



Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward

December 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
 Saul Newton, College Dems
 Julie Brazeau
 Tom Mallison
 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,

As the end of 2007 approaches, and we enter the holiday season, we find ourselves reminiscing on the accomplishments of 2007, and viewing 2008 with both hope and trepidation—hope that 2008 will be a year when the Democracy we treasure will actually work and the people will elect a leader they can respect and support; trepidation because we cannot underestimate the power of money and its ability to undermine the democratic process.

For example, current Republican efforts to qualify an initiative for the California ballot in June propose splitting the electoral votes and apportioning them by whoever wins in each Congressional District. While this initiative was almost dropped in September, it has been revived and Republicans are working hard to get a share of California's electoral college vote. This is proposed, of course, in a state that more often than not goes Democrat.

Many of us feel that both the 2000 and 2004 elections were stolen, and books have been written that provide verifiable evidence that this is certainly so. And, while some measures have been taken to protect the integrity of the ballot box, our election process can still be manipulated. As recently as November 2007, a Texas voting machine was found to alter votes, a fact discovered by an astute voter who returned to earlier pages of his ballot only to find his candidate had been "deselected" and an opponent awarded his vote.



But back to hope: Thomas Jefferson said that eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. Let's not sleep through our turn to watch. We invite each of you to help in the electoral process of 2008. Our State Convention will be in Stevens Point, and we urge you to become involved.

Finally, we are looking for a couple of members, not already on the Executive Board, to form an audit committee to review our 2007 books. If you have experience in accounting and might be interested in serving, give either of us (Gary at 345-9586, or Lois at 345-1371) a call. This annual audit is important to let our members know that our County Party is being responsible for the moneys donated.

Have a wonderful holiday season! We hope to see you at our PARTY December 11th!

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

Inside this issue...

page 4...

Join us for the ANNUAL
 HOLIDAY PARTY at our
 December 11 Meeting
 at *THE BLUE TOP*



2007 Calendar

DECEMBER

- Tues. Dec 4 Executive Board Meeting at the County-City Building, 1515 Strongs Ave., at 6:30 p.m.
- Tues. Dec 11 General Meeting/Holiday Gathering at The Blue Top, 3425 Church Street in Stevens Point, at 7:00 p.m. (Socialization begins at 6:30.)
- General Meeting/Updates of Elected Officials
 - No Guest Speaker or Program, but a wonderful opportunity to mingle with elected officials and fellow Democrats.
 - Refreshments will be provided.



JANUARY 2008

- Thurs. Jan 3 Executive Board Meeting at the County-City Building, 1515 Strongs Ave., at 6:30 p.m.
- Tues. Jan 8 General Meeting at The Blue Top, 3425 Church Street in Stevens Point, at 7:00 p.m. (Socialization begins at 6:30.)

Psssst! Have you checked out our Web Site?

www.PortageCountyDems.org



Special Award

At our December General Meeting, a Special Award will be presented to **MARY THURMAIER** for her many and outstanding years of dedicated service to the Portage County Democratic Party.

Be sure to attend the December meeting to offer your own CONGRATULATIONS to our award recipient, **Mary Thurmaier.**



Question: Would you prefer receiving your Newsletter by e-mail?

While we continue to raise money to cover the expense of printing this newsletter, some of our members are requesting to receive their Portage County Democratic Party Newsletter via e-mail only, in order to save us the expense of printing and postage. We are happy to continue mailing the newsletter, but if YOU would prefer to receive only the e-mail version, as a PDF, please contact our editor, Charlene Figge, at cfigge@charter.net.

Please Come...

PCDP Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

Everyone is invited to bring NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND/OR NEW TOOTHBRUSHES to the December General Meeting. Collected items will be donated to OPERATION BOOTSTRAP.

Enjoy gathering with fellow Dems, meeting with elected officials, electing our 2008 Executive Board members, and GIFTING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR COMMUNITY with desperately needed food items.



