



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## November, 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

#### **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

## **DOOR COUNTY DELIVERS!**

### **Obama/Biden, Kagen and Skare Sweep the County**



Yes, it happened. Door County voted straight Democratic in every race in which Democrats were running! Every municipality in the County, except Washington Island, voted for Obama/Biden in the presidential race and Steve Kagen for Congress.

Obama/Biden garnered 58 percent of the more than 17,000 votes cast in the County. Kagen won with just under 58 percent.

In the race for State Assembly District 1, Dick Skare carried Door County by almost 300 votes (51 percent of the total). Unfortunately, that margin was not enough to outweigh the vote from Kewaunee and parts of Brown Counties and Dick lost by 800 votes out of the almost 31,000 cast. His 49 percent was the best showing for a Democrat in many years, and augers well for future strong Democratic candidates. We owe Dick, his family, campaign managers Allin Walker and Olivia Lowery, and the hundreds of campaign contributors and volunteers, heartfelt thanks for running a strong campaign and setting the stage for Democratic victory in future Assembly races.

## **November Meeting to Feature Election Analysis, Officer and Board Nominations**

Our membership meeting on Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> will provide an opportunity to examine the election results and garner the lessons to be learned, build on our strengths and overcome our weaknesses for the next set of elections in 2009 (Supreme Court, County Board, Sheriff and other local elections) and 2010 (Senator, Congress, Governor, State Senate and Assembly).

Nominations for Officers and Board for 2009-2010 will be made as well. Nominators and nominees must be current (2008) members of the DPDC. The meeting will be at 7:00 PM at the Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level.

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

To reach us: DCDems@hughes.net, on the web at [www.DoorCountyDems.org](http://www.DoorCountyDems.org), or PO Box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

Nov 20 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM (note change from usual 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday due to the Thanksgiving holiday). The meeting will feature an election wrap-up, and nominations for officers and members of the Executive Board for 2009-10 (see article page 1).

Dec 5-7 **Camp Wellstone**, Madison, WI. This is the signature 2.5 day training on citizen activism for progressive causes, working on a political campaign, or being a candidate. It is a superb experience, proven to motivate and train participants in the “nuts and bolts” of the political process. Several DPDC members have taken this training and unanimously consider it worthwhile for anyone wishing to improve his/her effectiveness in grassroots politics. Cost is based on ability to pay. For more information contact Jennifer Haut by email: [jennifer@wellstone.org](mailto:jennifer@wellstone.org), or 651-414-6037.

Dec 11 or 14 **DPDC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pie Party Fundraiser and Election of Officers and Executive Board**, at Bjorklunden, Date and time TBA (see adjacent article).

## December Membership Meeting: Pie Party Fundraiser and Election of Officers and Board

The December membership meeting will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pie Party Fundraiser to celebrate our successes, strengthen our resolve to overcome our challenges, raise money to help keep our DPDC office in Sturgeon Bay open, and just have fun.

The party will feature a wide assortment of home made Door County pies with plenty for taste test comparisons, plain or à la mode. The most spectacular pies will go to the winners of “bag raffles”. Admission will be \$5 per person, or \$15 per family of three or more. **Admission will be free to first-time members who join that evening.**

We have invited several prominent WI political and judicial figures, and will send out a note when we have firmed up the program.

Current members of the DPDC will be able to elect our officers and Executive Board members for the next two years. Nominees will include the slate presented by the nominating committee at the November membership meeting, additional nominations made then, and any additional nominations made prior to the vote.

The meeting will be at beautiful Bjorklunden either Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, **or** Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. A notice will be sent when the arrangements are finalized. Save the dates, we'll see you there.

**MAP TO BJORKKLUNDEN**  
**7590 Boynton Lane**  
**Baileys Harbor, WI**  
**839-2216**



## Kewaunee Korner

Starting with our December newsletter, we will feature a column from our neighboring Democratic Party of Kewaunee County. It will provide an opportunity for us to share events and issues of common interest, and help us to form a closer working relationship.

By working together in support of our mutual candidates for the WI Legislature as well as statewide and national candidates, we can improve our effectiveness in both counties.

Watch for this new feature of our monthly newsletter.

**Message from the Chair:****A Political Awakening**

The last ten days have been the most joyous time in the political life of our nation in my lifetime—not just because we have elected a superlative candidate to our highest office at a time when the country needs all the help it can get to solve massive problems, or because the man is an African American whose achievement changes America's relationship to the issue of racial equality, or because he withstood vicious attacks with poise and equanimity, although these facts are magnificent—but because so many people have found their voices through this election.



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

Democracy, which had receded to the wings of political life in America, is taking center stage once more, and the first step is a veritable burst of speech. All over the country, people of all races, religions, classes, orientations and abilities are communicating with each other in ways we haven't seen perhaps since the founding of the nation!

