



Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward

August 2007

PORTAGE COUNTY, WI DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Executive Board

Gary Hawley, Co-Chair
Lois Lawler, Co-Chair
Corey Ladick, 1st Vice-Chair
Mary Arnold, 2nd Vice-Chair
Wes Halverson, 3rd Vice-Chair
Betty Bruski-Mallek, 4th Vice-Chair
Jack Allgaier, Treasurer
Carol Gawlik, Secretary
Mary Thurmaier, Statutory Chair
Will Stites, 7th CD Representative
Charlene Figge, Newsletter Editor
Michael Baumann, Young Dems
Michael O'Meara
Jerry Ugland

Committees

Communications:

Mary Arnold, Chair
Charlene Figge
Collene Ottum
Henry St. Maurice

Events:

Corey Ladick, Chair
Carol Gawlik

Fundraising:

Brian Brooks, Chair
Tom Mallison, Co-Chair
Lois Lawler, Exec Board Liaison

Membership:

Lois Lawler, Chair
Roberta Bie
Robyn Van Laanen

Portage County Democratic Party
PO Box 515
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0515

Gary Hawley: 345-9586
gary.hawley@softhome.net

Lois Lawler: 345-1371
loislawler@charter.net

www.portagecountydems.org

MESSAGE from PARTY CO-CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

Good news! The Wisconsin County Chairs voted unanimously to sponsor a Democratic Party booth at the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's (MREA) Energy Fair in 2008. This fits with Governor Doyle's goal of having 10% of the state's energy come from renewable sources by 2015.

Our speaker for our August 14th General Meeting is **Amy Heart**, Programs Director of the MREA. Our meeting will be held at **The Blue Top**, 3425 Church St. in Stevens Point. The Blue Top is not yet open to the public, as it is being renovated, so we are grateful to the new owner, John Sondelski, for allowing us to meet there prior to the official opening!

Openings on Executive Board

We thank two members of the Executive Board—Meleesa Johnson and David Hansen, both at-large members, for their service on the Board. Because of work commitments, both have felt the need to resign. We're now looking for two dedicated persons to fill these vacancies, and are seeking nominations for both positions. *We will vote to fill the positions at the General Meeting on September 11.*

Wanted: Newsletter Sponsors!

Please turn to page 3 of this newsletter to see our growing list of 2007 Newsletter Sponsors. To



add **your** name to this list of those helping cover the cost of printing our County Newsletter (about \$75 per month), send your check (any amount is appreciated) payable to the **Portage County Democratic Party**, to Charlene Figge, Newsletter Editor, 5411 Woodland St., Stevens Point, WI 54481. Please note on check that this is for *Newsletter Sponsorship*.

Dem Picnic is August 26th...!

Tape the enclosed Picnic Flyer to your fridge as a reminder to come. Or share it with a friend. **State Treasurer Dawn Marie Sass** plans to join us as one of our special guest speakers. Have a great month of August, ...and see you at the Picnic!

Gary Hawley Lois Lawler

Gary Hawley Lois Lawler
Co-Chairs, Portage County Democratic Party

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Message from

*U.S. Senator
Russ Feingold*



2007 Calendar

AUGUST

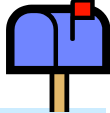
- Tues. Aug 7 **Executive Board Meeting** at the County-City Building, 1515 Strongs Ave., at 6:30 p.m.
- Tues. Aug 14 **General Meeting at The** (not-yet-open-to-the-general-public) **Blue Top**, 3425 Church Street in Stevens Point, at 7:00 p.m. (Socialization begins at 6:30; beverages provided.)
- General Meeting/Updates of Elected Officials
 - Guest Speaker: **Amy Heart**, Programs Director of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA).
- Sun. Aug 26 **Democratic Party Picnic** at Pffinner Park Among Special Guests: *WI State Treasurer, Dawn Marie Sass*
- Aug 30-Sep 3 Portage County Fair in Rosholt

SEPTEMBER

- Tues. Sept 4 **Executive Board Meeting** at the County-City Building, 1515 Strongs Ave., at 6:30 p.m.
- Tues. Sept 10 **General Meeting** at the newly renovated Blue Top, 3425 Church Street in Stevens Point, at 7:00 p.m. (Socialization begins at 6:30)
- Sat. Sept 29 **"Grandpa Bob's Barn Dance"** hosted by Waupaca Washara United Democratic Party, 4:00-8:30 p.m. in Wild Rose, South of Waupaca (more details to come later)



Our mailbox is getting lonely. Please return your sold raffle tickets soon—or bring them to the picnic!



