



PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

June 2024 Newsletter

Join us on June 11, 2024 at Headquarters for a Potluck at 5:30pm. Our General Meeting will begin at 6:30pm.

Guest Speaker, Eric Olson, will be joining us at 7pm. He will be sharing some very important information with us about the continuing efforts of Republicans to consolidate power in the legislature.

The August ballot will include two additional referendum questions to amend the Wisconsin State Constitution. The proposed amendments were passed by the Republican-controlled legislature over the past two sessions with **zero support from Democrats**.

They are meant to further take away powers from the Governor and give more power to the Republican legislature. The impetus stems from Republican angst over Governor Evers' authority to allocate and spend ARPA money during the COVID pandemic. Thanks to Governor Evers, billions of federal dollars were quickly and efficiently distributed to communities and businesses to stave off economic calamity during the pandemic. If the Republicans had their way, they would have dragged out the process and, as was the case in other states, argued that the money shouldn't even be spent. These constitutional changes would give Robin Vos more power and will weaken the power of the Governor, just like the lame-duck laws they passed in the final days of Governor Walker's term.



Here is the text of the questions you will see on your ballot:

Question 1: "Delegation of appropriation power. Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?"

Question 2: "Allocation of federal moneys. Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?"

Democrats and anyone who prefers a government that solves problems rather than sits on its hands should **VOTE NO to both questions. Please help spread the word this summer!**



Do you like ice cream???? On June 5th at Veterans Park (just south of Headquarters on Division Street) we will be having an **ICE CREAM SOCIAL from 4-6pm**. Come on down to the park and enjoy a bowl of deliciousness. Spend some time with fellow Dems. If rain happens, we will be scooping ice cream inside at Headquarters.

How about HAPPY HOUR at Oso Brewing????

Join us on June 7th, 5-7pm, and socialize with fellow Dems. Yes, it's a brewery, but they have a wide variety of beverages and Amore Kitchen serves appetizers, sandwiches, and pizza! Bring friends and enjoy the evening. 😊





Raffle tickets are ready to be picked up at Headquarters!!!

Please stop by to pick up your raffle tickets during office hours: **Mon-Fri 10:00am--2:00pm**, or whenever the **OPEN** sign is on. Raffle tickets will also be available for pick-up at our General Meeting on Tuesday, June 11, from 6:00pm-9:00pm. If you are not able to pick up your tickets at our June or July meetings, a group of superb volunteers will hand-deliver them to your home, but save them the effort if you can – pick up your tickets in person!

You will receive a booklet of 10 tickets to sell. If you personally buy them all, as many members do, it will cost you \$25.00. You can also decide to sell or buy only a few, which is totally fine. Ticket buyers need not be present to win so **each ticket stub needs a name, address, and phone number (Tip: use an address label and add the phone number!)** Note that this year our prizes have increased!

You need to return the sold stubs and money:

- to our locked mailbox at Headquarters;
- to our office volunteers at Headquarters Monday thru Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- to our headquarters when the **OPEN** sign is on; or
- to our picnic (**before 2 pm**).

1 st prize	\$500 cash
<i>increased</i>	<i>from 250</i>
2 nd prize	\$250 cash
<i>increased</i>	<i>from 150</i>
3 rd prize	\$100 cash

If you decide that you don't want these tickets, please contact Jack at 715-341-5359 or allgaiers@gmail.com to add your name to our no-tickets list, or return them to HQ with a note on the envelope saying you wish to be on the no-ticket list. **If you need more tickets to sell, they are available at Headquarters.**

We also need quality items for our Silent Auction. Contact Karyn Tank at 715-344-8009 for more information. As you spring clean, remember us!



