



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## May, 2009 Newsletter

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## Gala Fun(d)raiser and "White Donkey" Sale May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Come one, come all!** May 28<sup>th</sup> is the date, the beautiful Board Room(s) at Liberty Square (7755 Hwy 42) in Egg Harbor is the place, and our second annual May Fun(d)raiser is the order of the evening. The festivities begin at 6:00 PM.

The \$25 per person admission includes a light supper, the evening's entertainment, and the white donkey sale. A cash bar will be available. Replete with local artists' work and plush furniture, Liberty Square is the most elegant setting ever for a DPDC event.

The theme of the evening will be a retrospective of the first 100 days of the Obama administration in the words of President Obama himself.

To start the retrospective, we will see photos and hear Patti Podgers and Jim Johnson's account of the inauguration, which they viewed first-hand. The photo of Patti with an invitation to the inauguration is a tiny preview of the scene.



Mike Tate

Mike Tate, candidate for the Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin will also speak. Mike is a former president of Wisconsin College Democrats, a member of the DPW Administrative Committee, and was chair of the "Fair Wisconsin" Campaign in 2007.

Mike brings youth and vigor to our Party leadership, and deserves a careful hearing about his candidacy. He spoke at the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention in April and brought a "breath of fresh air" to our traditional party leadership.

**Please donate new and gently used items for the "White Donkey" silent auction.** The sale was a huge success last year, and will be so again if we all find those items we no longer want or need that others may treasure. We already have available beautiful works of art, a pocket copy of the US Constitution autographed by Senator Feingold, a great tandem bicycle and a gas-powered weed whacker, among others.

**To RSVP, and arrange pickup or dropoff, please contact Barbara Perloff (839-9282, [wperloff@hughes.net](mailto:wperloff@hughes.net)). We need an accurate count of attendees for food planning, so please contact Barb promptly. Thank you!**

## Upcoming Events

May 28 **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPDC Fun(d)raiser and "White Donkey" Sale**, The Board Room at Liberty Square, 7755 Hwy 42, Egg Harbor, 6:00 PM. See article on p. 1.

### JUNE

June 11 **Executive Board meets**, Party office (62 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.) 6:00 PM. DPDC members welcome to attend.

June 12-13 **Democratic Party of Wisconsin Annual Convention**, Radisson Hotel, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay. Registration information is on the DPW website: <http://wisdems.org>. If you wish to be a delegate, contact Mary Horn (743-0009 or [mchorn@dcwis.com](mailto:mchorn@dcwis.com)) or Estella Lauter (839-2741 or [Estella.Lauter@gmail.com](mailto:Estella.Lauter@gmail.com)). **Deadline for us to submit names of delegates to DPW is May 22.**

June 25 **June Membership Meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM. Dr. Montgomery Elmer, candidate for the First District State Senate, will be the speaker. See the article p. 6.

### AUGUST

Aug 12 **Executive Board meets**, Party office (62 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.) 6:00 PM. DPDC members welcome to attend.

## Feingold Campaign Hiring Field Organizers

Senator Russ Feingold's campaign, the Feingold Senate Committee, is seeking to hire campaign field organizers to be a part of our expanding statewide grassroots efforts. Qualified applicants should expect to work long hours, be dedicated to the progressive tradition of political organizing, and have reliable and insured transportation.

These initial positions will be located in the Madison and Green Bay areas. The positions will begin July 1st, 2009 and run through the November 2010 election.

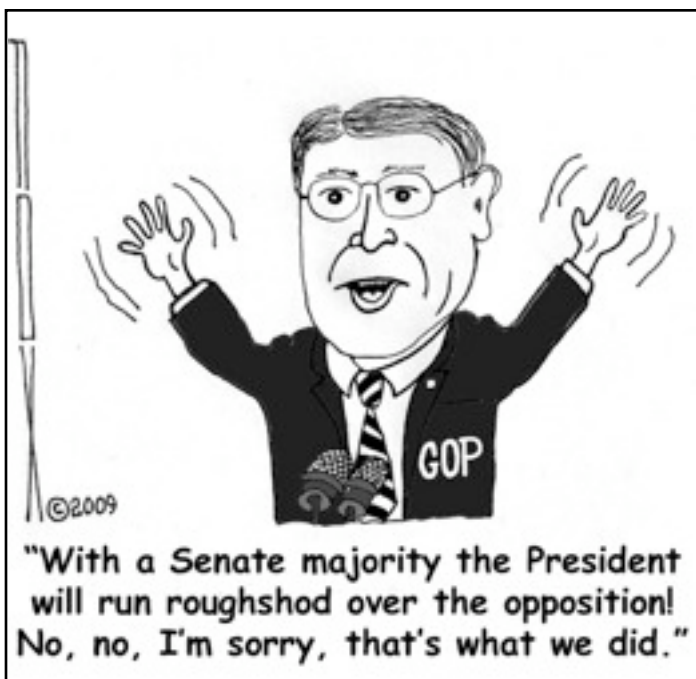
Specific responsibilities of the Field Organizer include:

