

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

MARCH NEWSLETTER



MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 5th, 7:00 p.m.

Party Headquarters

218 Wisconsin Drive, Jefferson

Special Guest Speaker: Scot Ross

Executive Director of One Wisconsin Now (OWN)

Jefferson County Democratic Party

Mar. 2009
Vol. 14, No. 3

Mark Your Calendar

Membership Meeting: Thursday, March 5th, 7-9 p.m.
Party Headquarters at 218 Wisconsin Drive, Jefferson
**Special Guest: Scott Ross, Executive Director of
One Wisconsin Now (OWN)**

Book Discussion on *The Appeal* by John Grisham:
Tuesday March 31st, 7 p.m. L.D. Fargo Public Library 120
E. Madison St., Lake Mills
Special Guest: Mike McCabe

The Second Congressional District Convention:
Saturday April 18th, 10 a.m. Best Western,
2701 County Road CX, Portage

Andy Is In: 2nd Monday of the Month:
9-10 a.m., Andy's Family Restaurant at
1031 S. Main Street in Jefferson
11 a.m.-12 p.m., Beauty and the Bean at
204 S. Water Street in Fort Atkinson
3rd Monday of the month:
9-10 a.m., Cafe on the Park at
131 N. Main St in Lake Mills
2-3 p.m., the Village Bakery & Coffee Shop at
121 W. Main St in Cambridge

Friday Morning Dems Discussion Over Coffee Group:
These meetings have been temporarily suspended.
We will notify everyone when they resume.

Contact Information

Visit our Website: www.jeffdems.org
Call Us: **920-648-8650**
Email Us: editor@jeffdems.info
Read our Electronic Newsletter: www.jeffdems.org

Become A Member!

To become a member of the Democratic Party of Jefferson County, send a check (\$25/person, \$35/couple, \$60/family, \$15/ student/senior or limited income) to:

Democratic Party of Jefferson County
P.O. Box 14
Jefferson, WI 53549

From the Chair's Desk

Dear Friends,

It would be an understatement to say February was an exciting month for the Democratic Party of Jefferson County. The eight stop progressive house party for Chief Justice Abrahamson on Sunday February 8th was an incredible event. Each party had its own ambiance-- from an intimate early morning gathering of a few folks over coffee, to a shoulder-to-shoulder crowd enjoying mimosas and crepes, to a local diner buzzing with orders of burgers and pop as the Chief was introduced by Dane County Sheriff Dave Mahoney. While the atmosphere and settings varied from place to place, a constant was the engaged and informative discussions with The Chief. Shirley left us all feeling more knowledgeable about important issues being addressed in our courts and *as sure as ever* that we need someone like Chief Justice Abrahamson on the bench to protect the integrity of our judicial system.

The following weekend ushered in our President's Day Dinner and auction. About 175 of us packed into the Meadow Springs Country Club to enjoy a delicious dinner, stupendous speakers, and excellent company. Not only did we raise over \$2,200-- twenty-seven people renewed or became members for the first time. And rumor has it from a reliable source (our very own Rep. Andy Jorgensen) Senator Russ Feingold was still talking about how impressed he was with the event the following week at the Capitol. If you missed the dinner you can watch it thanks to Wisconsin Eye who was there to video the entire program. Just follow the link at www.jeffdems.org

While I am *THILLED* that we had excellent attendance at both of these events, I won't feel like we have achieved real success as a Party until we see these same sorts of numbers come out to do the work that is needed to put good candidates into office and pass vital legislation. It's easy to attend a dinner or a house party. It takes some effort to make phone calls and knock on doors. But I know we are up for it!! And just to prove it, I am going to throw out a challenge to all of you. Let's make it our goal to have the Chief Justice WIN Jefferson County. To do that, I am asking each of you to volunteer for at least ONE three-hour block of time to call or knock on doors for Shirley. Please take time RIGHT NOW (yes, set down your newsletter, get up, get your calendar and walk to your computer or phone RIGHT NOW and sign up for one of the upcoming phone banks or canvasses for Shirley listed below, I don't care if it is 5 a.m. or 11 p.m. DO IT NOW! I am awake at all hours!!)

HELP SHIRLEY WIN!

Phone Banking – Please bring a cell phone

Tuesday 3/24 5-8 p.m. at the Johnson's. Dinner provided.
N6656 Upper Shorewood Hills Road, Lake Mills.

Wednesday 3/25 6-9 p.m. at HQ. Snacks provided.

Wednesday 4/1 6-9 p.m. at HQ. Snacks provided.

Monday 4/6 5-8 p.m. at the Johnson's. Dinner provided.
N6656 Upper Shorewood Hills Road, Lake Mills.

Canvassing

Saturday 3/28 and **Saturday 4/4** - Shifts will run all day out of HQ starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 6 p.m. Come in and pick up lit and walk lists for any part of the county you prefer to work in. We will have food and drink to keep you nourished!

We will be targeting strong Dems for all our phone banks and lit drops so this will be easy! We are endorsing an outstanding candidate and mainly making sure that people GET OUT THE VOTE!!

Wouldn't it be exciting if 175 of us all pitched in and showed Jefferson County just what we are made of?

