



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

October, 2009 Newsletter

Executive Board

Mary Horn, Co-Chair
(920) 743-0009

Estella Lauter, Co-Chair
(920) 839-2741

Bill Perloff, Vice-Chair
(920) 839-9282

Patti Podgers, Secretary
(920) 839-1302

John Franz, Treasurer
(920) 854-9312

Jim Adams
(920) 743-7857

Terry Bobbe
(920) 825-1369

Rod Bohn
(920) 743-5510

Michelle Jacobson
(920) 536-0178

Olivia Lowery
(920) 562-1772

Dennis Skahen
(920) 743-3496

Committee Chairs:

Communication:

Jim Adams
(920) 743-7857

Elections:

Events:

Challoner Brown
(920) 559-0244

Membership:

Olivia Lowery
(920) 562-1772

Program:

Jim Adams, Co-Chair
(920) 743-7857
Dennis Skahen, Co-Chair
(920) 743-3496

Issues, Resolutions, Survey:

Phil Hansotia
(920) 854-9360

Budget and Fundraising:

John Franz
(920) 854-9312

Democratic Candidates: "2010 Here We Come!"

Everywhere you look, Democratic Candidates are gearing up for the 2010 elections. We are committed to keeping Door County "blue", and making it even "bluer" with a truly coordinated campaign that will support all Democratic Candidates for local, statewide and national office. Here is a brief rundown on the races:

Dick Skare, who came within a whisker of defeating Gary Bies in 2008, has announced his candidacy for WI Assembly District 1. With the experience of a campaign behind him, Dick is committed to taking the Assembly seat back for the Democrats. In 2008 he won Door County, and will mount an even stronger effort to extend that margin into Kewaunee and Brown Counties in 2010.



Dick Skare

Montgomery "Monk" Elmer, a candidate for the First State Senate District seat currently held by "do-nothing" Alan Lassee, is already hard at work campaigning to meet constituents, find out their concerns, and convey his message. Monk is a Kimberly family practice physician, and president of the Kimberly School Board. His early start is an indication of his commitment to a strong, energetic, person-to-person campaign.



Dr. Elmer

Door County's own **Barbara Lawton**, has announced her candidacy to replace retiring Governor Jim Doyle. In her eight years as Lieutenant Governor she has succeeded in bringing human concerns to the forefront in our state, and elevating the discourse about our values. Her focus will include solidifying our innovative approaches to health care, and bringing quality education to the forefront. She faces a primary challenge from Jared Christiansen, a high school student.



Barbara Lawton

Milwaukee Alderman, **Tony Zielinski**, has filed as a Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Tony has served Milwaukee as Supervisor and Alderman since 1988, and won his most recent election with 84 % of the vote. He is a practicing attorney who intends to use the "bully pulpit" of the Lieutenant Governor's office to promote public safety, work for a healthy economy, and level the playing field for American workers.



Tony Zielinski

Former DNR Secretary **Scott Hassett**, will run for WI Attorney General against ultraconservative incumbent J.B. Van Hollen. We will have more information about Mr. Hassett's campaign next month.

And of course, two critical goals for 2010 will be to re-elect our incumbent Congressman, **Dr. Steve Kagen**, and incumbent Senator, **Russ Feingold**. We will need **EVERYONE** to pitch in, financially (see the article on page 4), and with time and energy to get out the vote for our candidates.

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

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

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

- Oct 17 **Sister Bay Fall Festival Parade**, Rte. 42, 11:00 AM. Lineup along Maple Rd after 10:00. We need marchers to show the strength of our party, to support health care reform, and to support Monk Elmer, candidate for State Senate, who will be marching. To sign up, or for more info, call Chuck Lauter, 839-2741.
- Oct 18 **Kewaunee County Fall Fundraising Dinner**, CJ's Restaurant and Banquet Hall, Kewaunee 6:00 PM (see article below).
- Oct 22 **October Membership Meeting**, Ladder House, upper level, 38 S. 3rd Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 7:00 PM. Presentation and organizing meeting for "Organizing for America", see adjacent article.
- Oct 24 **Health Care Reform Forum**, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Bertschinger Center, Rte. 42, Egg Harbor, 10:00 AM, registration 9:30. Learn about the needs of Door County Clients. For more information and to preregister, call Shirley Senarighi at (920) 743-1691.

NOVEMBER

- Nov 12 **Executive Board meets**, Party office (62 S. 3rd Ave.) 6:00 PM. DPDC members welcome to attend.
- Nov 19 **November Membership Meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, Jane Green Room upper level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA.

