

RICHLAND DEMOCRAT

March 2010



LET'S BE NONPARTISAN

The Spring Non-Partisan Elections are coming on April 6th. There are several elections that will be of interest and perhaps you may even want to help our local candidates. As Democratic members we are the folks with the experience and willingness to “hit the pavement” so to speak. For those of you who have not been involved in the process of politics, you don’t know what you are missing. Believe it or not, campaigning is a lot of fun. We strive to make it a social event- food, friends, even a fun way to exercise. (Nothing burns calories like a brisk literature drop.) So come to the next meeting March 9th, on the agenda will be how we can help our nonpartisan candidates; it will be good practice for this coming November. See you at the meeting.

Primary Candidates, Food, and Fun

On February 12th the Richland County Democrats held their ‘Swing the Casbah’ Big Event! County Board Candidate Tom Crofton (pictured right) proved that he is a master chef by making a wonderful Mid Eastern dishes for all to delight. We wish to say thanks to the . for demonstrating swing dancing. And, we want to thank David Dati and Tom Riley of “Still House” for rocking the party with their cool, folk rock. I heard more than one

participant say they were having flashbacks to their high school dance days. The event also allowed for the opportunity to see many up and coming candidates for State and Local offices. Speaking at the event was Tony Zielinski, a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and James Schneider, also running for Lieutenant Governor. Another Lt. Gov. candidate, Henry Sanders (Cont. on page 5)



REGULAR MEETINGS ARE ON THE 2ND TUESDAYS

Calendar

March 9, 2010

March Meeting

The regular meeting will be held at 7:00 PM in the Basement of the Courthouse. Guest Speaker Brian Blanchard candidate for Court of Appeals



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 6, 2010

Spring Elections--Vote!

April 17, 2010

Richland Center Energy Fair

Richland Center Middle School. The RC Dems will be serving concessions. Come and eat. Come and help. Come and see the Energy Fair!

Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2010 Platform 2nd Draft

Jason Rae, DNC Member on the Resolutions and Platform Committee has sent out a draft of the DPW Platform which will be vote on at the Conventions. Included are sections for your perusal- (part one.)

Preamble

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin strives to build an open, just and strong society where all citizens have equal opportunities to live meaningful, secure lives. We work actively for open, honest and responsive government that is accountable to the needs and the will of the people.

Justice, Human Concerns, and Democracy

Our government must support the values of freedom, family, fairness and responsibility to community and to all persons.

One of the primary jobs of government is to ensure that everyone can lead dignified, healthy and fulfilling lives. We value love, commitment, stability and nurturing of all family members. Our Constitution guarantees that we are all equal regardless of race, color, class, religion, actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, age, occupation, national origin, physical disabilities or appearance, or political beliefs. We support equal legal rights for all individuals in committed, loving relationships. We will work to ensure that basic civil liberties are forever preserved.

It is vital that government respect, support and protect freedom of expression. When government attempts to limit the rights of its citizens, the fundamental philosophy on which our nation was established is destroyed. We hold sacrosanct our civil liberties, including but hardly limited to freedom of speech, the right to privacy, the presumption of innocence and the principle of *habeus corpus*. Nothing less than the humane treatment of our fellow human beings is acceptable. Our

government, with its checks and balances among the three branches, serves us, and protects our constitutional rights.

We must fully fund our criminal justice system and the defense of our nation. The men and women who serve us are our first line of defense, and we must provide for them. Security of our society must be our concern.

We will work to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, an equal voice in government and fair and equal treatment under the law. We recognize that minorities, senior citizens, and the poor often face formidable challenges, including obstacles to voting. We shall work to eliminate those obstacles. We pursue legislation and cultural change that end racial and ethnic profiling, respect the sovereignty of our indigenous Native American host nations and ensure equality between men and women. We shall work for gender-balanced, qualified representation at all levels of government. Our goal is a government and an electoral process free of the corrupting influences of money and power.

