



# Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward June 2021

## Inside this issue

- \* CONVENTION
- \* 3RD CD update
- \* Fair Maps
- \* Public Schools
- \* Picnic
- \* Thanks Jerod
- \* Someone you should know
- \* Position open



Saturday June 5 & Sunday June 6

The 2021 WisDems State Convention will be an interactive on-line experience lifting up the Biden-Harris administration's achievements, celebrating the victories of 2020, and rallying grassroots and elected leaders to re-elect Governor Evers, defeat Ron Johnson, and grow Democratic strength up and down the ticket. More importantly, the Convention will be a celebration of the values that unite us—of building a state and nation where we all thrive together; of expanding opportunity and ending poverty; and of embracing justice and democracy.

## Schedule Highlights

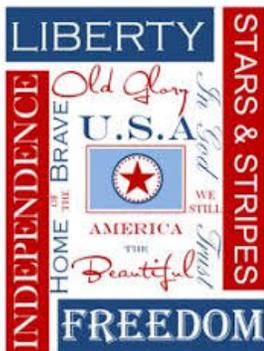
Saturday - Welcome & Housekeeping

Caucus meetings, Media training, DPW Officer speeches & elections, Democratic elected speeches & Keynote speaker

Sunday - 2022 Senate candidate speeches,

Platform & resolutions, Caucus meetings, volunteer recruitment training, CCA Chair report, DPW officer reports, announcement of officer election winners, virtual grassroots fund raiser.

SPECIFIC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT [WISDEMS.ORG](http://WISDEMS.ORG)



# 3rd CD Convention Update

by Jack Allgaier

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District was held virtually on Sat, May 8. The 3rd CD Democratic Party is situated between the county party and the state party and provides those services that might be too difficult to arrange at the county level. It also allows state-wide campaigns to be more regionalized. Elected at the convention was new chairperson, Josefine Jaynes.

The CD is divided into four regions, each containing 4 or 5 counties. Each region selects a vice-chair who works with the chair to oversee the business of the CD. In our region, the newly elected vice-chair was our own Rick Christofferson. Congratulations Rick – and thanks for taking on this task and for all that you do already for our county party.

In addition, a treasurer and a secretary were elected. The 3<sup>rd</sup> CD has been in a state of disarray for the past year and a half, partially because the treasurer moved out-of-state and no one stepped up to fill the position. The election of a treasure will help “right the ship” once again.

Finally, PCDP co-chair, Gary Hawley was elected as the CD Representative to the DPW Administrative Committee. Gary and the Chair will meet with the DPW to discuss what the CD can do to help elect Democrats to office. Thanks also to Gary who has committed considerable time to help recent Democratic campaigns run smoothly.

Convention business, besides the election, included the passage of three constitutional amendments and a winnowing down of twenty resolutions to ten. These ten were sent onto the state convention, where all the resolutions will be debated and voted upon. Those that pass are entered into the Party platform.

Thanks also to all the delegates listed who supported our Party by being active in the convention.

## 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> CD DELEGATES

Jack Allgaier  
Jerod Barkley  
Michele Bjella  
Rick Christofferson  
Marlo Fields  
Char Figge  
Joan Garski  
Ned Grossnickle  
Gary & Stella Hawley  
Robert Hoffman  
Meleesa Johnson

Dan Kursevski  
Lois Lawler  
Hilary Landowski  
Valerie Landowski  
David & Trudy Pederson  
Rep. Katrina Shankland  
Karyn Tank  
Jan Way  
Jed Williams  
Lynn & Rich Wyman  
Jim & Susan Zach

Please consider joining our delegates in 2022 to help steer the state Democratic Party.



May 11 PCDP meeting program : The Maps Mess In Wisconsin

Carlene Bechen, a retired educator, volunteer activist and an organizer with the Wisconsin Fair Maps Coalition was our presenter.

Carlene explained what the gerrymandered election district maps the Republicans passed after the last Census in 2010 meant for Wisconsin elections. The maps effectively rendered the one person/one vote worthless in the highly gerrymandered districts. The elections are rigged so that legislators are not accountable to their constituents no matter what their political affiliation.

The goal of the Fair Maps Coalition is to help see electoral maps created in 2021 through a transparent process that includes public input, respecting communities of interest, i.e. municipal boundaries, school districts, communities of color and consisting of districts that reflect the statewide electorate. To that end, Carlene invited members to gather to identify local communities of interest for recommendation to the People's Maps Commission.

