

**RICHLAND DEMOCRAT***August 2010***Staffing Begins August 16th****HOME IMPROVEMENT**

If you have recently driven past the intersection of 6th and Hwy 80 in Richland Center, you may have momentarily lost your bearings. The landmarks have changed. Where once was an old gas station painted maroon and half blue is now a classic tan building that is the home of the Richland County Democrats. A big thank-you goes out to Tom Crofton. The RC Dems are fortunate to have a semi-retired, union, master carpenter on our team. Jerry Mcconoughey and Will Buros provided support as the building was transformed inside of four hours. We hope to begin staffing the headquarters by the week of August 10th. If you are interested in taking some shifts, you can email Will Buros and he will pass your info onto our staffing coordinators. (See page three for more ways to help the headquarters) ...

**Come Meet the Candidates**

**O**n August 12th the Richland County Democrats and Glenn and Mary Schnadt will host a meet and greet event for the community at large. To make good decisions on who will represent us, it is important for the electorate to be well informed. One opportunity will be on Thursday night the 12th in the Pippin Room at the UW-Richland Campus. All the State Democratic candidates for the 17th Senate area have been invited. Candidate for the 50th Assembly District, Sarah Ann Shanahan, will be there. Candidate

for the 17th Senate seat has also confirmed her attendance, Carol Beals. It is hoped that John Simonson, who is running for the 51st Assembly seat, will be able to attend. And, Representative to the 49th Assembly Seat, Phil Garthwaite, has been invited as well.

The event will run from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. There will be opportunities to ask questions and listen to where the candidates stand on the issues of moving the State of Wisconsin--Forward. We hope to see you there.

REGULAR MEETINGS ARE ON  
THE 2ND TUESDAYS**Calendar****August 10, 2010****Monthly Meeting**

This month's meeting at our remodeled-repainted headquarters starting at 7:00 PM

**August 12, 2010****Meet and Greet**

7:00 PM Pippin Room UW-Richland  
Meet the candidates - Shanahan, Beals, Simonson, and Garthwaite.

**August 20, 2010****Fundraiser for the 50th**

Come to Deborah and Bruce Wunnicke's home and support Sarah Ann. Music and tapas.

**September 8-12, 2010****Richland County Fair**

Visit/staff our booth in the A.V. Miller Building this year. Let's talk politics.

**September 26, 2010****Monthly meeting and Picnic**

Join us at Kroskopp Park for our annual picnic and auction fundraiser. Bring a dish to pass and your coin purse.

## Barrett: Responsible, Smart. He's a Dem!

Tom Barrett is a candidate who is serious about responsible government. Already he has put forth a comprehensive plan to move the State forward on jobs. Among the elements in Barrett's 67-page jobs plan are tax cuts for specific industries and the creation of a state fund fueled by bonds to assist companies researching or developing new products. [http://barrettforwisconsin.com/issues/creating\\_jobs](http://barrettforwisconsin.com/issues/creating_jobs)



"My campaign sets the stage as to how I would run my administration," Barrett said. "Jobs are the centerpiece. My plan jumpstarts new jobs now and builds long-run economic growth."

The Milwaukee mayor said cuts will be necessary for state government as officials face a \$2.5 billion deficit in the 2011-13 budget. His plans to decrease state spending by \$1.1 billion include premiums for higher-cost Medicaid programs and other incentives to push people toward lower-cost plans. State programs in education and health care also should be examined for ways to trim expenses, he said.

"I'll do everything I can to make sure people retain those programs they need," Barrett said.

## John Simonson Runs For The 51st

Simonson was born and raised on a Wisconsin dairy farm. He earned a bachelors degree in economics from UW-Oshkosh and, after serving three years in the Army, earned advanced degrees from UW-Madison. He spent over four decades teaching economics at UW-Platteville and established the Center for Applied Public Policy in 2002. He has also worked as a policy analyst for the Urban Institute, World Bank, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and National Association of Realtors.

