



# Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward April 2020

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February HQs attendance

21 gatherings with 126 attendees.

We appreciate our HQs and the opportunities it provides.

## The Challenge

My how quickly things can change! As I am writing this I know that what I communicate to you could be old news by the time you see it.

Our Headquarters is closed for now and volunteers are working from home. Evan Pohlkamp, our DPW Regional Organizing Director and Michele Bjella, our local election coordinator, will keep us apprised of what we can do to help campaign, promote and elect our Democratic candidates. Please follow the PC Dem Updates on your email. If we have meetings they will be done virtually. All general meetings are canceled until further notice. All CD Conventions have been canceled and a decision will be made May 1, on what kind of State Convention we will have.

Wisconsin's scheduled April 7th Election Day presents an major challenge. Providing staff to work our polling places will be a serious issue. If you are young, healthy and can help in that effort, you can contact your city, county, village or town Clerk to volunteer. Needless to say we will need to listen for updates from our Governor as plans change. Many people have voted early and even more have requested absentee ballots. Thanks to our wonderful, hard working Municipal and County Clerks and their staffs for the devotion they have shown in getting these processed and sent out.

In the meantime we encourage social distancing. Stay home if you are not feeling well and seek help and testing if you show symptoms of cough or fever. Call and check on your friends, neighbors and family.

Let us work together so when this crisis has abated, we are healthy, with a new appreciation for each other and are eager to get back to work making our Country a better place to live with the election of good progressive candidates to lead us into the future.

Peace!  
Jan Way  
Co-Chair, PCDP

# SPRING ELECTION 2020

This is a **Presidential Preference Election**. You will need to select Democratic Party and then choose between Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden. There is a list of twelve names, but alas, the choice is down to two.

It is also a regular **Spring Election**. Listed below are races where there is more than one person running for the seat.

## Justice of the Supreme Court: Jill Karofsky versus Daniel Kelly

Kelly is the incumbent, appointed by Gov. Scott Walker. DPW and your Executive Board strongly support JILL KAROFSKY in that the result of the Supreme Court election will have an impact on generations to come. Important issues like redistricting, voting rights and countless others will be decided by who is elected this spring. Gerrymandering and redistricting threatens our democracy -- it's the reason Republicans continue to get away with ignoring the will of voters, even preventing progress on key issues like health care, gun violence and climate change. Please vote for Jill.

## Portage County Board of Supervisors

There is only one race with more than one person running. It is the 19<sup>th</sup> District where Dale O'Brien is retiring. Scott Soik and Melinda Osterberg are running for the seat. Melinda is a member of the Portage County Democratic Party. In addition, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO has endorsed her as a union-approved candidate. If you reside in the 19<sup>th</sup>, please vote for Melinda.

## City of Stevens Point Council

Again there is only one race with more than one person running. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> District where the incumbent David Shorr is being challenged by Corey Keahliher. David is a member of the Portage County Democratic Party and chairs the DPW Environmental Caucus. The Wisconsin AFL-CIO has also endorsed him as a union-approved candidate. If you reside in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, please vote for David.

## School District

There are five individuals (Christina Scott, Gee Pope, Ed Morganroth, Jr, Trish Baker, and Robert Larson) running for three positions. Trish is a member of the Portage County Democratic Party. Gee has volunteered at our HQ for many elections and has been selected as a union-approved candidate by the AFL-CIO.

## State Referendum

### Question 1: "Additional rights of crime victims"

The Exec Board has decided to neither support nor oppose this referendum. We encourage members to research this by themselves. We have found that Attorney General Josh Kaul supports it while the ACLU does not. This referendum, also known as "Marsy's Law," will legalize a specific set of rights for victims of any crime — violent and non-violent — in our state constitution. Some provisions are good (notification if a defendant escapes custody) while some are not so good (the presumption of the guilt of the accused before a verdict has been rendered.)

## County Referendum

Question 1 "Nonpartisan redistricting maps procedure" - The Executive Board of the Portage County Democratic Party strongly supports this advisory referendum and encourages you to vote "YES." We need to end gerrymandering in Wisconsin.

# SPRING ELECTION - IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 2

*DEADLINE  
TO REQUEST  
AN ABSENTEE  
BALLOT  
BY MAIL*

APRIL 3

*DEADLINE  
TO REGISTER  
IN-PERSON  
WITH YOUR  
CLERK*

APRIL 7

***ELECTION  
DAY  
REGISTER  
AT THE  
POLLS***

INFO: **MyVote.wi.gov**



W I S D E M S



Amanda Haffele, Director of the Portage County Solid Waste Program was at the March 10th meeting to let the PCDP members know that there isn't a garbage "crisis" but that the garbage business is changing.