Mark the date of our Annual Picnic on your calendar:

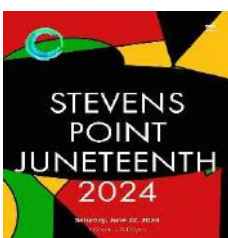
DATE: Sunday, August 25, 2024 Silent Auction closes at 3:15pm
 TIME: 11:30am to 4:00pm Raffle Drawing is at 3:00pm
 LOCATION: Pfiffner Shelter, downtown Stevens Point

Here are some opportunities for Dems to shine. Volunteers are needed. Sign up ahead of time at HQ, or call or email the contact person.



Point Pride is moving indoors this year after two years of having to move elsewhere due to wet weather. **It will be held June 15th at UWSP Dreyfus University Center.** The schedule is packed with **events that start at noon** that celebrate the diverse array of lives that exist here. **Contact Kathy Celer, 708-212-0435, or kceler@sbcglobal.net to help with this event.**

MREA 33rd Annual Energy Fair is June 22 from 8am-5pm in Custer, WI. It has evolved into a single day, consumer-focused event with workshops, demonstrations, exhibit booths, and the usual music and fun. **Contact Mary Vils if you have time to help with this event.** Her phone is 715-572-3193, or wmmrch@yahoo.com.



Juneteenth will be celebrated on June 22 from 1pm-8pm at Pfiffner Park in Stevens Point. It is the oldest celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US. It originated in Galveston, TX in 1865 as the observance of African American Independence Day. Today it commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. **Joan Garski is tabling this event.** Contact her at 715-341-5873, or fredjoan@charter.net.

The 4th of July Parade in Stevens

Point is on Thursday, the 4th, but at a MUCH EARLIER TIME. Line up is at 8am on Main Street near the Post Office! We need creative people with new ideas to decorate our vehicles with signs, flags, and banners. Stay with us to hand out “goodies” to the crowd, and to walk with our candidates. It’s an easy route, the shortest in Portage County! The parade starts at 10am. Join us afterwards for a party at Headquarters. 😊



Volunteer to help with a campaign! All of our candidates have turned in their required nomination signatures and all are on the ballot. Campaign help is needed now!

Katrina Shankland: katrinashanklandforcongress.com (click “volunteer”)

James Cersonsky, Campaign Manager: email james@katrinashanklandforcongress.com

Or call, or text message: 203-910-4917

Vinnie Miresse: vinnie@vinnieforassemble.com (click “contact”)

Sophie Gloo, Campaign Manager: email sophie@vinnieforassembly.com

Collin McNamara: email info@collinforenate.com or collinforenate.com (click “volunteer”)

CONTACT JOAN GARSKI, 715-341-5873, IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS

PCDP IS “Hiring”

It’s true, organizations don’t exist without active members, and it’s also true that the Portage County Democratic Party needs active involved members now more than at any time in the past. We are a pivotal organization in the state party. We got there because of the hard work of our active members in the past. With the issues that are present in our political field today we cannot let down our efforts. This next election will be a test of our democracy and the fight begins at the local level. Get involved! **We’re “hiring”! Find a committee or task where you want to help and get involved!**

Treasurer: We are looking for a person that likes a challenge and enjoys working with numbers, forms, and other people. The board has determined that the position of Treasurer is time consuming enough that two people are needed to share the duties. One individual will be responsible for the receipts, disbursements, check writing, and data entry. The second person will be will responsible for monthly reporting to the Executive Board, semiannual reports to the state, and the preparation of annual budgets. These two people will work together and assist each other when needed. The opening is immediate. Pay is commensurate with other volunteer organizations (\$0 😊), but the benefits are innumerable. Work at home at your own pace on a computer, meet new people, and enjoy good food at meetings and events. Some knowledge of Excel and computer spreadsheets is. Training will be provided.

Newsletter Editor: The current editor will “retire” at the end of the year. We are looking for a person who enjoys the challenge of creating a monthly newsletter and has good knowledge of the activities of PCDP, elected officials, and candidates at the county, state, and national levels. Training will be provided.

