



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## February/March, 2015 Monthly Newsletter

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### Upcoming Events

#### **MARCH**

Mar 12 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2015) DPDC members are welcome.

Mar 26 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Dean Hoegger, President of the WI Clean Water Council will speak on "Protecting the Waters of Door County: It Shouldn't be Political". See article on page 3.

#### **APRIL**

Apr 25 **8<sup>th</sup> CD Convention**. See article page 3.

#### **SAVE THE DATE:**

**May 28, 2015**, The Annual DPDC Thomas Paine Dinner at the Fire Station, Featuring Mike McCabe, author of *Blue Jeans in High Places: The Coming Makeover of American Politics*, and former executive director of The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

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### Proposed Resolutions are Solicited

It is that time of year again when proposed resolutions need to be submitted to begin the process for adoption by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. Here's how it works:

A resolution identifies a need, and an action to meet the need, in the format: "Whereas...., and Whereas...., Therefore be it resolved that....". Resolutions must be 100 words or less.

Proposed resolutions should be submitted to Rod Bohn ([erbohn@charter.net](mailto:erbohn@charter.net)) prior to the March 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Board meeting. The Board will select up to 10 resolutions for forwarding to the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> CD convention, delegates will select 10 resolutions submitted by the County Parties for forwarding to the DPW Platform and Resolutions Committee (PRC) at the Democratic Party of Wisconsin Convention, June 5-6, 2015.

The PRC selects the resolutions to be considered by the convention delegates, who then vote for or against them. And it all starts here.

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

To reach us: [DCDems@me.com](mailto:DCDems@me.com), on the web at [www.doordems.org](http://www.doordems.org), or PO Box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

## Senator Hansen Encourages Dems at 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pie Party

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual DPDC Pie Party on January 24<sup>th</sup> attended by a small but enthusiastic crowd, featured State Senator Dave Hansen.

A great selection of pies ± ice cream set the stage for a poem, Return of the Marlboro Man, by Estella Lauter to open the meeting.

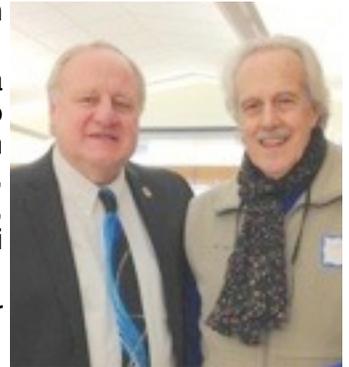
Senator Hansen shared his priorities: raise the minimum wage to \$1.10 in three steps, and link it to the cost of living; allow college student loans to be refinanced when prevailing interest rates are low, just as we do with home or auto loans; and restore laws promoting equal pay for equal work for women and others for whom pay equity is lacking.

Turning to politics, the senator reminded us that in our efforts to get out the vote, we must not forget our Democratic Base - "they helped put us where we are today".

As always, a successful event requires the help of volunteers. Many thanks to Naomi Rowley who chaired the event and worked hard to organize the efforts of our volunteers, including Eileen Andera, Francha Barnard, Rod Bohn, Challoner Brown, Garrett Cohn, John Franz, Dean Hoegger, Cal and Suzanne Holvenstot, Wayne Kudick, Chuck Lauter, Ron MacLean, Gordon Rowley and Maryann Zjala.

The event was a financial success thanks to our sponsors: Sam Carmen, Dean Hoegger, Chuck and Estella Lauter, Barb and Bill Perloff, Naomi Rowley and Prisca Smith.

**Thanks** to our volunteers and sponsors.



Sen. Hansen and Chair Cohn

### Message from the Chair:

#### From Where I Sit - The Oscars as a Metaphor for Democratic Principles

I am sitting in the Florida sun and I am struck by how the Oscar telecast mirrors "What it means to be a Democrat".

"Welcome to the 87<sup>th</sup> Oscar Telecast featuring the whitest—I mean brightest—of Hollywood" began



Chair Garrett Cohn

host Neil Patrick Harris. My distance from Wisconsin's frustrating politics and challenging winter has given me the space to ruminate.

Patricia Arquette, Best Supporting Actress, started my train of thoughts as she electrified the crowd and brought it to its feet applauding and screaming "YES!, YES!, YES!" in response to her claim that it is time American women be "paid for equal work with equal pay" while accepting her award.

