



Portage County DEMOCRAT

GETTING TOGETHER, MOVING FORWARD

AUGUST 2009

PORTAGE COUNTY, WI DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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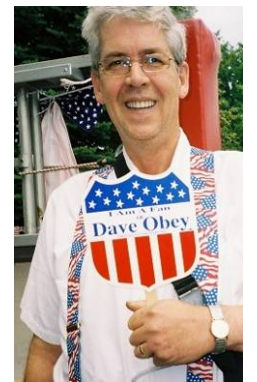
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Gary Hawley: 345-9586
 gary.hawley@softhome.net

Lois Lawler: 345-1371
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www.PortageCountyDems.org

Captain America
(Jean Schobert)



Alderspersion Roger Trzebiatowski, a true FAN of Rep Dave Obey

DEMS PARTICIPATE IN 4TH OF JULY PARADE



Don Peters is the co-owner and driver of the fire truck used in the parade. Thanks Don!



Robyn Van Laanen with granddaughters Remi & Allie Wisinski



The parade in progress...

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2009 CALENDAR

AUGUST

- Tues Aug 4 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 pm
Wed Aug 5 Dave Obey's 40th Year Anniversary Party,
7-9 pm, Oak Island Park, Wausau
Tues Aug 11 General Meeting, Kristin's at 7:00 pm
Sun Aug 30 **Portage County Democratic Party Annual
Picnic at Pfiffner Park, 11:30 am-4:00 pm**

SEPTEMBER

- Tues Sep 1 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 pm
Tues Sep 8 General Meeting, Kristin's at 7:00 pm
Fri-Mon Sep 4-7 Rosholt Fair; Parade on Noon Sat, Sep 5
Fri-Sat Sep 18-19 Harvest Fest in Stevens Point
Sat Sep 19 Art in the Park, Stevens Point

OCTOBER

- Tues Oct 6 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 pm
Tues Oct 13 General Meeting, Kristin's at 7:00 pm

NOVEMBER

- Tues Nov 3 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 pm
Tues Nov 10 General Meeting, Kristin's at 7:00 pm

DECEMBER

- Tues Dec 1 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 pm
Tues Dec 8 Christmas Party along with General Meeting,
Kristin's at 7:00 pm

"I'M ASKING YOU TO BELIEVE.
Not just in my ability to bring about
real change in Washington ... I'm
asking you to believe in yours."
-BARACK OBAMA



Visit our Web Site:
www.PortageCountyDems.org

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



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 September 2009 issue is August 20th.

— Charlene Figge

From Co-Chairs

Dear Friends,

Our country is faced with a mammoth choice at this time—the decision on health care reform.



Gary Hawley

Lois Lawler

Without massive citizen mobilization, this major platform of President Obama's campaign will elude us.

We in Portage County, strong supporters of the Obama campaign in the fall of 2008, are determined to be a part of the discussion and the decision on health care in 2009. We will combat the \$1.3 million per day being spent by special interest groups.

This battle is for more than health care reform. It is for the life of democracy itself. If we fail to defeat these special interests, we no longer have a democracy, but a plutocracy—government by the wealthy.

The battle is on many fronts, but from our perspective, the battle for truth is the most important. The opposition party is using blatant lies to deflect the support of large segments of the population. Many of their deceptions rely on "rejection by association": connecting health care reform with assisted suicide, euthanasia, and other issues that carry negative profiles in our culture.

Come prepared for a "healthy discussion" that addresses the REAL issues—a conversation you won't want to miss on August 11 at 7:00 pm at Kristin's Riverwalk.

And then, on the lighter side, enjoy camaraderie at the end of the month: come to the August 30th PICNIC. Enjoy local foods, political ideas, a silent auction, raffles, plant and bake sales, and music by L.J. Booth.

Gary Hawley Lois Lawler

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

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. You can also choose to receive your newsletter by e-mail, thus saving the County Party \$\$ for postage and printing.

Congratulations to President Obama's USDA Appointments: Stan Gruszynski and Brad Pfaff

We congratulate two Wisconsinites, Stan Gruszynski and Brad Pfaff, who were recently appointed by President Barack Obama to leadership positions in the United States Department of Agriculture.

Stan Gruszynski will serve as **Wisconsin State Director for Rural Development at the USDA**. Stan is currently the director of Rural Leadership and Community Development for the Global Environmental Management Center at the University of Wisconsin's Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. Prior to that position, he served as the Director of Public Affairs for USDA Rural Development in Stevens Point for seven years.



