



PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Getting Together - Moving Forward Together - April 2017

VOTE APRIL 4TH



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Greetings from Co-Chair Jan Way

As I write this, I can say I knew Donald Trump as President would be bad, but each day I find it so much worse than I ever could have imagined.

His health care plan is a disaster for the elderly and poor and now his budget takes away millions of dollars from programs that benefit the poor, elderly and middle class as it benefits corporations and increased military. It is a budget based on fear.

I am hoping this administration did not count on the amount of fear their proposed policies caused their very own base and we can take back the Senate in the elections of 2018, and even scare the house into making changes that focus on helping people instead of hurting them.

For those of you who are unable to make it to our general meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, I just want to report we have great programs and updates from our elected officials. We are provided with many opportunities to learn what is happening at the state level as well as in our own community. Read more articles about the March meeting later in this newsletter.

Please plan to attend our April 11th meeting to meet state and local candidates vying for office and learn of important events planned in our communities.

HQ continues to be a busy place.

February saw 106 persons attend 7 meetings at the HQs as reported by Karyn Tank, Executive Board member and HQ use tracker.

Wisconsin State Democratic Convention

June 2-3, 2017

Madison Marriott West, 1313 John Q Hammons Dr., Middleton Wisconsin

The annual state convention is our biggest Democratic event of the year. Join fellow Democrats in Madison in June to build the Party and work toward **Democratic Victories.**

Information regarding registration, agenda and convention hotel information at

www.wisdems.org/2017-state-convention



Joel Lewis, North Central Wisconsin Organizer for Citizen Action Organizing Committee, was the guest speaker at the PCDP March meeting.

Joel began his talk by asking members of the audience to share stories about their current health care concerns.

Joel then elaborated on the dire consequences of the Ryan/Trump plan, should it pass, to repeal and replace the ACA now in committee in Washington.

This disastrous replacement plan negatively affects the poor, the elderly and the disabled, the most vulnerable citizens of our community and by definition, the very supporters of the current President.

Most striking besides eliminating coverage for "pre-existing" conditions, is that the plan would leave 24 millions persons without health care coverage and raise the federal budget deficit by \$41 billion.

Joel acknowledged that the ACA could use some "tweaking" to bring some costs in line but explained that the Republican proposal would do away with many of the positive aspects of the ACA. It would also drive up the cost of health insurance for small business and individuals while giving healthy tax breaks to the wealthy.

Joel also explained the cooperative nature of the Citizen Action Organizing Committee and how to join. More information at www.citizenactionwi.org/coop.

Joel answered questions and received a well deserved round of applause.

UPDATE: Republicans rejected the Ryan/Trump health care proposal before it came to a vote in the House on Friday, March 24!

Constitution Update and Committee Thank You

The Constitution Revision Committee, chaired by Jerod Barkley with members Jerry Ugland and Gary Hawley met in February at the PCDP headquarters. The committee discussed proposed changes to the PCDP constitution. The Executive Board approved all changes recommended by the committee at their March meeting. The committee chair presented the proposed changes in writing at the general membership meeting March 14 as required by the PCDP constitutional amendment process. At the April 11 general meeting, members will vote on the proposed changes. The following is a summary of the proposed changes:

1. All references to the Portage County Democratic Party were changed to PCDP
 2. All references to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin were changed to DPW
 3. All references to any Congressional District were changed to CD
 4. Art.IV, Sec.4: appointment of chairpersons to standing and special committees by the PCDP chairperson now requires approval of the executive board
 5. Art.IV, Sec. 7: any executive board member approved by the executive board may now co-sign checks written by the PCDP
 6. Art.V, Sec1: the listing of members of the executive board was removed and referred back to the listing of executive board members in Art.IV, Sec.1; also, the last sentence was removed because it is redundant to Art.IV, Sec.4.
 7. Art.V, Sec.2: a quorum of the executive board was changed from 5 to 8; also, the last sentence was re-written for syntax clarity.
 8. Art.VII, Sec.3: a sentence was added to allow someone to cast a provisional ballot at a regular meeting subject to confirmation of their membership by the PCDP Treasurer.
 9. Art.VIII: a clause was added to allow for endorsement by the PCDP of a candidate in a primary under exceptional circumstances as provided in the DPW Constitution. (see DPW Constitution, Art.VIII)
 10. Art.IX: 2 sentences were combined to provide syntax clarity
 11. Art.X, Sec.1: changes to the By-laws were made easier by removing the 2 meeting rule
 12. By-law 1: the time of the meeting was removed
 13. By-law 2: the chairperson can now advertise regular meetings using appropriate media
 14. By-law 4: the nominating committee will now be announced 2 meetings prior to the meeting at which the following year's executive board is voted on

If approved by the general membership, the proposed changes must be approved by DPW. Extra written copies of the proposed changes to the constitution are available at the PCDP headquarters. Please attend the April 11 general meeting if you have further questions.

The PCDP thanks Jerod, Jerry and Gary for their diligent work to update the PCDP Constitution

Photos by Trudy

March Guests



Sheriff Mike Lucas joined us in March to update us on hot button issues in Portage County. The sheriff discussed the placement of violent sex offenders in the Town of Alban and praised Assemblyperson Katrina Shankland and Portage County District Attorney Louis Molepski for their efforts to establish guidelines for placement of these individuals in Portage County.

Sheriff Lucas also talked of the recent threat to our Hmong community and offered assurance to the Latino community that his department has no orders that would threaten their current status unless there is a criminal warrant. The sheriff discussed the Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake facilities for juvenile offenders and offered that Portage County is sending juveniles there.