Empowerment of citizens in all civic affairs strengthens our nation. Government must be an open institution that people trust, complying with open meeting and public record laws and elected through publicly funded state and national elections. Every citizen is guaranteed the right to vote and equal access thereto, including non-incarcerated felons. We oppose voter ID requirements as discriminatory, equivalent to a poll tax, a voter suppression tactic, and a fraudulent solution to exaggerated voter fraud. We have the right and duty to inspect and count all votes and to have a voter-verified paper ballot that guarantees accurate vote counting.

(Continued next issue)

DON'T MISS WHAT'S

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Fun and Fundraising

We Swung the Casbah- Page One
Page one and five.



The Gospel of DPW

Our Platform (Part One)

Page two begins a multi-part document of what the DPW stands for.



Mischief and the Media

Watch what you read.

The Supreme Court has opened a Pandora's box of issues over its recent free speech ruling. Page three.



Barack v. Paul

Health Care Coverage in the 5th Dimension...

Read page four to see how Paul Ryan will be remembered.



Tough Races

Feingold, Kind, Need you!

State Political wrap up. Page five.



The Back Page

Resolutions and Solutions

Member notes and County politics.

The Supreme Court, *Americans in Contact*, and Other *Wrong Doers on the Right* *The View from the Chair: by Will Buross*

The other day I was perusing blogs and news of the recent Health Care Summit on the web, when suddenly the phone rang. It was a robo-caller who was making sure I knew the "facts" of how Obama's Health Care bill was going to use my tax dollars to perform abortions. The group that was sponsoring the call was named *Americans in Contact*. After I hung up, I began thinking about the call. Since I am sure I am identified as a strong Democrat on most lists out there, it strikes me that these callers are using a list of all regular voters. Not a small list if you have to pay for each call. Being intrigued, I googled *Americans in Contact* (AIC) and found that they have a mission to identify social and fiscal conservatives and engage them in the political process. According to OpenSecrets.Org, a review of independent expenditures as of July 13, 2009 shows that AIC had spent \$11,506 against Obama and \$5,445 for McCain- \$0.00 for Democrats in general. Overall, that's not a lot of money. Therefore, I find it interesting then that already in 2010 this group has the resources to phone bank in Richland County of all places.

Although I have no evidence to support my next claim, I have a suspicion that these types of phone banks are the first signs of fallout from the disastrous bomb that the Supreme Court dropped when it ruled that corporations can spend freely on political ads leading up to elections. Ironically, the Supreme Court decision leaves intact candidate campaign contribution regulations - including laws barring campaign contributions to federal candidates from corporations and unions. It also leaves intact laws barring so-called soft-money contributions to political parties. So, after the AIC robo-call, as I sat there

fuming, wearing my Democratic Chair hat, I realized that, as a Democratic party member, I did not



Hannah Giles in the secret video filmed with James O'Keefe in a ACORN office

have the same rights of free speech to solicit corporate donors and fund a robo-call advocating my own Party's "truth."

Unfortunately, I believe the Supreme Court ruling will create lucrative financial opportunities for individuals and groups willing to spread "political mischief." Remember the "journalism" of James O'Keefe. He was an undercover conservative activist who filmed ACORN workers giving what appeared to be illegal advice on how to hide money. He and his friends were hailed as heroes by the likes of Rush Limbaugh and their footage led several government agencies to temporarily cut funding for ACORN as the prosecutors opened an investigation. It should be noted that prosecutors in Brooklyn on Monday cleared ACORN of criminal wrongdoing after a four-month probe. An Article by Daily News Staff Writer Scott Shifrel states: "While the video by James O'Keefe and Hannah Giles seemed to show three ACORN workers advising a prostitute how to hide ill-gotten gains, the unedited version was not as clear, according to a law enforcement source.

"They edited the tape to meet their agenda," said the source. Reaction at ACORN, which is in the process of reorganizing and is struggling to re-establish its financing, was subdued. "Acorn is gratified that the DA has concluded something we knew all along," ACORN lawyer Arthur Schwartz said, adding it was *unfortunate* that O'Keefe and Giles used subterfuge to convince congress and the media to vilify an organization that didn't deserve it."