Molly Ivins, newspaper columnist, political commentator and best-selling author, passed away January 31, 2007. Occasionally, in her memory, we publish one of her quotes.

"Either we figure out how to keep corporate cash out of the political system, or we lost the democracy."

Molly Ivins, from the July 2006 issue of *The Progressive*



From the Editor —

We want to hear from YOU. If you have something you would like included in a future newsletter, contact me at cfigge@charter.net or call 345-1371.

The due date for sending items for our September issue is August 20th.

— Charlene Figge

Volunteer

Now, in SUMMER 2007, we continue asking for help with events in which the County Dems participate. A special appeal is our **Democratic Party Picnic Sunday, August 26**. *Please, can we count on your help? You'll attend the picnic, right?*

Portage County Democratic Picnic Sunday, Aug 26th 11:30 am – 4:00 pm

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Food | If you can help prepare food and/or serve food at the picnic, call Betty to volunteer. | Betty Bruski-Mallek
mallek@tds.net
457-2353 |
| Silent Auction | Please look through your closets and garage for items for our auction. Help us help you clean out the unwanted, but useful, items that someone else may want! Contact Wes or Will to donate items. | Wes Halverson
wes.halverson@uwsp.edu
344-6877 or 340-4212
Will Stites
wstites@charter.net
345-7065 |
| Bake Sale | We again will be selling baked goods. If you can bake some cookies, bars, or other such treats, give Mary a call. | Mary Arnold
stmaurice@charter.net
344-5449 |
| Raffle | Please sell your raffle tickets and send the money to our PO Box 515 in Stevens Point. If you need additional tickets, call Jack. | Jack Allgaier
Allgaier@handeltech.com
341-5359 |
| ATTEND | Come to the Picnic for fun, visit with friends, hear speeches, and purchase the above items. Mark the date on your calendar. | Gary Hawley
Gary.hawley@softhome.net
345-9586 |

Rosholt Fair Update

by Jack Allgaier

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP!

Volunteers are needed to work at the Portage County Democratic Party's booth at the Portage County Fair in Rosholt from Friday night, August 30th, through Monday night, September 3rd (this is Labor Day weekend).

Volunteers will hand out Obey pencils and yardsticks, Lassa football schedules, and Molepske Wisconsin highway maps. We also distribute membership and volunteer forms plus copies of our newsletters. Our presence at this fair is of importance—to let fairgoers know that **our Party is alive and well!** If you can work a three-hour shift (10-1, 1-4, 4-7 OR 7-10) one of the days, please call me at 341-5359. We need almost twice as many volunteers (twelve!) for this fair as compared to the Amherst Fair, so please, *please*, volunteer.

The good news is that our location is indoors, well-protected from the weather and the noise of the fair! (It's a good place to do some reading.) Please phone me at 341-5359 to lend a hand. And visit our booth!

WHY IMPORT SO MUCH FOOD?

—From the *Hightower Lowdown*, June 2007 issue

...People are upset that a chemical additive in pet food imported from China is poisoning their little Fidos and Fluffies. The same additive has also been found in feed for chickens and hogs. Why isn't the FDA protecting us?

Well, inspections by the Food and Drug Administration are a cruel joke. Some 9 million shiploads of foreign food came into our ports last year, yet the FDA sampled only about 20,000. That's barely one percent! Foreign suppliers know this, so they've turned America into an easy-access dumping ground for fish, grains, and other foods tainted with everything from cancer-causing toxins to illegal veterinary drugs.

In the past decade, food shipments from elsewhere to our ports have more than doubled, with shipments from China nearly quintupling. We already have a massive trade imbalance with the Chinese—why increase it by buying catfish, nuts, wheat products, and other common foods that our own farmers produce in abundance...and with great quality?

Can you say, Wal-Mart?

Wal-Mart, giant supermarket food chains, and the big food processors from our own country are steadily abandoning American farmers to get cheaper commodities and packaged goods from China and other countries where farmers, workers, and the environment are easily exploited. That's what these retailers and processors mean by "cheap" foodstuffs.

By the way, these are the same corporations that are trying to kill legislation requiring food imports to be labeled by country of origin.