"Every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves are its only safe depository." **Thomas Jefferson**

As Always,
Anne

March 5th Meeting

Our March Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 5th from 7-9 p.m. at Party Headquarters. Our special guest will be **Scot Ross Executive Director of One Wisconsin Now (OWN)**, an issue advocacy organization that supports progressive causes and conducts research related to those causes. OWN's actions have spurred numerous investigations of candidates for office, including Supreme Court Justices Annette Ziegler and Michael Gableman. Scot will talk about the upcoming Supreme Court Race and will discuss what should be the Wisconsin progressive movement's three top priorities for 2009.

BOOK DISCUSSION

THE APPEAL by John Grisham

On **Tuesday March 31st at 7 p.m.**, join a timely discussion of *THE APPEAL* by John Grisham at the L.D. Fargo Public Library located at 120 East Madison Street in Lake Mills.

Just one week before our **Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections**, this relevant discussion will be led by **Mike McCabe**, Executive Director of *Wisconsin Democracy Campaign* a nonpartisan political watchdog group working for clean government by tracking the money in Wisconsin politics.

On www.amazon.com, John Grisham writes, "All of my books are based in some measure on real life and *THE APPEAL* is no different. Set in Mississippi, it is the story of a campaign for a seat on the state's Supreme Court, and it explores the real-life efforts of big business to eliminate unfriendly justices and replace them with more 'sympathetic' ones. **It is a rapidly paced mix of political and legal intrigue.**"

After reading *THE APPEAL* you may ask yourself, "is this art imitating life, or is life in Wisconsin imitating art?" To learn more about the influence of big business and special interest money influencing our Supreme Court races visit: www.impartialjustice.org Invite your friends and neighbors to this event. Go to our website and follow the link to a poster you can print off and post at your place of work, local grocery store or business.

Congressional District Convention

The second **Congressional District Convention** will be held on Saturday April 18th at 10:00 a.m. in Portage at the Best Western, located just off the Highway 39 at 2701 County Road CX.

The convention will include the Chairman's report, Platform and Resolutions, and Constitutional office elections. There will be many great speakers including Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, State Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan, and State Assembly Majority Leader Tom Nelson. Elections for various positions including Chair and Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary will be held. Debate and voting on Resolutions will take place in the afternoon session.

The cost to attend is \$15/person and \$10 student/ limited income if you register the day of the convention. If you register by May 11th, the cost is only \$10/person. For early

registration, send your check along with your address, phone number and email address to:

Democratic Party of the 2nd CD
P.O. Box 2532
Madison, WI 53701

If you would like to be a delegate to the convention, please contact Anne Johnson at 920-648-8650 or anne.johnson2008@yahoo.com. We will fill slots on a first come, first serve basis. Also note that as a 2nd CD Convention delegate, you are automatically a delegate to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention. Visit wisdoms.org for more information about the state convention.

Finally, help us run a smooth and successful Convention! We are looking for one or two volunteers to help staff registration from 9 a.m. through about 10:30 a.m. Let Anne know if you can help.

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS!

The call has gone out for proposed resolutions to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin Platform. Our county Party can submit 10 resolutions which will be added to those submitted by other counties in the 2nd CD. All submitted resolution will be voted on at the 2nd CD convention and those selected will be passed to the State level. Please consider writing a resolution on an issue that is important to you. We will vote on resolutions at our March meeting.

Resolutions can be no longer than 100 words and must start with "Whereas..." and end with "...therefore resolve the DPW..." Here is an example:

- 1) Whereas campaign spending has reached absurd levels;
- 2) Whereas special interest groups, PAC's and the very wealthy have a disproportionate advantage in electing and influencing public officials;
- 3) Whereas campaign costs keep worthy candidates from running for office;
- 4) Whereas the perpetual need to raise campaign funds consumes valuable time of elected officials;
- 5) Thereby resolve that the DPW encourage comprehensive finance reform laws;

- 6) which include public funding of campaigns, free and fair media coverage;
- 7) with caps on all categories of contributions;
- 8) caps on campaign spending;
- 9) and honest and accessible campaign funding reporting.

Please email your suggestions to Fran Vandre: vandre@charter.net prior to the March meeting if possible, or bring them to the March meeting for consideration. YOU can have a voice in constructing our State Party Platform!

Fundraising

Anyone interested in helping organize our next fundraiser? In conjunction with the Jefferson All City Rummage Sale on May 2nd, the idea has been proposed to host a first Annual Democratic Party of Jefferson County Rummage Sale! You know, Democrats dedicated to cleaning up our government... and our basements, closets, and garages! Holding the sale at Headquarters might be a nice way to let people in the community know we are here and maybe even get a few new members. We could also have a bake sale to coincide with the rummage sale. If you are interested in coordinating this effort or just helping out, contact Anne Johnson at anne.johnsonson2008@yahoo.com or 920-648-8650.

ANDY IS IN

We all miss having Representative Andy Jorgensen at our monthly meeting but are impressed that he is busy sitting on 5 committees and chairing one of them. Nevertheless, Andy is making himself available the second and third Monday of every month to meet with constituents at local restaurants. See the MARK YOUR CALENDAR section of the newsletter for dates, times and locations.

Andy hopes to add more locations to his schedule. If you know of any local businesses that would like to host him or if you have any questions about this program, call Andy's office at 888-534-0037. Take some time to stop in and talk with Andy. Ask a friend or neighbor along! He's always happy to listen to our concerns.

Have you signed up for your phone bank or canvass slot for the Supreme court race yet? What are you waiting for?! You're done reading the newsletter so get up and do it now!