You can reach Barb by phone (920-839-9282) or email ([wperloff@hughes.net](mailto:wperloff@hughes.net)).

Note that because of the construction on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, it will be necessary to park in the lot behind the building and enter the rear entrance.

## April Meeting Lays Groundwork for Democratic Victories in Fall Elections

Attendees at the April 24<sup>th</sup> membership meeting addressed plans for the upcoming election campaigns. In a move intended to provide efficient use of funds and personnel, a motion to open an office this summer and share space with Congressional and Assembly campaigns was passed. A proposal to this effect was made to the local campaigns. The State Party has offered to assist with costs of the office, and to provide computers and other support.

Purchase of a large banner for use in parades was approved. The new banner will be unveiled at the upcoming fun(d)raiser.

The draft DPW platform (attached to the April newsletter) was discussed, and a number of revisions were suggested and forwarded to the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention.

Plans for the summer Annual Picnic and Fundraiser were put on hold pending the availability of either or both Senator Feingold or Congressman Kagen.

## Upcoming Events

### MAY

May 22 **May membership meeting and Fun(d)raiser**, Ladder House, 38 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Sturgeon Bay, upper level, 6:30 PM. See article on page 1.

May 24 **Maifest Parade**, Jacksonport, 11:00 AM. March for the DPDC and Rep. Kagen. Assemble at 10:00.

### JUNE

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

Jun 26 **Membership meeting**, location TBA, 7:00 PM. The Executive Board will meet at 5:30.

## 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.

Our Democratic Party of Door County is eligible to send 20 delegates and 20 alternates to the convention. They must be paid-up members for 2008. If you would like to attend as a delegate, please contact Estella Lauter, DPDC chair ([lauter@uwosh.edu](mailto:lauter@uwosh.edu)), or Bill Perloff, vice-chair, ([wperloff@hughes.net](mailto:wperloff@hughes.net), or 839-9282) by May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the latest, because we must have names submitted to DPW by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Beis and Lasee Get Failing Grades on Conservation

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters has recently published their "Conservation Scorecard" for the 2005-06 legislative session. A nonpartisan organization promoting conservation, the League grades legislators based on their votes on 29 key conservation-related bills.

Our "representative" Garey Beis voted for the conservation position six percent of the time, tie for fifth worst record in the Assembly.

Our State Senator, Alan Lasee had a 39 percent score, and earned a place on the "Conservation Dishonor Roll" for his anti-conservation activities in Committee.

Surely, Door County, for whom conservation is essential, can do better than these two!!

## A Letter from Sen. Feingold

Dear Wisconsin Progressives:

We cannot forget that Wisconsin will once again be a battleground in November. No state was closer in the past two presidential contests than Wisconsin. So, combined with our desire to increase our majority in the State Senate and retake the State Assembly, it's critically important that our party do everything possible early to be successful this election.

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin is already leading the way and has started to implement an exciting new program that empowers local Democrats - igniting a powerful grassroots network of activists to lead us to victory this November.

As a Neighborhood Leader, you make the commitment to contact just 25 people in your area, three times between now and Election Day about our slate of Democratic candidates and the issues that matter most to your community and our state.

As a Neighborhood Leader, you will get targeted lists of people in your community, as well as literature for you to personalize and distribute. You'll also have a wide variety of online tools at your disposal to help communicate with your neighbors as you see fit.

Over a thousand Progressives like you have already signed up as Neighborhood Leaders across the state. If you interested in helping us move our State and Country forward, please contact Jeremy Slaughter with the DPW at (608) 255-5172 or [jeremys@wisdems.org](mailto:jeremys@wisdems.org) or sign up online to be a Neighborhood Leader at <http://www.wisdems.org/ht/d/DoSurvey/i/1141425>.

Thanks again for all that you do. With high hopes,



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

### Editors note:

Your DPDC is actively developing a network of precinct "captains" to serve as the link between the party and progressives throughout the County. We will be in contact with Democrats and progressive Independents throughout the campaign to mobilize them to take an active role in the campaign and get out the vote on election day.

In order to avoid duplication of effort, it is important for those wishing to participate in the Neighborhood Leader program described by Sen. Feingold to communicate with our local Party leadership (contact Estella Lauter, Chair, 839-2741 or via email at [Estella.Lauter@gmail.com](mailto:Estella.Lauter@gmail.com)). This will ensure that all our efforts are coordinated and "the left hand knows what the right hand is doing".

**Message from the Chair:****Time to Move On and Unite Behind our Nominee**

It is time for rank and file Democratic Party members to speak out on the Clintons' decision to "fight on" to the August Convention. Whatever the reasons for supporting Hillary Clinton's bid for the presidency have been—name recognition, gender, admiration for her experience or courage under fire, or compensation for media discourtesy, among others, and all are valid—they do not any longer justify the expenditure of millions more dollars for internecine attack ads in the Primaries.



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

This has become a fight without an adequate cause. We need to recognize that we have a presumptive nominee and get on with the business of defining the issues of state that deserve serious attention in the coming election. If Obama has had a problem getting our message across to white working-class men or any other group, then it is time for the Clintons to help him do that in order to assure that the Democratic Party wins this crucial race for the health of our democracy.

The raw delegate count does not tell the whole story; this is not a horse race. The facts bear repeating. In addition to having roughly 150 more delegates, Obama has steadily increased his lead to 89.4% of the votes needed for the nomination. He has won 30 contests and tied in another, whereas Clinton has won 17 (I am not counting Florida and Michigan because they were clearly off-limits according to well-known Party rules.)

