

Welcome to 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.

## SAVE THESE DATES:

**APRIL 7TH** --  
ELECTION DAY  
VOTE VOTE VOTE!

**APRIL 14TH** -  
-REGULAR MONTHLY  
MEETING 7:00 PM  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
GROUND FLOOR  
ROOM COURTHOUSE

**APRIL 18TH** -  
3RD CD  
CONVENTION  
POTOSI

**JUNE 12TH** -  
STATE CONVENTION  
IN GREEN BAY

REMEMBER EVERY 2ND  
TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
WE HOLD OUR MEETINGS  
AT 7:00 PM IN THE  
GROUND FLOOR ROOM OF  
THE RICHLAND COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE



## Don't Forget The Spring Election!

Spring elections usually gather very few people to the polls. Because of that it can be a time when a strong advocacy group can turn an election. Don't ask why, but Democratic leaning individuals are not as dedicated at going to the polls as Republicans. In the past two spring elections we have seen very conservative "activist" Supreme Court candidates win the election. With the Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson up for election, we cannot let the trend of the last two years continue. In last year's Supreme Court election, the spread between the candidates was only 20,000 votes. The low-turnouts for spring elections mean every vote will make a difference. So don't forget to VOTE! **Tuesday April 7th is the day.** Talk to your friends. Get those like-minded voters to the polls.

## Local School Board Race Attracts Attention of Richland Democrats

Long time supporter of the Democratic Party, Jordan Maclay is running for the at-large representative to the Richland School District. Taking on the current board chair is no easy task, but Jordan believes that education is extremely important.

"I believe that with new ideas and perspectives we can improve the education the students in our district receive. By researching other programs and taking better advantage of our resources, we can better serve our students, better maintain enrollments, and control costs. I believe in the power of the community working with the school board, teachers, parents, students, administrators, and staff to set and accomplish our educational goals." Jordan Maclay.

Jordan has been a researcher for over 40 years. He is a retired educator with 27 years of experience. Of those years 23 were spent in higher education, three in elementary education, and one year in middle school. He has been active in teaching College for Kids at the UW Richland, and even a substitute instructor in Karate, in which he carries a Black Belt.

Jordan serves on the Board of the Brewer Science Library. He has been a small business owner and a home owner and Richland Center tax payer for 18 years. His wife Mary works at Rockwell Automation. They have a son, Matthew and a daughter Mona.

Jordan Maclay deserves your consideration on Election Day.



Tony's campaign has great momentum heading towards April 7. Tony has been recently endorsed by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, The Capital Times, the Appleton Post-Crescent, the La Crosse Tribune, the Wausau Daily Herald, and the Sheboygan Press newspapers. He has been traveling the state, working the phones, and contacting everyone he can about the importance of this election. Wisconsinites are seeing that Tony brings leadership, accountability, and innovation to public education, and the response to his message has been tremendous.

Tony is the candidate with proven experience in building on our progress and making the changes we need in our public schools. Tony has a 34 year record of bringing people together to strengthen our schools, but he knows that when it comes to our children and our schools, the work is never done. He needs your help to make sure that work continues.



CHIEF JUSTICE  
SHIRLEY  
ABRAHAMSON

**Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson** has served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court for 32 years, the last 13 as the Chief Justice. She is a tough but fair judge and has wide support across the state, including law enforcement officials, farm, labor and business leaders.

It is important to reelect the Chief because she is an intelligent and independent thinker. Her primary goal is to uphold the law and maintain the integrity of the judiciary. She works for people like us, for the people of Wisconsin.

Visit the Chief Justice's website and show her your support!

<http://abrahamson2009.com/index.php>

# The Path Ahead

## The View From the Rocking Chair

### Opinion from Tom Crofton

The Richland Dems are working on a series of events to liven up our spring and summer.

Several of us have begun a strategic planning effort to identify where we are and where we can go in local politics. The preliminary report is being circulated and a second session is in the works.

The third CD Convention takes place on April 18<sup>th</sup> in Potosi. Anyone interested in attending should contact me. We have 2 spots available.

Bill Davis is running for the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD representative to the DPW. This may not be the governorship he deserves, but would place a local guy in the halls of state party power, which we desperately need.

To bring voices from the boonies to Madison, I have started organizing a rural caucus among county parties. The ripples are being felt, and while progress is slow, the folks in MadTown know we are here.

