



# PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

*Getting Together - Moving Forward Together - March 2017*

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Karyn Tank reports there were 4 meetings at HQs in December with 98 persons in attendance.

Just when you thought we were over elections...  
Here comes another one!

### Every Vote Counts & Every Election is Important

These adages we hear every election cycle; the ramifications of which we are now experiencing. So they're true!

The next **important election** takes place on **April 4<sup>th</sup>** when many local offices are on the ballot.

Statewide, we will be electing the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, an individual that has influence regarding the operation of our public education system. We will choose between Tony Evers who is a champion of local, public schools and a self-avowed private voucher advocate.

Portage County voters will also elect four members to the Steven Point Area Public School Board who have the challenge of determining policy for our local public school children.

Locally, in Stevens Point, the odd numbered district councilpersons are up for election, as are the city attorney, the city clerk and the comptroller/treasurer. Some council members have challengers.

Throughout Portage County, many of the local municipalities have elections for chairperson, President, supervisor, town clerk, trustees and treasurers, some of which are contested races. We elect these officials to determine how our local government bodies operate. They determine how our local tax dollars are allocated and how our area resources are distributed.

In a free society, we have an obligation to actively participate in our local governance. The most immediate influence we have on our government is our vote.

**Mark your calendar- April 4 - VOTE**



## Congratulations Ray Cal

Wisconsin Progress recently notified Ray that he is the recipient of their **Local Progressive Leadership Award**. Ray's well deserved recognition was for his work identifying potential candidates for local offices, encouraging them to run and helping them take advantage of the tools available to succeed in getting elected. His focus was on city council, county board, school board, town and village boards and most recently on some advisory committees. Ray acknowledged there were many other volunteers in Portage County that helped him in this endeavor.

The mission of Wisconsin Progress is to help progressives recruit, train and elect fellow progressives to local offices.

We appreciate the time and effort Ray has devoted to this worthy cause and congratulate him for this recognition.

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### RESOLUTIONS AT MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

The agenda at the next membership meeting will include voting on the 10 resolutions PCDP will forward to the 3<sup>RD</sup> CD Convention.

Members are asked to write resolutions about issues they are especially interested in and bring them to the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. They should be written in the required format. The required format was included in the February newsletter or contact Matt LaRonge at ([laronge1@hotmail.com](mailto:laronge1@hotmail.com)) for instructions.

Issues are of four categories: \*Justice, Human Concerns & Democracy, \*Education, Labor & Economics, \*Foreign Affairs, and \*Agriculture & Environmental Affairs.

At the CD convention, 10 resolutions will be voted on from all of those submitted by all the county parties. These 10 will then be forwarded to the DPW State Convention in Madison in June for discussion, voting and possible inclusion in the DPW's Platform.

This is an opportunity to express your opinion and have your voice heard at the local, county and state level about an issue you regard as important.

### PCDP 2017 Executive Board

<i>Co-Chair</i>	<i>Gary Hawley</i>
<i>Co-Chair</i>	<i>Jan Way</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair</i>	<i>Jack Allgaier</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</i>	<i>Jerod Barkley</i>
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair</i>	<i>Ned Grossnickle</i>
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Vice Chair</i>	<i>Karyn Tank</i>
<i>Statutory Chair</i>	<i>Michele Bjella</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Rick Christofferson</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Carol Gawlik</i>
<i>Newsletter Ed.</i>	<i>Trudy Pederson</i>
<i>CD Rep.</i>	<i>Earl Spangenberg</i>
<i>At Large 1</i>	<i>Konrad Chojnacki</i>
<i>At Large 2</i>	<i>Nancy Chojnacki</i>
<i>At Large 3</i>	<i>Glen Fink</i>
<i>At Large 4</i>	<i>David Pederson</i>
<i>At Large 5</i>	<i>Jim Pollock</i>
<i>College Dem Pres.</i>	<i>Rachel Lozinski</i>

*Nominations for positions on the Executive Board are taken from the floor each calendar year at the November member's meeting with voting for positions taking place at the December meeting.*

*Executive Board meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month and are open to any PCDP member.*



Contributed photo

Distinguished UWSP Professor of Political Science, Dennis Riley, joined us at our February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. His presentation was titled “How Not to Fight Voter Fraud”. Dr. Riley recounted the times in US history citizens have fought for and gained the **right** to vote, citing women’s suffrage and the Civil Rights Act as prime examples. However, the **opportunity** to vote is, and has been a problem for many citizens throughout history. The current requirement to show an ID to vote in Wisconsin, is an example of how those in power pass legislation to suppress the vote of those they deem unlikely to support their agenda. Dr. Riley’s talk was well received by those in attendance.

