



Portage County DEMOCRAT

GETTING TOGETHER, MOVING FORWARD

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009

PORTAGE COUNTY, WI DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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 gary.hawley@softhome.net

Lois Lawler: 345-1371
 loislawler@charter.net

www.PortageCountyDems.org

Local Dems Take Action on Health Care



Portage County Democrats Darlene Todd (from left), Wes Halverson, Liz McDonald, Leigh Allgaier, and Jack Allgaier were among the volunteers who brought the issue of Health Care Reform to visitors at Harvest Fest in Stevens Point's Main Street on the weekend of September 19th – 20th.

Liz McDonald coordinated an effort to give Portage County citizens an opportunity to voice their support for Health Care Reform in support of a Public Option.

"We collected 330 signatures on the petition in less than 24 hours during Harvest Fest," she stated. "I delivered the petitions to Rep. Dave Obey's and Sen. Russ Feingold's offices in Wausau the following Tuesday, Sept. 22nd and mailed a copy to Sen. Herb Kohl's office in Appleton."

Liz continued, "Thanks to all who helped gather the signatures: Jack and Leigh Allgaier, Karyn Tank, Wes Halverson, Darlene Todd, Jan Way, and Michele Bjella. And, of course, a big thank you to both Dave and Jan Way for providing the tent for our Democratic Party booth!"



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2009 CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Tues Oct 27 Fall Harvest Dinner at Kristin's, 5:30 pm
Wed Oct 28 Executive Board Meeting, Kristin's 6:30 pm

NOVEMBER

Tues Nov 3 Voting; School Referendum
Tues Nov 10 General Meeting, Kristin's at 7:00 pm;
Nominations for Executive Board Members

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; Election of
Executive Board Members for 2010

"The time has arrived to help millions of Americans living without a full measure of opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health... and [to have] protection... against the economic effects of sickness."

— **Harry S. Truman**
September 19, 1945

"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 —

Thanks to those who have sent items for this issue. As always, we like to hear from YOU.

So, if you have something to include in a future newsletter, please contact me at cfigge@charter.net or call me at 345-1371.

Since this issue is another combined issue, look for the next issue to be published in early January 2010. The due date for sending items for our January 2010 issue is December 20th.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a great Christmas!

— *Charlene Figge*

From Co-Chairs

Dear Friends,

During these last two months of the year, we're drawing to a close President Barack Obama's exciting first year of in office.



Gary Hawley

Lois Lawler

It seems like such a short time ago that we celebrated the President's inauguration with our own "Inaugural Ball," yet, it's amazing how much has been accomplished by this new DEMOCRATIC administration. We truly hope this first year will conclude with a strong health care bill that includes the public option.

And now... here in Portage County we're beginning to look forward to another election year.

In order to better support the upcoming 2010 campaigns, we have been looking for an *affordable* location in downtown Stevens Point for a headquarters. The best locations in the past have been on Main Street, with handicap accessibility. If you know of a possible location, or anyone supportive of the Party who would donate space or subsidize our rent, please call Gary at 321-0111.

This is a combined November and December issue of our newsletter. So...

With this letter we are providing you with the official notice that the annual election of our Democratic Party Executive Board will take place on December 8th.

The nominating committee will announce the slate at the November General Meeting on Tuesday, November 10th, and any additional nominations will be taken from the floor at that time. Nominations will then be closed, and the election will be held at our December 8 business meeting, prior to the Christmas Party.

Both the November and December General meetings will be held at Kristin's Riverwalk Restaurant, 1140 Clark St., Stevens Point at 7:00 pm. Socializing starts at 6:30.

As this will be last newsletter this year, we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving...and a Merry Christmas!

Gary Hawley Lois Lawler

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

At the October Democratic Party Meeting there was a brief presentation by Wendy Strout. She spoke of an opportunity for training women who wish to become involved in elected office. Below is information she sent regarding **Emerge Wisconsin**.

With a new website, new 2010 Applications, and a new Project Coordinator, **Emerge Wisconsin** invites you to be a part of the growing ranks of Democratic women seeking elective office by encouraging women to apply to the program and by making a contribution to keep Emerge strong.

Emerge Wisconsin, the premiere candidate training program for Democratic women in Wisconsin, is now accepting applications for the 2010 class. Emerge conducts an in-depth, seven month program for Democratic women interested in running for state or local office. Classes meet approximately one weekend per month from January to July. Applications are available at EmergeWI.org.

In 2009 Emerge Wisconsin trained a class of twenty-one dynamic women who will be graduating on November 21.

Please encourage Democratic women who are interested in running for office to apply to be a part of Emerge Wisconsin's class of 2010. And, please encourage your friends and colleagues who are interested in seeing more women elected to office to make a financial contribution to Emerge Wisconsin.

Wendy Strout, Program Coordinator
Emerge Wisconsin: www.emergewi.org
emergewi@gmail.com
(608) 692-7556

"... Then there are those mythological Obama "death panels" that Republicans have screamed about. While they never did exist in Obama's reform plan—guess where they do exist? In that Republican-led, state of Texas! The Texas Futile Care Law allows a corporate hospital committee to overrule families and pull the plug on granny if the hospital deems any more treatment to be "futile." It was signed into law by—guess who?—Gov. George W. Bush.

