



# PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Getting Together - Moving Forward Together - June 2018

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## HQ USE

Karyn Tank reports there were 6 meetings at HQs in May with 106 participants. We celebrated the Solar panel installation on Earth Day too.

## PCDP Out in the Community



Suzanne Fee & Ray Cal serve up brats and Dem goodwill at our food booth at Trig's in April



Tim Zimmerman collects nomination signatures for Democratic candidates while PCDP Chair, Gary Hawley masters the grill and Ray Cal and Michele Bjella discuss our amazing slate of Democratic candidates and the coming Blue Wave.

Thanks to the other helpers, Mary Weiss, Nancy Chojnacki, Glen Fink, Trudy Pederson, Rick Christofferson, Darleen Todd, Leigh Allgaier, Jan Way & Greg Hanneman. A BIG thank you to Ray Cal for making all the arrangements, donating supplies and the grill, and doing whatever needed doing all day for a successful event!



**Heidi Rose**, program director for W. A. V. E., Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort, spoke to the members gathered for the May meeting.

Ms. Rose highlighted the prevalence of gun violence in Wisconsin. She stated there are 400 gun deaths in Wisconsin each year, more than those killed in traffic related crashes.

WAVE was founded in 1997, their mission being to rally public support; press for action and leadership in gun violence prevention policies in the state.

The presentation was well received. Ms. Rose answered questions from the members and received a round of applause.

Some of those present were the lucky recipients of WAVE shirts, caps and bags that Ms. Rose handed out.

### UW Stevens Point Community **FIGHTS BACK**



UWSP Activist Group "Save Our Majors" met at the State Capitol in Madison on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

According to leader **Valerie Landowski**, "We had 18 speakers, including Superintendent Tony Evers, Rep. Katrina Shankland, Rep. Dana Wachs, Rep. Lisa Subeck, Kelda Roys, Mike McCabe, Andy Gronik and many student and faculty leaders. We even had Secretary of State Doug LaFollette stop in and speak for a bit. We had crummy weather (it down poured rain), but our very devoted crowd of 40-50 stayed through the downpour.

We delivered a letter to the Governor after the rally calling on him to fund the tuition freeze, restore funding to the UW, preserve tenure for faculty and reestablish reciprocity for MN and IL students. Walker's communication team even issued a statement in response to our rally!"



A belated "Thank YOU"

*The Solar Panel Committee thanks Greg Hanneman and everyone who provided food for the celebration of the Solar panel installation at our Headquarters.*

*Nancy Chojnacki*



*Doug Stingle of Northwind*

*More than enough to share!*

## Celebrate the summer solstice with the Dems at The 29th Annual Energy Fair, June 15-17, 2018 in Custer

The state party pays for the booth and PCDP members provide most of the volunteers to greet visitors and hand out literature. We are definitely among friends at this event. The conversations are stimulating and friendly about environmental issues as well as our Democratic values.

This year we will have the opportunity to highlight our Democratic candidates for public office prior to the August 14<sup>th</sup> election! The many statewide candidates have been invited and are expected to attend the fair.

Please contact Jack Allgaier at 715-341-5359 or [allgaiers@gmail.com](mailto:allgaiers@gmail.com) if you can spend a couple hours talking with fellow environmentalists about our recent Solar panel installation and current relevant issues.



## **Wisconsin Democrats**

Restoring Fairness

Expand Access to Health care • Raise the Minimum Wage • Gender Pay Equity • Restore Collective Bargaining • Expand BadgerCare • Make Elections Free and Fair

*Working for the common good*

## THE PICNIC IS COMING

**2018 RAFFLE TICKETS** are available. Raffle ticket sales are our biggest fundraiser of the year! **Pick up YOUR packet up at our June 12 or July 10 general meetings.** The Headquarters is open most days from 10 AM on. **IF THE OPEN SIGN IS ON,** stop in! After July 10, a fantastic crew of volunteers will deliver tickets to your home. Please help to save their time and effort by getting your raffle tickets now.