DECEMBER

- Dec 6 **3rd Annual Pie Party Fundraiser**, Bertschinger Center, Rte. 42, Egg Harbor, 4:00 PM. **Mark your calendars.** More details next month.

Organizing for America: Learn How Democratic Candidates can Benefit

In place of our regular October Membership Meeting we have invited "Organizing for America" (OFA) to hold its first organizational meeting in Door County.

OFA was the support organization for Barack Obama during the 2008 campaign. Though endorsed by the Democratic National Committee, OFA operates independently in support of Democratic candidates. Thus OFA is able to attract members, some of whom may not be members of the Democratic Party, even though they share progressive ideals, and enlist their support for Democratic Candidates and issues.

The NE Wisconsin Director, Bob Marsh, will explain the purpose of OFA and give us an update on the progress toward health care reform. This may be an opportunity to enlist the energy of Door County progressives who have not joined the DPDC.

The meeting will be at the Ladder House, upper level, 38 S. 3rd Avenue, Sturgeon Bay, at 6:30 PM. There will be a cash bar. Food can be ordered from the menu.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join you to learn more about this effective action-oriented organization!

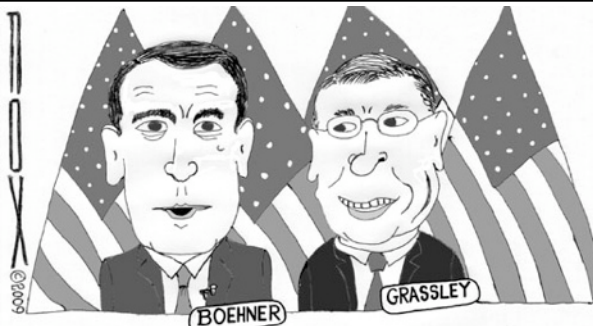
Join Kewaunee Dems in Celebrating

Our fellow Democrats in Kewaunee County are holding their Annual Fall Fundraising Dinner **Sunday, October 18th** at CJ's Restaurant and Banquet Hall, 1510 Ellis St., Kewaunee. The evening begins at 6:00 for socializing, with dinner at 6:30. The menu includes chicken and beef tips.

A distinguished lineup of guests will stir your enthusiasm for Democrats and Democratic Candidates: Congressman **Steve Kagen**, Assembly Representative **Ted Zigmund** (who defeated the notorious Frank Lasse in 2008), **Tony Zielinski**, candidate for Lieutenant Governor (see article on page 1), **Monk Elmer**, candidate for State Senate, and **Dick Skare**, candidate for State Assembly.

Tickets are \$20 per person. For reservations, and/or more information, contact Kewaunee County Democratic Party Chair Melissa Huizenga, (920) 388-2353, or mjhuizenga@greenbaynet.com.

Let's come out in force, support our Democratic colleagues to the South, hear first-hand how our representatives and candidates are doing, and what we can do to make sure they are (re)elected in 2010. If you need a ride, please contact Estella Lauter at 839-2741.



**"Yah we've done our homework!
Got a great healthcare plan.
We, ah, er, ah, forgot it at home."**

Thanks to John Fox

Message from the Co-Chair:**What Do We Mean by *Freedom*?**

For me, one of the most disturbing features of the attempts to disrupt discussion of health care reform was the spectacle of people on the streets shouting for a kind of *freedom* that systematically denies health care to millions of their fellow and sister citizens. I should not have been surprised. Throughout the Bush years, we often heard our leaders use the word to justify all sorts of infringements on other people's spaces and rights. The time is long past for us to ask "Whose freedom?" and "What is freedom, anyway?"



**Estella Lauter,
DPDC Co-Chair**

Some apparently think that freedom refers to an individual's right to do anything he wants, any time, any place, but this is a fantasy, possible only on a well-stocked desert island. Our desires and actions are always limited by the necessity to live in a world with other beings—animal, vegetable and mineral. As our financial institutions turned our savings to ashes, we have just seen that the results of unregulated individualism are not positive.

One of the great moments in U.S. history was the decision to free from bondage the slaves who had made the South rich. In that act, we established a non-negotiable definition of freedom. One person's freedom to make a living could no longer deny another person's freedom to choose where to work or live. Choice is critical to freedom, the bar was set high. The kind of choices we value most highly relate to fundamental matters of survival and well-being.

By this standard, the summer's conservative arguments against health care reform actually undermine our fundamental understanding of freedom. One of the most innocuous-sounding cases was advanced by Sen. Grassley in nearby Iowa, who lauded rural folks who don't want health insurance because they don't believe that they need professional medical care. When Iowans break a toe, he says, they just tough it out.