James O'Keefe
Hero or
felon?

Now, the Daily News reports that James O'Keefe faces up to 10 years in prison for allegedly organizing an effort to tamper with phone equipment in the offices of [Sen. Mary Landrieu \(D-La.\)](#), where he was recording buddies fiddling with her phones, the FBI charged. The men were arrested for "interfering with the office's telephone system."

So, our brave new world begins anew- corporations spending freely with groups and individuals more than willing to take their money and profit in a media market that has very little if any safeguards to ensure accurate information is presented to the voters of our great democracy.

As is so often the case the Democratic Party must persevere to govern for those who do not always have the resources to match the propaganda emanating from the *Right*. Keep reminding people that there are things *right* out there, but be wary of the first headline you read.

If Paul Ryan Were Treated Like President Obama...

During the recent health care debates, Wisconsin's Republican Congressman Paul Ryan has become the darling of the Conservatives and the media.



Congressman Paul Ryan

I am happy that he has gotten such good press, but I wonder how things would be for him if he were to receive the same treatment that has been directed toward President Obama.

I wonder...

- At age 40 no doubt Rush Limbaugh would relentlessly refer to Paul as a mere man-child who does not have the experience to be a leader...
- Although he has offered a "blueprint" on how to incorporate free market ideas into the health care system, I can just hear Minority leader John Boehner demanding that he come forth and present "real" legislation not just a simple plan...
- Republican talking points would be drumming home the message that he has failed--FAILED! According to Newsweek, his health care plan has only gathered NINE Republican supporters and no Democrats, an obvious failure to communicate his ideas let alone bring about bipartisan change...
- Sarah Palin: "So, Paul, how's all that freebie-market stuff workin' out for ya?"
- As his conservative admirers point out his frugality and how while in Washington he sleeps on a cot at his sister's, the Limbaugh Ditto-Heads would be mocking such admiration by calling him the Conservative Messiah--Saint Paul the Frugal-- believing in such idealism is simply drinking the Kool-Aid and not being willing to see how he is just in the pocket of big insurance...
- Senator Mitch McConnell, "The Senate Republicans would be willing support some of his ideas, but he won't listen to incremental changes. He's advocating too much- too fast. It would be

better to just throw that blueprint out and start over..."

- Fox News: "Have you even read his blueprint? He's a RADICAL! The American people have spoken and they reject his all-out destruction of Medicare and Social Security..."

"he has failed--FAILED! According to Newsweek, his health care plan has only gathered NINE Republican supporters"

- The O'Reilly Factor: "Come on, This is a no spin zone. How can you, Paul Ryan, the same Paul Ryan that voted for the Bush tax cuts, the same tax cuts that added to the budget deficit, now blame our current mess on excessive spending by this administration?"

Republican's have always been a strong minority party, standing back on the side lines and throwing jeers at the people who are actually trying to make forward progress. We as Americans tend to forget that the process of propaganda is actually pretty easily done, but the process of governing is often a very messy business.

Certainly Congressman Ryan is a thoughtful politician, but his focus on health care finding a free market solution seems to ignore the fact that the problems we have now are with a free market system. Sadly, there are some things in life that are just not profitable. Poverty and illness simply do not generate profits. In the past it was true insurance companies found a way to profit from insuring families from the cost of health care. Yet, as health care costs have increased, there is no longer high profits in insurance, and now we are left searching for a health *payment* system.

Although conservatives assail President Obama as he tries to move the Nation toward affirming health care as a right, I fear that if Paul Ryan were President his plans would become just as besieged. Because even though everyone believes in hope; no one likes to see change.

Will Buros

Tough Races

Feingold, Kind, and the State are bracing for the most competitive races that they have faced in years.