From the Editor —

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

The due date for sending items for our January issue is December 20th.

— Charlene Figge

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
- Mary Jo Korbal
- JoAnn Welling
- Clinton U. Haas
- Jo Ellen Seiser
- Betty and Peter Mallek
- Darlene Todd
- Rep. Louis J. Molepske, Jr.

We are grateful for your generosity.

To add *your* name to our growing list of sponsors, send your donation (payable to PCDP) to Charlene Figge, Newsletter Editor, 5411 Woodland St., Stevens Point, WI, 54481

COLLEGE DEMOCRATS OF WISCONSIN

VETERANS DAY 2007

COLLEGE DEMS HONOR IRAQ VETS

The UWSP College Dems honored Iraq War Vets on Veterans Day, November 11, 2007. They placed 3756 flags on DeBot Field on the UWSP Campus. The flags remained on the field all that day and into the following day.

In the evening of November 11, a candlelight vigil was held in memory of those who sacrificed their lives. The names of all from Wisconsin who had died in Iraq were read aloud.



State Senator Julie Lassa will be hosting a **Winter Dessert Social** on Wednesday, December 5 from 5 – 7 p.m. at Clark Place, 1009 Clark Street in Stevens Point.

Delectable desserts made from ingredients grown by local farmers will be featured. Beverages and a cash bar will be available.

Non-perishable food donations for Operation Bootstrap will also be collected.

RSVPs and donations can be sent to:
Friends of Julie Lassa, PO Box 483,
Plover, WI 54467.

CITY CLERK UPDATE



After months of hard work in preparing a balanced 2008 budget, the City Council at its November 19th meeting unanimously passed the plan. The budget, which takes effect on January 1st, spends nearly \$12 million over the next year on city services like police, fire, streets, etc. Residents of the City will see the levy decrease to \$9.04 per thousand. On the average home valued at \$100,000, the tax bill will be \$19 less than last year.

Residents are reminded that property tax bills will be mailed on or about December 15th. For those who will not be home when the tax payment is due, the Treasurer's Office can ACH your payment from your account electronically. Contact the City Treasurer's Office for more details on this and other payment options at 346-1557.

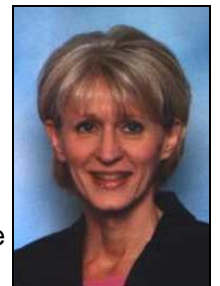
Please have a safe and happy holiday season.



JOHN MOE
CITY CLERK

County Clerk Update

The Portage County Board adopted the 2008 budget for Portage County with nineteen amendments brought before the board. With no vetoes by the County Executive, the County Clerk's office will be send out the apportionment of State and County taxes to all Portage County Municipalities.



Preparations are underway for the 2008 elections. Portage County municipal clerks have been attending mandatory training and we also invited State Elections Board to conduct Chief Election Inspector training here in Portage County, and attendance was great.

The first date to circulate nomination papers for the spring elections is December 1, 2007 and the filing deadline is January 2, 2008.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

SHIRLEY M. SIMONIS
PORTAGE COUNTY CLERK

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

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
STEVENS POINT WI
PERMIT NO 7

www.portagecountydems.org



GENERAL MEETING and Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm
at The Blue Top
3425 Church Street in Stevens Point



Democratic Party DECEMBER General Meeting

- Date:** Tuesday, December 11, 2007
- Time:** 7:00 p.m. (socializing begins at 6:30)
- Location:** **The Blue Top**, 3425 Church Street,
Stevens Point
- Program:** There will be no formal program or speaker at this meeting. Instead, we will:
- have a brief meeting,
 - present Special Award to **Mary Thurmaier**
 - elect 2008 Executive Board Members,
 - hear briefly from elected officials, then,
 - CELEBRATE with each other and with our Portage County elected officials at our **Annual Holiday Party**.

Refreshments will be provided.



**The Meeting (and Party) Are
Open to the Public.**

Join us!