



Portage County Democrat

February 2007

Getting Together, Moving Forward

MESSAGE from our CO-CHAIRS



The phrase “life of the party” is a compliment usually applied to persons who bring many people together through humor and a good time.

In the context of the Democratic Party, the “life of the party” is each of us—who bring not only humor, but good will, mutual respect, and shared hopes for a future U.S. government that will reflect the values of the Democratic Party platform.

As we prepare for the 2008 Wisconsin Democratic Party State Convention to be held in Stevens Point, and the subsequent election of our next President, a lyric hit from the 50’s (slightly paraphrased) comes to mind: “If we ever needed you, we need you now!”

This phrase aptly expresses the Democratic Party’s need for **grass roots participation**. The National Party is only as healthy as each of its local units. We are issuing a call to all those who believe in the Democratic Party Platform to stand up and be counted. Only our membership is capable of reaching out to our many fellow Democrats who have not taken out a membership in our local party (and so do not receive this Newsletter). For this reason, we have included two membership forms for you to enlist those friends and neighbors who want to see a change in 2008. The more persons we have working together as an identifiable

group, the greater our power to influence Party direction, and to participate effectively in our common civic life.

For those of us in Stevens Point, local civic life has taken on considerable interest due to five candidates entering into this year’s mayoral race. It is a healthy sign when a number of interested and qualified persons step forward and are willing to assume the leadership responsibilities incumbent on the city’s mayor, and we are proud that this is the case in Stevens Point.

The Wisconsin Democratic Party seeks to leverage viable candidates in every local and state-wide race for public office. While the mayoral position is a non-partisan one, we are happy that, among our several mayoral candidates, we have one who is member of the Portage County Democratic Party and a former member of our Executive Board, Andrew Halverson. All five candidates will have a chance to address our membership briefly at our next meeting (7:00 p.m. at Little Chubbies/Blue Top on February 13th). This provides us with an opportunity to make a more informed decision when we cast our ballot in the primary election on February 20th.

You are the life of the Party. If you want to become more involved, there are opportunities to serve on one of our four committees. Please see inside this newsletter, pg. 5, for a listing of the four Party committees. For more information on this option, contact Lois in the evenings at 345-1371 or email her at loislawler@charter.net.

See you at our next General Meeting on Feb. 13th!

Gary Hawley Lois Lawler

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

Inside this issue...

Messages from Our Elected Officials	Pg. 2
2007 Executive Board Members	Pg. 2
Candidate for Wisconsin Supreme Court	Pg. 3
Upcoming Events	Pg. 3
Future PCDP Meetings	Pg. 3
Interview: PCDP Leader <i>Wes Halverson</i>.....	Pg. 4
Interview (continued)	Pg. 5
RESOLUTIONS for Wisc Democratic Party	Pg. 5
February PCDP General Meeting	Pg. 6



Message from
the
Portage County
Clerk's Office

As we are just finishing up with the November 2006 elections, the State Elections Board certified that there will be a statewide primary election on February 20, 2007 for Justice of Supreme Court. In Portage County we also have a primary in the City of Stevens Point for Mayor, Town of Grant for Town Supervisor, and several municipalities included in the Stevens Point School District for school board members. So the polls will be open in every municipality on February 20 at 7:00 a.m. Be sure to exercise your right to vote!

I have appointed long-time County Clerk office employee Kathleen Genovese as the new Portage County Deputy County Clerk. Kathy has worked in the office for the past 29 years and brings much experience and knowledge to the position.

Hope these winter months find you happy and healthy. Thank you from the County Clerk's Office.

Shirley M. Simonis
PORTAGE COUNTY CLERK

MESSAGE FROM THE
CITY CLERK

This is a very exciting time for the residents of the City of Stevens Point. Not since 1975 have there been five individuals running for Mayor. The candidates are: Pete Ananiadis, Andrew Halverson, Dan Johnson, Hans Walther and Mike Wiza. These five will face off on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 with the top two moving on to the Tuesday, April 3, 2007 general election.

I encourage all residents to take advantage of opportunities to hear the candidates speak about different issues important to the City before you cast your ballot. These opportunities include the League of Women Voters forum on February 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sentry Theater and the Portage County Democratic Party general meeting on February 13. If you were unable to attend the League of Women Voters forum, it will be broadcast on Cable Access Channel 3 on February 9 at 9:00 p.m., February 10 at 3:00 p.m. and again at 8:30 p.m., and on February 16 at 9:00 p.m.