To avoid bad imports, buy as much food as possible from farmers' markets and grocery stores that feature locally grown food. ■



Summer Happenings with College Dems:

- Our Treasurer Joelle Groshek is reviewing fund-raising possibilities to supplement our yearly budget.
- We are planning on having our Political Forum in the Mid-October timeframe.
- We are also working on plans for our membership drive in the fall.
- Finally, we our "charging our batteries" for the upcoming school year.

Michael E Baumann, Chairman

This is the sixth in our Interview Series: Meet Portage County Democratic Party Leaders. Each month we'll focus on members of our PCDP Executive Board or other County Dems.

Our August issue focuses on Executive Board Member, Betty Bruski Mallek, Fourth Vice Chair.

PCDP: Betty, what is your background with the Democratic Party?

A lifelong member, just recently elected to the Executive Board.

PCDP: Please share some of your personal background.

I live in the Village of Junction City and am married to Peter Mallek. We have five children and have a dairy farm. I'm employed with the City of Stevens Point and am the municipal clerk for the Village of Junction City.

PCDP: Other than politics, what are your interests?

Keeping up with my family, being involved with their activities.

PCDP: What are your hopes for the Portage Democratic Party?

I hope the Portage County Democratic Party continues to grow and prosper. We have very energetic leaders in our Party who inspire us all. I hope the Democrats have a good 2008 year.

PCDP: What else would you like us to know about you; what else would you like to share?

Please come to our meetings and events.



Thank you to our 2007

Newsletter Sponsors:

- Mary Thurmaier
- Geri Furr
- Mary Arnold and Henry St. Maurice
- Charlene Figge
- Jack and Leigh Allgaier
- Lois Lawler

We are grateful for your generosity.

Speech at Live Earth — New York Event, July 7th

Now we've all heard the oil industry and the coal industry and their indentured servants in the political process telling us that global climate stability is a luxury that we can't afford. That we have to choose now between economic prosperity on the one hand and environmental protection on the other. And that is a false choice.

In 100% of the situations, good environmental policy is identical to good economic policy — if we want to measure our economy, and this is how we ought to be measuring it, based upon how it produces jobs and the dignity of jobs over the generations, how it preserves the values of the assets of our community and how it averts the catastrophe of global warming.

If, on the other hand, we want to do what they've been urging us to do on Capitol Hill which is to treat the planet as if it were a business in liquidation, convert our natural resources to cash as quickly as possible, have a few years of pollution based prosperity, we can generate an instantaneous cash flow and the illusion of a prosperous economy. But our children are going to pay for our joyride with denuded landscapes, with poor health, with huge cleanup costs and with climate chaos which is going to amplify over time and that they will never be able to pay.

Environmental injury is deficit spending. It is a way of loading the costs of our generation's prosperity on to the backs of our children. Climate change is upon us. Its impacts are going to be catastrophic and we are causing it. The good news is, we have the scientific and technological capacity to avert its most catastrophic impacts. We only need the political will.

If we raise fuel economy standards in our automobiles by one mile — we generate twice the amount of oil that is in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. If we raise fuel economy standards by 7.6 miles per gallon we yield more oil than we now import from the Persian Gulf. We can eliminate 100% of Persian Gulf oil.

Think about what that would do for our economy, for our foreign policy, for our global leadership. It would dramatically improve our balance of payments, reduce our national debt and make all of us more prosperous and more independent and spare

us from wars in the Mid-East that are costing us, already, a trillion dollars and from entanglements with Mid-Eastern dictators who despise democracy and are hated by their own people.

Now you've heard today a lot of people say that there are many little things that you all can do today to avert climate change on your own. But I will tell you this: It is more important than buying compact fluorescent light bulbs or than buying a fuel efficient automobile. The most important thing you can do is to get involved in the political process and get rid of all of these rotten politicians that we have in Washington D.C.— who are nothing more than corporate toadies for companies like Exxon and Southern Company, these villainous companies that consistently put their private financial interest ahead of American interest and ahead of the interest of all of humanity. This is treason and we need to start treating them now as traitors.

And they have their slick public relations firms and their phony think tanks in Washington D.C. and their crooked scientists who are lying to the American people day after day after day. And we have a press that has completely let down American Democracy; that's giving us Ana Nicole Smith and Paris Hilton instead of the issues that we need to understand to make rational decisions in a democracy — like global warming.