Be a committee member: The Portage County Democratic Party is in need of members to serve on various committees: **Finance, Membership, Social Media and Communications, Events and Programs, Campaigns.** Do you have an interest in helping plan the picnic, supporting candidates, phone banking, looking for candidates for political office, knocking on doors, or guiding the organization’s finances? There is a committee that you can join. **Your talents are needed.** Talk to any Board member to express your interest and we will help you get involved.

Be a Board Member: We still have positions on the Board that need to be filled. Board members are the driving force of our organization. We need people with ideas. Do you want to have a say in the direction of the Democratic Party? This is where it all starts. You don’t have to have political aspirations or be an expert in politics. If you have ever said to yourself “I’m just one person, how can I have an impact” – this is where it starts. Don’t know if this is where you want to start? Attend a Board meeting and talk to some board members and you will find you’re not alone.

Portage County Democratic Party Dave Obey Award

This Award was initiated in 2004 to honor Congressman Dave Obeyes' thirty-fifth year as a US Representative. It is given annually at the PCDP Picnic.

Excluded from consideration are publicly-elected officials and the current co-chairs of the PCDP. The selection committee – as appointed by the co-chair annually – shall contain no nominees for the award for that year. The selection committee has sole right to select the award recipient (selection is not confirmed by the Executive Board nor the general membership).

PCDP Democrats can submit applications (see below) for fellow Democrats.

Requirements are that the nominee live in Portage County, be a current member of the PCDP and support the philosophies of the Democratic Party. In addition, a nominee should exhibit *some* of those traits that Dave Obey has demonstrated during his career in politics: hard-working, respected, caring about poor or disadvantaged, steadfast and conscientious. The nominee should make us proud that he/she is a Democrat. The award is based on activity in the Democratic Party over the last year.

APPLICATION

DAVID OBEY AWARD PAST RECIPIANTS

2012 – Cindy Chelcun
2013 – Leigh Allgaier,
Trudy Pederson
Darlene Todd
2014 – Carol Gawlik
2015 – Jerry Ugland
2016 – Glen Fink
2017 – Ray Cal
2018 – Karyn Tank
2019 – Michele Bjella
2020 – David Pederson
2021 – Meleesa Johnson
2022 – Joan Garski
2023 – Eric Olson
Ned Grossnickle
2024 – ????????

**YOU can submit a
nominee.**

Nominated Person: _____

Nominator: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

DATE: ___ / ___ / 2024

You may print this form, write on the back of it, then mail it to the address below, or, if you prefer, write an email to Joan Garski. Please explain in less than 300 words why this person is deserving of this award. Include at least two specific examples of involvement of this person with the PCDP. If you receive this form in the mail, please fill it out and mail it back. The mailing address and email address are below.

Please submit applications by the DEADLINE, Monday, July 31st.

MAIL: PCDP
Obey Award
Attn: Joan Garski
2220 Division St
Stevens Point 54481

Email: Joan Garski at: fredjoan@charter.net

**2024 PCDP
EXECUTIVE
BOARD**

Co-Chair:

Gary Hawley

Co-Chair:

Joan Garski

1st Vice Chair:

Ned Grossnickle

2nd Vice Chair:

Karyn Tank

3rd Vice Chair:

Jan Way

4th Vice Chair:

Mary Zinda

Secretary:

Kathy Celer

Treasurer:

OPEN

Statutory Chair:

OPEN

3rd CD Rep:

Rick Christofferson

At Large:

Sam Lang

At Large:

Rick Wyman

At Large:

Pat Drees

At Large:

OPEN

At Large:

OPEN

At Large:

OPEN

Newsletter

Editor:

Lynn Wyman

Membership Chair:

Karyn Tank

Finance Committee

Chair:

Rick Wyman

Events Committee

Chair:

Joan Garski

Communications

Chair:

Rick Christofferson

PCDP HQ Phone:

715-544-6323

ADDRESS:

**2220 Division St
Stevens Point, WI
54481**

Congratulations to Gary Hawley, Jan Way, and Liz McDonald who were chosen, along with 3 other delegates, to represent us in Chicago at the Democratic National Convention!