Asked if he had one "wish", he said that it would be Regional Treatment Centers for treatment of mental illness and drug addiction.



Stevens Point City Clerk Jon Moe

Jon stopped by to remind us of the April 4th election and tell us that he is always looking for poll workers.

Interested? 715-346-1569 to contact Jon.

Co-Chair Gary Hawley thanked Jon for his efforts to set up and implement the satellite registration and absentee voting facility in the former Midstate Building for the November 2016 election.



TRIVIA FANS

Sign up to answer phones on Sat., April 22, 6-10 PM at The World's Biggest Trivia Contest on the UWSP campus.

Contact Jan Way at janmway@gmail.com or call 715-572-5802 if interested



PCDP Sends Resolutions to 3RD CD Convention

At the March 14th meeting, the membership voted to pass nine (9) resolutions onto the Third Congressional District Convention being held this last Saturday in March in SW Wisconsin. At the convention, ten (10) resolutions will be selected from all of those submitted by all districts in the 3rd CD to be forwarded on to the State Democratic Resolution Committee for vetting and then voted on at the Democratic State Convention in June in Madison.

The following is a summary of the resolutions the PCDP submitted to the 3RD CD:

Agriculture & Environment

- Resolved, the DPW supports legislation providing that WI. Electric can charge only market rates for their investment in power generating assets.
- Resolved, the DPW opposes any tax on private solar systems.
- Resolved, the DPW supports local control is returned to allow the development of water monitoring and management plans to preserve the quality and quantity of shared water resources.

Education, Labor & Economics

- Resolved, the DPW supports WI. developing and operating a pension plan (The Wisconsin Plan) made available to employees of private business and industry in the state modeled on Wisconsin's plan for public employees.
- Resolved, the DPW supports financial literacy becoming part of public school curriculum.
- Resolved, the DPW supports expansion of Broadband so that everyone has access to high-speed and an affordable Internet connection.

Justice, Human Concerns & Democracy

- Resolved, the DPW shall express support for the use of instant runoff voting.
- Resolved, the DPW supports the abolishment of the un-pledged super delegate system. Further resolved, DPW instructs its DNC delegation to actively work for this goal.

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Also at the meeting, a proposed amendment to the **3<sup>RD</sup> CD Constitution** was read by its author, Jerry Ugland. By a motion, the members authorized Jerry to present the amendment to the 3<sup>RD</sup> Convention on our behalf.

The amendment as copied below, would provide a more accurate count of the number of local party memberships and therefore a more accurate billing to the local party by the CD.

#### Article VII – Finances (additions underscored/deletions in parenthesis)

The District Executive Committee shall be empowered to provide funding for the operating expenses and congressional campaign expenses by any means, which does not conflict with the County Party or DPW financing methods. The Treasurer shall after January 1 of each year collect an assessment of \$1.00 per member from each county unit, on December 31 of the previous calendar year.

(STRIKE-based on membership as used by the DPW to determine delegate quotas)



Newly elected Stevens Point City Clerk, Tom Mallison reported that he is “settling in” and catching up since his swearing-in in February.



*PCDP member Trish Baker stopped by to announce that she is running for re-election to the Stevens Point Public School Board and for President of the Village of Park Ridge Trustee Board. She caught us up to date on the public school contract negotiations.*

Vote  
**Tony Evers**  
State Superintendent  
On April 4th  
**TonyforWisconsin.com**

ReElect Tony Evers, our choice for  
Public School Superintendent.  
An Advocate for Public Schools!



PCDP member, Tori Jennings asked for support for her candidacy for Alder in Stevens Point District 1 on April 4th.



*PCDP and Community members join in “Vigil Walk for Earth” recently.*



## Upcoming Events and News Items of note

This is only a partial listing of events that may interest you...

### Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Public Hearing

April 10, 2017 – 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

Go to [www.wi.gov](http://www.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. You may also call Kari Lee-Zimmerman (608) 266-0580 for additional information.

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PCDP Annual Rummage Sale

Friday, May 12 & Saturday May 13, 2017

1533 Michigan Avenue (corner of Michigan & Algoma) Stevens Point

Gather up all that "stuff" you no longer need or want (repurposed items welcome!) that seem to accumulate over the year and call Darlene Todd (715-498-4340) to arrange to drop it off or bring it to the headquarters on any meeting night.

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### Building Community Partnerships – Sharing in a pro-education gathering

Friday, April 7, 2017 12:30-2:00PM

Portage County Public Library      RSVP at <http://region10.weac.org/>

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Effective Activism – Join Representative Katrina Shankland

Thursday, April 13, 2016 6-8:30 PM

Landmark Café, Amherst WI.

All persons interested in effective change and positive response are invited.

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Did you know...? ONE WISCONSIN NOW has rolled out an online activist calendar to help Progressive activists speak up and fight back against the extreme Republican agenda at both the state and federal level.

The calendar is available at <http://onewisconsinnow.org/rebellion>

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Had you heard...? **DPW** recently announced the hiring of **Angel Montes** as its Community Outreach Director and named 5 Regional Directors.

Angel was our outstanding Central Wisconsin organizer during the 2016 election cycle.

We look forward to working with Angel once again and meeting the "new" regional director for Central Wisconsin.

PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
2220 Division St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

The PCDP Executive Board meeting date is changed to April 6th because of Election Day.

PCDP APRIL MEETING
April 11, 2017

6 PM socialization

6:30 Call to order

Program: Candidate for Wisconsin Governor, Bob Harlow will introduce himself and answer questions about his candidacy.

Candidate for DPW Chair, Bryan Kennedy will also introduce himself and tell us why he is running for Chair.

Business Meeting & Refreshments to follow

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party