We are hosting Bill Christofferson, an author and long time Democratic Party Activist at our May Meeting on the 12th, in the County Board Room. Bill has a blog of his own, discussing state politics, and wrote a book on Gaylord Nelson.

Also present in May will be Mike Tate, candidate for the state DPW chair.

Those interested in getting to know these two a little better can start the evening at 5:30 at Fiesta Fe for dinner and discussion. We will put out more than the usual publicity for this event; volunteers are welcome to help design ads and postcards.

June 12<sup>th</sup> is the State Convention. We have sent two meaningful resolutions to the Convention (being voted on at the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD). 2 spots are still open for that event in Green Bay.

We are in preliminary discussions with the UW-R regarding hosting a "Rural Energy Independence Fair" in August. This will be a parallel event to one being organized in Juneau County, and may also have a shadow event in Grant County. I am using my contacts from last year's campaign to drum up interest in local green job and sustainable energy development. The idea is to charge vendors and speakers from business and industry the fees to cover costs and advertising, and to allow local groups (such as the local Dem parties) to raise funds by selling concessions. This subject is dear to me, and offers a way to build our economy for the long haul, while creating living wage jobs, and working to reduce the environmental consequences of our fossil fuel addictions.

Bill Davis is also working with the website and is offering new services with it. A book club via the website is a possibility. My rabble rousing has connected me to some news sources via e-mail that can be posted as "news you don't get anywhere else". A blog for discussion of issues is another possibility. We can make our website an active place to exchange ideas. Consider making it your home page!

Ideas for speakers and fun events for summer meetings are requested. How about a pie party or ice cream social in the park for a summer meeting?

"Several of us have begun a strategic planning effort to identify where we are and where we can go in local politics. The preliminary report is being circulated and a second session is in the works."

IF YOU WISH TO COMMENT FEEL FREE TO EMAIL A RESPONSE TO [MAILTO:WILLBUROS@COUNTRYSPEED.COM](mailto:WILLBUROS@COUNTRYSPEED.COM)

# The Young and the Rest-of-us

By Bill Davis

I believe that the folks active in the Richland County Democratic Party have much to be proud of over the past year: we once again had a campaign office during an election year; we had a large visibility not only in Richland Center, but throughout the county; we had candidates for county offices; our candidate for the 50<sup>th</sup> Assembly seat garnered a record number of votes; our county went for President Obama with 61% of the vote. That's all quite impressive and it certainly points in a positive direction; however, there's more to do.

I see a couple of areas that concern me: people are not very involved on the *off* years, and our membership tends to be much older than the average voter.

To some extent the drop off in off year activity is inevitable; however, we need to look for ways to get folks more involved during these years so that we're fully prepared to get a running start at the beginning of the next election campaigns.

One way that we can work to improve that is to improve communication. On a national level the Democratic Party is doing a masterful job of using the new computer media, but on a local level we have not. For some time Inger Akander and Dennis Gunderson have kept our Web Site (<http://rcdems.org/index.htm>) up and running. I have shared that web site with some of my younger acquaintances as well as my own kids, and have asked for advice on how to make the site more appealing. The basic design and set-up gets solid reviews; however, we need to have it filled with more current information. In the past couple of weeks we have added Book Reviews/Recommendations, and additional links to up-to-date information (I especially like the links to *Factcheck* and *Politifact*). I have requested that I be put on the DPW Press Release email list so that I can figure out a way to incorporate state and local political news into our site.

The question remains: If we have more current information on our web site, how do we get folks to remember to access it from time to time. I am requesting that you consider having the Richland County Democratic Party's web site as the homepage on your Web Browser. It's quite easy to set the web page as your homepage: 1<sup>st</sup>, bring up the RC Dems web page on your browser; 2<sup>nd</sup>, on the tool bar, click *Tools*; 3<sup>rd</sup>, click *Options* or *Internet Options...* depending on which browser you use; 4<sup>th</sup>, click on *Main* or **General...** again, depending on the browser; 5<sup>th</sup>, click on the button that says *Use Current Page*; click OK. Now the RC Dems web site will be your home page. I'll work to keep this as up to date and useful as possible.

The second issue that I raised, the average age of our members in contrast to the average age of voters, requires that we look for ways to recruit younger folks including many of the people who did yeoman service<sup>3</sup> in the Obama Campaign. I do not have the answers to this problem, but I am asking that you give it some thought and share your ideas. Perhaps you could share the ideas in writing and we can share them via the *Viewpoints* portion of the web site.

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WILL BUROS

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