Obama has also won 26 of those 30 contests with more than 55% of the vote, often by double digits, whereas Clinton has drawn more than 55% of the vote in only 7 cases, and topped Obama by more than 5 points in 4 of them. The Texas race netted more delegates for Obama once the Caucuses were counted. Obama won decisively in many states where Democratic voters far outnumbered Republicans; in North Carolina, McCain's win was less than half of Obama's total. Electability is not the issue.

Nor is readiness a legitimate issue, as the May 6<sup>th</sup> Primaries both demonstrate, despite the disgraceful media efforts of the past weeks to damn Obama by association. Obama's calm demeanor and cogent responses to his challengers are strong recommendations for the office he seeks, especially in a time as unsettled as this both at home and abroad.

It is far from clear how useful experience rooted in Cold War policies and ideology will be in the day ahead, and it is worth noting again that FDR came to office without a plan. The New Deal that solidified our place in the world by first solving our problems at home did not emerge on Day One. It was one of the greatest team efforts in our history. It was an effort of *the people, by the people and for the people*—a decidedly non-elitist promise Obama also makes.

This is the change that inspires people from different strata and areas of the country. He is not banking on knowing it all himself before he takes office; he is counting on us to do what is necessary to make this country work again from the ground up—as his campaign has worked against all the odds.

Nor is judgment an issue. Obama gave one of the classic speeches in our political history on the issue of race a few weeks ago and refused to turn his back on a man just because people found the sound bites from his sermons alarming. But when the man used the media spotlight for his own purposes, Obama denounced that behavior decisively. In doing so, he modeled both the breadth of his understanding and his ability to uphold his principles in trying circumstances. This is exactly the set of abilities we need in the complicated days ahead.

Commentators outside the mainstream media have been making long lists of the issues that we need to address in this Election season so that the electorate will be prepared for the kinds of decisions we need to make soon. The ruinous effects of the current Bush administration alone on economic and foreign policy and good government will take more than one term to reverse, but there are deeper problems as well.

America's attempt to control the world's oil supply dates back to the 1950s, and it is by no means clear that such control is wise or desirable given the political, military and economic cross-currents of a global society. If we spend increasing amounts of money on military prowess (the current naval buildup being a case in point), we will almost certainly not be able to develop lasting alternatives to fossil fuels; it is that simple. But the task of redirecting the military-industrial complex will not be simple at all. It will take not only new leadership but also a change in America's idea of itself that can come only from the people.

Let's not spend any more money on ads for the Primaries! Enough. While Clinton does her thing, we need to get on with the serious issues involved in planning to govern together, drawing on the collective experience of our full history and our commitment to *liberty and justice for all*.

## If You Care, Renew Now

Do you care about who wins our 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly seat? Do you care about which party controls the WI Assembly? Do you care about re-electing Congressman Kagen and retaining the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives? Do you care about electing a Democratic President? Do you care about the positions adopted by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Democratic candidates?

Your Door County Democratic Party provides the opportunity for you to support these efforts, and to multiply your effectiveness by participating in well organized grassroots campaigns to mobilize supportive voters, and get out the vote on election day. There is a large reservoir of progressive views in our county that can be mobilized to support strong Democratic candidates.

In addition, even a small county can have an impact on statewide Party resolutions and platform, and the election of our representatives to the DNC, if it has a large and active membership. Thanks to the 174 new and renewing members so far in 2008, we are the 7<sup>th</sup> largest county Party in Wisconsin.

The first step in succeeding is for the 68 members who have not yet renewed for 2008 to do so now. If you have received this by email, the email will have noted whether you are paid-up. **If you received hard copy, check your mailing label.** If the last line is not '08, then it is time to renew now.

To renew, just print the form below, fill it out and mail it to the address shown. Add a note on the back about your interest in becoming more active in Party efforts and you will be contacted to help.

Thank you for being part of the effort to change the disastrous course our country has followed for the last eight years, and to return Wisconsin to its progressive roots. As Congressman Kagen says, "Together We Will".

## 8<sup>th</sup> CD Resolutions Reflect Door County Perspective

A large and enthusiastic crowd attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party Convention on April 27<sup>th</sup>, presided over by Chair Steve Thiede.

Stirring speeches from Congressman Kagen, State Senators Breske and Hansen, and Assembly Representatives Nelson and Soletski kept the delegates attentive and motivated.

Delegates considered 32 resolutions submitted by the county Parties. Ten resolutions were adopted, **seven** of which had been submitted by the Democratic Party of Door County. This was quite a tribute to the well thought-out and carefully formulated resolutions from our County reflecting a strongly progressive perspective. Titles of the ten resolutions are:

- Priority status for veterans.
- Energy independence.
- Protecting American workers.
- Social security tax on all earned income.
- Repeal Bush administration tax cuts for those with high incomes (over \$250,000 per year).
- Repeal of the USA-PATRIOT Act.
- End the War in Iraq.
- Minimum wage to be a living wage.
- In support of the Great Lakes Compact.
- Universal health care.

The complete resolutions were forwarded to the State Democratic Party for submission at the State Convention, June 13-14.

The draft Platform of the DPW (which was attached to the April DPDC newsletter) was reviewed with only minor suggested changes.

Representatives from the 8<sup>th</sup> CD appointed to State Convention committees were: Dottie LeClair, Credentials; Bill Perloff, Rules.



## 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