



PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

GETTING TOGETHER, MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

FEBRUARY 2017

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HQ is a busy place. Karyn Tank, charged with tracking the numbers of persons that use our HQs each month, reports there were 4 meetings with 107 persons in attendance during the month of December.

Filled to Capacity



On Saturday, January 14, Democratic County Chairs from around the state met at the Portage County Headquarters for their winter meeting. Needless to say, there was plenty to discuss! Sixty party chairs were in attendance and all counties were given the opportunity to share their experiences during the last election; what went right, what went wrong. They were also encouraged to share with the rest of the attendees, projects, initiatives, strategies and procedures they are currently working on or have planned to ensure the success of their county party and elections of the future.

Subcommittees were formed in the areas of finance, marketing/messaging, constitution review, and asked to report back at the County Chairs Association March meeting in Wisconsin Rapids. It was a very productive and informative meeting providing the County Chairs with a positive start to the upcoming election season.

We were also treated to a wonderful lunch put together by Trudy Pederson and served with help from Karyn Tank and Nancy Chojnacki.

Jan Way, PCDP Co-Chair

January 10th meeting

It was a dark and snowy evening, very snowy. So snowy in fact, that only 10 members braved the elements to attend PCDP's first monthly meeting of 2017. Professor Jennifer Collins, scheduled to speak on Martin Luther King and his relevance to today, postponed her engagement to a later meeting date because of the weather. The January monthly meeting concluded in record time.

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**FEBRUARY 14 Meeting**

Dennis Riley, Professor of Political Science and UWSP Distinguished Faculty member, will join us at our February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The title of Dr. Riley's address will be "**How NOT to fight voter fraud**", a very timely and relevant topic in light of the recent unfounded assertion by Trump that millions of persons voted illegally in the last election.

Please join us for what promises to be a very relevant and lively discussion by Dr. Riley.

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**RESCHEDULED-RESCHEDULED-RESCHEDULED  
JUSTICEWORKS LTD. presents  
MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. Community Celebration**



The 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration will be held Monday, FEBURARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, beginning at 7 PM in the SPASH auditorium.

Stuart Stotts, award winning singer, author and storyteller will be this year's speaker: "Singing for Our Lives: The Role of Music in Civil Rights Work".

The evening will include music from the Pacelli High School Choir and the presentation of the Justiceworks' John Klismet Volunteer Award.

The program is free to the public and everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

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Ground Water Action/Recommendation

On January 19th, several PCDP members were in attendance at the meeting of the Portage County Citizen's Groundwater Advisory Committee (GCAC). After 8 years of research and public hearings, the board reported out of committee their final recommendations for a comprehensive Portage County Groundwater Management Plan. The plan can be viewed at <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/home/showdocument?id=2283>).

The plan was forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Committee for an initial discussion regarding how to proceed. Two other County Board committees, Ag & Education and Land & Water Conservation, are to be included in the process. The goal is to move the report to the full Portage County Board so endorsement of GCAC findings can be adopted and meaningful discussions start to take place to solve the groundwater problems that GCAC has identified.

Ordinance subcommittee-The January 19th meeting's other order of business was to authorize a subcommittee with the purpose of examining a proposed groundwater ordinance for Portage County. The ordinance to be reviewed is a collaborative effort by local New Hope residents based on research and ordinances from other Wisconsin counties, the EPA, the WI DNR and Ag groups. These subcommittee meetings are open to the public and times will be posted as they become available. Attendance is encouraged.

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## It's that time again – WRITE A RESOLUTION

An opportunity to contribute & to make your voice heard where it matters.  
Write a resolution to add to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin's platform.

The following is the format to use to write resolutions to add the DPW platform. Please bring your rough draft or ideas for a resolution to the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting or send them to Matt LaRonge at [laronge\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:laronge_1@hotmail.com) (715-303-8479). Help to write or to refine rough drafts will be available.

Base your resolutions on current issues. Each resolution should relate to one of four general topics:

1. Justice, Human Concerns & Democracy
2. Education, Labor & Economics
3. Foreign Affairs
4. Agriculture & Environmental Affairs

Resolutions cannot be more than 100 words, not including the title and will be in this form:

WHEREAS, (Factual statements, observations)  
WHEREAS, (More factual statements and observations) and,  
WHEREAS, (More factual statements and observations).  
THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (or you can use DPW) supports (statement).

Below is a sample of a resolution submitted by PCDP previously that was approved both at the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD level and the state level – just to give you an idea of what a resolution looks like.

