



Portage County **DEMOCRAT**

GETTING TOGETHER, MOVING FORWARD

FEBRUARY 2009

PORTAGE COUNTY, WI DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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www.PortageCountyDems.org

On January 20, 2009 Barack Obama was inaugurated the 44th President , and here in Portage County

... **WE HAD A BALL!**



Text of Senator Julie Lassa's Commemorative Toast

Ladies and gentlemen we are here tonight to celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America because on November 4th the American people had the courage to chart a new path forward into the future built on our shared hopes, values and strengths as a nation.

As I watched the inauguration of our President today, I was struck not only by the power of his words during the inaugural address but the fact that this was a peaceful transition of power between one administration and the next. For me it highlighted the strength of our nation and the United States Constitution as well as the importance of the Founding Fathers and all the generations of Americans who fought and sacrificed so much for the creation and preservation of our great country and its principles of liberty and democracy. It is that strength and shared purpose that has helped our nation endure the challenges that we have faced during our 200 year history. It is also during those times of greatest need that visionary leaders have stepped forward to illuminate the path to peace and prosperity.

Ladies and gentlemen please raise your glasses:

To President Barack Obama: May he have strength, wisdom and clarity of purpose as he unites our nation and puts us on the path to peace and prosperity.



2009 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- Tues Feb 3 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 p.m.
Tues Feb 10 General Meeting at Kristin's Riverwalk, 6:30 socializing, 7:00 p.m. meeting
Tues Feb 17 *VOTE: Spring Primary*

MARCH

- Tues Mar 3 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 p.m.
Tues Mar 10 General Meeting at Kristin's Riverwalk, 6:30 socializing, 7:00 p.m. meeting

APRIL

- Tues Apr 7 *VOTE: Spring Election*
Thur Apr 9 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 p.m.
Tues Apr 14 General Meeting at Kristin's Riverwalk, 6:30 socializing, 7:00 p.m. meeting



Visit our Web Site:

www.PortageCountyDems.org

Then... see President Obama's new Web Site at www.whitehouse.gov

County News

In Memory of Norm Myhra

1925 - 2009



The Portage County Democratic Party remembers Norm Myhra.

Norm was drafted into the US Army at the age of 18 and lost both hands in a booby trap in France in 1944 during WW II. After many operations, he returned to Wisconsin to attend school for business education. For several years, he worked in sales for Watkins, sold insurance, and in 1960, was elected to the State Assembly where he served for three terms. In 1967, Norm was appointed postmaster of Stevens Point by President Johnson and served in that capacity until 1986 when he retired.

Norm was extremely active in the Portage County Democratic Party, serving in many leadership roles

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Where Did Sam Go?

Remember Sam Cornale, the 7th CD Deputy Director of the Obama Campaign who coordinated the election efforts for Portage County at our Dem HQ?



"About 3 days after the election," Sam wrote in an e-mail, "I got a call from the national director for Barack's campaign who had taken on the role of staffing the transition." In the e-mail he said, "I'm out in DC now working on the presidential transition. I'm trying to line up a post-inauguration administration gig. At this point, I think I have a pretty good shot at something sweet, but I'm trying not to get my hopes up."



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 March 2009 issue is February 20th.

— Charlene Figge

Printing of our newsletter has been paid for with donations.

Thank you to our 2009 Newsletter Sponsors:

- Sally and Robert Freckmann
- Marcus Newcomb
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- Leigh and Jack Allgaier
- Jan and Dave Way
- Mary Arnold and Henry St. Maurice
- Beverly and Robert Ellingson
- In Memory of Norm Myhra
(donated by Jack and Leigh Allgaier)

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.)



MESSAGE FROM PARTY CO-CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

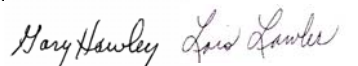
Can you believe, things didn't really slow down for us since the election last November. The Democratic Party in Portage County is active!

We had a fantastic turnout at the Inaugural Ball on January 20th. Thanks to all who attended and joined in the festivities.

We attended a Meet and Greet here in Stevens Point for Wisconsin State Supreme Court Judge Shirley Abrahamson the day before the Inauguration. She is running for re-election and we encourage you to support her campaign.

We bid farewell to 1st Vice-Chair Corey Ladick who has recently resigned his position on the PCDP Executive Board since he will be traveling and living outside the United States. Thanks, Corey!

Finally, we hope to see you at our next General Meeting on February 10th.


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

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“Remembering Norm Myhra”

over time. Possibly his greatest gift to the Party was his tenacious effort in building membership. Norm would personally visit members who had not rejoined and often did not leave till their dues were paid. Norm carried membership forms with him at all times and would ask anyone he met to join the Party.

Norm fully supported the Democratic Party as the way to maintain and improve veteran's benefits. He would clearly tell anyone willing to listen how Republicans quickly forgot the many sacrifices of veterans, especially as time passed.

In his later years, Norm and his wife Margaret would attend all the party events – providing support to our efforts. Some considered Norm cantankerous, but for those who got to know him well, he was honestly concerned that our Party not lose its direction.

Thanks Norm, for keeping us on task!

County Clerk Update.

Welcome to 2009, and another election is right around the corner. There will be a county-wide non-partisan primary election on February 17, 2009 for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction with the following candidates on the ballot: Rose Fernandez, Todd Price, Van Mobley, Lowell E. Holtz, and Tony Evers.

There will also be a Town Supervisor race in the Town of Eau Pleine with the following candidates on the ballot: Larry Kaikowski, Dennis G. Hess, Jerry Zarecki, Jack Kawleski, and Edward Stashek. Hope you can all make it to the polls!



Shirley M. Simonis
Portage County Clerk

One sunny day in January 2009...

One sunny day in January 2009 an old man approached the White House from across Pennsylvania Avenue, where he'd been sitting on a park bench. He spoke to the U.S. Marine standing guard and said, 'I would like to go in and meet with President Bush.'

The Marine looked at the man and said, 'Sir, Mr. Bush is no longer president and no longer resides here.'

The old man said, 'Okay', and walked away.

The following day the same man approached the White House and said to the same Marine, 'I would like to go in and meet with President Bush.'

The Marine again told the man, 'Sir, as I said yesterday, Mr. Bush is no longer president and no longer resides here.'

The man thanked him and, again, just walked away.

The third day the same man approached the White House and spoke to the very same U.S. Marine, saying 'I would like to go in and meet with President Bush.'

The Marine, understandably agitated at this point, looked at the man and said, 'Sir, this is the third day in a row you have been here asking to speak to Mr. Bush. I've told you already that Mr. Bush is no longer the president and no longer resides here. Don't you understand?'

The old man looked at the Marine and said, 'Oh, I understand. I just love hearing it.'

The Marine snapped to attention, saluted, and said, 'See you tomorrow, Sir.'

— Submitted by Portage County Dem, Neal Nealis

Portage County Democratic Party

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GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm
at Kristin's Riverwalk
1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point



Democratic Party FEBRUARY 2009 GENERAL MEETING

- Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m. (socializing begins at 6:30)
Location: Kristin's Riverwalk, 1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point
- Agenda:**
- General business meeting
 - Updates from Elected Officials
 - Brief address by Candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, current deputy superintendent, Tony Evers
- Program:** **"Becoming Locavores"**
- Presenters:** **Eric Olson** and **Jeremy Solin** from Central Rivers Farmshed

All are welcome... Join us! Refreshments will be provided.



This presentation will highlight the connection of local foods to multiple issues in our community and country, such as the economy, food security, personal and community health, and climate change.

Presenters will share efforts underway to educate the community about local foods and explore relevant food-related policies and activities.