

February/March 2010
Bi-monthly Newsletter



Common Ground

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF DANE COUNTY

Dane Dems Membership Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 10, 2010
7:00 p.m. in Concourse Hotel
1 W. Dayton St., Madison

Speaker
Mayor Dave Cieslewicz

Dane Dems
Membership Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2010
7:00 p.m. in Concourse Hotel
1 W. Dayton St., Madison

Speaker
Jennifer Nordstrom
Institute for Energy and
Environmental Research

*Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free:
Wisconsin Can Be Both?*

**Spring Primary is Tuesday,
February 16, 2010**

**Spring General is Tuesday,
April 6, 2010**

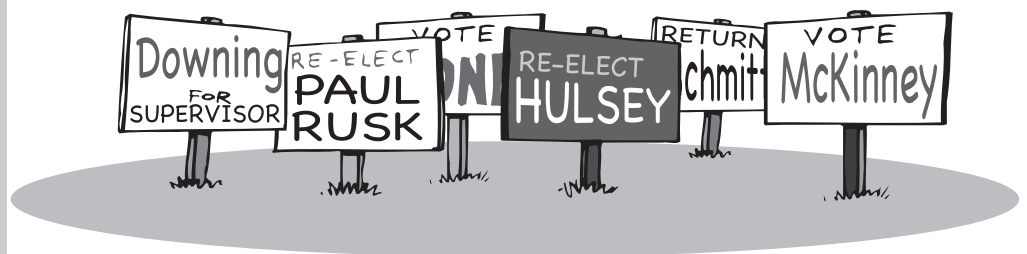
PLEASE VISIT
DANEDEMS.ORG

FOR INFO ON WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH DANE COUNTY DEMS

Dane Dems endorses candidates for County Board

Democratic Party of Dane County, by vote of the membership, has endorsed a large group of great progressives for the Dane County Board. For more about the candidates, and links to websites and Facebook groups, check out the Dane Dems website. The spring primary is February 16th and **Marc Gofstein, District 19** (western Sun Prairie) is up against two conservatives. The general election is April 6th. **Scott McDonell, District 1** has been the County Board chair since 2005. Scott has focused on transit, the environment, and tourism. Elaine DeSmidt, District 3 is a three-term progressive member of the board. **Brett Hulsey, District 4** and leading the effort to increase transit options and protect the environment while creating jobs. **Analiese Eicher, District 5**, is the current chair of the College Dems of Wisconsin. Since moving to Madison in 2006, her work has focused on motivating and mobilizing student participation in local and state government.

Matt Veldran, District 7, has served two terms on the board, and is chair of the Energy Independence subcommittee. **Paul Rusk, District 12**, is a veteran Northside community activist. He has worked to improve the 911 center, enhance mental health care to reduce recidivism and jail suicides, and for more protections for at-risk children. **Barbara McKinney, District 15**, has long been actively involved in community building. The mother of the late Mike McKinney, Barbara is making the jump to public office to improve the quality of life for all people in Dane County. **Dave DeFelice, District 16**, has been an advocate for cost-effective government during his time on the board, as well as for planning for land use and transportation. **Melissa Sargent, District 18**, seeks to follow long-time Democrat Dorothy Wheeler. Melissa is a lifelong Dane County resident and local small-business owner, and has served on the Dane County Youth Commission. **Gordon**



Continued next page

Letter from the Chair

I hope 2010 finds all of you in good health and spirits. 2009 was a tough year all around. Major Banks and AIG almost managed to bring down the world economy. Unemployment surged. Membership in the state Democratic Party was down by 20%. And it was down 15% in Dane County. I'm anticipating an uptick in membership this year, although that may depend on whether Democrats in the U.S. Senate manage to get their act together.

It's tough to know what to make of the Senate victory for Republicans in Massachusetts. A bad candidate, a dysfunctional Senate and confusing health care reform. All had a part in our Party's defeat. Their failure means that we are going to have a lot of work ahead of us this fall. From my (admittedly biased) perspective, the House and

Nancy Pelosi still look good; as do Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold -- both of whom supported the public option. Nice to know that Wisconsin's Senators continue to wear a liberal mantle. Thanks to both of them.

On a brighter note, we had the largest turnout at our holiday party ever. I didn't count everyone, but we ran out of the 100 name tags at the sign in table early in the event. Also, the Dane County Democratic Party started out the year with \$10,000 in the bank. A couple of thousand more than the budget anticipated. Since I fear that the races this fall will be tougher than in 2008 it's good to go into the campaign season with the start of a sizable war chest. And don't worry!! If you haven't contributed yet (and even if you have) we'll have more opportunities for you to donate to our statehouse Democrats before the fall!!!