JUST CAUSE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES (80 words)

WHEREAS, workers and employees are the lifeblood of a thriving economy, and;  
WHEREAS, employees need protection from discrimination, persecution, and wrongful dismissal, and;  
WHEREAS, employers need protection from litigation resulting from wrongful discipline; and,  
WHEREAS, employment is of great value to both the employer and the employee, therefore, neither should have employment placed in unnecessary jeopardy.  
THEREFORE RESOLVED, the DPW supports that no employee who has completed a probationary period shall be disciplined, suspended or discharged without just cause.

Resolutions submitted by PCDP members will be voted on at a meeting with 10 forwarded to the 3RD CD Convention in March. From there, 10 resolutions will be voted on from all those submitted by all the counties. These 10 will then be forwarded to the DPW State Convention in Madison on June 2 & 3 for discussion and voting and possible inclusion in the DPW's Platform.

## **This just in – 2017 3RD Congressional District Convention**

**Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Century Hall, 213 Front St., Wauzeka, WI**  
On the shores of the Wisconsin River, Crawford County

The convention will start at 9:30 AM with call to order at 10:30 AM. Elections for all CD officers will be held. Contact Lisa Herman ([3rddemswi@gmail.com](mailto:3rddemswi@gmail.com)) if you are interested in running for any of the 2-year term positions. The Secretary's position is currently vacant. Gary Hawley is running as the Representative to the DPW Administrative Committee. Contact Gary for information as to the duties and function of the CD officers if you are interested.

This meeting is where the business of the 3<sup>RD</sup> CD is conducted and resolutions to the DPW Platform are discussed and adopted. Democratic party leaders and officers will be on hand to inspire, motivate and rekindle your political fire. Lisa has confirmed that WI Superintendent of Public Schools Tony Evers will be speaking to the group. More information as it becomes available.

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### **From Bascom Hill to the Capitol Steps**

By Trudy Pederson



My family and I are at the end (top) of this scene-near the UW-Library Mall. State Street was so packed with persons, we could not move forward to the Capitol.



This was the scene in Madison on January 21<sup>st</sup> when between 75,000 and 100,000 persons of all creeds, genders, races, orientations and mindsets, gathered in Madison to champion their cause and/or protest the state and country's leadership. Officially called "The Women's March", this gathering was one of hundreds held in cities around the world that day.

We were some of the several persons from the area that attended and I have to say, it was thrilling and awe inspiring to witness so many persons that were motivated to show their political will. It reminded me of the "ACT 10" protests that took place in 2011.

(March, continued)

Several speakers asked that the attendees “Keep the Momentum Going” and offered these suggestions:

- Write a letter and/or call your Representatives expressing your views (calls are best)
- Donate/Volunteer in our community – there are many good causes
- Attend your local government meetings
- Offer to sit on a committee
- VOTE in Mid-term elections
- Consider running for office
- Attend PCDP meetings
- Attend more peaceful demonstrations

## ***The World is Ruled By Those Who Show UP!***

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### Request from Congressman Ron Kind

Dear Portage County Dems,

The Presidency of Donald Trump has brought with it a host of frightening implications. From disastrous cabinet picks to conflicts of interest, there are no shortage of things for Democrats to organize and fight back against.

However, there is one thing on his agenda that is shaping up to be a fight of life or death-- protecting the Affordable Care Act. I'll be the first to admit we still have work to do to improve it and work toward our goal of health care for all, but we've come so far on so many fronts we can't repeal the ACA.

I need to hear from folks like you or people you know, how the ACA has made your lives better. Personal stories from Wisconsinites are the way we help demonstrate the real good the ACA is doing in the lives of friends, family, and our neighbors. Whether it was being able to receive life-saving medication or being able to stay on your parent's insurance until you were 26 so you could afford to start your career straight out of college, whatever your positive experience, I need to hear these stories.

Please send any stories you would like to share to my Campaign Manager at [dremiker@ronkind.org](mailto:dremiker@ronkind.org) or call him during regular business hours at [\(920\) 645-4245](tel:9206454245).

Thanks for all you do,

Ron Kind

Jan Way provided these phone numbers with her “Call to Action”  
Call Wisconsin’s Republican legislators and tell them not to repeal the Affordable Care Act!

|              |              |              |                  |                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Paul Ryan    | Ron Johnson  | Sean Duffy   | Jim Sesenbrenner | Mike Gallagher |
| 202-225-3031 | 202-224-5323 | 202-225-3365 | 202-225-5101     | 202-225-5665   |



Calling all phone operators!!!