These good folks just want the freedom to care for themselves—until, inevitably, they land in the Emergency Department, with well-known effects on the general cost of health care in the U.S.

Their freedom to choose medical isolationism works against the health, well-being and perhaps even the survival of others who have no choice with respect to health care because they cannot

afford any available option or because they are excluded from all options at any price because of pre-existing conditions. As we learned in the "Women Speak Out" forum sponsored by the Wellness Center in August, these "conditions" are unpredictable and sometimes even trivial.

In any reasonable debate, it would be clear that the winning case for freedom is for those who have no choice in matters of life and death rather than with those who simply prefer to ignore their own health care or that of others. An insurance system that chains people to an employer for fear of losing coverage is not so different from slavery, is it? It seems perverse to call an insurance system that locks a whole nation into spiraling costs "free enterprise"; it is the opposite: enterprise for the sake of the few who profit from it.

As Senator Kennedy said in his last letter to the President, basic values are at stake in the current discussion of health care reform. Freedom is one of those values, and it turns out to be closely related to justice.

Editors note: The additional comments below from Co-Chair Lauter call for action to exercise our freedom to act in support of restoring sanity to politics. We can and must heed her words.

Have Some Patience, Please! But Don't Sit Still

Last night, I received a rant on what Obama has not done from Common Dreams.org.

Of course Dems are always going to be critical of a President and a legislature. The Democratic Party is a big tent, and we want to keep it that way. We differ from each other in important ways that have to be acknowledged in legislative action.

We are charged at present with reversing not just eight years of disastrous policies but thirty years of creeping conservative thought. This reversal will not be accomplished in nine months or even four years. Yes, it is Obama's responsibility to lead, but as he said throughout the campaign, he cannot do anything alone. He needs us, not only to follow but also to lead.

Throughout the summer, many Dems seemed to be just waiting to be told what to do! /Don't wait any longer! Get busy on some part of this process of change: health care reform, peace, environmental issues, funding for education. If the NRA can get its members to call everyone in the phone book to tell them that the UN is going to deny Americans their right to own guns, surely WE CAN call or write or knock on doors to RESTORE SANITY to politics!

CCA Adopts Strong Position on Health Care Reform

The Wisconsin Democratic County Chairs Association (CCA) has voted to endorse the incorporation of a public option in any health care bill supported by our congressional representatives and senators. The text of their letter follows:

The Democratic Party members of Wisconsin for several years have passed a resolution calling for health care reform. Most recently in June 2009 the delegation agreed that it should be single payer or public option.

At this extremely critical time as our U.S. Senators and members of Congress craft a final bill, the County Chairs Association calls for our representatives to speak out publicly that a strong public option within any health care reform is essential and that they vote yes to such a bill with or without bi-partisan support.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Mantz, CCA Chair
Kristin Delzer, CCA Secretary

Keeping Door County Blue

The 2010 elections loom large on the horizon when we need to re-elect Sen. Feingold, and Rep. Kagen, and elect Democrats for Governor, State Attorney General, State Senator for District 1, State Assembly Rep for District 1, and several local positions traditionally in Republican hands.

All of these are important to continuing the progressive agenda we started with the '08 election and keeping Door County "blue". The only way we can do this is with a strong, energetic, committed and well financed Democratic Party.

The good news: Nearly 200 of our members from 2008 have renewed their membership for 2009. **The bad news:** Nearly 100 members from 2008 have not yet renewed. **The good news:** renew now, and your membership will carry through 2010. **The bad news:** if you choose not to renew by December 31, you will be more than one year in arrears, and we shall have to drop you from our membership rolls.

So if you care about electing Democrats, please renew your membership for 2009 by completing the

form below and sending it to the address shown. Thanks to the 198 folks who have already done so!

BUT, memberships are not enough. Our support of candidates includes contributions from the DPDC that may exceed what individuals can contribute. In addition, our expenses for a coordinated campaign are high: \$200 per month for the office, \$60 per month for high-speed internet access, \$50 per month for telephones, etc. We need your support above and beyond the nominal membership fees!

Act Blue is a non-profit organization that makes it possible to contribute to your DPDC and Democratic candidates by credit card, safely over the internet. To contribute directly to the Democratic Party of Door County via **Act Blue** paste the link below into your browser and help us to help our Democratic candidates win election:

<http://www.actblue.com/entity/fundraisers/22511>

Thank You!!

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