On March 20th you can help Russ Feingold in his bid to win reelection. Russ is holding a door to door canvas in Richland Center. The campaign is also encouraging supporters to take the time to write letters to the editors of area papers to help spread the word of how important Russ is for the State.

This could be a challenging year for Feingold. In a post on the on-line news service the Politico, it noted that Tommy Thompson is securing financial pledges and ramping up his outreach to longtime political aides in preparation for a possible campaign against Sen. Feingold. Thompson has alerted his Washington-based law firm of his moves and is contacting key clients about the prospect of seriously exploring a 2010 campaign. A longtime Thompson ally said the governor already has \$200,000 in potential donations for a campaign that doesn't yet exist.

In preparation the Feingold campaign is opening offices in Eau Claire, Hudson, La Crosse, and Madison. These offices continue Russ's long tradition of maintaining strong relationships with communities and activists across Wisconsin. The Feingold La Crosse office is located at 116 Fifth Avenue South and is a joint effort with not only the local Democratic Party but with Congressman Kind's campaign as well. They are pleased to have hired Pablo Ruiz as the field organizer. Pablo has lived in La Crosse since he graduated from

Viterbo several years ago and is originally from Sheboygan. Pablo has been actively engaged in helping local candidates run for office and has served on the Feingold steering committee for the area. If you can help with the March 20th canvas please call Pablo at 608-782-1588.



Congressman Ron Kind also is facing a potential tough race this coming November. State Senator Dan Kapanke is running against him for Kind's seat in the 3rd Congressional District. As a sitting State Senator, no doubt, Kapanke will be well organized and well funded. So, this will be an important year to show your support to Ron, both financially and as an activist.



Richland County has been targeted by the Democratic Governor's Race as well. Jared Christiansen, a candidate for Governor, showed up at our recent Swing the Casbah event. Although having driven all the way from Milwaukee, he missed the opportunity to speak to our group he did get a chance to "press the flesh."

Tom Barrett has personally contacted our local party chair and is asking for donations from individuals willing to support his campaign. He would like to show a financial commitment from every county in the State by the end of March.

(From Page one Food and Fun) was intending to come but at the last minute a health issue in his family called him away.

Ed Leinweber, running for Judge of the Court of Appeals, pointed out to the attendants why they should vote for him on the primary ballot just days away. And Local County Board candidates were on hand too. Incumbent Walter Gust spoke on what's been going on in the County Board room. And candidates Karin Hendrickson and Tom Crofton spoke about what could be going on in the County Board Room if we elected them to office.

There was a surprise visit by Sarah Shanahan, a newly announced candidate for the 50th Assembly District. She charmed and excited everyone one looking to unseat the last remaining Republican

Assembly-person in the 17th Senate Area. All in all it was a fun and profitable night.



Resolutions and County Solutions

WHERE AS this friday, March 13th, is the deadline for Resolutions to be submitted for consideration at the 3rd CD convention.

WHERE AS it is these resolutions that form the basis of the platform of our Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

WHERE AS this is your opportunity to voice your stand on the future vision of the Party

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That you will follow this format and submit your resolutions to Will Buros before Thursday March 12th by email to willburos@countrysspeed.com.



Karin Hendrickson, running for County Board, began door knocking and hand shaking Sunday. She is highlighting two issues concerning the county board. The first is a call for the monthly meetings to be more accessible to citizens 12 months of the year and not just during the summer hours. Those she has spoken with consistently bring the scheduled meetings to her attention along with their dissatisfaction with the 10 AM start time.

Also she intends to bring up for consideration the very real lack of oversight this county has concerning pets as evidenced by the criminal conditions discovered at the Thyme and Sage Ranch last

year. Karin is looking for any support as she strives toward her goal of being a County Board Representative.



Although November seems years away, in political time the election is drawing near. The Richland County Democrats strive to have a full Democratic ballot come the fall. We do have some commitment for local candidacy but we still need others. We are encouraging individuals to run as Democrats for Clerk of Courts and Sheriff. If you or someone you know is interested, contact us. As a Party we can help you run a competent campaign.



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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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