



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

October, 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

Volunteer Now, Win in November!

With about three weeks left until the most important election of our lives, all who care about the result need to get to work making sure that our Democratic Coordinated Campaign delivers Door and Kewaunee Counties for Barack Obama for President, Steve Kagen for Congress, and Dick Skare for the WI Assembly.

In the Chair's Message on page 4, DPDC Chair Estella Lauter lists 14 ways in which each of us can contribute to a Democratic victory. This column gives some background about the critical jobs requiring the most volunteers: **phone banking, canvassing** and **GOTV** (getting out the vote).

The thought of "phone banking", calling perfect strangers on behalf of a political campaign might seem to be a "fate worse than death". In fact, it is easy, even fun when done as part of a team, and serves several very important purposes.

In a political campaign, phone banking takes place in phases, which may overlap. The first is gathering volunteers. That is, calling loyal Democrats to enlist their help. These are typically activists who are glad to be asked to undertake a specific volunteer activity. You can generally expect an enthusiastic response from the called individual.

The second phase is survey calls. What are we surveying and why?

Door County has about 22,000 registered voters. The Democratic National Committee has sponsored development of a voter file which fairly reliably identifies the political leanings of about half the voters. We don't have any information about the preferences of the other 11,000.

We find out about their preferences by calling them and asking. Some people slam down the phone, which gives us a pretty good idea of their party preference. But most folks are quite willing to tell us their party and candidate preferences.

The result is quite important. We know we don't need to persuade strong Democrats, and there is no point in trying to persuade Republicans. So we can concentrate persuasion efforts on the independent and undecided voters.

Persuasion calls are the next phase. These are focused on those who are potentially persuadable, and are only one form of contact with these voters. We also canvass their neighborhoods, send out mailings, and candidates knock on their doors. From experience we know that it takes 6 - 9 "contacts" to persuade the undecided voter.

At the end of the campaign we make "get out the vote" (GOTV) calls to strong and leaning Democrats to help ensure they actually get to the polls and vote. Only 60-75 percent of eligible voters do vote in a presidential election, so mobilizing voters who favor Democrats but might not actually vote is crucially important. These calls fall on sympathetic ears and are usually well received.

So, phone banking is not really intimidating. We provide scripts, lists of voters to call, refreshments, companionship and a sense of making a real difference.

The second major time-consuming activity is canvassing. This is usually done in teams, visiting a neighborhood and knocking on doors of undecided and persuadable voters to engage them in conversation and leave literature for them to consider.

(continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- Oct 15 **Last day to register to vote before election day.** Register at your city or town hall, or the county clerk's office. You will need ID with birth date and address, or some other proof of address (such as a utility bill addressed to you). Vote early by applying for an absentee ballot.
- Oct 15 **Final DPDC Presidential Debate Watch Party,** The Ladder House upper level, 38 S. 3rd Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 8:00-10:00 PM. Refreshments, cash bar available. Come, be energized for the home stretch.
- Oct 18 **Fall Fest Parade,** Sister Bay 11:00 AM. Line up along Maple Street (Cty ZZ) at 10:00. Come out and support the DPDC and our candidates.
- Oct 18 **Democratic Unity Rally,** At the Ladder House, 38 S. 3rd Ave, upper level, 2:00-4:00 PM. See article on page 3.
- Oct 19 **GOTV training session,** at our office, 62 S. 3rd Ave, 1:00 PM.
- Oct 22 **LVW Forum on funding our schools,** Sturgeon Bay High School, 6:30-8:30 PM. Dick Skare and Garey Beis will discuss the issues.
- Oct 25 **Skare Fundraiser and Rally,** Hands On Art Studio, 3655 Pensinsula Players Rd., Fish Creek, 3:00-5:00 PM. See article on page 3.
- Oct 26 **Book talk and signing by Len Zubrensky,** at the Bistro in Liberty Square, Egg Harbor, 4:00 - 6:00 PM. Author of the book, *Let the Hi-Jinks Begin, The Memoir of a Democratic Activist*, Len has known and worked with Wisconsin Democratic icons, including as Senator Proxmire's first campaign manager. The book is filled with vignettes about Proxmire and other Democratic giants. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

NOVEMBER

- Nov 4 **Election Day.** Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Every vote is critical. Volunteer to help with GOTV (see adjacent article).

Volunteering, continued from page 1

Canvassers are provided with "walk lists" that identify the residences where persuadable voters can be found. The Democrats don't need persuading, and the Republicans are unlikely to be persuaded, so attention is focused on those voters who are potentially persuadable. Most people in the "undecided" category are cordial, and willing to talk and listen.