Jim Hightower, as published in the October 15, 2009 issue of the Progressive Populist



Progressive Action Network members **Laura Faulkner-Becker** (left) and **Michele Bjella** participated in Harvest Fest, encouraging folks to use reusable bags in an effort to have Portage County become "plastic bag free."

AL GORE

On October 24th ordinary citizens came together in a series of events, rallies, demonstrations and public art projects all designed to do one thing: bring awareness to an important number — **350 parts per million of carbon dioxide**.

During the last two years, the scientific community has made very clear that **350 is the maximum safe level for carbon in the atmosphere**, at least if we want to have a planet "similar to the one on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted."

In more than 130 countries,* people organized thousands of actions that took those three digits and seared them into the planet's consciousness.

* Here in Portage County, the Interfaith Community for the Earth (ICE) sponsored an event at Emy J's in Stevens Point. Ecologist Alan Haney guided a discussion on the latest global information on climate change and explored effective local actions to reduce our carbon footprint.

School Referendum

Sustaining Education for Everyone (SEE) is the organized citizen's group advocating for passage of the Stevens Point Area School Referendum on the November 3rd ballot.

SEE is urging local supporters to come out in support so that schools can continue to provide students with a vital public school education.

Anyone who wants to lend a hand in SEE's efforts to contact voters (via the downtown phone bank or leafleting), or to assist in seeking donations for expenses, is asked to contact Michele Bjella at 345-9779 as soon as possible.



Dear Friends,

Each of you has probably been contacted by the State Democratic Party during the last few weeks to renew your membership. We co-chairs have each received a letter and membership form, a phone call, and an email. The State Party is working hard to get everyone possible on board for the 2010 campaigns and elections, where we will work together to put a *new* Democrat into the role of Governor, and work to keep Senator Russ Feingold and Representative Dave Obey in office.

When you renew your membership with the County Party, you also automatically renew it with the State Party. Conversely, if you renew your membership through the State Party, you have automatically renewed it with the County Party. In the latter case, it sometimes takes a while for your membership to matriculate through the state office and filter down to us. It works, but it takes time. On the other hand, if you renew locally (using the form below and mailing it to us at P.O. Box 515 in Stevens Point), we know our membership count right away. Then we forward your membership on to the State.

Please, take a few minutes now to renew for 2010, whichever method you choose.

Democratically yours,



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



Yes, I'll join the Democratic Party—helping work for Obama's CHANGE!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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)

Check one: Membership Renewal
 New Membership

Make check payable to **PCDP** [Portage County Democratic Party]
 [Payment includes membership in both County and State Parties.]

Send newsletter by e-mail only (*saving printing & postage*)

Mail to: PCDP
 PO Box 515
 Stevens Point, WI 54481-0515

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

*Let's Work Together to Keep Wisconsin **Blue** in 2010...!*

QUOTE of the Month: “You teach a child to read,
and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test.”

—George W. Bush on Education Reform
February 21, 2001

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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- Darlene Todd
- Louis J. Molepske, Jr.
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- Sally Overholt

We are grateful for their 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 54482

Any amount is appreciated.

UW-SP College Democrats

The UWSP College Democrats have started up for the year again! The group members have elected an executive board and are moving forward with several projects and campaign events for the year.

The UWSP College Democrats meet every Monday from 5–6 pm at the Basement Brewhaus in the Dreyfus University Center on the UWSP Campus. For more information, please email Greg at gubbe553@uwsp.edu.

—Greg Ubbelohde
President, UWSP College Democrats

Art Stevenson & Highwater Benefit for Stevens Point Skate Park

A concert provided by Art Stevenson and Highwater will be held on Saturday, Nov. 28th (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) in the **Theater @ 1800** (Sentry Theater).

The show is at 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the University Box Office in person or on-line, or at the door.

Proceeds will go toward the Stevens Point Skate Park.

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GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, Nov 10th at 7:00 pm
at Kristin's Riverwalk**

1140 Clark Street in Stevens Point



Democratic Party

**NOVEMBER 2009
GENERAL MEETING**

- Date:** Tuesday, November 10, 2009
- Time:** 7:00 p.m. (socializing begins at 6:30)
- Location:** Kristin's, 1140 Clark St in Stevens Point
- Agenda:**
 - General business meeting
 - Updates from Elected Officials
- Program:** **Increasing Involvement of Youth in the Democratic Party**
- Presenter:** **Jason Rae**, Youngest Member elected to the Democratic National Committee (DNC)

All are welcome... Refreshments will be provided.



In June 2004, Jason Rae was elected the youngest ever member of the Democratic National Committee, at the age of 17. Since his election, Rae has worked hard to increase voting participation among youth, as well as to ensure that the Democratic Party reaches out and involves the youngest generation of voters.

In addition to his role as a member of the DNC, he serves as Chair of the DNC's Youth Council and on the Board of Directors of Fair Wisconsin, the WI statewide LGBT rights organization. In 2007, he was appointed by Governor Jim Doyle to serve on the Governor's Commission on the United Nations. Rae graduated from Marquette University in May 2009 with an Honors Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and History.