More information at [fairmapswi.com](http://fairmapswi.com)

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PCDP Member meeting Program June 8th

Heather BuBois Bourenane, the Executive Director of Wisconsin Public Education Network will lead a program titled "Fixing Wisconsin Education Gaps."

Wisconsin Public Education Network is a grassroots, non-partisan coalition to support our public schools.

Three things you need to know about Wisconsin school funding 2019-2020:

- 1) 40 % of public schools got less aid than the previous year
- 2) Private school vouchers and non-district charter schools cost taxpayers \$427.7 million this year.
- 3) 89% of students in the statewide voucher program already attend private schools or are new students

[www.wisconsinnetwork.org](http://www.wisconsinnetwork.org) for more information regarding the state of WI public schools



Is On - AUGUST 22

Yes, our picnic will be held Sunday August 22 at the Pfiffner shelter in Stevens Point beginning at 11:30 AM. Mark the date on your calendar & keep it open when we can enjoy gathering together once again.

Karyn Tank has agreed to manage the silent auction again. Remember her when you are spring cleaning. We need like new & new items for our baskets. Contact Karyn at 715-341-8009 or [karyntank@hotmail.com](mailto:karyntank@hotmail.com).

Raffle tickets will again be hand delivered. I need help with delivery in the Park Ridge/Jefferson St. area. If you can help, contact Jack at [allgaiers@gmail.com](mailto:allgaiers@gmail.com)



PCDP Executive Board member Jerod Barkley ran for Town of Plover Trustee in the 2021 spring election. Jerod asked to share the letter he received recently from Governor Evers.

Hello Jerod,

I wanted to thank you for running for office this spring. I know the result didn't turn out like you had hoped, but I wanted to commend you for putting yourself out there. I know first hand the difficulties of losing an election, and I know how much time and effort it takes not just for yourself but for your family, friends and community. Thank you for your courage, your work and your passion to advocate for the issues that matter most to you.

In these tough times, we need people like you to step up to serve your community. Having responsive government at all levels is essential if we are to overcome the many challenges we face.

I hope that you'll take this time with your family and friends, to rest and reflect. And then think about what the next step is for you.

I know folks will run again while others will continue to be advocates and fight for their community. Whatever you decide to do, we need you to stay engaged. It's the kind of commitment and passion that you have for your community that is what will continue to move Wisconsin forward and keep it a great place to live.

Thank you,

Tony (His actual signature)

Tony Evers  
46th Governor  
State of Wisconsin





Graphic courtesy of Kirk Bangstad vocal activist, agitator for democratic rule, champion of northern Wisconsin & proprietor of Minocqua Brewing Company.

Kirk is championing an effort to unseat both WI Senator Ron Johnson and 7th Congressional district Representative Tom Tiffany and to end gerrymandering so citizens are able to elect representatives that represent their interests.

You can learn more about Kirk's very public efforts to reestablish democratic rule in the Northwoods at [MinocquaBrewing.com](http://MinocquaBrewing.com) or tune into his podcast with fellow Democratic voices, Pat Kreitlow & Kristin Brey at [upnorthpodcast.com](http://upnorthpodcast.com).

FYI-Kirk is spearheading an "Inoculation Emancipation" social gathering for vaccinated individuals and also sponsoring a "vaccination clinic" at the gathering to encourage Wisconsinites who are hesitant to get the shot by offering them a free beer. There are two scheduled events so far; one in Custer on May 29 and another in Fitchburg June 12th.

Kirk is a Stevens Point original, has had an interesting life and is making good trouble UpNorth.



**Executive Board position opening**

The Statutory Chair is an automatic member at large of our Executive Board. The Statutory chair compiles lists of current and new poll workers (also called "Election Inspectors") officially nominated by our party for the voting districts of Stevens Point, Hull, Plover and surrounding towns/villages which are then submitted to the clerks of these municipalities.

Every other year, by the 31st of November, the Statutory chair gathers the names of potential poll workers from personal inquiries, requests in the PCDP newsletter and previous records to submit to the municipal clerks. The clerks are then legally required to draw on these lists to select poll workers for each election.

Please consider this rewarding position in our party. This important and essential task can be done in your home and on your time schedule.

It is now open, as Michele Bjella is moving with spouse/member Steve out of state. She has enjoyed it and emphasizes she and other board members are ready to help whoever steps up. Thanks!





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

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

Twitter: PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems



### PCDP June 8th Meeting

6:30 PM Zoom meeting - invitation at PCDems Update

Announcements

Program - Heather BuBois Bourenane, Executive Director of Wisconsin Public Education Network  
"Fixing WI Education Gaps"

Elected Officials/Candidates

Business Meeting

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party