In the 2006 race for the 17th Senate District, Simonson garnered 10,941 votes, 904 more than the Republican incumbent Dale Schultz, in the 51st Assembly district. This is a indicator of his strength in this district.

"I will focus on keeping and bringing new good-paying jobs to Southwest Wisconsin, fixing our broken school funding system, and reforming our unfair tax system. I enter this campaign, not as a career choice, but out of a sincere desire to ensure that those of us living in the 51st Assembly District continue to get the quality representation we deserve."

DON'T MISS WHAT'S

## In This Issue

### Our House

#### Home Improvement - Page One

Our house is a very very very fine house



### Barrett and Simonson

#### Two with a plan - And both can.

Page two gives you a taste of what is to come from our next Governor and Rep.



### Show Me The Money

#### RC Chair's Political Pontification

Sarah outraises Brooks and Feingold stands for the common person. Page three.



### Social Security Truths

#### Spread the facts

Read page four to know what to say about the true facts on saving Social Security.



### Beals to Beat Stale D.

#### A New Face needed in the 17th

Meet Carol Beals. Page five.



### The Back Page

#### Odds and Ends

Member notes and County politics.

# The View From the Chair- “Show Me the Money”

**A**s we head into this new election cycle, one way to look to see how the candidate of your choice will represent you is to look to see where they get their money. A candidate's relationship to how he or she funds his or her campaign is a very good indicator of the kind of representative they will become.

In the July continuing report the Democratic Candidate for the 50<sup>th</sup>



Assembly District, Sarah Ann Shanahan received nearly nine

thousand dollars and 94% of those contributions were from individuals who know her personally. At this same time, Assemblyman Ed Brooks took 75% of his money from Hospital PACs, Rural Electric PACs, and Political groups. As we think about who will be our next “Representative,” we must not forget to ask whose interests will this candidate represent? I believe Sarah Ann Shanahan will be a wonderful, energetic, new representative to the Assembly who will be looking out for the interests of the people of the 50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.

In our US Senate election, money also demonstrates a key difference between US Senator Russ Feingold and challenger Republican Ron Johnson.

Millionaire Johnson has reportedly said that he will spend \$10 million or more of his own money on his race for Feingold's seat. At this summer's Democratic convention Senator



Feingold joked, “Ron, there are only, like, five of us [non-millionaires] left in the Senate.” He added, “The United States Senate shouldn't be a country club.” Although this is a great line for a laugh, it also points to a very true issue. As the vast majority of individuals elected to the Senate are millionaires, can we say that ordinary middle class citizens are really getting representation in the Senate? Russ Feingold has been a strong, independent voice over his years as our Senator. He has often been the sole voice speaking up for our rights and freedoms. I find it ironic that Johnson is considered the “Tea Party” candidate. If I were concerned about big government and high taxes, I'm not sure I would send another millionaire to Washington. It seems to me that, historically, all this talk of tax cuts has shifted the cost of government onto the backs of the common citizen. And, historically, it has been Russ Feingold who has been the watchdog fighting against the “country club.”

Will Buros  
Richland County Democratic  
Chair

## How to Help the Headquarters

### Items of which we are in need:

- Wireless internet router
- Computer Printer
- Printer Paper
- Money for internet
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Paper Towel holder
- Nice Garbage Cans
- Money for Utilities
- Scented candles
- Money for Rent
- Did we mention Money

### Ways you can help:

- Volunteer to staff the HQ
- Put up candidate signs
- Make phone calls
- Door to door Literature drop
- Stuff envelopes
- Organize fundraisers
- Come to meetings
- Come to events
- Talk to neighbors
- Convince them to vote Dem.
- Send us your email lists
- Give rides for elders to vote
- Come to the HQ just simply to have fun and meet people. An important part of any political party is to simply enjoy getting together with other like-minded friends. Stop in and say hi.