It was a full house at the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting...



Contributed photos

Mayor Mike stopped in too...



with current city news.



Joe Donovan is running for State DPW chair and stopped in to tell us of his candidacy.

It was Valentines Day



look what some members brought for us!

## March 14 Next PCDP meeting date... Speakers are scheduled

Executive board member, Matthew LaRonge has arranged for Joel Lewis, spokesperson for Citizen Action Network of Wisconsin to be our speaker. Mr. Lewis will speak to the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and its consequences for citizens.

**Matthew includes this preview of the talk:** A great deal is at stake when it comes to healthcare. Speaker, Paul Ryan is now telling the media of an imminent plan to repeal the ACA, Medicare and then moving on to tax giveaways for the well connected.

If the ACA is repealed, do you know what it will mean to people with individual health insurance or those with employer coverage? Turns out it is all interconnected and repeal will have disastrous results for all of us. Citizens Action of WI is a leader for explaining complicated health policy and how to make it better. Citizens Action of WI wants to get the word out to make sure that 400,000 Wisconsinites know they are set to lose their coverage, and how to fight against back.

**Also:** PCDP members on the ballot in the upcoming April 4<sup>th</sup> elections have been invited to speak to us briefly about their races, candidacy or relevant issues for their constituents.

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### Fun Time Coming in April - Trivia 2017 THE ROYALTY OF CONTESTS



If you are interested in answering phones for the UWSP contest on Saturday evening, April 22 from 6-10 PM email Jan Way to volunteer

[janmway@gmail.com](mailto:janmway@gmail.com)

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Did you know ...you can follow contributions by individuals and corporations to state and national campaigns and candidates at [follow the money.org...](http://followthemoney.org)

Be the first on your block to sport this attractive sign!!



PCDP will offer these yard signs at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Evers is a champion for Public Schools. His Fair Funding proposal would invest in our schools. We need Mr. Evers fighting for our public schools. Mr. Evers' opponent is a private voucher advocate.

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Representative Katrina Shankland addressed our February meeting. She shared good news about a successful program, "Back from the Front", for returning veterans at UWSP. With her encouragement, UWSP will make the program available to other UW system campuses this fall. The program was to be discontinued prior to Katrina's involvement.

Katrina also shared, that in her opinion, the Governor's budget address to the Wisconsin legislature in February was his "first campaign speech for 2018".

She addressed the governor's budget proposal for public schools by saying "Even if no new cut is included in this budget, public schools will still lose funding meant for them thanks to the millions of dollars that are being shifted directly from public schools to voucher schools – up to \$800 million through 2025". (According to the DPI website, the Stevens Point School District **paid out** \$339,000+ or approximately \$7500 for each of the 45 voucher students for the 2016 -2017 school year. Contrast this to the approximately \$4800 per student that public schools receive).

Representative Shankland also spoke of her recent meetings with constituents about the placement of violent sexual offenders in the Town of Alban. She and Portage County District Attorney Louis Molepski met with the judge responsible for the one placement and were able to convince the judge to impose some conditions on the offender's release and confinement.

As always, Katrina's visits are informative and appreciated.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### **3rd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

**Date:** Saturday, March 25, 2017

**Location:** Century Hall

213 E Front St  
Wauzeka, WI 53826

**Time:** Check in begins at 9:30am; call to order is at 10:30am

**Convention Website:** <http://3rddemswi.nationbuilder.com/>

**Registration Information:** Attendees are asked to register by March 15th. \$25 pre-registration for regular delegates, \$15 pre-registration for student delegates, \$15 for guests. Registration cost at the door will be \$30. To pre-register, you can visit: [https://3rddemswi.nationbuilder.com/pay\\_registration\\_online](https://3rddemswi.nationbuilder.com/pay_registration_online) or mail a check with names of delegates, guests and the appropriate fees to:  
3<sup>rd</sup> CD Dems, c/o Mary VonRuden, 407 Pearl St., Sparta, WI. 54656