Graham Moore cradling his Oscar for Best Adapted Screen play, admitted "When I was 16-years-old I tried to kill myself. Because I felt weird and I felt different and I felt like I did not belong... But you do". His words brought loud sustained applause as he finished "stay weird, stay different" in his plea for accepting diversity.

Even though the movie "Selma" didn't win an award, its song "Glory" was nominated for Best Movie Score. I saw tears rolling down the cheeks and in the eyes of the quiet but applauding audience after its presentation. John Legend and Common, co-authors, exclaimed "America is still

segregated" adding "We live in the most incarcerated country in the world." Legend added. "There are more black men under correctional control today than there were under slavery in 1850."

"Birdman" director Alejandro Inarritu in accepting the Best Movie award dedicated his Oscar to the citizens of Mexico and to the Mexicans who already migrated here. He said they have "made this country the greatest immigrant country in the world."

"Our vision is simple. We want an America that gives all Americans the chance to live out their dreams and achieve their God-given potential." (Democratic Party platform)—isn't that another definition of what the Oscar awards are all about?

### SPACE WANTED

Your Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC) needs approximately half of a one-car garage space with easy access to store DPDC supplies.

The space is needed from April 1, 2015 until Summer 2016, at the onset of the election cycle, during the time we will not have an office.

Please contact Garrett Cohn (920-559-2557, [gucohn@gmail.com](mailto:gucohn@gmail.com)) if you are able to help.

## “Protecting our Waters” at March 26<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting

The March 26<sup>th</sup> membership meeting will feature Dean Hoegger, president and executive director of the Clean Water Action Council (CWAC) speaking on “Protecting the Waters of Door County: It Shouldn’t Be Political”



**Dean Hoegger**

Hoegger will discuss the current threats to surface and groundwater, and how partisan politics and powerful lobby interests have caused a failure to protect this vital resource.

He will review current legislative actions, and what additional legislation is needed to provide for greater local control to protect the waters of Door County.

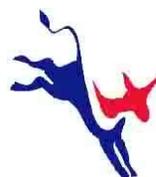
The Clean Water Action Council of Northeast Wisconsin is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to protect human health and the environment since 1985.

Dean Hoegger has served on the Board of CWAC since 2008, president since 2009, and executive director since retiring from 30 years of public school teaching in 2012.

The presentation will be at 7:00 PM at the Sturgeon Bay Public Library, 107 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., upper level, and is free and open to the public. Please encourage friends and family to attend and become educated on this topic so important to Door County.

For questions or further information, contact Dean Hoegger at 920-495-5127, or by email at [contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org).

## CALL TO CONVENTION



### 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Hosted by the Shawano County Democratic Party

- Where: The Main Event  
206 North Lemke St, Cecil WI  
(off Hwy 22 in Cecil)  
Phone: 715-745-2150
- Time: 9:00 AM Registration opens  
10:00 AM Convention opens  
Welcome, Speeches by elected officials and invited guests  
12:00 PM Registration closes, lunch is served  
1:00 PM Convention resumes,  
Election of officers  
Election of 1-3 yr member and 1-1 yr alternate to the Platform & Resolutions Committee  
Resolutions debate

Price: **\$30.00** Preregistered - Delegates, Alternates and Guests  
**\$37.50** After April 19<sup>th</sup> and at the door.

Send pre-registration fees **no later than April 19<sup>th</sup>** to Bill Perloff, 8<sup>th</sup> CD Dem party Treasurer, 9527 North Bay Dr, Baileys Harbor, WI 54202

Make checks payable to: 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Democratic Party. For questions: Bill Perloff at 920-839-9282 or [wperloff@me.com](mailto:wperloff@me.com).

It will be an exciting convention. See you there!



Thanks to Toles and *Funny Times*

**My take on it, by Estella Lauter:****Walker's Plan for UW: A Hybrid from Hell**

*[Full disclosure: I write as a Professor Emerita and former Department Chair/ Associate Dean at UW Oshkosh.]*

It was bad enough when Walker insulted professors by saying that we don't work hard enough, showing how little he understands the multiple dimensions of a professor's job, and how little he respects an entire profession that has been highly esteemed for centuries.

