



Portage County DEMOCRAT

GETTING TOGETHER, MOVING FORWARD

MARCH 2008

PORTAGE COUNTY, WI DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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www.PortageCountyDems.org

MESSAGE from PARTY CO-CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

It's a busy time of year for us Democrats! There has been an important primary and many of us were active in the preceding Clinton and Obama campaign activities, attending numerous meetings, and spending hours getting out the vote. We thank all our Democratic Party poll workers and public officials for their long hours of service on, before, and after February 19.

We have been very fortunate to have political training opportunities here in Portage County. Executive Board members attended a County Chairs Association training here February 23-24, and another opportunity, Campus Camp Wellstone for College Dems and local activists, is taking place in Stevens Point February 29-March 1.

The Portage County Democratic Party Caucus will be held April 6 at 1:00 p.m. at Kristin's Riverwalk, 1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point. Please **attend this caucus** to select Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama delegates who will in turn attend the 7th CD Caucus. There our delegates, along with delegates from the other counties in the 7th CD, will choose six delegates to attend the Democratic National Convention in Denver. You must be present at any caucus to be elected as a delegate.

On page 4 in this newsletter you will find information on the upcoming 7th CD Convention and caucus. If you would like to attend



the 7th CD Convention and the State Convention as a delegate, please give your name to Gary Hawley as soon as possible.

Democracy has a price. It demands time, energy, skill, and collaboration in order to work. It must be nurtured in each local community to function healthily on a national scale, and is little enough to pay for maintaining freedom and improving life in our society. For any change that any of us desire to make in our common life together, we must ask ourselves, "To what extent have I been involved in the political process?" Your opinion counts, your presence counts, your vote counts.

Finally, make sure you come to our meeting on March 11th! We'll be in a new location since The Blue Top closed.

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

Inside this issue...

page 2...

March 25, 2008: 5:30-7 pm

SENATOR RUSS FEINGOLD
 will be in Portage County
 at the Ramada Inn.

Please come!



2008 CALENDAR

MARCH

- Tues. Mar 4 Executive Board Meeting at the County-City Building, 1515 Strongs Ave., at 6:30 p.m.
- Tues. Mar 11 General Meeting at Kristin's Riverwalk (formerly Hibachi Joe's), 1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point, at 7:00 p.m. (Socialization begins at 6:30.)
- General Meeting/Updates of Elected Officials
 - Speakers: Wisconsin State Representatives Amy Sue Vruwink and Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
- Tues. Mar 25 Fundraiser for Portage County Dems & College Dems: Senator Russ Feingold at Ramada Inn

APRIL

- Tues. Apr 1 Spring Election: REMEMBER TO VOTE
- Thurs. Apr 3 Executive Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- Sun. Apr 6 Portage County Caucus: Kristin's Riverwalk, 1140 Clark St., in Stevens Point, at 1:00 p.m.
- Tues. Apr 8 General Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Fri. Apr 11 TRIVIA parade: 4 p.m.
- Sat. Apr 12 TRIVIA phones for Dems: 2:00–6:00 p.m.
- Sat. April 26 7th CD Convention in Chippewa Falls, WI

MAY

- Sun. May 4 7th CD Caucus in Chippewa Fall, WI
- Tues. May 6 Executive Board Meeting
- Thurs. May 13 General Meeting

JUNE

- Tues. June 3 Executive Board Meeting
- Tues. June 10 General Meeting
- June 13-14 Democratic Party of Wisconsin Convention in Stevens Point
- June 20-22 Midwest Renewable Energy Fair in Custer, WI



Psssst! Have you checked out our Web Site?

www.PortageCountyDems.org



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 April issue is March 20th.

— Charlene Figge

County News

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Senator Russ Feingold

March 25, 2008

**Event in support of
UWSP College Dems
and the**

Portage County Democratic Party



You are cordially invited to this event at TRADITIONS in the Ramada Inn (formerly the Country Springs Hotel) to hear and meet Special Guest—Senator Russ Feingold.

The event will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

There is a recommended donation of \$50, but a donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted.

Not getting updates by e-mail? Send your e-mail address to editor cfigge@charter.net and you will be added to our growing e-list. You'll be notified of Dem meetings and events.

Thank you to our 2008 Newsletter Sponsors:

- Jo Ellen Seiser
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-

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

(Any amount is appreciated.)