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Grassroots Festival**

Saturday, March 25, 2017 - Wisconsin Heights High School, Mazomanie, WI

Registration begins at 8 PM – Event 9 AM – 4:45 – Suggested donation \$20

Confirmed Speakers: John Nichols, Senator Kathleen Vinehout, Katherine Cramer, Linda Graves, Representative Mark Pocan, Dr. Julia Mead

Entertainment to include The Raging Grannies

For more information contact Nate Timm [nptimm571@gmail.com](mailto:nptimm571@gmail.com) or on line at [www.wisconsingrassroots.net/festival](http://www.wisconsingrassroots.net/festival)

### **Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Public Hearing**

April 10, 2017 - 7 PM – Ben Franklin Junior High – Stevens Point

Agenda

- Provide input on proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations
- Elect local Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegate representatives
- **Introduce your ideas for change as citizen resolutions**
- Share your thoughts and learn from others
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Go to dnr.wi.gov – search for “Spring Hearings” to find the questionnaire, how to write a resolution and to review the questions that will be posed to the public. If you do not have access to the Internet or for more information, call Kari Lee-Zimmermann at (608) 266-0580.

### **PCDP ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE – MAY, 2017 DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

You can begin to gather up those gently use or new items that you no longer need or want and either bring them to a meeting at HQs or call Darlene Todd (715-498-4340) to arrange a time to drop them off at her home at 1533 Michigan Ave. Stevens Point. Thanks!

## Citizen's Water Lobby Day in Madison

Thanks in part to a generous benefactor who sponsored 6 coach buses for persons from all over Wisconsin to travel to Madison on Water Lobby Day February 8, 2017, the day was quite an event and hopefully, successful.

About 500 concerned persons converged on Madison to spend the day lobbying their respective legislators about their water issues. Concerns ranged from high capacity wells in our area, to frack sand mining in western Wisconsin, to algae blooms, to proposed mining and the pollution of local waterways, as well as contamination of our drinking water.

Approximately 25-30 persons from central Wisconsin, along with other citizens from Senate District 24, met with Senator Testin during the noon recess. Senator Testin was asked many pointed questions, but was noncommittal in his answers saying that the water related studies are incomplete and a more comprehensive study needs to be made of the Central Sands water issue. UWSP Water Specialist George Kraft and other hydrologists dispute this opinion.

(<https://wiswaterguy.com/2016/04/15/a-turning-point-or-just-another-study-on-the-heap/>).

The local group met with Representative Shankland in the afternoon and asked for her support to protect water in Wisconsin.

Culmination of the day featured a silent parade around the capitol rotunda with signs highlighting the importance of protecting our water resource, with the local media in attendance.

According to Criste Greening, organizer and representative of Citizens Water Coalition of Wisconsin ([www.cwcwi.org](http://www.cwcwi.org)), this event was just the beginning of future actions.

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## Speaking of signs

PCDP is currently accepting monetary donations for an electronic sign for the façade of our building. The specifics of the type of sign have not yet been determined. The sign would make our presence more visible and potentially include information relative to our purpose that would be communicated to the public via the signage.

The Executive Board recently voted to reintroduce the 50/50 raffle at the monthly meetings and designated that proceeds from the raffle be used to fund the sign.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, come to a meeting and purchase some tickets or you can send a check to PCDP, 2220 Division St., Stevens Point, WI 54481. Please include sign fund in your check memo line. Thanks!

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Ed Garvey, a Wisconsin Progressive and labor attorney passed away recently. Mr. Garvey was a nationally known labor attorney, and an alum of UW-Madison. Garvey was a founder of the annual progressive political event known as Fighting Bob Fest.

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

**PCDP March Meeting  
March 14, 2014**

6PM Socialization

6:30 Call to order

**Program: Joel Lewis “Citizens Action Network of WI”**

How repeal of ACA will affect you & how  
to fight back.

Business meeting

Refreshments

Authorized and paid for by the Portage County Democratic Party