His negative attitudes toward public education, revealed in countless statements and actions since he took office, are so misguided and counter to the needs of the people in WI that they reek of a personal vendetta. Perhaps he is still sore having failed to graduate from Marquette University!

Things got worse this month when he added a 13% cut to the university system beyond the cuts made in his last budget and announced his intent to freeze tuition, imitating a classic pincer operation to starve education.

Even now, the UW System gets only a fraction of the support it got from the state in 1974, when it was created as a means of ensuring that all the campuses would offer the highest possible quality education to students across the state.

The hiring freeze necessitated by Walker's recent attacks would deprive the UW of a generation of new talent—a major source of new ideas and methods that contribute to excellence in education.

Walker knew that UW campuses cannot survive being defunded AND being denied tuition increases, so he threw them a bone: With their reduced staff, they will be “free” to raise money for their basic programs as well as for sports and other add-ons that their regions have already provided.

Now they will have to raise money from their alumni (the c. 27% of the population with a college degree) to continue basic courses with lower enrollments—in Philosophy, Foreign Languages, and possibly even Education, since Walker proposes that anyone with a college degree may be hired to teach in the public schools after taking a test specially crafted (by whom?) for the purpose!

It is clear that Walker wants to do away with what we have called “liberal education” in Wisconsin's semi-public universities. I do not believe that the fiasco of the edited (massacred) UW Mission Statement in the budget was an innocent error in drafting. I think that it was a deliberate effort to put something over on University officials who had rejected it but who might not have read the c. 500 page budget carefully enough to catch the mistake before it was

passed. (You can find the edited version in any of the recent articles about the effects of the budget on education in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel.)

This was clearly an attempt to reduce the UW to a short-range engine for job training. Never mind history, or the rest of the world, folks, and you can certainly forget about “truth.” We wouldn't want to confuse the masses with any of that.

Perhaps the worst of these ideas is the one that would cut each campus free to raise its own money but not free of legislative interference affecting tuition, and system-wide requirements affecting transfer of courses and duplication of programs.

The multi-level UW System of 26 campuses (2-year, 4-year, MA and PhD granting institutions, several with special missions) has been remarkably successful in maintaining high standards over the past 41 years despite decreasing resources precisely because they could be spread across the system.

Under Walker's plan, each campus would have the worst of both public and private institutions—that is, restrictions on competition within the public system AND the necessity to raise private money from a small pool of possible donors.

In some cases, the effects would likely be disastrous to specific campuses, for example, those involved in our tuition exchange with Minnesota. It is by no means clear that those schools can fund themselves.

The “market” is a poor metaphor for education for many reasons, the most important being that learning is not a material that can be bought and sold. A “consumer” cannot take back what s/he has learned or exchange it for something else. This irritates certain constituencies and inhibits the process of raising money. Since the trouble in Madison during the late 60s, some WI residents have been reluctant to welcome students from other states into our universities.

Add to this the fact that all areas of WI are not economically equal. In Door County, for example, employees, except those in the service sector (the lowest-paid) make between 60% and 80% of the average wage for their industry in WI.

Nineteen counties out of 72, more than ¼, experience this disparity. However hard administrators work to raise money in these areas, they will not be able to provide equal educational opportunities for the students in their region.

(Continued on page 5)

## Walker's Plan for UW, continued from page 4

The loss of these institutions would also have a cascading effect in communities that are already struggling for survival. In some cases, they are the largest employers in town.

In the brouhaha over the Mission Statement, Walker said that he did not intend to undermine "the Wisconsin Idea," but surely the effects of his policies would do just that within a very short time.

The reason for having 26 campuses of ONE university was precisely so that a bona fide university education would be available to people all over the state, regardless of their ability to travel, their age or their economic status.

The expansion of our technical schools was a result of our collective belief that many kinds of

education are valuable and necessary over a lifetime to make a great community.

The restoration of autonomy to the UW System and the restoration of adequate resources are causes worth fighting for because they touch everyone in the state, whether they know it or not.

Most of all, they touch every student who might stay here for college and for a lifetime of productive work.

We cannot afford to lose educational opportunities for our youth. The assault on higher education in Wisconsin in Walker's current budget proposal is shocking. It must not go unchallenged.