Also, if you think that you will not be able to make it to the polls on February 20, you can vote absentee. Ballots are now available at my office in City Hall located at 1515 Strongs Avenue.

John Moe
CITY CLERK

Congratulations to Betty Mallek, who was elected to the position of 4th Vice Chair at the January General Meeting!

2007 Portage County Democratic Party Executive Board

Co-Chair	Gary Hawley	gary.hawley@softhome.net	345-9586
Co-Chair	Lois Lawler	loislawler@charter.net	345-1371
1st Vice Chair	Corey Ladick	corey@legislator.com	344-2724
2nd Vice Chair	Mary Arnold	stmaurice@charter.net	344-5449
3rd Vice Chair	Wes Halverson	wes.halverson@uwsp.edu	344-6877
4th Vice Chair	Betty Mallek	mallek@tds.net	457-2353
Statutory Chair	Mary Thurmaier	maryt@compclass.com	341-1387
Treasurer	Jack Allgaier	allgaier@handeltech.com	341-5359
Secretary	Carol Gawlik	gawlikca@coredcs.com	344-3961
Newsletter Editor	Charlene Figge	cfigge@charter.ent	345-1371
7th CD Rep	Will Stites	wstites@charter.net	345-7065
At Large	Dave Hansen	jcoty2000@yahoo.com	321-0191
At Large	Meleesa Johnson	meleesaj2000@hotmail.com	345-5970
At Large	Mike Baumann	mbaum925@uwsp.edu	212-8609
At Large	Mike O'Meara	mwomeara@charter.net	341-6809
At Large	Jerry Ugland	jerryug@excite.com	343-2717

Candidate for Wisconsin Supreme Court visits Portage County Democrats



Linda Clifford

On Saturday, January 6, 2007, Attorney Linda Clifford visited with Democrats and the general public at the Portage County Public Library in downtown Stevens Point.

She noted that she is running for Supreme Court

Justice because she has the broad experience, personal integrity and commitment to justice that the citizens of Wisconsin deserve on our state's highest court.

As our justice, Linda Clifford told the group, she can be counted on to be fair, impartial, and balanced. See www.lindacliffordforjustice.org.

Experience:

- **Attorney/Director**, LaFollette Godfrey & Kahn law firm
- **Assistant Attorney General**, Wisconsin Department of Justice, 1974-1977
- **32 years experience** litigating environmental, energy, immigration and constitutional law cases before state and federal courts and agencies

Honors:

- **"Best Lawyers" rating**, Madison Magazine
- **Leader in the Law 2005**, Wisconsin Law Journal

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 March issue is Feb. 20th.

— Charlene Figge



Mark Your Calendar:

Wisconsin Health Care Reform Panel Presentation, February 22, 2007, 7-9 PM Sentry Theatre 1800 North Point Dr., Stevens Point.

Panelists will discuss:

- 1) The Wisconsin Health Plan AB1140,
- 2) The Wisconsin Health Care Partnership Plan SB 698, and
- 3) The Wisconsin Health Security Act SB 388, AB 807

This forum is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by: Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership; League of Women Voters; Portage County Community Planning Council

**I understand
democracy
as something
that gives the
weak the same
chance as the
strong.**

— Mohandas Gandhi



Calendar

- 2007
- Tues, Feb 6 **Executive Board Meeting** at Little Chubbies (Former Blue Top) at 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, Feb 13 **General Meeting** at Little Chubbies (Former Blue Top) at 7:00 p.m.
- Updates from Elected Officials who are present, followed by initial discussion on Democratic Party Resolutions
 - Meet and Greet the five Mayoral Candidates for the City of Stevens Point.
- Tues, Mar 6 **Executive Board Meeting** at Little Chubbies (Former Blue Top) at 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, Mar 13 **General Meeting** at Little Chubbies (Former Blue Top) at 7:00 p.m.
- General Meeting/Updates from Officials
 - TOPIC: The Current Status of the Hmong in Portage County. The program will be presented by staff from CAP Services.

This is the first 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 February issue focuses on Third Vice Chair, Wes Halverson, faculty adviser to the UW-SP College Dems.