In this issue there's an update on our endorsed candidates for County Board. I know that many of them need help this spring. And I hope you'll give them a call or send them an email and offer to help out by a contribution and at the doors/phones. Thanks in advance for your help.

Wayne Bigelow, Chair DPDC

Candidates endorsements continued...

Shea, District 20, is running against a conservative incumbent. Gordon serves on the Member Advisory board of Group Health Cooperative. **Robin Schmidt, District 24**, is seeking reelection to the board and has a long history of service to the Monona area. She has been a leader on clean energy and lake management issues. **Sharon Corrigan District 26**, is an active volunteer in the community, recently co-chaired the Yes Committee to address overcrowding in Middleton's schools. She is also the vice-chair of Emerge Wisconsin, an organization dedicated to training women to run for public office. **Kyle Richmond District 27**, has spearheaded efforts to establish the Dane County Food Council, renew the Conservation Fund, and establish the Equal Benefits Ordinance and Domestic Partnership Registry. **Patrick Downing District 30**, has served as Town of Perry Chair for more than 20 years, and as County

Supervisor for the past four. His work led to the restoration of Stewart Lake and miles of trout streams, as well as the resurfacing of County Highway ID. **Samuel Cooke, District 33**, is a long-time small business owner and community organizer. He serves on multiple Fitchburg and county commissions, is chairperson of the Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission and is a founding member of his neighborhood association. **Patrick Miles, District 34**, has been a leader when it comes to protecting the lakes and preserving agriculture. As Chair of the new Economic Development Committee he is focused on developing businesses and jobs. **Denise Duranczyk, District 35**, developed a reputation for doing her homework and basing her decisions on constituent input and the facts during her tenure the Stoughton City Council. She is committed to keeping health and human services in Stoughton.

The Dane Dems also endorsed a number of candidates who are running unopposed: **Carousel Bayrd, District 8, Dianne Hesselbein, District 9, Jeremy Levin, District 10, Al Matano, District 11, Chuck Erickson, District 13, Melanie Hampton, District 14, Tom Stoebig, District 17, Sheila Stubbs, District 23**

Founder's Day Dinner scheduled

Our 2010 Founder's Day Gala is officially scheduled for April 10th at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee.

We are excited to welcome our keynote speaker - Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell.

Report From The Local Obama For America Group For 2009

In the fall of 2008, it was exciting to campaign for change in America. In Wisconsin, two out of three voters did vote for change. Together, we can build on our accomplishments and grow our membership! Having retired from a 32-year career with the Mayo Clinic, and being passionate about health care reform, I joined many organizations to fight for the rights of the uninsured, under insured, and those financially ruined by health care costs. Taking action gives me a sense of hope and empowerment. One of the groups I joined is Organizing for America (OFA), the official grassroots project of the Democratic National Committee which grew out of the Obama campaign. As you know, President Obama launched his education reform initiatives at Wright Elementary School here in Madison, and OFA is actively organizing around

the core challenges facing families in the United States such as his education initiatives, healthcare reform, clean sustainable energy, and the economy. OFA provides the organizational structure and support for this grassroots movement to empower the electorate in their own neighborhood and encourage people to get off the couch and become part of something bigger than themselves. It is action-oriented, pushing for real change at a local and national level. This past year, health care reform has been a dominant core issue for OFA. In Dane County, Community Organizers built teams to encourage voters to contact their legislators in writing, by phone, and through personal visits to local congressional offices. Last July, Dane County Organizing for America teams organized a Health Care Reform Rally at the Wisconsin State Capital with over

1500 participants—one of five that took place across the state that week! Through OFA, experienced activists and people entirely new to politics get training in tried and true organizing techniques that will help them reach out and build solid connections in their own communities, expanding the reach of all progressives and tapping into the passion for change the 2008 election inspired. If you want more information about OFA, call our Regional Field Director, Staci O'Brien, at 608-556-9729, or go to www.barackobama.com. Staci will also be presenting at the WI River Valley Grass Roots Festival on Feb 20th, along with OFA's State Director, Dan Grandone. The festival will be held at Wisconsin Heights High School, Hwy 14 between Black Earth and Mazomanie, WI. For more information about the festival call Nate Timm at 608-220-0139.