A big surprise to many of the people in the audience was information that the Portage County Waste Program is self-funding; the county does not supplement the operations. Amanda told us that because China is no longer accepting much of our recyclables, local recycle operations have had to find new markets to support their operations. This is also why citizens are charged a fee to drop off some items for disposal.

Amanda's power-point program highlighted many of the misconceptions about local recycling and stated that all municipalities operate under the authority of their specific governmental rules which means items able to be recycled changes from county to county.

Members were given a handout with information regarding the program in Portage County.

Amanda answered several questions and was given a thankful round of applause for sharing this important information.

# 2019 Audit Committee Report

## By Nichole Lysne

On Sunday, January 26, 2020, the Audit Committee convened to review the financial books for the Portage County Democratic Party. The committee included Nichole Lysne, chairperson, Corey Ladick, and Pam Przybelski. The review was completed with the 2019 Treasurer Jack Allgaier in attendance. After review of the documentation, the committee finds the financial books to be in good condition. The committee noted that the balance recorded in the books at the end of 2019 matched the bank's balance at the end of 2019. The committee commends Jack Allgaier for his diligence in keeping clear and neat documentation and further thanks him for implementing many of the recommendations during 2019 that were recommended after the audit of the 2018 financial books. Members submitting for reimbursement are reminded to cash checks in a timely fashion to assist the Treasurer and the future audit committee.

COMMENTS from co-chair Jan Way: First I want to thank Nichole Lysne, an engineer for the Department of Transportation, Corey Ladick, City of Stevens Point Treasurer, and Pam Przybelski, Portage County Treasurer for generously giving three hours of their time to audit our books. Their efforts exemplify the attitude of so many of our volunteers who work diligently to make our county party the success it is. Their audit clearly affirms that your Executive Board manages your money well.

I would also like to thank Jack Allgaier for serving as our treasurer the last two years, his second stint in this role. The treasurer's job is not simply writing checks. It involves making sure that there is a paper trail from approval by the Executive Board to the bill being paid on time, to records being submitted to the Wisconsin Ethic's Commission. I personally looked forward to the reports that Jack gave to the Board because he also included information on different aspects of our budget and finances. We all thank him for the many hours that this job entailed. Jack is and has always been a dedicated member of the Democratic Party and has worked tirelessly to make our Party one to be proud of.

Finally, I welcome Richard Wyman on board as our new treasurer. He is a retired CPA so our books continue to be in good hands. We look forward to working with Rick this upcoming year. Rick and his wife Lynn have moved here after retiring from their careers in Marshfield and we are so pleased they have chosen Stevens Point and the Portage County Dems as their home.



Thank You





## Meet **Evan Pohlkamp**

Hello,

My name is Evan Pohlkamp, and I'm a lifelong Wisconsinite born and raised in Middleton. I have a big family in Dane County and a 2 year old Golden-doodle named Murphy. I'm an avid reader, a passable piano player, and one of the biggest Harry Potter nerds you'll ever meet. I got my political start as an Intern on Josh Kaul's campaign for Attorney General while I was a student at UW-Madison. The Kaul team convinced me to take a semester off of school to take a job as a Field Organizer for the 2018 campaign. I then went back to school and graduated with a degree in Legal Studies. I have been organizing in Brown County since October 2019, but I'm very excited to be organizing in Portage, Wood, Clark,

Juneau, Adams, Jackson, Trempealeau, and Buffalo Counties until the election in November. I have a somewhat fanatical love of canvassing which I hope to impart on as many volunteers as I can.

I can be reached via email at [Evan@wisdems.org](mailto:Evan@wisdems.org), or by phone or text at 608-575-4968.

Evan Pohlkamp

Regional Organizing Director | Democratic Party of Wisconsin

608-575-4968

He/His



HQ's building facade update - Like everything else during the current health crisis, the timing of the remodeling of our building's front according to our contractor, Aaron, will depend on the availability and delivery of materials, any further mandated no work orders and helper/worker availability.



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### Portage County Dems April Meeting

At this time there are no plans to hold an in-person general membership meeting in April.

Please watch for the PC Dems email updates for notices regarding the election and any news about a future meeting date.