And so I am going to tell you this, that the next time you see John Stossel or Glenn Beck or Rush Limbaugh or Sean Hannity — these flat-earthers, these corporate toadies, lying to you, lying to the American public, and telling you that global warming doesn't exist — you send an email to their advertisers and tell them that you are not going to buy their products anymore.

And I want you to remember this, that we are not protecting the environment for the sake of the fishes and the birds, we are protecting it because nature is the infrastructure of our communities. And if we want to meet our obligation as a generation, as a civilization, as a nation, which is to create communities for our children that provide them with the same opportunities for dignity, and enrichment, and good health, and prosperity, and stability as the communities that our parents gave us, we've got to start by protecting our environmental infrastructure.

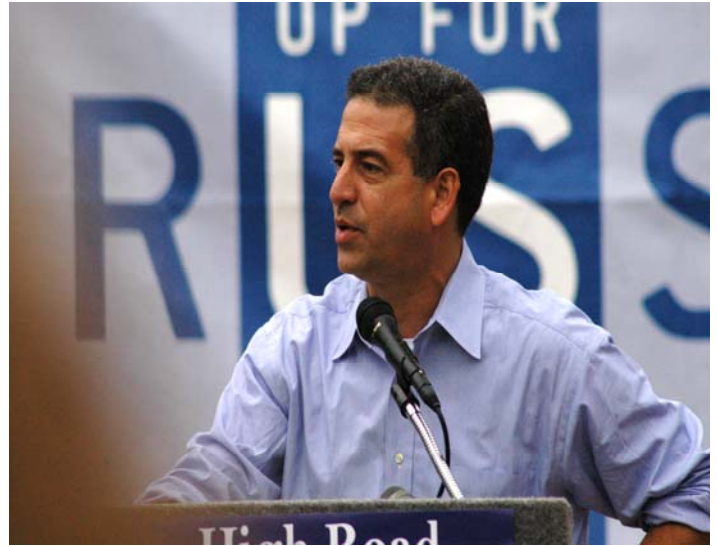
The air we breathe, the water we drink, the wildlife, the public lands, the things that connect us to our past, to our history provide context to our communities and are the source, ultimately, of our values and our virtues and our character as a people and the future of our children. 🌍

Dear Wisconsin Progressive,

I'm writing today to thank you, the local activists, for all of your past support and hard work on behalf of myself and other elected Democrats—at all levels—across our state. As you know, by working together last year, we were able to take back the State Senate, make huge gains in the Assembly, elect a Democrat in the 8th Congressional District, and of course re-elect our Governor/Lt. Governor and Senior Senator in resounding victories.

But there is much more work to be done as we inch closer to 2008. My staff and I are continuing to travel the state, hold our steering committee meetings, and talk to folks on the ground in every corner of every county. We're continuing to build on the work we did together last year and will again do all that we can to elect Democrats at all levels leading up to 2008. However, we can't do anything without your help.

So I wanted to be sure you had our campaign's contact information. The easiest way to contact us is through my State Field Director, Paula Zellner. She may be reached at zellner@russfeingold.org or 715-735-7811. We want to hear directly from you; whether you, or someone you know, are thinking about running for state office, or even if you just



Senator Russ Feingold

see something in your local paper that you think we should be aware of, we're counting on you to be our eyes and ears on the ground.

Again, the work that you do at the local level helps Democrats statewide. I can't thank you enough for your commitment and dedication.

With high hopes,

Russ Feingold
United States Senator
www.russfeingold.org

County Clerk Update

As your newly elected County Clerk, I attended the 2007 County Clerk's Institute offered through UW-Green Bay. This institute is specifically designed as an educational tool for first through third term County Clerks, Municipal Clerks and Treasurers. Attendance at the institute was over 120, which demonstrates the enthusiasm of elected and appointed officials across the State to learn their statutory duties and much more. Subject matters included Communication and Public Speaking, Elections, Federal Employment Tax Issues, Marriage Licenses, Parliamentary Procedure, Open Meetings & Records Law and Ethics. I have already been able to share data with other elected officials and department staff.

The Portage County Board Committees are currently working on re-writing human resources and fiscal policies with the new County Executive, as well as updating the Portage County Code of Ordinances to reflect the changes in the structures and responsibilities of the County Board.

Have a great summer. Be sure to stop by the office when in the County-City Building.

SHIRLEY M. SIMONIS
PORTAGE COUNTY CLERK



PCDP Voter Registration Drive

Become a Volunteer

Part of our strategy for regaining the White House in 2008 is early voter registration.

