



Portage County DEMOCRAT

GETTING TOGETHER, MOVING FORWARD

MARCH 2009

PORTAGE COUNTY, WI DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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Lois Lawler: 345-1371
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www.PortageCountyDems.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's Note: Below are three communications we received related to the tribute to Norm Myhra in the February PCDP Newsletter, which, by the way, was written by Jack Allgaier.



Norm and Margaret Myhra

Email from Peg Lautenschlager, former Wisconsin Attorney General (used with permission):

"So sorry to hear about Norm. I always got a kick out of seeing him at events. I always looked forward to the predictably hard time he would give me. Then, of course, it would be on to talk next with Mary Thurmaier. Please give my condolences to Norm's family."

Best, Peg L.

Email from Kurt Thurmaier, son of Mary Thurmaier, who asked to be added to the list of those who receive the PCDP Newsletter via email (used with permission):

"The newsletter is a great way to keep in the loop with Democrat Party news. We were sad to note Norm Myhra's passing. He has been such a fixture in our memories of summer picnics and party meetings at the Legion! He was a terrific Portage County Democrat."

Kurt Thurmaier, De Kalb, IL

*Helen (Sigmund) Van Prooyen, Former
Chair of the Portage County Democratic
Party, wrote the following:*

The Contributions of Norman Myhra to the Portage County Democratic Party

It was appropriate for the newsletter editor to include a memorial to Norman Myhra in the February issue of the **Portage County Democrat**. From an historical standpoint, I would like to add a few more memories about a time when I served first as secretary and then chair of the Party.

Norman Myhra's contributions to the Portage County Democratic Party began back in 1960 that laid the groundwork for the vital Party that Portage County is today. As a 3-term State Representative for Portage County, he was the leader in solicitation of memberships for all the years he was an assemblyman before being named the Stevens Point postmaster. One year he alone was responsible for bringing in 900 members. Under his leadership, with the assistance of his wife Marge, Portage County became the third largest Democratic Party in Wisconsin behind Dane and Milwaukee Counties. He and Marge also were top financial contributors over the years.

When a Democrat was needed to run for the 7th Congressional District seat in 1966 against Mel Laird, Norm willingly made that run. As his treasurer for that campaign, I recall well

—Continued on page 3

2009 CALENDAR

MARCH

- Thurs Mar 5 Note Date Change for this month: Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's at 6:30 pm
- Tues Mar 10 General Meeting at Kristin's Riverwalk, 6:30 socializing, 7:00 pm meeting.
Program: Presenter Bill Christofferson
Topic: "Gaylord Nelson: Earth Day and His Environmental Legacy"

APRIL

- Tues Apr 7 **VOTE: Spring Election**
- Thur Apr 9 Note Date Change: Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's at 6:30 pm
- Tues Apr 14 General Meeting at Kristin's Riverwalk, 6:30 socializing, 7:00 p.m. meeting
- Fri-Sun 17-19 Trivia 40 in Stevens Point, WI
- Sat 18 Dems on Triva Phones 6-10 pm
7th CD Convention at Holidan Inn in Wausau
- Sat-Sun 25-26 Democratic Leadership Institute



Visit our Web Site:
www.PortageCountyDems.org

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

FREE...BARACK OBAMA POSTCARDS

After cleaning up headquarters after the Obama Campaign, I wound up storing a box of Obama postcards in my home. If anyone has any use for all or some of them, you are welcome to come and get them. (There are several hundred postcards in the box.)

They are the regular postcard size, with the back blank. The front, next to the address area, has a photo of Obama and Biden.

I can be reached evenings
at 344-3961.

Carol Gawlik



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 2009 issue is March 20th.

— Charlene Figge

County News

Proposed Resolutions from Portage County

The following topics for resolutions were proposed at the February General Meeting:

- Effective Health Care
- Law-breaking by Bush people and subsequent prosecution
- Fair elections
- Family planning—abortion for unplanned pregnancies
- Fund public education
- Fund college education
- Restore public education conservation position

These resolutions, and others received in the interim, will be written in proper format and brought to the March Meeting for voting.

Printing of our newsletter has been paid for with donations.

Thank you to our 2009 Newsletter Sponsors:

- Sally and Robert Freckmann
- Marcus Newcomb
- Karyn Tank
- Joe Traficante
- Maureen Leahy
- 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)
- Roger and Sandi Trzebiatowski
- Joe Traficanti
- Tom and Cindy Eagon
- Helen Van Prooyen
- Peter and Betty Bruske Mallek

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,

There are few positions in the state as important and influential as Supreme Court Justice. On April 7 Wisconsinites will select someone for this non-partisan position. The incumbent, Shirley Abrahamson, has done an excellent job during her past tenure.