**PCDP ANNUAL PICNIC** - Sunday August 26, 2017 - Pfiffner Pioneer Park, Stevens Point - 11:30 AM to 4 PM. **Mark your calendar now!** We will have food and drink for purchase, a silent auction including theme baskets, a bake sale, plus great speeches by local and State Democratic leaders. **It's a party for our party and we need you there to help make it a success!** The party is held rain or shine in the Pfiffner Shelter on the shores of the beautiful Wisconsin River in Stevens Point. Please join us on this fun day with food, prizes, and camaraderie with fellow Democrats.



Music by "moogie"

*Are we there yet?*

*"When widely followed public figures feel free to say anything, without fact checking, it becomes impossible for a democracy to think intelligently about big issues".* Thomas L. Friedman

## Recent visitors to PCDP

Ron Kind and PCDP members at HQs



Dana Wachs talks to PCDP members at "Coffee & Conversations".



Matt Flynn attended our April meeting

Katrina was there too

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### JUNE 12 MEETING PROGRAM

1st District Alder, Tori Jennings will speak to the group and share a video about street design and traffic calming.

This topic has been a local issue, and not without controversy, involving Stanley St. on the east side of Stevens Point. Reconfiguration of Division St. that would limit the amount of traffic on this main thoroughfare has also been discussed.

You'll want to hear the latest information regarding this proposal and Ms. Jennings is the person with first hand information.

## WALK WISCONSIN

by Jan Way & Mary Ann Krems

The cool and cloudy day didn't deter the hundreds of walking enthusiasts that trekked along the Green Circle Trail for Walk Wisconsin on June 2 in Stevens Point.

A group of Portage County Dems was once again at their usual station on the corner of North Point Dr. and Wilshire to hand out water and energizing snacks to the walkers. Thanks to Eric Way, Darlene Todd, Konrad & Nancy Chojnacki, Jim Pollock, Santha Bickford, Mary Ann Krems and Barb Inch for spending a cool Saturday helping out.

A special thanks to Jan & Dave Way for setting up and taking down the tent, gathering the supplies and water and organizing the event that helps highlight the PCDP and its commitment to our community.



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The welfare of all of us is dependant fundamentally on the welfare of all of us.  
Theodore Roosevelt  
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## WE "LOVE" A PARADE & A PICNIC

**The 4th of July Parade** in Stevens Point is on a Wednesday in 2018.

We'll be ready with our vehicles decked out in flags, banners and signs as well as red, white and blue buntings. Our enthusiastic, patriotic walkers will be handing out candy and other trinkets to the kids along the route. It is an easy walk, the shortest parade in Portage County, and a pleasant, fun time. If you can join us, please do. The parade line-up is at noon in front of the post office.

We are seeking candy donations as well as non-candy items to hand out. If you wish to contribute, please bring your offering to the parade, our June 12 meeting, or contact Jan Way for pick-up.

**After the parade**, we will gather at the HQs for some food and refreshments. Rendezvous is being held the weekend before, so there will be no activities on the riverfront after the parade. Come mingle with fellow Democrats even if you don't go to the parade. It's also a great chance to pick-up your raffle tickets.

## WISCONSIN STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION – JUNE 1 & 2, 2018



### APPRECIATION, ADMIRATION FOR TAMMY

This is the scene on the Convention floor when Senator Tammy Baldwin was introduced!  
Full coverage of the convention will be included in the July newsletter.

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### Misinformation

Our governor has been spreading misinformation about Wisconsin schools, especially the Milwaukee Public Schools. He recently stated, "some 60 of the 70-plus schools that were failing in the state, were in Milwaukee".

This is entirely untrue. According to the 2016-17 Department of Public Instruction School Report Card, **there were 117 schools rated "Fails to meet Expectations" in the State of Wisconsin.** Of those, 77 were located in the City of Milwaukee, but just 46 were Milwaukee Public Schools. The other **31 schools were voucher schools or private charters.**

Low or under performing school districts are in other urban and rural areas as well. Many factors contribute to these disparities in achievement. Students who have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, suffer from housing stability or have poor attendance at school are likely to struggle academically no matter what school they go to, whether it be inner city, rural or in your neighborhood.

