Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward September 2020

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The nation was introduced to the Democratic message of UNITY at the 2020 Democratic Convention. Candidates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris spoke to the nation with empathy, understanding and positive resolve to provide for a more “perfect union” as promised in the United States Constitution.

Another message stated loud and clear was the plea to vote, to vote early and to encourage others to vote. When Democrats vote, we win as does the nation.

The world is ruled by those that show up!

VOTE

PCDP Picnic 2020

Remember this from 2019?

We couldn't meet at Pfiffner this year because of Covid-19, but not to be denied a chance for Portage County Dems to gather, several members met virtually via Zoom.

2020 PCDP Picnic

Rick Christofferson

Special guests Attorney General Josh Kaul and Outagamie County Executive Thomas Nelson started off our picnic. The attorney general spoke about several issues his office is addressing, including lawsuits he has joined along with other Democratic attorneys general, and the importance of the November election. Executive Nelson gave a presentation on local government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in the absence of federal leadership, and state legislative inaction.

Michele Bjella then acknowledged the work that all our volunteers have done both at the headquarters and remotely. Michele also recognized the work of the contractor and other workers who transformed the front of our headquarters building, and Lynn Wyman described headquarters operations and polices including the precautions we have in place to operate the office in a safe manner for workers and visitors alike.

We heard from our fine lineup of state and local Democratic elected officials and candidates, including State Representative Katrina Shankland, Paul Piotrowski our candidate for the 24th State Senate District, and John Baldus, our candidate for the 70th Assembly District.

Also speaking were local elected officials including Portage County Clerk Kayla Filen, Stevens Point Mayor Mike Wiza, Portage County District Attorney, Louie Molepske, County Board Supervisor, Meleesa Johnson, Stevens Point City Council members David Shorr and Mary Kneebone, also Trish Baker, Stevens Point Area Public School Board member and Keara Wood, Field organizer for 3rd CD Representative, Ron Kind. Jerod Barkley addressed the group about his involvement in the Voter Protection Project and it's importance in this election.

Campaign Field Organizer, Marc Epstein spoke about the campaign work that lies ahead into November and made a call for more volunteers to help in that effort. There is much to be done in a dwindling number of days. (Please call our HQ at 715.544.6323 and find out how you can help!)

We concluded the picnic with an open discussion and a video replay of Vice President Joe Biden's nomination acceptance speech.

Thank you to the members of the picnic committee for all they did to make the virtual picnic work – Gary Hawley, Jerod Barkley, Michele Bjella, Karyn Tank and Lynn Wyman. Thanks also to Jan Way, John Baldus, David and Trudy Pederson, Rick and Lynn Wyman, Karyn Tank and Rob Hoffman for the live remote from the park.

A special thanks to Rick Christofferson for setting up and managing the Zoom picnic. We especially appreciate his technical skills in this year of alternative events.

David Pederson accepting the 2020 Dave Obey award from PCDP Co-Chair Jan Way in Pfiffner Park Sunday August 23, 2020.

David was chosen to receive the award for his many behind the scenes efforts that benefit the PCDP.

Katrina Shankland in announcing the award, highlighted his service and some of the maintenance and improvement tasks David has taken on at the HQs. Katrina also noted that David sits on the PCDP Executive Board and has served the Town of Hull as a Supervisor since 2005

Candidate for Assembly, District 70, John Baldus is shown here prior to pulling the winning raffle tickets out of the tumbler at Pfiffner Park.

John is a newcomer to the Assembly race, but has been a lifelong Democrat and hopes to follow in his father's footsteps.

His dad, Al Baldus, served in the US House of Representatives from 1975 to 1981

representing Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District.

1st place $ 250 Amanda Blinebry Plover

2nd place $ 150 Rose Allgaier Wausau

3rd place $ 100 Lorie Nienke Stevens Point

The picnic raffle is our largest moneymaker throughout the year and helps us maintain our HQs as well as support our activities year long. The money raised this year in the raffle is especially important as Covid-19 has limited campaign activity and community visits to the HQs. A BIG Thank You if you participated by buying or selling tickets this year. Not everyone can be a prize winner, but your help makes PCDP a big winner.

PORTAGE COUNTY FALL ELECTION

compiled by Jack Allgaier

Fall General – Tues, Nov 3

For those reading this on your computer or smart phone,
click on the links in blue to go directly to the site.

President & VP	Joe Biden & Kamala Harris
Web site:	www.joebiden.com
US mail:	Biden for President PO Box 58174 Philadelphia PA 19102
Act Blue:	Act Blue for Biden-Harris
3rd CD Rep:	Ron Kind (incumbent with opposition)
Web site:	www.ronkind.org
US mail:	Kind for Congress PO Box 184 La Crosse WI 54602
Act Blue:	Act Blue for Kind
24th Senate:	Paul Piotrowski (running against Pat Testin)
Web site:	www.piotrowskiforsenate.com
US mail:	Piotrowski for Senate 510 West St (corrected 9/3/20) Stevens Point WI 54481
Act Blue:	Act Blue for Piotrowski
**70th Assembly	John Baldus (running against Nancy VanderMeer)
Web site:	www.baldusworksforyou.com
US mail:	Baldus for Assembly 5440 Oakwood Ave Stevens Point WI 54482
Act Blue	Act Blue for Baldus
**71st Assembly	Katrina Shankland (Incumbent with opposition)

	Web site:	www.voteshankland.com
	US mail:	Friends of Katrina Shankland P. O. Box 531 Stevens Point WI 54481
	Act Blue:	Act Blue for Shankland
**72nd Assembly		Criste Greening (running against Scott Krug)
	Web site:	www.greeningforassembly.com
	US mail:	Greening for Assembly 10031 Carousel Ct Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494
	Act Blue:	Act Blue for Greening

** You may **vote in only one** of the three Assembly Districts, dependent on your voting address.

- Assembly Dist 70 (north & west) consists of the Towns of Hull, Dewey, Eau Pleine & Carson plus the village of Junction City.
- Assembly Dist 72 (south-west) consists of the Towns of Almond, Pine Grove, and the southern half of Grant plus the village of Almond.
- Assembly Dist 71 consists of all the rest of Portage Co.