County Clerk Update

WOW, what a turnout for Portage County voters! County-wide we had 37% of eligible voters turn out at the polls for the February 19 primary election as compared to only 23.7 percent in the February 2004 Presidential Primary. In

many polling places they had 50% of their registered voters casting their vote. We need to congratulate our municipal clerks and poll workers for their long hours of work and dedication. It would amaze you at the amount of training and expertise that is required to accomplish such a task and they did a wonderful job.

On the local level, our Primary Election for City of Stevens Point County Supervisor District 1 resulted with Judy Bablitch and Tom Mallison going on to the April 1 election and for Town of Plover County Supervisor District 17 resulted with Dale O'Brien (incumbent) and Timothy Karcheski on the April ballot.

Please visit the County's website at www.co.portage.wi.us for the municipal breakdown of the election results from the election. We update to the web live (unofficially until the County Canvass is complete) on election night as the results are reported to our office.

Thanks for all who voted!

SHIRLEY M. SIMONIS
PORTAGE COUNTY CLERK



At the February 12, 2008 General Meeting the Portage County Democratic Party members voted to endorse two UWSP College Dems who are running for state positions. **Zach Vruwink** (right) is running for President of the College Democrats of Wisconsin (CDW) while **Joelle Groshek** is running for Vice President. The CDW state convention will be held in Green Bay March 7-8, 2008, where College Dems from all over Wisconsin will cast their ballots. Good luck Zach and Joelle!

Pssst...

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2008, please use the form below.

Not sure? Check your mailing label.

Thanks!



Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win in 2008!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

County: **PORTAGE** CD: **7th**

Sign me up for:

- \$10 Senior/ Student/ Limited Income
- \$25 Individual general membership
- \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)
- \$45 Activist (includes up to 3 memberships)
- \$75 Family (includes all family members)
- \$140 Supporter

Check one: Membership Renewal
 New Membership

Make check payable to **PCDP** [Portage County Democratic Party]

Mail to: PCDP
PO Box 515
Stevens Point, WI 54481-0505

Thank you, and now let's elect a Democratic President in 2008...!

Let's Caucus – 7th Congressional District News

The **Portage County Caucus** will be held on Sunday, April 6th, at Kristin's Riverwalk, 1140 Clark St., in Stevens Point. Attendees should be there before 1:00 pm. The caucus should take no more than an hour.

At the caucus we will select approximately twelve delegates to go on to the **7th Congressional District (7th CD) Caucus** held in Chippewa Falls on Sunday May 4th. Those attending the Chippewa Falls caucus will elect six delegates who will go to the National Democratic Convention in Denver at the end of August to confirm the Democratic nominee for President as well as set the national platform.

It all starts here with the caucus on April 6th.

We would like to get at least thirty Democrats at this caucus to help elect members who have been active in the local party. This will assure that Portage County will be able to elect its quota of delegates to attend the 7th CD Caucus. It's important that we are actively involved.

If you have any questions about either caucus, you can call Gary Hawley at 321-0111 or e-mail him at gary.hawley@softhome.net.

WISCONSIN STATE CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN STEVENS POINT

The Democratic Party's state convention will be held here at the **Holiday Inn** on Friday, June 13th and Saturday, June 14th.

Portage County will be allocated around forty delegates—depending on the number of *paid memberships* we have by mid-May.

Please check your address label on this newsletter to see if you have paid your dues. If you haven't, send it in immediately. There are many members who want to attend. If you would like to attend the convention as a delegate (the cost is around \$20), please contact Gary Hawley (321-0111) or e-mail him at gary.hawley@softhome.net.

Names will be accepted on a first-come basis. Once the list reaches forty names, a back-up list (also based on contact date) will be used should we be allowed more delegates or should someone on the list need to cancel.

These names will also be submitted as delegates to the 7th CD Convention (in Chippewa Falls on Saturday, April 26th)

Help Develop the Wisconsin Democratic Party Resolutions

In February, Portage County Dems brought their ideas for Resolutions for the Democratic Party Platform to the General meeting.

Working for the resolutions are being refined between the February and March meetings.

Jerry Ugland, Portage County Democratic Party Treasurer and a member of the State Democratic Party Platform and Resolutions Committee, is spearheading the development of our resolutions.

