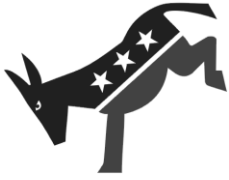


Jefferson County Democratic Party



Next Meeting:

Thursday, March 4, 2010

7-9 p.m.

The Atrium , 218 Wisconsin Drive, Jefferson

P.O. Box 14

Jefferson, WI 53549

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 4th, 7:00 pm

The Atrium, 218 Wisconsin Drive in Jefferson

Special Guest Speakers:

Peter Rickman, Chair of Democratic Party of the 2nd Congressional District

Jake Hajdu, Organizing Director for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin

Authorized and paid for by Democratic Party of Jefferson County, Anne Johnson, Chair
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Jefferson County Democratic Party

March 2010

Vol. 15, No. 3

Mark Your Calendar

March Meeting:

Thursday, March 4th, 7-9 p.m. at the Atrium in the Jefferson Area Business Center, 218 Wisconsin Drive, Jefferson.

Special Guests:

Peter Rickman, chair of the Democratic Party of the 2nd Congressional District

Jake Hajdu, Organizing Director for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin

County Board Candidate Forum

Monday, March 8th, 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Community Credit Union Building, 3rd Floor, 100 N. Main Street, Jefferson

Statewide Canvass for Senator Russ Feingold

Saturday, March 20th, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cafe Carpe 118 So Water St., Fort Atkinson

Latte Donatee 501 East Main St., Watertown

The Second Congressional District Convention:

Saturday April 17th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Madison Labor Temple, 1602 Park Street, Madison

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

Renew Your Membership!

If you have not renewed your membership this year, we urge you to do so. Please 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,

I want to extend a special thank you to Gayle Krek who once again did an AMAZING job organizing our annual silent auction fund raiser and to Cathy and Ron Zimmerman (winners of this year's "Hall of Fame Award"), Julie Clark, and Laura Payne for making all the arrangements for the President's Day Dinner. Thanks go to everyone who donated to the auction and to Ren Rodee for gracing us with his music. It was a wonderful success with over 130 people in attendance and a full slate of candidates including keynote speakers Mayor Tom Barrett, candidate for Governor, U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin and State Assemblyman Andy Jorgensen.

While it has been a very difficult year for our country, all three speakers delivered inspiring words of encouragement as well as words confirming the good work that Democrats have been doing despite enormous challenges and resistance. We were all reminded of the importance of staying informed through reliable sources and not letting the opposition divide us. Congresswoman Baldwin remains confident a Health Care Reform Bill will get passed this spring. On that note, I would like to encourage you to go to www.whipcongress.com and sign on to the letter by Senator Bennett of Colorado to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid insisting that a bill be passed through the resolution process that includes A PUBLIC OPTION.

The Definition of Character: One of the most vital traits of good character is that quality which moves us to carry out a good resolution long after the mood in which it was made has passed.

Be part of the effort to help elect and re-elect Progressive Democrats!! Be part of the effort to inform the public. Sign up for the Letter to the Editor project and say "yes" when asked to make phone calls or drop literature this spring and fall. See you all at the March meeting!

As Always,
Anne

March 4th Meeting

Our March Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 4th from 7-9 p.m. at the Atrium in the Jefferson Area Business Center. This month we are fortunate to have 2 guest speakers. **Our first guest speaker is Peter Rickman, chair of the Democratic Party of the 2nd Congressional District.** He also sits on the DPW Administrative Committee, the governing board of the state party.

Peter will lead our county party through a workshop on the structure, governance, and operations of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin -- and how you can have an impact on it as our vehicle for Democratic politics. The workshop will include a teach-in as well as a listening session for party members to voice their ideas for our Democratic party. Come ready to learn, armed with questions and come ready to provide input and feedback for Democratic leaders, armed with your thoughts and ideas.

Letters To The Editor Campaign

Our second guest speaker at our March meeting is Jake Hajdu, Organizing Director for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. Jake, along with our member Lee Dodge, will discuss the importance of our Letters to the Editor Campaign. It is our goal to have at least one positive letter to the editor every week in each of the local newspapers in Jefferson County. The letters should focus on the recent accomplishments of our democratic leaders.

At every monthly meeting, Lee will have a sign up sheet and ask people to commit to writing a letter one week that month. You may write on anything you choose or Lee and Jake can give you topics to discuss. Both Lee and Jake will be available to help guide you and give you pointers to write an effective letter. If you sign up to write a letter, the party will give you the email addresses to all the Jefferson County newspapers.

If you are interested in being apart of this vital endeavor please email Lee Dodge at ldodge3082@yahoo.com or call him at (608)423-2062 (home) or (510)220 -2235 (Cell).

County Board Candidate Forum

Get involved in local politics! On Monday, March 8th at 6:30 p.m., there will be a Candidate Forum at the Fort Community Credit Union Building, 3rd Floor. The building is located at 100 N. Main Street in downtown Jefferson. This is a great opportunity to learn about the progressive candidates running for county board supervisor.

Congressional District Convention

The second **Congressional District Convention** will be held on Saturday April 17th at 10:00 a.m. at the Madison Labor Temple located at 1602 Park Street in Madison.

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, Mayor Tom Barrett, and many candidates for Lt. governor and other statewide office candidates. Debate and voting on Resolutions will take place in the afternoon session.

The cost to attend is \$15/person if you preregister and \$20/person if you register the day of the convention. 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 wisdems.org for more information about the state convention.

Welcome and Congratulations to Laura Payne our newly elected Secretary.
Thanks for all you do Laura!

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 them 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 Anne Johnson at anne.johnson2008@yahoo.com 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!

Uniformity Clause

In his State of the State address, Governor Doyle discussed the need to revise the Uniformity Clause of the State Constitution. Since that time, there have been questions as to what this clause entails. Therefore, we would like summarize this clause and how it impacts all of us.

The *Uniformity Clause* of the State Constitution prohibits taxing homesteads differently than other property. Amending the constitution to remove this roadblock would bring genuine property tax relief to the State's residents. Over the years, special interests have succeeded in obtaining exceptions to the Uniformity Clause for other types of property, such as forest, agricultural, and specific categories of personal property, while homeowners have been left bearing the largest burden of property taxation.

The proposal to amend Wisconsin's Constitution to permit direct property tax relief for homeowners has been introduced for several sessions by Representative Gary Sherman (D-Port Wing). Unfortunately, this very common sense proposal fell on deaf ears year after year. While Sherman's proposal was well received by fellow Democrats, it never received a public hearing by the then Republican controlled Assembly and would languish in committee and die at the end of session each year.

Before the constitution can be ratified, the proposal would have to be passed by two successive legislatures, meaning the current legislature (2009-2010) and the next legislature (2011-2012) once approved in the legislature it must also be approved by the voters in a statewide referendum.

To learn more about the uniformity clause, please visit the following website:
www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/consthi/02consthiII02.htm