SPECIAL PLEA: Our state senate seat AND the three assembly seats associated with that senate seat ALL have contested races, each of which should be won by a Democrat! Each certainly could use help financially in their campaigns. You may contribute via Act Blue or by mail. Please consider donating to a Democrat outside your voting district. It will help.

Local Races - vote "Down Ticket" and give these hard working servants a moral boost!

Finally, all of the races listed below are for Portage County offices. All have no opposition, but your votes for them will still be appreciated. All have expressed thanks to our members who signed their nomination papers via the mailing this spring.

Portage Co District Attorney:	Louis Molepske
Portage Co. Clerk:	Kaylen Filen
Portage Co Treasurer:	Pam Przybelski
Portage Co Register of Deeds:	Cindy Wisinski

Vote Early & Help If You Are Able

The Executive Board of the Portage County Democratic Party encourages all members to try to vote early either through absentee ballots or by voting in the weeks before Election Day, Nov. 3rd. Please contact the clerk at your municipality to find out more information on what you need to do.

Also, depending on your health and work, consider working at the polls on Election Day. Talk to your municipal clerk about being a poll worker.

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Marc Epstein
Field Organizer, Portage County
Wisconsin Democrats
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Marc.Epstein@2020Victory.com
(914) 261-1670
wisdems.org/give

Wow--I feel like we're riding a tidal wave of momentum from this past month, between the historic nomination of Kamala Harris as our VP candidate, the virtual DNC that the party somehow pulled off, and even locally, after the successful virtual picnic on August 23rd. We're under two months to go. The finish line is in sight. But we still have a lot of hard work to do to get there, and we need your help. I know it's not the most enticing thing cold calling strangers--but take a moment and imagine if you woke up on November 4 feeling like you didn't do everything you could to help. From here on out, we have Weekends of Action every other weekend. That means we'll have phone banks throughout the weeks of September 7 and 21, and nearly continuously in October; you can also make phone calls whenever you want on your own time. And we have a great group of volunteers doing it. So please join us, even just to try it once! My phone number is (914) 261-1670, and my email is Marc.Epstein@2020Victory.com. Let's ride that blue tidal wave to Democratic victories up and down the ticket in Wisconsin!

Hannah Frontier joins PCDP as Field Organizer

Field Organizer, Portage County Democrats
hannah.frontier@2020victory.com
(262) 707-8051

My name is Hannah Frontier and I'm the new field organizer for Portage County. I'm a Wisconsin native and grew up in Cedarburg. I'm an avid lover of cats, stand-up comedy, documentaries, and love all things music. Namely, playing piano, violin, and (very mediocrely) guitar.

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in May 2020 with a degree in Political Science-Law Studies and German. Earlier this year I made the decision to take a year off to work on the campaign before attending law school in 2021. I have been interested in politics from a young age, but the 2016 election turned that interest into a deep passion. The November 3rd election will be the first presidential election that I am able to vote in and there couldn't be a more important first!

Although I will continue to work remotely from Milwaukee, working as a field organizer in Portage County for the past month has been a wonderful experience. I genuinely feel a sense of community, even if through a computer screen, and it has all been thanks to the amazing and dedicated local volunteers and party members.

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An app dents

The Board i g
ab box. llo
to drop off their absentee b o
coronavirus and ensuring th ou
lost in the mail. If you are a de and you agree that we need the
opportunity to return our ba cure manner, please contact the Village
Board members. Their cont be found here:
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http://www.ploverwi.gov/vboard.htm

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Several community members gathered at the US Post Office in Stevens Point on Saturday August 22nd to protest the actions of Post Master General Louis DeJoy and the potential for delayed and undelivered mail-in votes for the November election.

Jodi wears her protest

PCDP August meeting brings in Public School officials to discuss fall school openings.

by Jan Way

At our General Membership meeting of August 12, we invited members of the Stevens Point Area School District, to have them help us understand the plan to open schools in September. We were visited by Superintendent Craig Gerlach, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Elementary Education, Cory Hirsbrunner, School Board President Meg Erler and School Board Member, Trish Baker. For their program presentation they explained some of the reasons they have chosen to open as they will and the procedures they will follow to bring back the hundreds of children at the elementary and secondary levels this fall. They also shared that they realize this will be a fluid situation and plans could change as the process proceeds. They asked for our understanding and support during this time. We wished them luck and thanked them for attending our meeting.

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Coffee & Conversation continues Wednesday mornings around 10 - 10:30 AM at Iverson Park, if the weather is agreeable, just off the parking lot across from the baseball diamond.

The gathering brings together (socially distanced, of course) community members in an informal setting to discuss both political and non-political topics.

If you are interested in joining the group, contact Jan Way at janmway@gmail.com or call 715-572-5802.

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Follow your Portage County Democratic Party

On Line: www.portagecountydems.org

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/PortageCountyWIDems/

Twitter: PortageCoWIDems @portagecountywidems

General membership meeting 2nd Tuesday of each month

Next meeting: September 8th at 6:30 via Zoom. Watch for your invitation to join the meeting via Zoom in a PC Dems Update as we get closer to the meeting date. The Update will also confirm our program topic and the speaker we are working to confirm as this newsletter goes to the printer.

Portage County Democratic Party

2220 Division St
Stevens Point, WI 54481

September 8th meeting: Watch for details at PC Dems Updates

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party