### 30 Things You Need to Know About the 2015 - 2017 Walker Budget

*[Editor's note: The recently released 2015 - 2017 proposed state budget from Governor Walker continues his alarming attack on education, the environment, critically needed social and health care programs, and the middle class.*

*In his weekly newsletter of February 12, State Senator Chris Larson identifies many of the worst provisions of the budget. I have excerpted below parts of his newsletter and 10 things to know about the budget in each of three important areas. To view the full report in your web browser, import the following: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/larson/eupdates/Pages/February.12.2015.index.html>*

The 2011-2013 Biennial Budget not only divided Wisconsin and damaged the building blocks of our middle-class, but it also caused Wisconsin to be ranked 42nd in the nation for job growth and is dead last in the Midwest.

The 2013-2015 state budget continued Walker's pattern of creating budgets that are unsustainable, fail families on education and health care, and don't do anything to represent middle class values. In that budget, the governor expanded the unaccountable, unproven voucher system statewide, while at the same time also choosing to expand the per pupil budget for voucher schools.

For 2015-2017, Once again, the governor lacks any long-term vision for Wisconsin -- he is ignoring Wisconsin's middle class families and students, in favor of special interest giveaways and unsustainable tax cuts for the wealthy. He is once again dividing our state into winners and losers by gutting \$300 million from our UW System, while at the same time increasing spending on big highway and interstate projects, and borrowing an additional \$1.5 billion to do it.

#### Here are 10 things you may not know about Walker's proposed education budget:

1. It removes the cap on the unaccountable voucher program, allowing for unlimited enrollment statewide
2. It spends 17.2 million more of our tax dollars for the voucher program
3. It cuts per student funding by \$126.9 million
4. It also creates a Charter School Authorizing Board, which will further privatize education and take resources from our traditional neighborhood schools
5. It cuts almost \$90 million in funding for students with special needs
6. It allows voucher schools to take different tests than public schools to compare performance, creating an apples-to-oranges comparison
7. It mandates DPI assign schools with letter grades in both school and district report cards
8. It effectively bans Common Core Standards for WI
9. It permits people with no background in education, and no proven skills they can adequately teach our kids, to become licensed teachers
10. It cuts funding for school breakfast, school libraries, SAGE, grants for gifted and talented students, and school violence prevention programs

**If you care about our public land and water here are ten things you may not have heard about in Walker's budget:**

(Continued on page 6)

30 Things You Need to Know, continued from page 5

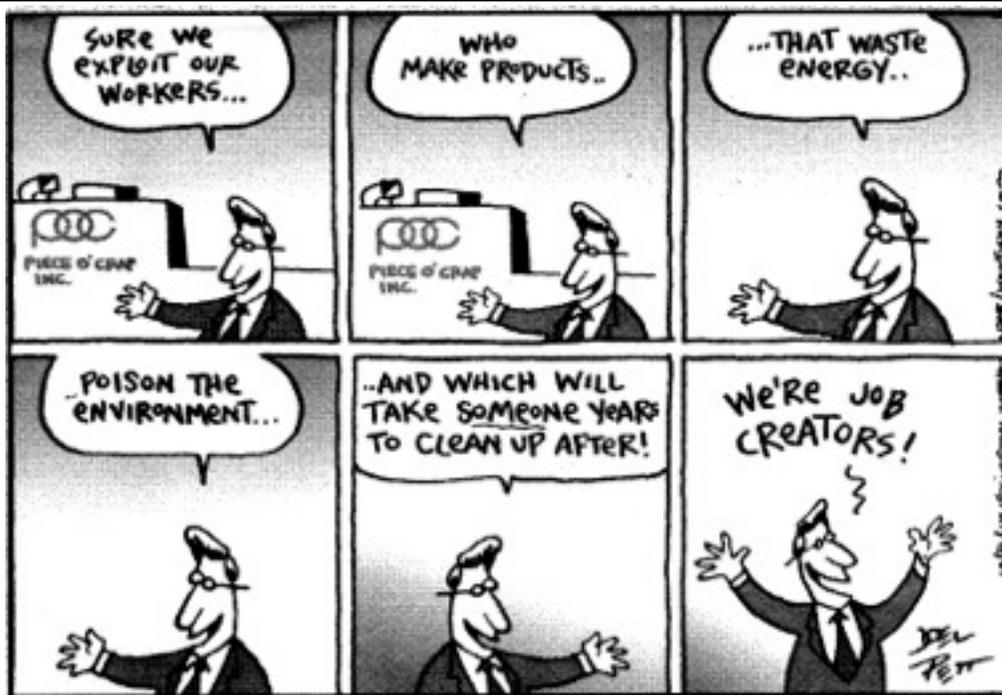
1. It kills the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship fund, rejecting investment in saving wild areas for public recreation and future generations
2. It guts citizen guidance of the DNR, by stripping the authority of the citizen-led Natural Resources Board
3. It cuts over 65 DNR staff positions vital to safeguarding our land and waters
4. It slashes investments to programs that protect our water, land, and forests
5. It eliminates public funding for our state park staff
6. It increases fees for entering and camping in our state parks
7. It shatters partnerships with groups and organizations who work to preserve and enhance conservation
8. It cuts DNR forestry staff, in favor of privatization and out-sourcing
9. It cuts millions from recycling grants, jeopardizing programs and efforts.
10. It stops the PECFA program, cutting clean-up of contamination sites