A training sponsored by the Portage County Democratic Party will be offered by the City Clerk's Office in Stevens Point. Participants will be deputized to register voters from Stevens Point and several other Portage County municipalities.

Please **attend the Friday, August 10th training** at 2:00 p.m. at the Annex Building on Strongs Ave.

We need volunteers to do ongoing voter registration on Saturdays in August and September **at the Farmers' Market** in downtown Stevens Point.

Other times and locations will be added later.

For further information, contact:

John Moe or Betty Mallek
Stevens Point City Clerk's Office
346-1569

Portage County Democratic Party

P O Box 515
Stevens Point, WI
54481-0515

Gary Hawley
Co-Chair, PCDP
phone: 715-345-9586
fax: 715-345-9586
gary.hawley@softhome.net

Lois Lawler
Co-Chair, PCDP
phone: 715-345-1371
fax: 715-342-0862
loislawler@charter.net

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GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, August 14th at 7:00 pm
at The Blue Top
3425 Church Street in Stevens Point



Democratic Party AUGUST General Meeting

Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at THE BLUE TOP, 7:00 p.m.
3425 Church St., Stevens Point (socializing begins at 6:30)

Amy Heart serves as the Programs Director for the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. She coordinates MREA outreach and events such as the Wisconsin Solar Tour, set for Oct. 5-6, and the Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair. Since its inception in 1990, the Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair has shown 190,000 fairgoers how to change the world. Each summer the Fair transforms rural central Wisconsin into the global hot spot for renewable energy education. The Fair is the world's largest energy educational event of its kind.

Amy was elected to Stevens Point's City Council this past spring. She serves as co-chair of the recently formed Eco-Municipality Task Force. Amy is also an avid cyclist and

serves on the Board of Directors for the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin. Along with her husband John Brown, they spend their summers mountain bike racing.

At the August meeting, Amy will highlight two main topics:

- **The Wisconsin Solar Tour**, October 5-6, allows the general public to see businesses and homes with renewable energy. There are a number of central Wisconsin tour opportunities. She will outline what is available for resources and incentives.
- **The Stevens Point Eco-Municipality Task Force** is looking for citizen involvement. Amy will outline the goals of the Task Force and will highlight the study areas of its subcommittees. There will also be the opportunity to brainstorm priority areas and ideas to create a sustainable future for our community.



Amy Heart

You're invited! Please come...



**THE PORTAGE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

is holding its

ANNUAL PICNIC

**on Sunday, August 26th, from 11 AM to 4 PM
at Pfiffner Pioneer Park**

***The public is invited to this annual fundraiser:
there is something for everyone!***

Music by the EZ Aces — a Silent Auction — Children's Activities

**Speakers include elected officials in Portage County
and Wisconsin State Treasurer, Dawn Marie Sass**

~ FOOD AND DRINK FOR SALE ~

We hope to see you there.

Join these Local Elected Officials who have been invited to the Portage County Democratic Party Picnic

Portage County Elected Officials

Cynthia (Cindy) A. Wisinski
Register of Deeds
715/346-1428
wisinskc@co.portage.wi.us

Shirley Simonis
County Clerk
715/346-1351
simoniss@co.portage.wi.us

Stephanie A. Stokes
County Treasurer
715/346-1348
stokess@co.portage.wi.us

Bernadette A. Flatoff
Clerk of Courts
715/346-1364
flatoffb@co.portage.wi.us

Joseph Glodowski
County Surveyor
715/346-1343
glodowj@co.portage.wi.us

John E. Charewicz
Sheriff
715/346-1400
charewij@co.portage.wi.us

Tom Eagon
District Attorney
715/346-1300
eagon.tom@mail.da.state.wi.us

Wisconsin State Officials

24th Senate District

Sen. Julie Lassa
Rm 3 State Capitol
P O Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707
800-925-7491
Sen.Lassa@legis.state.wi.us

70th Assembly District

Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink
Rm 412 N State Capitol
P O Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708
888-534-0070
Rep.Vruwink@legis.state.wi.us

71st Assembly District

Rep. Louis Molepske Jr
Rm 122 N State Capitol
P O Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708
888-534-0071
Rep.Molepske@legis.state.wi.us

72nd Assembly District

Rep. Marlin Schneider
Rm 204 N State Capitol
P O Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708
888-529-0072
Rep.Schneider@legis.state.wi.us