

RICHLAND DEMOCRAT

February 2010



WHAT'S A PERSON TO DO?

With headlines like “**Senate Loses Super Majority,**” *Obama’s Health Care Plan DOA*, **Republicans Gain 41% Majority**, *SARAH PALIN SEEN AS TOP 2012 CANDIDATE*, these have been hard days for Democrats. Yet, I am reminded of one of my personal favorite movies, “Zorba The Greek.” As the movie concludes and all the plans of the film’s protagonist fail, he looks at his Greek friend, Zorba, as if to ask, “What’s a person to do?” Steeped in the ancient wisdom of Dionysus, the Greek god of Wine, Zorba begins to simply *dance*. So what can we do as our Party stumbles through the midwinter? *I encourage you to come DANCE.*

Music, Dance, Mid Eastern Food, Politics, Oh My-Don't Miss...

On February 12th there will a PARTY- you do not want to miss! From 7 PM until 10 PM in downtown Richland Center the Richland County Democrats have exclusively reserved the Press Box - Bar and Grill for our ‘Swing the Casbah’ Big Event! The evening starts with food and music with a Middle Eastern Flair. You won’t want to miss the menu that County Board Candidate Tom Crofton has prepared.

Then the action “swings” into gear with the talents of James and Cathy Pierce. The couple will demonstrate and teach swing dancing to any willing participants. No one will be coerced into dancing if they don’t wish to. We are the Democrats after all. It’s not like we’re going to waterboard anyone to get them on the dance floor. (Continued on page five *Candidates.*)



REGULAR MEETINGS ARE ON THE 2ND TUESDAYS

Calendar

February 9, 2010

February Meeting

The regular meeting will be held at 7:00 PM in the Basement of the Courthouse

February 12, 2010

The Big Event!

Mark your calendars, clear the date, this is the gala Swing 2010. We hope to raise enough again this year to fund another Democratic headquarters for the pivotal 2010 elections

March 9, 2010

March Meeting

The regular meeting will be held at 7:00 PM in the Basement of the Courthouse

March 13, 2010

Deadline for Delegates and Resolutions

March 27, 2010

3rd CD Convention

This year’s 3rd Congressional District Convention will be at Cochrane-Fountain City High School, Fountain City. Registration from 9-11 Call to order at 10AM.

April 17, 2010

Richland Center Energy Fair

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Richland County Democrats was held on Tuesday January 12 in the RC court house basement and was called to order by Chair Will Buros @ 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made all around. Present were Vice chair Dundee McNair, Treasurer Tom Crofton, and Karin Hendrickson, recording secretary. 10 more Democrats attended the meeting. Will inquired about additions to the agenda; discussion was requested concerning the energy fairs, a library issue and Richland lobby days. Will moved to approve the agenda, Bill Davis so votes and Dundee seconds.

Delores McCarthy read minutes from last meeting and they are approved. Bill motions to make minutes available for banking purposes and Glen Schnadt seconds. Treasures report is presented by Tom Crofton. Bill moves to accept report and Fred Graff seconds.

James Schneider, candidate for Lt. Gov. is guest speaker and takes questions after his presentation. Web site is schneiderlg.com

Will called for executive committee nominations. Bill Davis nominated Glen Schnadt, Delores noms Fred Graf, Dundee noms Bill Davis who declines, and Linda Gentes is nominated by Glen. Motion is carried.

Fundraiser planning. Marie Waldsmith volunteers to assist with food service, Bill and Tom will prepare food, Glen Schnadt will take tickets @ the door, Karin Hendrickson will

President Obama:
"I think the economy and everyone would benefit from attending the February 12th Party in Richland Center. It's time to Swing the Casbah!"



Feb. 5th 2010

in a fictitious interview with
Richland Dems.

perform MC duties. 7 speakers are confirmed. Bill motions to allow passes for speakers and Dundee seconds. Motion carries. Virginia Mathias volunteers to put up posters. Tom agrees to print more posters, Karin makes a motion to appropriate necessary funds to provide ink to Tom and Glen seconds. Motion is carried.

Will informed us about the need for a full ballot in the Spring election. Tom told us about the Richland County Energy Fair taking place @the middle school on April 17. Tom thinks that providing concessions for the attendees would be profitable and Bill makes a motion to authorize Tom to secure the concession stand for us. Karin seconds. Will states that he plans to research possible fundraising dates for the summer. He also suggests Richland Lobby Days in which a number of us would caravan to Madison and speak personally to our representatives.

Will moves to adjourn the meeting and Bill seconds. Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 9th.

DON'T MISS WHAT'S

In This Issue

Fun and Fundraising

Swing the Casbah- Page One

Page one m.