- Recruiting, training and mobilizing volunteers in their assigned regions
- Planning, organizing and successfully executing canvasses, phone banks and visibility events
- Maintaining positive relationships with local Democratic Party officials and activists
- Attending statewide campaign steering committee meetings with the Field Director
- Expanding outreach to constituency groups and progressive partners in their operational area
- Reaching out to local elected officials and community leaders on behalf of Senator Feingold
- Maintaining and updating information in the campaign database
- Representing the campaign at community events

Successful applicants will demonstrate the following qualifications:

- Commitment to reelecting Senator Russ Feingold
- Superior organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work independently
- Strong verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills
- Strong work ethic and ability to handle multiple projects
- Results-oriented, dependable, and proactive
- Experience managing volunteers or supervising staff
- Understanding of accurate record keeping using online databases
- Prior experience working on campaigns is a definite plus

Compensation is competitive and includes health benefits. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to State Field Director, Paula Zellner at [zellner@russfeingold.org](mailto:zellner@russfeingold.org). Deadline for applying is **Friday, May 29th**.



(Cartoon by John Fox)

**Message from the Co-Chair:****The Bogeyman of Socialism**

Despite the fact that only 21% of adult Americans now claim to be Republicans, the voices on the "right" are becoming ever more loud and strident in their warnings against what they call "socialized medicine" and other apparitions of massive takeovers by the federal government. Thus, it is important to gather our wits and remember history.



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

The terms "Socialism," "Capitalism" and "Communism" appeared in English at about the same time in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (1839, 1854 and 1843 respectively). They were 19<sup>th</sup> Century constructs, and they have undergone many changes since then.

"Socialism," for example, entails government ownership or control of production, distribution and exchange in the interests of "all people." But in the absence of democracy or effective elections and the presence of a dictator or an oligarchy, it has meant something quite different.

If we have learned anything useful from history, it should be that totalitarian systems can arise on either end of the political spectrum.

Some would argue that the globe is still endangered by an oligarchy of multinational corporations that exert too much control over citizens under the pretext of serving their interests. But democracy makes a difference, as we saw in the 2008 election.

The U.S. government does in fact own and control certain institutions in the interests of all citizens. The military is perhaps the most socialist institution of all, since it is entirely funded by taxpayers and serves at the command of the President.

Other federal agencies such as the Department of Agriculture have long been charged with preventing nation-wide disasters such as massive crop failure. Social Security and Medicare were designed to prevent the crushing poverty of the 1930's among the aged and infirm. After WWII, Eisenhower initiated a federal highway system to facilitate commerce and national defense.

Many aspects of our infrastructure have required federal funding and regulation because they were too big or too sensitive for "private" interests to manage.

The term "state" in the US is also complicated by our division into 50 states the size of many

nations and thousands of local governments. Our towns and cities build and own public schools and parks for the good of all citizens.

"Socialism" in the U.S. has evolved when an institution or service that is necessary to human survival or well-being became vulnerable to forces that could not otherwise be controlled, and therefore required a collective approach to its funding and operation. The current crisis in the financial sector is a case in point (and it is amazing that "we the people" have not called for banks to be "nationalized" under the circumstances).

With this in mind, let's look again at the idea of public health insurance—the current target of lobbyists and demagogues on the "right." The problems are legion: 45 million people uninsured and millions more underinsured; double the cost of other developed countries with poorer results; administrative costs above 15% for private companies; home foreclosures resulting from medical bills; people stuck in unproductive jobs because they can't afford to give up their insurance plan; the list goes on. It is way past time for public interests to be honored.

"Private" medicine is a thing of the past—a fantasy in the current market. Since the 1980s, the private physician has worked for huge hospitals and insurance corporations that impose their own rules on individual doctors and patients to cut costs and maximize profits. The market has produced countless distortions of the practice of medicine.

The current public option for health insurance that Obama favors is a relatively small step that would not displace the corporate system, but would save 30% in premiums; ensure coverage regardless of "pre-existing conditions"; enable the government to negotiate for lower drug prices; allow for mobility in the choice of physicians; and place a higher value on results.

It is not nearly enough. We should be fighting for a single-payer plan that would spread the economic risks of illness over the whole population. But it is a step in the right direction.

If this is "socialized medicine," it is not something to fear. Doctors and patients will be no less free than in the current medical system.