November doesn't need to be a nightmare for Democrats

By David Plouffe
Sunday, January 24, 2010

The Democratic Party got a resounding wake-up call from the voters of Massachusetts on Tuesday. But it's long been clear that 2010 would be a challenging election year for our party.

With few exceptions, the first off-year election in a new president's term has led to big gains for the minority party -- this was true for Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. After two election cycles in which Democrats won most of the close races and almost all of the big ones, Democrats have much more fragile turf to defend this year than usual. Add to that a historic economic crisis, stubborn unemployment and the pain that both have inflicted on millions of Americans, and you have a recipe for a white-knuckled ride for many of our candidates.

But not if Democrats do what the American people sent them to Washington to do.

In 2006 and 2008, voters sent an unmistakable message: We want decisive change. This was not just a change of political parties. Instead of a government that works for the entitled and special interests, a government that looks out for Wall Street, they wanted a government that works better for them, a government that plays the role it should to help foster the security of the middle class.

-- No bed-wetting. This will be a tough election for our party and for many Republican incumbents as well. Instead of fearing what may happen, let's prove that we have more than just the brains to govern -- that we have the guts to govern. Let's fight like hell, not because we want to preserve our status, but because we sincerely believe too many everyday

Americans will continue to lose if Republicans and special interests win.

This country is at a crossroads. We are trying to boost the economy in the short term while also doing the long-term work on health care, energy, education and financial reform that will lay a strong foundation for decades to come. Let's remember why we won in 2008 and deliver on what we promised. If Democrats will show the country we can lead when it's hard, we may not have perfect election results, but November will be nothing like the nightmare that talking heads have forecast.

David Plouffe, campaign manager of Obama for America and Obama-Biden 2008, is the author of "Audacity to Win."

This article is excerpts from an article that was published in the Washington Post.

Democratic Party of Dane County

P.O. Box 2082
Madison, WI 53701-2082
www.danedems.org



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suellingson@sbcglobal.net

VC-Communications
239-0820

Eric Paulson
epaulson@unit1127.com

VC-Development
246-0672

Lori Kief
lkief915@sbcglobal.net

VC-Membership
843-6296

Jan Moore
janmoore9@gmail.com

VC-Nominations
255-3052

Lindsey Lee
groundzerocoffee@yahoo.com

VC-Volunteers
770-2770

Greg Packnett
packnett@gmail.com

Newsletter
849-8170

Laurene Bach
lbach1948@charter.net

Resolutions
839-5452

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831-7966

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513-1387

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437-6219

80 Assembly Rep

Dennis Coyier
decoy1@verizon.net.

Suzan Stodder
Sstodder@uwalumni.org

Vacant

Donna Juris
aunt donna29@ros.com

Vacant

Dode Lowe
gdlowe@sbcglobal.net

Gary Poulson
garypoulson@aol.com

Corkey Custer
JCorkey.custer@LFg.com

Mike Basford
mabasford@charter.net

Mark Knickelbine
mknick@charter.net

Vacant

81 Assembly Rep
849-8170

2nd CD Chair
467-6942

State Chair
255-5172

**State Party
2nd CD Rep to
to the Admin Comm**

At-Large members
235-2646

236-4797

318-3549

UW Dems Rep
(262) 358-3502

2nd CD Chr
285-5198

Laurene Bach
lbach1948@charter.net

Peter Rickman
rickman.peter@gmail.com

Mike Tate
miket@wisdems.org

Heather Colburn
hcolburn@gmail.com

Don Jones (on leave)
dj.danedem@att.net

Suzan Stodder
sstodder@uwalumni.org

Liz Sanger
elizbet17@yahoo.com

Molly Rivera
rivera.molly@gmail.com

Peter Rickman
rickman.peter@gmail.com

2010 DEMOCRATIC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date _____ County _____

Number of members in family _____

Congressional District _____ Assembly District _____

New Renewal

Please print clearly. Please include box number or rural route.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Fax number _____ Email address _____

Occupation _____

Employer's name _____

Employer's address _____

Become a member of the Democratic Party:

- \$50/month — Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt *
- \$20/month — Harry & Bess Truman *
- \$10/month — John & Jackie Kennedy *
- \$75/year — Dr. Martin Luther & Coretta King, Jr. *
- \$45/year — Activist *
- \$35/year — Pairs
- \$25/year — General
- \$10/year — Limited Income

* includes all family members

Yes, I would like to volunteer