Other jobs are important too: data entry of the results of the phone calls and canvassing, providing refreshments, working in the office scheduling volunteers, sending out mailings, and selling campaign "chum".

In the days before the election, and on election day, we will need 100 volunteers to make GOTV calls to Democrats, provide rides to the polls, act as poll watchers to ensure that voters are not disenfranchised unfairly, and other activities. There are volunteer forms in the Party office, and a **special GOTV training session will be held at the Party office (62 S. 3rd Ave. in Sturgeon Bay) on Sunday, October 19 at 1:00 PM.**

Remember that in 2004 Kerry won Wisconsin by 3 votes per precinct. On November 5th it will be too late to say "I wish I had done more". So keep working as if we are one vote behind, and your activity will recruit that winning vote. **VOLUNTEER!**

Here are the specific times and tasks for our GOTV push.

October 31 - Nov 3:

9:00 AM - 9:00 PM Office volunteers
Phone bankers

9:00 PM - 12:00 AM Office volunteers

November 4, election day:

6:00 AM - 9:00 AM Door Hangers
Poll volunteers
GOTV office manager
Street visibility volunteers

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM GOTV canvassers
GOTV phone bankers
Poll volunteers
GOTV office manager
Street visibility volunteers

To volunteer for any part of these times, and/or sign up for the GOTV training session call the Party office (920-559-8200) or Maggie (309-558-5525) or Sondra (920-819-3364).

**VOLUNTEER + VOTE
= VICTORY**

DPDC Unity Rally to Feature Kagen and Skare

Mark your calendars! Saturday October 18 will be a big day for Door County Democrats (note the change in date).

After a strong showing of Door County Dems in the Fall Fest Parade in Sister Bay (see item in left hand column, page 2), we will all hurry down to the Ladder House (upper level) in Sturgeon Bay for a Democratic Unity Rally and kickoff to the last two weeks until we elect our Democrat candidates. Congressman Steve Kagen, Assembly candidate Dick Skare and NE Wisconsin Democratic notables will speak.

There will be music, light refreshments, a cash bar, and lots of excitement. Join our coordinated campaign field organizers and campaign managers in showing support for our candidates.

Flying Pig Event Garners Volunteers

September 10, The Flying Pig Gallery and Greenspace: Good people plus good energy yield good ideas. Obama supporters came together to exchange questions and suggestions on how to Rock the Vote.

Forty some new people signed up to volunteer to canvass, phone, host coffees, register voters and get out the vote. Responses to the opposition and the need to get people familiar with Obama's positions and comfortable with his name came out clearly. Yardsigns and bumperstickers sold like hotcakes.

Plans were laid for a presence at the Algoma Winefest Sept 20-21, and the Pumpkin Patch Festival Oct 11-12 with the help of Bob Grosso and his colorful Tomatoes for Change Wagon.

Many thanks to Flying Pig owners, Susan and Robin, for letting us gather there. And thanks to Sondra Milkie for her presentation and Leslie Goulet who organized this event.



An attentive crowd at the Flying Pig

Barbara Lawton to Speak at Skare Fundraiser

The momentum is building. Democratic Assembly candidate Dick Skare is knocking on doors, making phone calls and contacting voters throughout the district, working hard bringing his message of common sense leadership to Door, Kewaunee and Brown Counties.

On Saturday, October 25th, from 3:00-5:00 PM, there will be a fundraiser at the Hands On Art Studio, 3655 Pensive Players Rd., Fish Creek, to help Dick get the message out. Door County's own Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton will be there to support Dick and inspire us to elect him and help to gain Democratic control of the Assembly.

Dick's opponent had a \$40,000 "war chest" at the start of the general election campaign. We need to ensure that Dick has the wherewithal to reach the voters. A suggested contribution is \$25 per person, though any amount will be appreciated.

For those who can make larger donations, acknowledgment will be made. Contributions of \$250 will be recognized as Hosts, \$100 as Friends, \$50 as Supporters. To make a donation and/or RSVP, contact Olivia Lowery at 920-562-1772 or by email at RSVP4DickSkare@gmail.com.

A Challenging Conundrum

How many Republicans does it take to change a light bulb? Answer: TEN...