So the next time one of your friends raises the specter of "Socialism," don't sit back and tremble; talk about the ways we have always benefited in the U.S. from partial socialization of the means of production and distribution of goods and services, whatever we called the process. You can think of many more examples! The quality of a democratic government always depends on the community as a whole.

## “Less Publicized Arab World” Topic of April Membership Meeting

At the April membership meeting Kate Wulle-Dugan presented a view of the “Less Publicized Arab World.”

A graduate of the American University in Beirut, Lebanon, Ms. Wulle-Dugan has lived and traveled extensively throughout the Mideast,



**Ms. Wulle-Dugan**

including Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Kuwait. She was in the region most recently last fall and winter.

She started her presentation with a video showing many aspects of normal life in the Middle East.

She followed the video with a short talk followed by a spirited question and answer session reflecting the diversity of viewpoints of the audience about the region.

## Kewaunee Dems Jack Kennedy Dinner

On Saturday May 2, Door County Dems joined their Kewaunee Democratic colleagues for a gala dinner celebration of Jack Kennedy’s birthday (actually May 29<sup>th</sup>) at the Stebbins Hotel in Algoma.

Political notables were out in force including those shown in the photo vignettes below along with 8<sup>th</sup> CD Chair Ben Vineburg, 8<sup>th</sup> CD representative to the DPW Administrative Committee Dottie LeClair, and Door County Dems Co-chair Estella Lauter.

After a delicious dinner we were welcomed by Melissa Huizenga, Chair of the Kewaunee County Democratic Party and member of the County Board.

Assembly Majority Leader Tom Nelson (5<sup>th</sup> AD, Kaukauna) discussed the growing budget deficit and the challenges facing the legislature to ensure continued investment in our “crown jewel,” our public education system. He indicated that the legislature has passed bills that ensure that stimulus funds will go to Wisconsin companies and Wisconsin workers.

Representative Nelson cited the 8<sup>th</sup> CD as a critical area for electing Democrats in the past two election cycles. He emphasized that we must keep working to expand our majorities in the Assembly and State Senate.

Representative Jim Soletski (88<sup>th</sup> AD, Green Bay area) stressed the need for campaign finance reform. We need to have transparency in identifying the source of out-of-state political contribution.

He also called for accountability in the allocation of stimulus funds to ensure that Wisconsin jobs are actually created. He feels change is coming to the 1<sup>st</sup> AD and Democrats will prevail there.

The final speaker of the evening was Dr. Montgomery Elmer, candidate for the 1<sup>st</sup> District State Senate seat currently occupied by Alan Lassee.

Dr. Elmer asked for our help in identifying issues of importance to our district.

He will be speaking at the DPDC June meeting (see article at the bottom of p. 6.



**Kewaunee Dems Chair Melissa Huizenga (It) with Jan and Lary Swoboda (prior Chair)**



**Dr. Montgomery Elmer (It) with Carol and Dick Skare**



**Rep. Tom Nelson**



**Rep. Jim Soletski**

## 8<sup>th</sup> CD Resolutions Follow Door County's Lead

The 10 resolutions which follow were selected by the delegates to the 8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Wording was adjusted to mesh essentially similar resolutions submitted by more than one County Party.

Six of the 10 resolutions submitted by the Door County Dems were selected, continuing our strong showing. Congratulations to our resolutions committee (Phil Hansotia and Rod Bohn) and our membership.

These 10 resolutions have been submitted to the Platform and Resolutions Committee of the State DPW (of which Co-chair Estella Lauter is a member) for consideration for adoption at the state convention as a part of the biennial platform.

### 1. UNIVERSAL, SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS fifty million Americans are without health insurance and more are underinsured with rapidly rising premiums, and face financial catastrophe with sudden or severe illness,

WHEREAS the cost of health care is burdened by cost shifting, from the care of the uninsured, administrative overhead, inefficiency and the incentive for profit for shareholders instead of the best care for the patient,

BE IT RESOLVED that DPW supports universal, affordable, single-payer health care with ready access and without obstruction to health care providers and facilities.

Door and Shawano Counties

### 2. CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

WHEREAS, several Wisconsin legislative scandals have highlighted the corruption that has infiltrated our state capitol;

WHEREAS recent judicial campaigns have become politicized by special interest groups;

WHEREAS, hundreds of lobbyists are paid tens of millions of dollars a year to influence our legislature, Governor, and courts through campaign contributions of millions of dollars of special interest money;

WHEREAS, campaigns have become obscenely expensive;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: Our State Legislature and Governor are called upon to restore Wisconsin to its tradition of clean progressive government by passing legislation which provides public funding to State, Legislative, Judicial, and Executive campaigns.