You should have been there...

Minutes from the January Meeting

Page two covers the first meeting of the new election year. By Karin Hendrickson



The State of Our Jobs

Our Leaders Speak Out

During this time of economic crisis, our Representatives on the State and Federal level say it's about Jobs, Jobs, and more Jobs. Page three.



Did I Mention the Party?

Swing the Casbah

Read page four to see how to make sure you come to the event of the year.



What's been done...

Highlights from the Legislature.

Cash, clinics and collies. Page five.



The Back Page

Look to Page six

Member notes, editorials and more.

BUSINESS LEADERS, LEGISLATORS DISCUSS JOB CREATION IN SW WISCONSIN

By Representative Steve Hilgenberg

MADISON - A task-force of business leaders and state officials held a meeting in Dodgeville last week to discuss economic development and job growth opportunities in Southwest Wisconsin. The task-force, entitled the Partnership for a Stronger Economy, listened to presentations from local leaders and discussed rural economic development initiatives.

"I want to thank the task-force for visiting our area and stressing the importance of rural economic development in the state economy," said Representative Steve Hilgenberg (D-Dodgeville), who helped organize the meeting.

The Partnership was organized by State Assembly leadership with a mission to tour the state to listen to individuals on the front lines of job creation to identify innovative, new ideas to grow our economy. The Partnership is comprised of a diverse group of organizations including the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, New North Inc., the Wisconsin Business Council, the Wisconsin Business Development Finance Corporation as well as several private business owners.

Rick Terrien, Director of the Iowa County Area Economic Development Corporation, presented the Driftless Foods Initiative and the Highland Freezer Project, which have received national attention. Also, a presentation on the forthcoming Innovation Kitchen in Mineral Point, the largest community access kitchen in the state, was provided by Tom Schraeder, Director of the Hodan Center. The Innovation Kitchen will provide a space for entrepreneurs to use state-certified facilities to process and sell value-added products.

Presentations were also provided by Dr. James Hamilton, chemistry professor at the University of



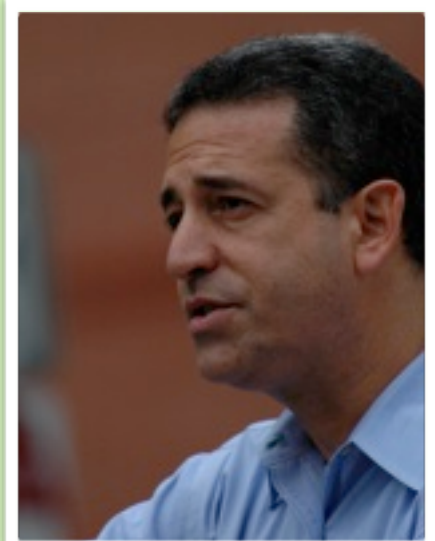
Steve Hilgenberg Representative of the 51st Assembly District

Wisconsin-Platteville, and Steve Bertjens, Director of the Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development Council, located in Lancaster. Professor Hamilton described the development of patent pending technology for use in cleaning high end lenses and display screens. The project won the grand prize out of 250 competitors at the Wisconsin Governor's Business Plan Contest.

Mr. Bertjens discussed the status of biomass energy development in Southwest Wisconsin. The Council is conducting field studies on the cost of harvesting woody biomass and the value of switchgrass as a biomass pellet fuel source.