At our May General Meeting we learned about the REACH

app that has been introduced by DPW to give us access to current party events across the state and to build a network of like-minded contacts. The information was presented by Landon Elgersma, our county organizer. We were introduced to Vinnie Miresse's campaign manager, Sophie Gloo, and to Katrina Shankland's



campaign manager, James Cersonsky. Collin McNamara has been busy on the campaign trail. There will be a lot of opportunities to volunteer this summer at different events for All of the candidates. Volunteer when you can. Follow their campaigns on Facebook.





Portage County Democratic Party
2220 Division St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

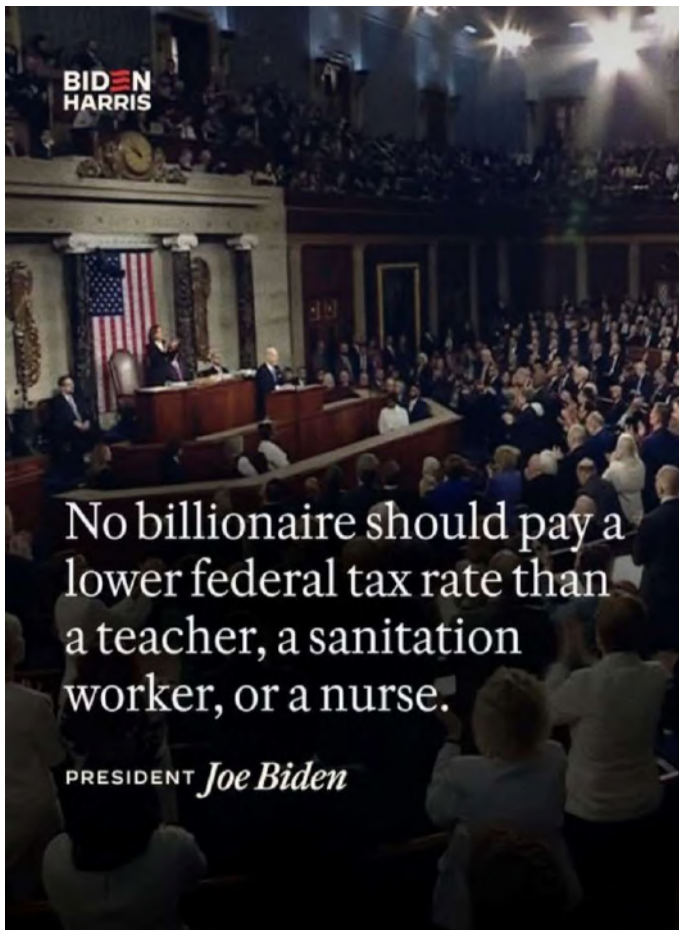
Email: pcdemupdates@gmail.com

www.portagecountydems.org

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

X (Twitter): PortageCoWIDems@portagecountydems

Instagram: pocowidems



PCDP GENERAL MEETING June 11th

5:30pm Potluck: Bring a dish to pass!

Guest Speaker: Eric Olson

Topic: August Ballot Referendums

June 5, Ice Cream Social at Veterans Park

4-6pm (rain site: Headquarters)

June 7, Happy Hour at Oso Brewing

5-7pm Bring a Friend! 😊

June 15, Pride Fest at UWSP DUC

Begins at Noon

June 22, Juneteenth Festival Pfiffner Park

1-8pm

June 22, MREA in Custer, 7558 Deer Road

8-5pm

June 27, Presidential Debate Watch Party

At HQ (more info to follow)

July 4, Parade on Main Street, Stevens Point

8am line-up

10am parade

GOTV Events:

June 8, 15, 22, Canvassing from HQ

June 29-30 Weekend of Action

Canvassing and phone banking

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party