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

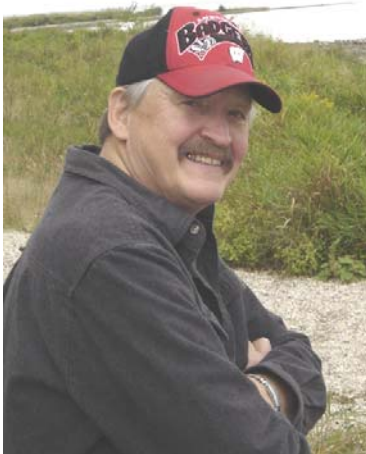
I'm a lifelong Democrat (*Yellow Dog*). My first national campaign work was for Eugene McCarthy ('68 peace candidate). I'm a retired school teacher (24 years MN, WI, TX and Alaska) and college faculty member (9 years Northland / UW-Platteville/Edgewood/UWSP). I support education issues whenever possible (Hortonville in 1974 as member of WEAC Executive Committee). I was the Appleton Education Association President in 1973 and am a Life Member of the National Education Association. Elected Village Board President in Spring Green 1999 and served until 2001. I have always spoken out on education and environmental issues.

PCDP: Please share some of your personal background.

I grew up in Hinckley, Minnesota. My father was a baker for 47 years and owned the Hinckley Bakery for 38 of those years (the other years he baked in the Civil Conservation Corps and US Navy). I have three sisters (Jean, Karen and Cynthia) and all of us worked in the bakery to help the family income and learn a trade. It was good hard work and we learned to appreciate our parents for their devotion and support of us kids.

I went on to earn my bachelor degree at St. Cloud State University, masters at Saint Mary's College in Winona, and doctorate at UW-Madison. My love of the outdoors, rivers and lakes guided my formal education into environmental science.

My final career job was with the UWSP Global Environmental Management Education Center where I worked with the dedicated faculty of the College of Natural Resources. As the GEM Outreach Project Manager, I coordinated an



annual International Watershed Management Seminar. We had over 80 participants from 35 countries over the past five years and they were delightful people. It gives me hope that we can have world peace and harmony if people can only meet other people worldwide. We all have the same hopes

and dreams for our families and communities. Our political leaders must learn this fact of life and learn to cooperate on a global basis.

PCDP: Other than politics, what are your interests?

My wife Karen gave me a beautiful wooden canoe for my retirement years. She picked the best gift possible for me because I love the water and being outdoors. Our son Teo Garcia goes deer hunting with me and will enjoy his first turkey hunt this coming April. Karen and I like to travel and see other countries. I have been to Russia, China, Ecuador, Mexico, France, Germany, England and Norway. Australia and New Zealand are next on my list and Karen wants us to go down to Peru to see the Inca pyramids.

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

I hope we can keep the Portage County Democratic tradition alive and healthy. There has been a long tradition in this county supported by many talented volunteers to recruit and support Democrat candidates and write progressive platform resolutions at the state and national level. That strong volunteer effort should be nourished and enhanced.

Our country now has a chance to reverse the negative focus of our federal government away from warfare to rebuilding international good will and cooperation (2006 election results). That change starts here in Portage County. We must look closely at the global markets and our corporate involvement in those markets. These corporations represent the United States to many countries and the picture is not very positive. We have an "ugly" reputation and ruthless image.

Dependency on oil must end and investments made in energy-conserving building design, solar (passive and active PV), wind turbines, geothermal and biofuel development (especially wood cellulose). These efforts must be supported by our governments (state and federal) and private corporations. Individual consumers should demand and buy energy efficient automobiles from Detroit manufactures, not just from Japan.

A new energy industrial revolution can create new jobs and save our planet from global warming accelerated by "greenhouse" gases. Time is running out for our children and grandchildren. Universal health care is another big issue for families and small businesses. We must change the insurance industry stalemate on this one and give everyone a national

PCDP Committees

Want to get involved? There are opportunities for membership on four committees:

- Communication (Chair: Mary Arnold)
- Events (Chair: Corey Ladick)
- Fund Raising (Chair: To be determined)
- Membership (Chair: Lois Lawler)

For further information, or to volunteer for a committee (or to discuss possibilities) contact **Lois Lawler** at 345-1371 (evenings) or e-mail her at loislawler@charter.net.

Continued from pg 4 —
INTERVIEW: Wes Halverson


basic medical program, starting with the children. It can start here in Wisconsin.

Education is the key to a healthy future. The *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) federal law has many flaws and needs to be amended this year through the reauthorization process. Let's help teachers, school administrators and school boards make a difference this year on changes to NCLB. Public Education is the fundamental institution for democracy in this country.