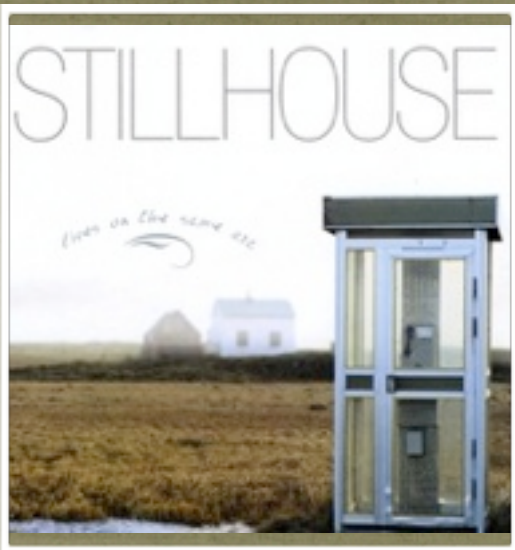
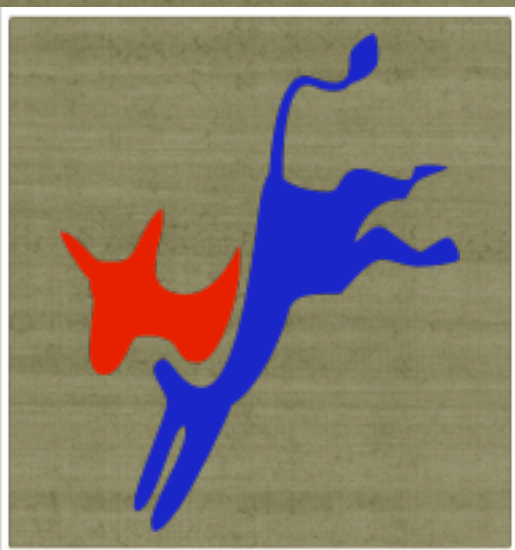
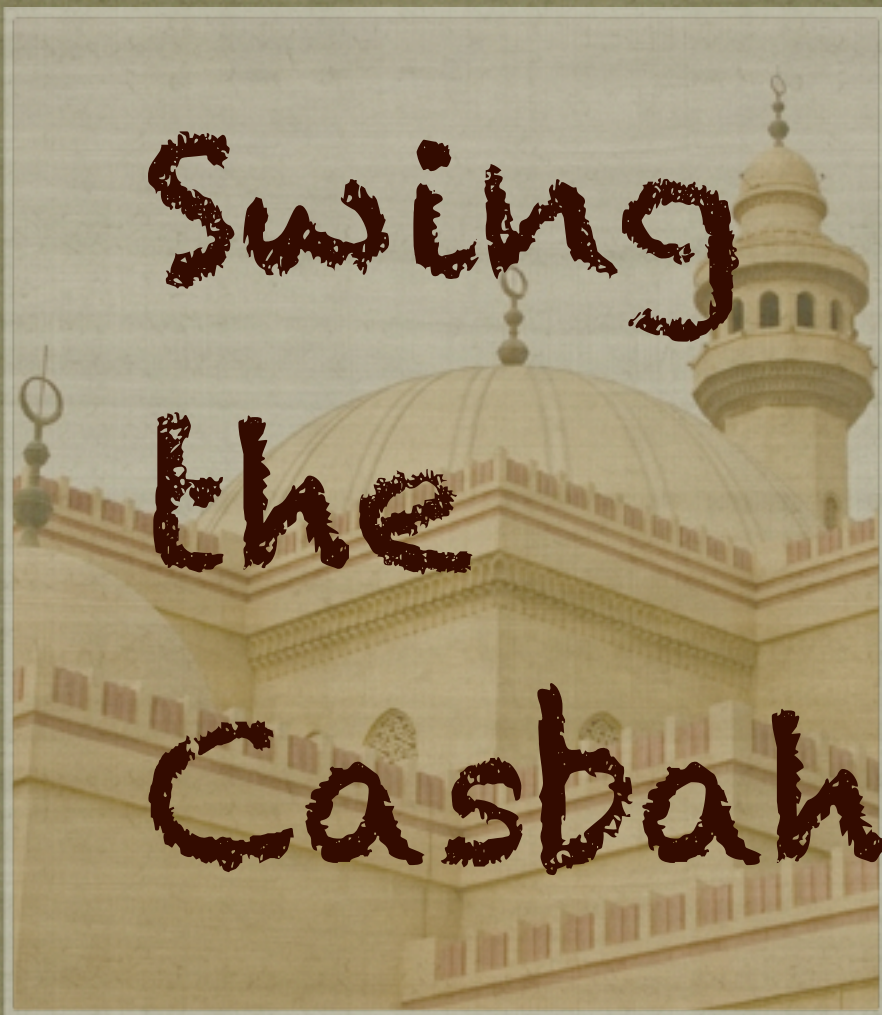
"Looking ahead, we need to build on the progress we've made today," Rep. Hilgenberg said. "Business leaders in Southwest Wisconsin have a lot to offer local residents and the state on the whole, and it's our job to ensure that government and the private sector continue to work together - that way, we can achieve our goals to increase employment, close the mounting gap between rich and poor, and ensure long-term growth."

Feingold Statement on the January 2010 Jobs Report



"Today's jobs figures underscore the need for quick action to help bring down unemployment. The Senate will be considering a series of jobs initiatives in the coming weeks and I will continue to push my jobs tax credit proposal to help businesses hire new workers. While it won't solve all the problems businesses are facing, offering businesses a tax credit would help them hire workers they otherwise wouldn't. Creating jobs must be a top priority in 2010."