1. One to deny that a bulb needs to be changed,
2. One to attack the patriotism of anyone who says the light bulb needs to be changed,
3. One to blame Clinton for burning out the bulb,
4. One to tell the nations of the world that they are either for changing the bulb or for eternal darkness,
5. One to give a billion dollar no-bid contract to Halliburton for the new bulb,
6. One to arrange a photograph of Bush, dressed as a janitor, standing on a stepladder under a banner "Bulb Accomplished,"
7. One administration insider to resign and in detail reveal how Bush was literally "in the dark" the whole time,
8. One to viciously smear #7,
9. One surrogate to campaign on TV and at rallies on how John McCain has had a strong light bulb-changing policy all along,
10. And finally, one to confuse Americans about the difference between screwing a light bulb and screwing the country.

And, after all is said and done, no one (including the media) will notice that they never actually managed to change the light bulb.

Message from the Chair:

Do Whatever You Can for Obama, Kagen and Skare before November 4th

I cannot stress too strongly the importance of doing whatever you can on behalf of our Democratic candidates in the days before the election on November 4th!



**Estella Lauter,
DPDC Chair**

This is the most important election of our lifetimes because it may be our only chance to stop the trainwreck that 30 years of conservative policies have produced at home and abroad. McCain is targeting "low information voters" with the worst sort of emotional slime and cynical manipulations of reality. Even Karl Rove says he has "gone too far."

Our press has betrayed its role by not presenting the facts of McCain's life and work that give the lie to his claims about independence, responsibility and integrity. And the Republican machine will stop at nothing. Our own Attorney General (and a co-chairman of the McCain campaign) is attempting to disenfranchise thousands of African American votes in Milwaukee (shades of similar actions in Florida and Ohio in 2000 and 2004).

WI may well decide this election! McCain has withdrawn from Michigan and put more money into Wisconsin because he thinks Van Holland can deliver. The Republican machine just gave us two lousy WI Supreme Court judges in spring 2007 and 2008. We can't let them steal this crucial election. Obama is ahead in the polls right now, but he needs a wider margin to counter the effect of those voters who say they will vote for him, but in the privacy of the voting booth, allow racism to rule.

Here is a short list of recommended actions:

1. Make sure that you are registered to vote. You can register at the polls on the 4th with a driver's license, a social security number or a letter from a registered voter who vouches for your residence, but it will take time. Call or stop in to see your town clerk, or check your registration on-line beforehand.
2. If you can't be present on the 4th, request an absentee ballot from your town clerk or arrange to vote early. If you requested an absentee ballot by mail and have not received it, call your town clerk. A Republican-created phony request form may have provided the wrong addresses for your clerk and she may not have received it.
3. Wear your buttons and put out your signs. Hold your own in conversations about candidates.

4. Attend events such as the DPDC Rally on October 18th. March in the Sister Bay Fall Fest Parade at 11:00 that day. Attend the League of Women Voters forum on funding education on October 22nd, featuring the Assembly candidates. Watch for notices of candidate and surrogate visits to the area. Let us know if you would ride a bus to such an event for \$10.00.
5. Encourage your friends to join the DPDC so that they will receive newsletters and notices of events and developments.
6. Come to the office at 62 S. Third Ave., Sturgeon Bay any evening from 5:00-9:00 PM except Saturday to make phone calls from lists with scripts to identify voter preferences, engage in light persuasion, or get out the vote.
7. Join one of the calling parties in northern Door. Women for Obama are making calls each Wednesday night from different homes. Another group meets in Ellison Bay and Sister Bay M-W nights each week.
8. Join a canvass in Sturgeon Bay on Saturdays and Sundays each week to distribute literature. Organize canvasses in the various towns. The last four days before the election are particularly important.
9. Join a rapid response network to counter any "swiftboating" that occurs.
10. Write letters to the editor on the issues that matter most to you. Help to write ads for local papers.
11. Contribute to the campaigns. Even a few dollars makes a difference.
12. Persuade two friends or relatives to vote for the Democratic ticket. John Kerry won WI in 2004 by an average of just three votes per ward!
13. VOTE. Take November 4th off from work. Organize a car pool from your neighborhood. Invite a friend to go with you. Canvass for voters. Help people whose vote is challenged by Republicans to stand up for their rights.
14. Find your voice and speak out wherever you can. Use Factcheck, Truthout, TomPaine.com, the Huffington Post, and other alternative news sources to make sure that your friends know what is true and false. Go to barackobama.com to read up on Obama's positions so that you have the information you need to be persuasive.

These are only a few of the things you can do!

DO SOMETHING—whatever you can, before it is too late! We can't assume that this election will be fair. We have to make it fair with constant vigilance.