One example comes from Brian Hallett (the son of one of our members) who wrote a long letter to his two-year-old daughter, so that she will know someday how he felt at this historical moment. He says, in part,

"My voice was heard. That may sound obvious, but this has come to pass after years of feeling as if I never counted, elections were stolen and power was concentrated in some center that was far away and out of sight in a bunker somewhere. When I see Barack Obama, I see my choice melded with the collective conscious of millions of other people.

"I see my fate and destiny not in the hands of one man, but in the hands of millions, in their hopes which are all reflected in him. It is as if he is a mirror, and when I look in this mirror, I see not myself but all of us. I see a dream that I was never able to articulate but always wanted. To be part of a whole whose sum is greater than its individual parts. To belong to a collective humanity where my responsibility and participation is demanded and sought by my fellow citizens." (Brian David Hallett lives in Madrid with his wife, Gloria, and their daughter, Mar)

Obama has said since the first day of his campaign (I heard him in person on the second

day) that this election was not about him but rather about us—about whether or not we would step up to the plate of democracy and hit the ball out of the stadium.

Pundits still look skeptically on that statement. I read one last night who said that if Obama were withdrawn from the picture, the grassroots would wilt and die. Certainly, his effect has been extraordinarily powerful and positive. But having been awakened to our responsibilities and to the need for our participation in the process of governing ourselves, and having felt the joy of success, we cannot go back to the frustration with a top-down government that evidenced no concern for us.

Obama was right. "We are the change we have been waiting for." Having done all of the things Obama mentioned in his acceptance speech as part of our collective history, "yes we can" go further. And we must. Together. With continuing conversations that include our Republican neighbors about the dangers of allowing pit bulls to roam without appropriate restraint.

There is no shortage of bad news from the stock market and other quarters for us to face. Ideas that worked well in a similar situation 75 years ago will need revision to work in this new century, but new ideas will rise from necessity as they did before. Perhaps the best outcome is that more than half of our voting citizens woke up from a long sleep during which the barn door was unlocked and someone made off with the stock. It is not likely that we will sleep so soundly again.

Hope is palpable. Change has already come and its shape is continuing to alter every day as we begin to think through what is necessary and possible. The election brought out a lot of wonderful creative energy (as in our artists' portrait signs). One of the most moving (anonymous?) sayings was this: "Rosa Parks sat so that Martin Luther King could walk; Martin walked so that Barack Obama could run; and Obama ran so our children can fly."

Before anyone can fly, however, we have to restore the "public" to public policy. Whether the new consensus is "progressive," "liberal," "post-partisan" or even in some ways "conservative" matters less than whether or not it is "fair" to people in the nation (and the world) as a whole, not just to one of the parts.

## Time for Membership Renewal

**NOW** is the time to renew your membership in the Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC). If you have not yet renewed from 2007, you can renew now for 2008 and your membership will automatically extend through 2009.

If your membership is current, renewing now will carry through 2009 and ensure that membership renewal doesn't fall through the cracks in the busy end-of-year period.

This is **really important** because the number of delegates from Door County to the Congressional District and State Party conventions is determined in part by the number of **paid-up** members for 2009. We are proud that **our 280 members make us the largest County Party per population base in WI**. We are also in the lead for all counties with the largest increase in membership in 2008, and need to finish the contest on a strong note.

The renewal form is below. Please print out the form and mail it to our DPDC P.O. box (the address is on the form). When you join the DPDC, you are also automatically a member of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. So, if you have received a renewal card from the State Democratic Party, you can use that card, but please be sure to **return it to the Democratic Party of Door County at our P.O. box**. We will forward it to the State Party.

Renew now, and please feel free to make a generous donation to the local Party in addition to your membership dues. We must split membership dues with the State Party, but can retain contributions in their entirety for our local Party. Thank you.

A special "thank you" to the 107 new members who joined in 2008, and the 43 new and renewing members who have already (re)joined for 2009!

## Transparency Restored to "Big Money" Campaign "Issue Ads" in WI

"Big Money" has taken charge and subverted the election process in many legislative and judicial elections.

This issue was discussed at the recent County Democratic Chairs Association by Mike McCabe, head of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign ([www.wisdc.org](http://www.wisdc.org)). As described in a recent press release from the WDC the central problem is that:

"...special interest groups have been able to take money from anyone, from anywhere and in any amount, and they don't have to disclose anything. Because so-called "issue ad" groups are operating totally outside the law, they are able to use money from sources that are off limits to candidates and effectively hijack state elections, pushing candidates to the sidelines and doing most all of the talking during campaigns. And even as they overwhelm candidates and increasingly control what voters read, see and hear about state campaigns, these groups are keeping the voters entirely in the dark about how much they are spending to influence elections and where they get the money..."

This gaping loophole has now been closed by the state Government Accountability Board (GAB), formerly the Elections Board, that requires so-called "issue ads" to disclose who is paying for them, and limiting the expenditures to those for actual campaign contributions. The ruling is subject to legislative review, and a probable lawsuit by opponents, but shines a light on the dark side of recent Wisconsin elections. This is a big step toward restoring honest elections to our state.

## 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**  
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