If you care about the health of Wisconsin's working families and seniors, this budget makes significant cuts and changes to programs that have been models used around the nation.

**Here is a list of ten changes in Walker's budget that will hurt Wisconsin's working families and seniors:**

1. It makes low-income adults, who are already struggling to get by, pay even more for BadgerCare coverage
2. It limits access to basic health care services to 48 months
3. It slashes SeniorCare funding by almost \$97 million
4. It pushes seniors out of the SeniorCare program
5. It eliminates IRIS, a program for people with disabilities
6. It limits participation in the Wisconsin Works program from 60 months to 48 months
7. It allows for removal of people from Wisconsin Works without notice or reason
8. It privatizes the Family Care program and puts the integrity of the program in jeopardy
9. It makes it easier for the state to take a widow's money through estate taxes
10. It doesn't accept federal Medicaid money to cover more people under BadgerCare for less money The aforementioned health care cuts could be avoided by expanding BadgerCare, which would save the state around \$300 million between January 2016 and June 2017

In this budget, Governor Walker makes it clear that he is more distracted by his own ambitions of appealing to Tea Party voters in other states, than articulating a long-term vision of hope for Wisconsin, which should start by cleaning up the mess he has already made over the past four years.



Thanks to Joel Pett and *Funny Times*

## Justice Ann Walsh Bradley Running for Re-election to WI Supreme Court

An important election this spring is for the WI Supreme Court seat currently held by Justice Ann Walsh Bradley. Justice Bradley has been an independent voice on the court, without a political agenda. Her independence led to the infamous incident when she was physically assaulted by Justice Prosser, a highly political individual supported by WI Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC).

Her opponent is James Daley, presiding judge of the Janesville Circuit Court, who will undoubtedly be richly supported by WMC and conservative groups.

Justice Bradley needs our active support to help ensure the continued independence of our highest court. How to help: go to the Bradley website, volunteer for, and contribute to her campaign. The website address is: [bradleyforjustice.com](http://bradleyforjustice.com).



**Justice Bradley**

## Membership Matters

If the issues discussed in this newsletter are important to you, then we need you to help us elect progressive Democrats at local, state and national levels.

Membership in the Democratic Party of Door County is one way to join with others to multiply the effect of your single vote. Members meet monthly, often with an informative speaker.

Your membership in the Door Dems also makes you a member of the Democratic Party of WI, and enables your voice to be heard at the state level.

Joining is simple: just print and fill out the form below, and send it to our PO Box. Concerned about the cost? Call Bill Perloff, 920-839-9282, and we will work out a suitable arrangement. Thank you!

### **or Renew** **Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This is a  Cell Phone  Home Phone

Email \_\_\_\_\_

County: **DOOR**

**Sign me up for:**

- \$10 Senior/student/limited income
- \$20 Two seniors/students/limited incomes
- \$25 Individual general membership
- \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)
- \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships)
- \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)

**I would also like to join:**

- American Indian Caucus
- Black Caucus
- Latino/Hispanic Caucus
- LGTB Caucus
- Rural Caucus
- Veterans' Caucus
- Women's Caucus

**I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.**

Return to: **Democratic Party of Door County**  
**P.O. Box 863**  
**Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**