Brad Pfaff

Stan Gruszynski

Brad Pfaff will serve as **Wisconsin State Executive Director for the Farm Service Agency at the USDA**. Since 1997, Pfaff has been a Policy Advisor to U.S. Representative Ron Kind. Prior to this he worked on Senator Herb Kohl's state staff performing constituent out-reach. He now provides guidance on agricultural and natural resource issues, convenes listening sessions with agricultural producers and commodity groups, and has contributed to farm bill and dairy legislation.



County Clerk Update

I attended the Wisconsin County Clerk's Association Symposium in June at Prairie de Chien, Wisconsin. Educational sessions which I attended included subject matters of Election Canvass and Recounts, Redistricting, Municipal Clerk Communications, Dog Licensing, and County Board Relations.

The Government Accountability Board was at the symposium providing information on the concept of early voting in Wisconsin. County Clerks overwhelmingly expressed their concerns of the possible financial impact of this idea during the tough economic times that our municipalities and county governments are currently facing. At this time we encouraged the Board to consider streamlining the current absentee voting system and those dates and locations can be found at the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board's website. Municipal Clerks as well as the general public are encouraged to attend. The closest session to Portage County will be at the North Central Technical College on August 3.

Continue to enjoy your summer!

SHIRLEY M. SIMONIS
PORTAGE COUNTY CLERK

WHO SAYS WE DON'T NEED UNIONS?

The Hightower Lowdown
July 2009

The National Transportation Safety Board has issued its official review of "The Miracle On The Hudson"—the US Airways flight in New York that struck a flock of geese, lost all power, and was forced to land in the Hudson River last January.

NTSB's analysis confirms what we learned from news reports at the time—Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and the rest of the crew on Flight 1549 performed marvelously in the face of looming disaster, saving the lives of 150 horrified passengers by landing the jet intact and quickly evacuating it. Their performance has been hailed with such phrases as "stoic," "nearly flawless," and "heroic."

But another laudatory term should be applied to them as well: "union." Practically everyone involved in averting this disaster was a union-trained professional.

Captain Sully himself is not only a member of the Airline Pilots Association, but also served on its national governing committee and is APA's former safety chairman. Indeed, he and his union have had to fight airline chieftains who've tried to cut back on the safety-training programs.

Likewise, the flight attendants who so expeditiously moved everyone off the plane are members of their union, the Association of Flight Attendants, which also stresses safety. The ferry crews that zipped right up to the wings to rescue passengers—they're in the Seafarers International Union, which gives them the safety courses that enabled them to respond as they did. The cops, firefighters, and air-traffic controllers also performed marvelously—all are union-trained. ■

Help... Help... Help...

Please consider offering to help with one or more of the following upcoming events. THANK YOU!!!

AUG. 30th DEM PICNIC

FOOD FOR OUR DEM PICNIC

As Chair of Food for the Dem Picnic, I'm in need of people willing to donate potato salad, coleslaw, or fruit salad focused on using locally grown foods.



Also, anyone willing to help serve an hour or two that day would greatly be appreciated.

I am especially in need of someone to serve ice cream sundaes.

Please call or email me, **Jan Way**, if you can help: 341-5898 or sptents@coredcs.com.

PICNIC BAKE SALE



We'll again be having our annual Bake Sale at the Picnic. As Chair of the Bake Sale, I want to remind you that we're accepting **donations of baked goods** for the event.

In the past, putting them on heavier paper plates wrapped with plastic has worked well. Also, we need to have your name, address and the cost of your donation included for our records.

My hope is that you bring your baked goods right to the picnic, after 11am. If this is not possible, you may drop them off at my house next to Spiedini's Restaurant on Post Road the day before the picnic. Phone me, **Carol Gawlik**, at 344-3961.

SILENT AUCTION FOR DEM PICNIC

Are you saving items to donate for the Picnic's Silent Auction? I'm the chair of the Silent Auction. You can contact me, **Wes Halverson**, at 340-4212 (cell) or e-mail me at whalvers@charter.net



if you have any large items or items that you want picked up.

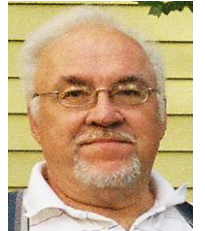
Also, consider another type of item that could be auctioned off. **Donated Services** (haircut/style, manicure, handyman/repair, or similar services, etc.) can all make great auction items! Let's have another successful silent auction this year!