February 5th, 2010



FEBRUARY 12, 2010

From 7:00 - 10:00 PM at the Press Box, Richland Center

Learn the reason we are called a PARTY! Join the Richland County Democrats as we once again throw a celebration to raise funds for our election 2010 local headquarters. We have reserved exclusive availability of the Press Box for a smoke free, fun night of Middle Eastern Food, Swing Dance Lessons starting at 7:30, Music by "Stillhouse", Cash Bar and more. \$20 Tickets sold in advance and available at Ocooch Books and Libations.

Authorized and paid for by the Richland County Democratic Party, Tom Crofton Treas.

Campaign Finance Reform, Health Care, and Protecting Pets- Democrats Work To Solve Problems

State Enacts Bills to Clean Up Judiciary, Increase Access to Health Care, License Dog Breeders

MADISON – During a ceremony at the State Capitol last week, Governor Jim Doyle signed several pieces of legislation into law, including the Impartial Justice Bill, the Medical Clinic Access Bill, and the Dog Breeders Licensure Bill.

“A lot of people have been waiting a long time for this day, and I appreciate the patience, dedication, and determination of all parties that worked to pass these bills into law,” said Representative Steve Hilgenberg, who co-sponsored all three proposals.

The Impartial Justice Bill creates a public financing option for Supreme Court elections, thereby reducing the heavy reliance on special interest money in the election of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justices. In 2008, special interest groups spent over \$6 million on the Supreme Court election, forcing citizens to question the independence and impartiality of the state’s highest court.

“Not only will this bill free up candidates to focus on local needs instead of fundraising, it will

restore public trust in our highest court and help ensure that Justices aren’t in the pockets of special interest groups,” Hilgenberg said. The Medical Clinic Access Bill was also signed into law, clearing the way for more doctors to volunteer at free health care clinics. This bill ensures that health care providers are covered by the state’s medical malpractice insurance if they’re working at a free clinic. It also expands coverage to chiropractors, physical therapists, and podiatrists.

“Because of the economy, demand is up at health care clinics. By expanding coverage, we enable more health care professionals to provide preventive care at our clinics,” Rep. Hilgenberg. “Not only does this increase access to low-cost care, it reduces trips to the hospital and alleviates the financial burden on other health care institutions.”

Governor Doyle also signed into law the Dog Breeders Licensure Bill, which establishes licensure requirements and minimum standards of care for commercial dog breeders.

“This bill signing marks the final step toward cracking down on problem operations and protecting responsible breeders who care about the dogs they raise,” Rep. Hilgenberg said.

Candidates at the Swing Event

continued from page one.

One of the exciting parts of the Friday Night event will be that a host of partisan candidates for office have promised to attend. This provides you with an opportunity to speak one on one with all the candidates.

The following have RSVP’d:

Jared Christiansen - Gov

Tony Zelinski- Lt Gov

James Schneider-Lt Gov

Henry Sanders- Lt Gov

Daniel Bohrod-Treas.

Phil Garthwaite Representative of the 49th Assembly District

Steve Hilgenberg Representative of the 51st Assembly District

Nonpartisan County Board Candidates:

Tom Crofton-District 3

Walter Gust-District 13

Karin Hendrickson-District 5

Bill Seep-District 4

Congressman Kind will send a representative.

We will have special music guests:

STILLHOUSE

David Dati and Tom Riley will perform folk/rock throughout the evening.

Please call today to Bill Davis 608-383-3813, and he'll send your tickets by return mail, or stop by Ocooch Books and Libations and pick up your tickets there. Please make your checks payable to: Richland County Democratic Party.

We have fun first, but the event will help to fund a Richland Democratic Headquarters.

Hot Air That Is Filled With Truth

Member Deborah Wunnicke forwarded this fun email from a friend of hers. It captures what many Democratic Party members are feeling right about now.



A woman in a hot air balloon realized she was lost. She lowered her altitude and spotted a man in a boat below. She shouted to him, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man consulted his portable GPS and replied, "You're in a hot air balloon, approximately 30 feet

above ground elevation of 2346 feet above sea level. You are at 31 degrees, 14.97 minutes north latitude and 100 degrees, 49.09 minutes west longitude.

"She rolled her eyes and said, "You must be an Obama Democrat."

"I am," replied the man. "How did you know?"

"Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct. But I have no idea what to do with your information, and I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help to me."

The man smiled and responded, "You must be a Republican."

"I am," replied the balloonist. "How did you know?"

"Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You've risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise you have no idea how to keep, and you expect me to solve your problem. You're in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but somehow, now it's my fault."



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WE hope you enjoyed the Email version of our newsletter. Forward a copy to a friend and encourage them to email us and add their names to our list.

RC DEMS: CARRYING THE TORCH WHILE HAVING FUN

End Notes

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rcdems.org/

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