We will vote on the resolutions at the March PCDP meeting. Come and cast your vote. The top 10 resolutions will go on to the 7th CD Convention, May 4th.



Congratulations to **U.S. Rep. Dave Obey** who was awarded the first **Gaylord Nelson Congressional Achievement Award** by the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. He received it on February 13, 2008 for his outstanding leadership on conservation issues.

We remember...

Portage County Democrats are asked to remember a leading Democrat from neighboring Marathon County, **Marlys Matuszak**, who passed away February 9, 2008. Marlys held many positions in her career with the Democratic Party and was most recently the chair of our 7th Congressional District.

Her memory was honored on Saturday, February 16th at a gathering from noon until 2:00 p.m. at the Rose Garden in Wausau. Congressman Dave Obey, for whom and with whom Marlys worked, spoke at the reception for her.

We have learned that out of respect for Marlys, and so as not to conflict with her memorial service, Presidential Candidate Barack Obama, who originally intended on having a large rally in Wausau at the same time, downgraded his appearance to an invitation-only visit to a Wausau area Community College.

Environmental Issues

The League of Conservation Voters (www.lcv.org) has just released its 2007 National Environmental Scorecard.

How did **our** representatives vote on clean energy and global warming last year? See the scorecard below:

Vote Scorecard: 110th CONGRESS, 1st Session

SENATE

Senator	State	Score
Russ Feingold (DEM)	WI	93%
Herbert Kohl (DEM)	WI	93%

HOUSE

Representative	District	Score
Tammy Baldwin (DEM)	WI-2	100%
Steve Kagen (DEM)	WI-8	90%
Ron Kind (DEM)	WI-3	95%
Gwen Moore (DEM)	WI-4	95%
David Obey (DEM)	WI-7	90%
Thomas Petri (REP)	WI-6	50%
Paul Ryan (REP)	WI-1	25%
F. James Sensenbrenner (REP)	WI-5	20%

According to the League of Conservation Voters, a big highlight of 2007 was passage of the Energy Bill. This new energy law increased fuel efficiency for the first time in over three decades!

Now, according to the Sierra Club...

Senator McCain Gets a Zero

Two weeks ago John McCain was the only Senator to duck a crucial vote on the future of clean energy in America—dooming to failure the measure that would have helped make renewable energy more affordable and accessible. Now it turns out this missed vote is part of a pattern.

Last week, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) released the 2007 National Environmental Scorecard giving Senator McCain a score of ZERO. According to the scorecard, McCain was the only member of Congress to skip all 15 crucial environmental votes scored by LCV.

McCain's LCV score exposes the real record behind the rhetoric—a lifetime LCV score of 24, a history of siding with the polluters and special interests, and a consistent pattern of ducking important environmental votes.

To see how other members of Congress scored, go to <http://lcv.org/scorecard>.



It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

I, I am the spirit within the earth...

All that belongs to the earth belongs to me...

All that surrounds the earth surrounds me...

I, I am the sacred words of the earth...

It is lovely indeed, it is lovely indeed.

—Navajo Song

On a totally different note...

The Trivia Contest held in Stevens Point each year usually offers us a 4-hour slot to answer the phones and get some publicity for our Party, and this year is no exception: We have been invited to assist with 18 Party members on April 12. We do, however, have a different time. Our new hours are 2:00-6:00 pm.

If you would like to help with this fun revenue-producing event for the Stevens Point community, call Corey Ladick at 715-344-2724 or e-mail him at corey@legislator.com.

Portage County Democratic Party

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www.PortageCountyDems.org

Democratic Party Meeting
Tuesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm
at Kristin's Riverwalk
1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point



Democratic Party
MARCH
GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m. (socializing begins at 6:30)
Location: Kristin's Riverwalk (formerly Hibachi Joe's),
1140 Clark St., in Stevens Point
Agenda:
• General Business Meeting
• Finalize and Vote on Portage County's
Democratic Party Resolutions
• Reports from Elected Officials
Program: Wisconsin State Representatives—
Amy Sue Vruwink & Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
*They have been invited as presenters, and
hope to attend, unless the Assembly is in
session in Madison that night.*



Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink



Rep. Louis J. Molepske, Jr.

Meeting is Open to the Public.
All are welcome...
Join us!

Beverages will be provided.