FAIRS AND PARADES

THANKS FOR AMHERST FAIR HELP

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped supervise our booth at the **Portage County Fair in Amherst**. The following Democrats worked 3-hour shifts at the booth: Mary Beth Anday, Mike Baumann, Ron Check, Charlene Figge, Lois Lawler, Eric Olson, and my wife Leigh (and me).

Volunteers handed out magnetic Packer schedules and pencils from Dave Obey, Packer & Badger schedules from Senator Lassa and Representative Molepske, Wisconsin highway maps also from Rep. Molepske. Workers also sold raffle tickets for our upcoming picnic. Truly we couldn't operate this booth without the many fine people who agree to volunteer.



Now... see pg 5 of this newsletter for a great photo from the Fair. — *Jack Allgaier*

HELP NEEDED AT THE ROSHOLT FAIR

Volunteers are needed to work at the Portage County Democratic Party's booth at the Portage County Fair in Rosholt from Friday night, September 4th, through Monday night, September 7th (this is Labor Day weekend). Volunteers will again hand out political materials that elected Democrats give us prior to the fair. If you can work a three-hour shift (10-1, 1-4, 4-7 or 7-10) on Saturday or Sunday, please call me at **341-5359**.

However, because this fair runs more days and more hours than the Amherst Fair, a larger number of volunteers is needed. The good news is that our location is indoors, well protected from the weather and the noise of the fair! It is a great place to do some reading! Please phone me if you can lend a hand. — *Jack*

ROSHOLT PARADE

Also, there is a parade in Rosholt on Saturday, September 5th, at noon. Dick Anderson and Don Peters have graciously allowed us to use their fire-truck in the parade. However, we need riders! In my opinion, an empty float looks like the group has no backing at all! Also, it is really nice to have children on the float. Please let me know if you can help by phoning me at 341-5359. And we can always use some more candy to toss.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH...

"I have been thinking that I would make a proposition to my Republican friends... that if they will stop telling lies about Democrats, we will stop telling the truth about them." —Adlai Stevenson

Printing of our newsletter has been paid for with donations.

Thank you to our 2009 Newsletter Sponsors:

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- Jerry Ugland
- Charlene Figge
- An Anonymous Supporter
- Doug and Marcy Radke
- Darlene Todd
- 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

(Any amount is appreciated.)



Jack Allgaier (left) with Sheriff John Charewicz in front of the Portage County Democratic Party booth at the Amherst Fair.

PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PICNIC 2009

Join the Portage County Democratic Party for our annual summer picnic on Sunday, August 30 at Piffner Park, located near downtown Stevens Point on the Wisconsin River. The party will begin with lunch at 11 am consisting of *local* summer foods, including brats, potato salad, sweet corn, and, of course, beer. Our music will be provided by the critically acclaimed singer-songwriter **L.J. Booth**.

We'd like you to support these businesses for having supported us.

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Riverwalk**
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Portage County Democratic Party

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GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, August 11th at 7:00 pm
at Kristin's Riverwalk
1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point



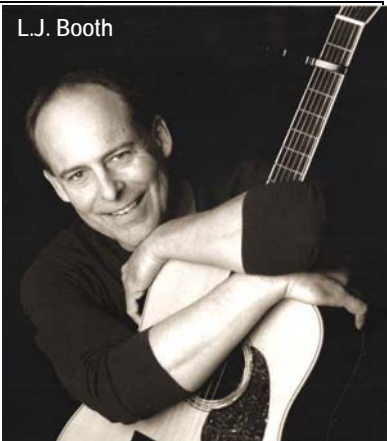
Democratic Party
AUGUST 2009
GENERAL MEETING

- Date:** Tuesday, August 11, 2009
- Time:** 7:00 p.m. (socializing begins at 6:30)
- Location:** Kristin's, 1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point
- Agenda:**
 - General business meeting
 - Preparing for Portage County Democratic Party Picnic on August 30th
 - Updates from Elected Officials
- Program:** **Health Care Reform**
Portage County Democrats address the issue and take action

All are welcome... Refreshments will be provided.

August 30th
DEM PICNIC

This year's summer picnic will feature the music of Portage County recording artist L.J. Booth with Matt Buchman on piano and Vincent Miresse handling percussion.



L.J. Booth

L.J. will be celebrating his latest CD, released this summer, a compilation of live recordings from a special concert at the Jensen Center in Amherst. He is recognized across the country as a gifted songwriter and guitar player, and with his band he is guaranteed to provide an inspirational and entertaining **free** show. Mathew Buchman is an Associate professor and director of jazz studies at UW-SP; Vincent Miresse is a talented percussionist and didgeridoo player.