Door, Kewaunee and Shawano Counties

### 3. CORRECTIONS REFORM

WHEREAS the USA incarcerates more of its population than any other developed country;

WHEREAS many are imprisoned for non-violent crimes such as possession of marijuana for personal use;

WHEREAS mandatory sentencing laws result in excessively long and expensive incarcerations that overcrowd prisons;

WHEREAS prison inmates receive neither treatment nor education to promote changed behavior;

BE IT RESOLVED that the DPW opposes mandatory sentencing and supports alternatives to current sentencing and prison policies to address non-violent crime, including education, treatment and victim compensation.

Door, Outagamie and Shawano Counties

### 4. SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM

WHEREAS the current funding formula results in an annual statewide 1.7% shortfall of necessary funds for staff, services and equipment, and

WHEREAS the current policy fails to provide equal educational opportunities to all citizens and therefore undermines education's economic potential;

WHEREAS it focuses on control of property taxes rather than on the quality of public education,

BE IT RESOLVED that the DPW supports School Finance Legislation that funds the actual cost of excellent public education at a level sufficient to satisfy all state and federal mandates, and to prepare students for both higher education and productive citizenship.

Door and Shawano Counties

### 5. EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD

WHEREAS, Republican administrations have reduced the capacity of Labor for collective bargaining and

WHEREAS, a decline in worker rights, job security, job safety and income have led to a declining middle class, adversely affected society by increasing income disparity and weakening our industrial base,

WHEREAS, the right to privacy should ensure workers can organize without interference from management,

BE IT RESOLVED that DPW defends the rights of organized labor to collective bargaining for worker rights as proposed by the Employee Free Choice Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DPW supports better representation of labor on the National Labor Relations Board.

Door and Brown Counties

(continued on page 5)

## Resolutions Continued from Page 5

### 6. RENEWABLE ENERGY: 25% by 2025.

WHEREAS, fossil fuels are a major contributor to significant environmental problems, such as poor air quality, water pollution, and global warming;

WHEREAS fossil fuels contribute to significant environmental problems, such as poor air quality, water pollution and climate change due to excess carbon;

WHEREAS viable clean and sustainable alternatives exist, including improved energy efficiencies, conservation and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydrogen;

BE IT RESOLVED that the DPW supports legislation to provide tax incentives and funds for research and development to reach or exceed the goal of 25% renewable energy use by 2025.

Shawano and Brown Counties

### 7. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS individual vehicle use for routine transportation needs increases fossil fuel consumption, traffic flow and delays, and contributes to accidents, and

WHEREAS heavy road use for individual vehicular transportation accelerates road wear and escalates repair costs, and

WHEREAS development of passenger rail and bus transportation options create good jobs, reduce pressure on highways and improve safety,

BE IT RESOLVED that the DPW endorses initiatives to increase non-fossil fuel-burning passenger rail and bus options within and between cities throughout Wisconsin.

Door and Outagamie Counties

### 8. PRIORITY STATUS FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, we are failing to provide adequate post-service education, employment, education and health services to our veterans, and

WHEREAS we owe our rights and freedoms to the unselfish service of our veterans, and

WHEREAS National Guard troops are fighting in active combat,

BE IT RESOLVED that we support increased funding for veterans' physical and mental rehabilitation as well as assisting and prioritizing participation in educational programs and including National Guard troops under VA benefits.

Brown County

### 9. AFGHANISTAN

WHEREAS, the United States has engaged in military operations in Afghanistan during the last eight years,

WHEREAS, history shows that Afghanistan does not have a tradition of a national centralized government,

WHEREAS, Afghanistan continues to be a country of loosely organized ethnic and tribal groups fiercely resistant to foreign intervention,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States limit its military intervention in Afghanistan to the destruction of terrorist groups while developing a plan for orderly withdrawal.

Kewaunee County

### 10. DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and to realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all, and

WHEREAS, same sex domestic partnerships are not recognized as deserving of the same protection, benefits and obligations as heterosexual domestic partners and married couples,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin work with state and national leadership to provide same sex domestic partner benefits to state and federal employees.

Brown County

## June Membership Meeting to Feature Democratic State Senate Candidate

Dr. Montgomery "Monk" Elmer will be the speaker at our June membership meeting on June 25th.

Dr. Elmer has announced his candidacy for the First District State Senate seat currently held by Alan Lasee (this is our district).

Monk is a well-known and highly respected family practice physician in Kimberly (Appleton area), where he is president of the School Board.

He was raised in a small town in Iowa with very limited family resources. He was able to attend college only because of Pell grants, instituted by a

Democratic Congress, and has been a strong Democrat ever since.

He is running, not for "me," but for "all of us."

Come to the meeting at 7:00 PM at the Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, to hear Dr. Elmer discuss the issues and his campaign.



Dr. Elmer