# Let's Set the Record Straight on Social Security

## Top 5 Social Security Myths From MoveOn.Org

### **Myth #1: Social Security is going broke.**

**Reality: There is no Social Security crisis.** By 2023, Social Security will have a \$4.6 trillion surplus (yes, trillion with a 'T'). It can pay out all scheduled benefits for the next quarter-century with no changes whatsoever.<sup>1</sup> After 2027, it'll still be able to pay out 75% of scheduled benefits—and again, that's without any changes. The program started preparing for the Baby Boomers' retirement decades ago.<sup>2</sup> Anyone who insists Social Security is broke probably wants to break it themselves.

### **Myth #2: We have to raise the retirement age because people are living longer.**

**Reality: This is a red-herring to trick you into agreeing to benefit cuts.** Retirees are living about the same amount of time as they were in the 1930s. The reason average life expectancy is higher is mostly because many fewer people die as children than they did 70 years ago.<sup>3</sup> What's more, what gains there have been are distributed very unevenly—since 1972, life expectancy increased by 6.5 years for workers in the top half of the income brackets, but by less than 2 years for those in the bottom half.<sup>4</sup> But those intent on cutting Social Security love this argument because raising the retirement age is the same as an across-the-board benefit cut.

### **Myth #3: Benefit cuts are the only way to fix Social Security.**

**Reality: Social Security doesn't need to be fixed.** But if we want to strengthen it, here's a better way: Make the rich pay their fair share. If the very rich paid taxes on all of their income, Social Security would be sustainable for decades to come.<sup>5</sup> Right now, high earners only pay Social Security taxes on the first \$106,000 of their income.<sup>6</sup> But conservatives

insist benefit cuts are the only way because they want to protect the super-rich from paying their fair share.

### **Myth #4: The Social Security Trust Fund has been raided and is full of IOUs**

**Reality: Not even close to true.** The Social Security Trust Fund isn't full of IOUs, it's full of U.S. Treasury Bonds. And those bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.<sup>7</sup> The reason Social Security holds only treasury bonds is the same reason many Americans do: The federal government has never missed a single interest payment on its debts. President Bush wanted to put Social Security funds in the stock market—which would have been disastrous—but luckily, he failed. So the trillions of dollars in the Social Security Trust Fund, which are separate from the regular budget, are as safe as can be.

### **Myth #5: Social Security adds to the deficit**

**Reality: It's not just wrong—it's impossible!** By law, Social Security's funds are separate from the budget, and it must pay its own way. That means that Social Security can't add one penny to the deficit.<sup>8</sup>

Defeating these myths is the first step to stopping Social Security cuts.

#### Sources:

1. New Deal 2.0, June 14, 2010 <http://www.moveon.org/?r=89703&id=22141-7275349-jApOlax&t=42>
2. Economic Opportunity Institute, September 2009 <http://www.moveon.org/?r=89704&id=22141-7275349-jApOlax&t=53>
3. Center for Economic and Policy Research, June 2010 <http://www.moveon.org/?r=89705&id=22141-7275349-jApOlax&t=6>
4. Washington Post, July 8, 2010 <http://www.moveon.org/?r=89706&id=22141-7275349-jApOlax&t=75>
5. Economic and Policy Institute, May 27, 2010 <http://www.moveon.org/?r=89707&id=22141-7275349-jApOlax&t=8>
6. Social Security Administration, April 23, 2010 [http://ssa.custhelp.ssa.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/240](http://ssa.custhelp.ssa.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/240)
7. Social Security Administration, February 18, 2010 <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/ProgData/fundFAQ.html>
8. New Deal 2.0, June 14, 2010 <http://www.moveon.org/?r=89703&id=22141-7275349-jApOlax&t=9>

## Grant County Supervisor to take on “career politician” Dale Schultz

**Platteville, WI** – Grant County Supervisor Carol Beals announced her candidacy for the 17th State Senate District. Beals, who is well respected for her thirty years of service to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and her work in and around the community, promised a strong campaign focused on job growth and economic recovery in Southwestern Wisconsin.



“We need to focus on creating good-paying jobs and supporting the small businesses that power our local economy,” said Beals. “I will work with both sides of the aisle to get our economy moving again and achieve real results for the hardworking people of Southwest Wisconsin.”