When it comes to education, any chance for significant improvement demands that we elect leaders who invest in our school, invest in our communities and who put the needs of people first, not by offering a one-time \$100 bribe.

Excerpted and Paraphrased from a communication by Mandela Barnes  
[www.mandelabarnes.com/nofailingschools](http://www.mandelabarnes.com/nofailingschools)

## Mark Your Calendar

**Portage County Fair in Amherst** July 19 - 22. Our booth is located under the grandstand which is a great location for visibility and it is cool should the weather be scorching. Volunteers are needed for all days for shifts from 5 to 8 PM. Volunteers sell our raffle tickets and buttons and bumper stickers. Our purpose is to let fairgoers know that the Democratic Party is alive and well and encourage them to register if they have not and to VOTE. Contact Jack Allgaier **715-341-5359** or [allgaiers@gmail.com](mailto:allgaiers@gmail.com) if you are able to help out.

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Celebrating 11 years of service to Portage County!



**Pancake Dinner**  
**Saturday, June 16**  
**5:30 – 8:00 pm**  
The Beloved Community (formerly Redeemer Lutheran Church)  
900 Brilowski Rd., Stevens Point

**\$6.00/person (Children 4 and under free)**

**Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee**

**TAPPED** *Featuring pure and infused maple syrups from Tapped Maple Syrup*

*Family-friendly fun, music and food!*

Thank you to: Tapped Maple Syrup      Liberation Farmers, LLC  
The Beloved Community      Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Nelsoville Lutheran Church      Frame Memorial Presbyterian Church

JusticeWorks is a non-profit community justice organization dedicated to the advancement of programs and practices that secure right relationships between offenders, victims and their communities. “Rightness” in relationships implies safe, equitable and respectful treatment for all with regard for individual differences and the need to repair harms suffered.

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PCDP is looking to develop a strategy and efficient method to contact, verify and correct Portage County voter rolls prior to the August 14<sup>th</sup> Primary election. Volunteers will be needed to research and then contact purged voters to correct voter lists. Portage County Dems will be notified asking for their help by email when an efficient system has been identified. Please consider volunteering for this vital project.

While we're talking about voting - Your Help is urgently needed!!



City, Town and Village Clerks are always looking for POLL Workers, but the need is critical for the upcoming August 14 Primary and the November 6<sup>th</sup> Election.

Please consider volunteering for this VITAL service (actually, you do get paid for your time). Your participation helps assure that our DEMOCRACY is strong and secure and our elections run efficiently.

Contact Michele Bjella to volunteer: [michelebjella@yahoo.com](mailto:michelebjella@yahoo.com) 715-345-9779

And while at the polls, remember to THANK ALL POLL WORKERS for their service!

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*Janet Malone's passing*



Sadly we report that fellow Democrat Janet Malone died recently. Many of you will remember Janet at the HQs making phone calls for Julie Lassa and other candidates. Janet was originally from Kansas and moved to Stevens Point to teach at UWSP. She moved back to Kansas a few years ago to be closer to her relatives.

Janet donated the quilt that hangs in our HQs and provides the backdrop for many of the pictures in the newsletter.

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**Parking at HQs**

Now that summer is in full swing and BELT's is open, the parking lot north of HQs fills up fast on meeting nights. Consider parking in the commercial lot across the street to the east or the lot to the south by Skipp's Bowling Alley. These lots are less congested and about the same distance from the HQs front door.

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**MREA ENERGY FAIR  
JUNE 15-17**

**VOLUNTEER FOR A TIME TO GREET FAIRGOERS AT THE DEM BOOTH**

Contact Jack Allgaier 715-341-5359 or [allgaiers@gmail.com](mailto:allgaiers@gmail.com)



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[www.PortageCountyDems.org](http://www.PortageCountyDems.org)

*Like us on Facebook: PortageCountyWisconsinDemocrats  
Twitter-PortageCoWIDems [@portagecowidems](https://twitter.com/portagecowidems)*

## PCDP JUNE 12 MEETING

6 PM Socialization

6:30 Call to order

Program – Tori Jennings talks about traffic calming/street design

Elected Officials and candidates

Refreshments & Socialization

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party