The April ballot also presents a choice for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, another non-partisan position. Tony Evers, with excellent qualifications as present Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is running to replace Elizabeth Burmaster, who is not running for re-election.

The County Party does not endorse in these non-partisan elections. We urge each of you to read about the candidates and vote an informed choice on both of these positions, as well as on the local positions in each of your municipalities and districts.

We hope to see you at our next General Meeting at Kristin's on March 10th.

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

—Norm Myhra (continued from page 1)

how he traveled miles over the largest geographical district in the state to meet scheduled events, make speeches, and raise funds. The Republicans raised three times more money than we had. He lost, of course, as did Larry Dahl two years later. But their efforts paved the way for the special election of Dave Obey in 1969 when Mel Laird was named Defense Secretary.

Norm Myhra was committed to the Portage County Democratic Party in all ways. He and Marge contributed to PCDP picnics regularly, as well as to other special events for which the Party had responsibility. He could be counted on to attend local, district, and state meetings and provide the leadership necessary. And he contributed money as well.

His health problems in the past few years interrupted his perfect attendance record, but he never failed to talk about Party activities and successes whenever I ran into him. Norm Myhra, and his wife Marge, have been an important part of the success of the Portage County Democratic Party for the past 40 years and both are deserving of recognition for their significant contributions.

County Clerk Update.

The February 17, 2009 Primary Election ran very smoothly throughout the County. Despite the low voter turnout (approximately 4-5% of eligible voters) poll workers and municipal clerks were enthusiastic in making sure the election process was efficient. We should thank them for doing such a wonderful job! Be sure to visit the County website for final Portage County election results at www.co.portage.wi.us

County Departments and Elected Officials have recently been provided with an initial summary of the Governor's state biennial budget and are reviewing it to determine how it might affect County government and their programs.

The Portage County Board recently created an Ad-Hoc Committee to be known as the Building Review Committee for Public Safety Needs and charged them with the following responsibilities:

1. Study, deliberate and review the building and safety needs of the jail, the courts and related functions;
2. Evaluate and review feasible options for the economic impact and optimum location of facilities, the feasibility of separate facilities, the feasibility of joint regional operations and facilities; and possible public-private partnerships, e.g. as in a House of Corrections;
3. Review and evaluate existing plans for cost savings and reduction in operations and building cost levies or borrowing and to maximize efficiency;
4. Evaluate the future uses of existing facilities;
5. Include the city in the discussion of courthouse options.



Shirley M. Simonis
PORTAGE COUNTY CLERK

Notification of Election

There is an opening on the PCDP Executive Board, for an At Large position. At this point, one person—Chandra Lay—has been nominated for the position. Additional nominations will be accepted at the March meeting.

The election will take place at the General Meeting on March 10, 2009. All persons whose PCDP membership is current are eligible to vote in this election.

Portage County Democratic Party

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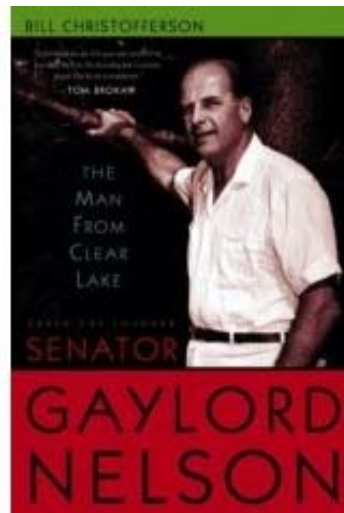
GENERAL MEETING

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



Democratic Party
MARCH 2009
GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m. (socializing begins at 6:30)
Location: Kristin's, 1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point
Agenda:
• General business meeting
• Updates from Elected Officials
• Election of At Large Member for PCDP Executive Board
• Vote on Resolutions
Program: "Gaylord Nelson: Earth Day and His Environmental Legacy"
Presenter: **Bill Christofferson** author of "The Man From Clear Lake: Earth Day Founder Sen. Gaylord Nelson," a political biography published by University of Wisconsin Press



Christofferson, a former journalist, spent 20 years as a campaign and media consultant working to elect Democrats in Wisconsin.

His clients have included Herb Kohl, Jim Doyle, Libby Burmaster, Shirley Abrahamson, John Norquist and Paul Soglin.

Now retired, he lives in Milwaukee and is co-chair of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, a statewide organization with 160 member groups working for social change.

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