Beals faces off against long-time Republican politician Dale Schultz in this

Democratic-leaning district. Schultz, whose tenure in the legislature has now stretched three decades, won an unexpectedly close race in 2006, leading many political observers to label him a vulnerable incumbent in 2010.

### The Insider’s Buzz

Grant County Supervisor Carol Beals has drawn praise and excitement by being able to raise nearly \$15,000 in her first three weeks in the race for the 17th District.

“After more than a quarter century in Government, Sen. Schultz has forgotten about the working families that are struggling to make ends meet,” said Beals. “We need bold new leadership and common sense solutions to get us back on the right track.”

Beals noted that her background and experience make her an ideal candidate to replace the out of touch Schultz. Born and raised on a family farm in the district, Beals has spent her life working to make her community a better place to work and raise a family. In addition to her work with the University and on the County Board, she has won

widespread acclaim for her work with Badger Camp, an organization dedicated to helping children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Beals has been applauded for her common-sense leadership on the County Board. In her time there she has fought to streamline local government while maintaining the vital services that families rely on. Carol lives in Platteville with her husband Jim. They have two adult children and three grand children.



### LACK OF LEADERSHIP?

On a CNN report recently it was mentioned that President Obama has done more in a half a term than most Presidents in history have completed in two terms. Then the discussion went on to how the President was failing to be a leader in the White House, and how he was not putting forward his own legislation but waiting for the House and Senate to move the legislation he would like to see. It is frustrating to watch CNN and most other news organizations report but not understand that the fact that Obama has shifted the responsibility of legislation to the Legislators is the VERY reason he has been able to accomplish so much. Recent history has shown how easy it is for Legislators to reject the “plans” put forth by the President and then under the cover of the “failed plan” the Legislators do nothing. President Obama has done differently--Thats Leadership!

## Last But Not Least...

**T**he Sauk Dems are hosting a meet and greet fundraiser for John Simonson on Sunday August 22nd from 3-5 PM. At S10638 Strang (Hollow) Rd- NW of Spring Green Near Hwy's B and 130. RSVP to 608-230-6189 or [srlein@hotmail.com](mailto:srlein@hotmail.com)



**Ron Kind signs are available at the Richland Headquarters.** Kapanke has signs everywhere. We can't let this stand unchallenged in the sign war category of campaigning. The goal is to saturate by August 15th. Anyone interested in helping put out signs- email Will Buross (see contact below)



On the evening of Friday August 20th, Deborah and Bruce Wunnicke will be hosting a fundraiser at their home for Sarah Ann Shanahan, Candidate for the 50th Assembly District. The evening will start at 5:30 PM. Come support Sarah at the lovely home of Deborah and Bruce in Little Willow Valley near Ithaca. For directions and to RSVP email [dwunnicke@countrysspeed.com](mailto:dwunnicke@countrysspeed.com)



It is embarrassing to confess, but the Richland Democrats often neglect out faithful Democratic candidates to the northwest in the 96th Assembly District. This year a top notch candidate has come forward to challenge the incumbent Nierson. **Brian Murphy of Westby is running** for the first time for public office.

Brian and his wife Jane and have been married for 30 years and live on

a small farm in rural Westby with three lively dogs. Having grown up on a 160-acre farm outside of La Crosse, he was happy to return to the Coulee region and he has been proud to call this area his home for the past ten years. He is an attorney practicing primarily as a Guardian ad Litem for children who have been abused or neglected and also represent families and individuals going through bankruptcy. He graduated from St. Olaf College in 1979 and the University of Maine Law School in 1996. Before starting a law practice in 2000, he gained valuable experience in business, working in the computer industry as an international representative. His top priority in the State Legislature will be to protect and create jobs in the region. Let's support Brian Murphy... <http://murphyforassembly.com/o/7282/>



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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/](http://www.rcdems.org/)

And Facebook -  
Richland County Dems

THE NEWSLETTER IS AUTHORIZED  
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