People of all faiths, races, and economic power come together in our K-12 schools to work together and learn to cooperate. Let's not destroy this essential institution in the name of "choice" or "privatization." The K-12 public schools are the most open and closely managed institutions in our society. I would say public schools are better managed than any corporation in the United States because they serve the people and they are accountable every year. You cannot find a corporation that close to the people of our country.

Let's work together in a spirit of optimism and trust and make the political process open to all citizens of Portage County.

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

I'm a trusted friend and will work well with people. You can count on me when the going gets rough and the outcome is unclear. I work best under pressure and with people (teaching instincts). 

Help Develop the Wisconsin Democratic Party Resolutions

During February and March the Portage County Democratic Party will develop ten resolutions to take to the 7th CD meeting in April. There, they will be combined with resolutions from other County Parties, modified, and selected to go on to the Convention for adoption by the delegates in June.

This is how the Party Platform is shaped from the grassroots. To be an integral part of this democratic process, bring to our General Meeting issues and positions around which you would like to see a resolution developed.

At the February General Meeting, we will accept topics/positions for consideration. Jerry Ugland, an at-large member of the Executive Board, will prepare the material submitted, developing it into resolution format. At the March meeting, we will review the wording, and vote, if the work is completed. If some work remains, we will complete the process in early April, and send the top ten resolutions to the 7th CD.

While it is not necessary to write up a formal resolution to participate in the process, if you want to do that, ***bring copies of your resolution to the February meeting.*** The limit is 100 words which include:

1. One or more statements listing the reasons why the resolution should be considered, beginning each statement with the word: *Whereas*,
2. Conclude with the resolution, beginning with the phrase, *Be it resolved that*

For questions or further information, contact Jerry Ugland by email: jerryug@excite.com or by phone at 715-343-4743.

Again, bring ideas or worded resolutions to the February General Meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:00 p.m., at *Little Chubbies* (the former Blue Top Restaurant).

—Lois Lawler, Co-Chair

Portage County Democratic Party
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54481-0515

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Mark your Calendar
General Meeting — Feb. 13, 2007
*It's Important to **Pay 2007 Dues Now***



Democratic Party
FEBRUARY
General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: "Little Chubbies Vintage Blues and Chop House" (formerly known as the Blue Top)
3425 Church Street, Stevens Point
Program: Mayoral Candidates

- **Pete Ananiadis**
- **Andrew Halverson**
- **Dan Johnson**
- **Hans Walther**
- **Mike Wiza**

All five Stevens Point Mayoral Candidates have been invited to be our guests.

There will not be a debate or a question-answer session. Rather each candidate will be given a few minutes to describe his background and reason(s) for running.

After that, the meeting will close and members may personally talk to the candidates.

We did this for the candidates for the Portage County Executive last year and members were quite pleased. It is a good opportunity to meet the candidates one-on-one.

Open to the public. Join us!

"You are the Life of the Party...!"

Help us increase our Portage County Democratic Party Membership.
Please use the two membership forms below.



- Use one to renew (or begin) your own 2007 membership if you have yet not paid your dues.
- Give the second one to a friend or relative (and the first one too, if you don't need it!)

Thank you!

Lois Lawler, Membership Committee Chair

Portage County Democratic Party and Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2007 Membership Form

Name(s) _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>one</u>	<u>Sign me up for:</u>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1200 Investor * (* Includes all family members)
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 600 Patron *
City _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 240 Friend *
State _____ ZIP _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 120 Supporter *
Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 75 Family *
e-mail _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 45 Activist (Includes up to 3 memberships)
County <u>Portage</u> Congressional District <u>7th</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 35 Pair (Includes two memberships)
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> renew membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 25 General
<input type="checkbox"/> new membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 10 Limited Income

Make checks payable to: **PCDP**
(Portage County Democratic Party)

and mail to: PCDP
PO Box 515
Stevens Point 54481-0515

Portage County Democratic Party and Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2007 Membership Form

Name(s) _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>one</u>	<u>Sign me up for:</u>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1200 Investor * (* Includes all family members)
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 600 Patron *
City _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 240 Friend *
State _____ ZIP _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 120 Supporter *
Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 75 Family *
e-mail _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 45 Activist (Includes up to 3 memberships)
County <u>Portage</u> Congressional District <u>7th</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 35 Pair (Includes two memberships)
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> renew membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 25 General
<input type="checkbox"/> new membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 10 Limited Income

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