



# City Nomination Paper Project

By Jack Allgaier

In April, we realized that getting nomination papers signed this year, due to the corona virus, would be difficult. A candidate for office – at least, a Democratic candidate - could not go to large gatherings or door-to-door requesting signatures. Your Executive Board, therefore, decided to mail nomination papers for candidates who were members at that time to each party member living in Portage County. We asked each household to have the one or two people residing there sign the papers, and return them in a stamped, addressed envelope to the headquarters. We happily had almost 75% of the envelopes returned, gathering 255 signatures.

This was so successful that the Executive Board decided to mail nomination papers again for the PCDP member city officials in the 2021 spring election: Corey Ladick, comptroller-treasurer; and Kari Yenter, city clerk. As with the fall election, each candidate needed at a minimum 200 signatures and a maximum of 400. Candidates prefer to have more than the minimum number as the signature are inspected and some may be tossed out due to reasons such as not having a valid address or a person signing twice. Corey and Kari continued to gather signatures to reach their 400 goal, but know that they are most appreciative of our efforts to get them over the minimal threshold of 200.

Overall, we are impressed with the numbers this time too. As of Thurs., Dec 24, there were almost 61 % of the envelopes returned, gathering 135 signatures. In case you did not receive one, remember that only members who live in the city of Stevens Point received the mailing.



## Candidates Running for State Superintendent for Public Instruction as of 12-4-20

Websites provided so you can do your own research

**Sheila Briggs** has been at DPI since 2011 and previously had spent 16 years with the Madison School District. She is running on the theme of fixing the problems at DPI – where she has been employed for the past nine years!

<https://www.briggsforkids.com/>

**Joe Fenrick** is a high school science teacher and a college geology lecturer. He appears to be the only candidate without educational administration experience. However, he also appears to be the only candidate with elected public leadership experience being in his third term as a Fond du Lac County Board <https://fenrickforeducation.com/>

**Troy Gunderson** recently retired as Superintendent of the West Salem School District after a 35-year career in public education to include twenty-five years with the West Salem School District. The other ten years were also in western Wisconsin. <https://www.troyforstatesup.com/>

**Deborah Kerr** is a former Superintendent of the Brown Deer School District which is a Milwaukee suburb. Most recently, she was the former President of the National School Superintendents Association. From this experience she probably has a good network of educational innovators. <https://kerr4kids.com/>

**Jill Underly** is the Superintendent at rural Pecatonica School District and has had previous employment experience at DPI. Her resume has a variety of experiences. <https://underlyforwi.com/>

**The election for state superintendent is April 6. If more than two candidates collect enough signatures to be on the ballot, a primary will be held Feb. 1**

## November Program highlighted Central Rivers Farmshed



Jenny Riggerbach, Executive Director of “Farmshed” presented at the November meeting via Zoom. She explained Farmshed’s mission “to grow a resilient local food economy”. She further stated that their belief is that everyone deserves to eat healthy and delicious food.

Jenny talked about several of their programs that in 2020 included distributing over 7000 lbs. of food to local food banks and delivering 4000 meals to Hmong elders among other efforts.

Farmshed offers a Community Potluck service, a compost collection crew, a farmer tribute dinner, have a presence at the local Farmer’s Market in Point, host a local food fair, offer workshops about growing and cooking food and is host to a collective seedling program that grows garden plants for local gardeners.

Jenny explained that the Covid-19 virus curtailed their community gathering activities for 2020. The Farmshed Board and staff are busy planning to be able to continue their programs in 2021 when it is safe to do so. Their website [www.farmshed.org](http://www.farmshed.org) offers membership information and more about their programs.

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### RENT READY - Program for January 12, 2021

Co-Chair, Jan Way has invited Mark Kordus, City of Stevens Point Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator, to present a program titled “Rent Ready”. The program is introduced on the city’s website...

On December 4, 2019, The Hunger and Poverty Prevention Partnership (HPPP) launched a new initiative known as RentReady. This initiative came out of discussions of the HPPP sub-committee Poverty Taskforce, led by Mark Kordus of the City of Stevens Point. RentReady is a “hands-up” program, rather than a “hand-out” program. Referrals to the program are made by community or faith-based organizations, and local programs such as JusticeWorks or the Portage County Drug Court.



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Building maintenance and upgrades on any building is a constant and the PCDP Headquarters is no different. Most repairs are handled by a PCDP member that has some knowledge about the repair requirements, however, there are times the repair/upgrade requires a professional.

The Executive Board is considering replacing the furnace and the air conditioner at the headquarters sometime in the future.

We are hoping to get bid from three local firms for such a replacement. Do you know of any HVAC businesses in Portage County who lean Democratic? Do you have positive words to say about any such business? Email or call Co-chair Gary Hawley at [garybh2008@yahoo.com](mailto:garybh2008@yahoo.com) or 715-321-0111. Thank you.



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### PCDP January 12, 2021 Meeting

Zoom in for 6:30 meeting start-watch PCDem Updates for  
Zoom invitation

Announcements

Program - Mark Kordus on Rent Ready -a "hands up"  
community program

Elected officials

Business meeting/notes

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party