PCDP members will once again be "manning" the phones for "The World's Largest TRIVIA Contest" on the UWSP campus on Saturday night April 22, 2017, between 6 and 10 PM.

If you are interested in 4 hours of fun, enjoying great food while you engage with Trivia contestants and fellow PCDP members, contact Jan Way at [janmway@gmail.com](mailto:janmway@gmail.com) or 715-572-5802.

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If you are not traveling to the 3RD CD Convention in Wauzeka on March 25, you might want to check out this opportunity to engage with fellow Democrats.

SAVE THE DATE

9TH ANNUAL WISCONSIN
GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Wisconsin Heights High School 10173 US Highway 14 - Mazomanie, WI

SPEAKERS

John Nichols
Kathleen Vinehout
Matt Rothschild

21 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

ENTERTAINMENT

Folk Singer & Story Teller SKIP JONES www.skipjones.net

WisconsinGrassroots.Net/festival [facebook.com/Wisconsin-Grassroots-Network](https://www.facebook.com/Wisconsin-Grassroots-Network)

More Info: Contact: Nate Timm (608) 220-0139 / nptimm571@gmail.com

SIGN REMINDERS

You are reminded that you can bring your political lawn signs to HQs when you attend a meeting and/or event. We will dispose of, recycle or store the sign and reuse the wires for future campaigns.

ALSO, our Sign Fund is now being replenished with proceeds from the 50/50 raffle at meetings. Our new sign goal is the purchase of an electric, perhaps scrolling sign for our Headquarters. Donations for the electronic sign are also accepted apart from the raffle.

Citizen's Water Lobby Day in Madison-February 8

The Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network and Concerned Rome Citizens are organizing the [Citizen's Water Lobby Day](#) on February 8th. They are inviting all citizens that care about water to our State Capitol to stand up, speak out, and demand sustainable and responsible water policy from our elected officials. They are providing bus transportation, but are encouraging your participation regardless of how you arrive. As of this printing, buses are full.

The day will kick off at 11:30 am and will include information tables, speakers, silent parade and of course talking with your legislators. You are encouraged to contact your legislator in advance to request a meeting. If you get a meeting, it is likely to be with their staff person- that is just fine. If you cannot get a meeting, please still stop in their office to introduce yourself and explain why you care about protecting Wisconsin's water.

Additionally, the organizers are asking you to sign their [Water Petition](#) demanding responsible water policy.

WisDNR Conservation Congress – APRIL 10, 2017 By Nichole Lysne

These meetings are held in every County each year. They are advisory. In Portage County, they have typically been held at Ben Franklin Jr. High in Stevens Point.

Those concerned about our environment need to show up and share our concerns. In past years, our participation has been low. Considering the new political world, it is imperative that we have a large showing.

High capacity well regulations, large farm pollution and mining are just a few of the topics on the agenda.

To learn more about this meeting go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc>. or find an article in the Stevens Point Journal at <http://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/columnists/paul-smith/2017/01/21/smith-annual-spring-hearings-taking-shape/96698726/>.

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Letters to the Editor: How and where to submit them – by Kent Hall (344-8081- [kentsue@charter.net](mailto:kentsue@charter.net))

Portage County Gazette: Nate Ewald

- 500 words maximum
- Submit to: [news@pcgazette.com](mailto:news@pcgazette.com)
- Political letter for April 4 election – must be submitted by 5 PM on March 20

Stevens Point Journal: Jamie Rokus at 424-7381

- Political letters: 150 words max.
- Non-political letters: 250 words max
- Submit letters to automated “Stevens Point Journal/LTE” website
- Call Jamie to inform her you have submitted a letter. Send a hard copy to her at [jrokus@gannett.com](mailto:jrokus@gannett.com)
- April 4<sup>th</sup> political election letters must be submitted by 5 PM on March 27.
- A letter of generic interest you can ask Jamie to include in the Rapids Daily Tribune Wausau Daily Herald and Marshfield News-Herald as she coordinates these as well.

Portage County Democratic Party  
2220 Division St.  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

PCDP February Meeting  
February 14, 2017

PCDP Headquarters – 2220 Division St.

715-544-6323

Socialization begins at 6 PM

Dr. Riley talk “How NOT to fight voter fraud”

Important Business meeting to follow and  
Updates by local elected officials

Refreshments and conversation

Join us on Facebook at [PortageCountyWisconsinDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/PortageCountyWisconsinDemocrats) (thanks to Nichole Lysne)

Visit us at [www.PortageCountyDems.org](http://www.PortageCountyDems.org) (thanks to Collene Ottum)

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party, Rick Christofferson, Treasurer