



The Manitowoc Progressive

The Voice of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party

www.mantydem.com

Join or Renew Membership On the Web

February 2007

From the Chair:

Phil Knier, pknier@mcleodusa.net, 920.684.1832

Does the Manitowoc County Democratic Party Use A Weathervane or Compass???

In December, a number of groups, notably the Nation Magazine, the Demos, the Brennan Center for Justice and the Democracy Project sponsored an event called "Democracy's Promise". I was struck by the message of Bill Moyers who has established himself as a voice for democracy, stressing several specific points.

The first was when he reminded Democrats to heed Shakespeare's advice "Tis more by fortune...than by merit" when he spoke about the reason the Democrats regained control of Congress. He also voiced concern that, while talking about a "new direction", the Democrats have not yet convinced the nation they know the difference between a weather vane and a compass. He concluded his presentation by reminding us our democracy works when the people claim it as their own and that the American Promise leaves no one out.

I was challenged by his message and as members of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party hopefully you are as well. As a local party we need to do everything we can to provide evidence that the change in majority party in both federal houses and the state senate were earned and ensure the progressive trends are and will continue to be earned as well.

In the near future you will be hearing more about how we will use a compass to chart our course and a bull horn to let everyone know by educating our members and public of progressive values and issues while electing more progressive candidates to offices at all levels. You will be provided opportunities to become better informed about important issues in work group settings. In addition to groups researching and studying issues opportunities will be available to work monitoring legislative progress at the local, state and federal level, while even other groups will monitor votes made by our legislators representing us at the local, state and federal levels. In all cases the working groups will report to the membership and educate the public using appropriate news releases and forums where necessary. I urge you to become active and involved.

In this newsletter you will find specifics about: DLI, 6th DC and State Conventions. Watch for other opportunities to become active and involved. Plans are being finalized for our membership to meet Supreme Court candidate Linda Clifford prior to our Tuesday February 27th meeting at Time Out Sports Bar and Grille. Hope to see you there and do not forget to vote on Tuesday February 20th. Your vote is important. Every Election Day is important !!!

Public
Invited

Meet and Greet Linda Clifford

Candidate for Wisconsin Supreme Court



5:00 PM, Tuesday, February 27th
TIMEOUT Sports Bar and Grill
1027 N Rapids Road, Manitowoc

Plan to spend some quality time with Linda Clifford. She will be on board to field questions and garner support for her bid for State Supreme Court Justice.

"I'm supporting Linda Clifford because she's proven her mettle as a practicing attorney for over 30 years and possesses the independence and commitment to rigorous examination of issues before the court. Qualities a justice needs." – Former Governor Patrick J. Lucey

"Linda Clifford's qualifications for the state's highest court are matched only by her commitment to public service; that's why she has earned my support." – Former Governor Anthony S. Earl

www.lindacliffordforjustic.org

Monthly Membership Meeting
to follow 6:30ish at **TIMEOUT**
Call for Delegates
Call for Resolutions

Including a presentation by
Matt Kadow on how to write effective
Letters to the Editor.

Not One More Death! Not One More Dollar!

By Ron Kossik

America has ignored a primary lesson of Vietnam by sending US troops to war in Iraq without clear and realistic objectives, without understanding or respecting the culture of the region, and without the commitment of the American people. President Bush threatened Congress by announcing that he already had the authority to act against the threat he perceived from Iraq, with or without Congressional approval. He also appealed for unity and told Congress that authorizing him to use force would give him a better chance at success with diplomacy. The Republican-controlled Congress obediently rubber-stamped the President's position.

The Constitution grants the power to declare war exclusively to Congress. With little debate, with little regard for the Constitution, and with some bipartisan support, Congress abdicated its constitutional duty and delegated this awesome authority to the President. In the face of inevitable approval by the Republican Congress, Democrats split. Knowing what the outcome would be, some Democrats embraced the President's pleas for unity. Some Democrats voted "no" because they did not support the war, and some Democrats voted "no" to uphold the Constitution. Each Congressperson voting "yes" did so without thoroughly debating the policy implications and without demanding a thorough investigation of the facts necessary for minimal due-diligence before authorizing this extraordinary undertaking.

The Republican-controlled Congress gave President Bush a blank check, literally and figuratively, to wage war in Iraq. With the support of a compliant Congress, our Commander-in-Chief swept aside human rights standards and unleashed the unrestrained power of our military in order to "win" this war and seed democracy in the Middle East. After years of presidential rhetoric, the voters finally tired of his distortions and his claims that we are always on the verge of victory. Demonstrating his dangerous disconnect from reality, President Bush is now

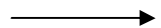
claiming the problem has been that the military was actually too restricted, and he is authorizing US troops to use even greater force in house-to-house fighting, an escalation of ruthless tactics certain to further inflame hatred of America and factional violence. In defiance of American voters and Congress, the President is actually escalating our involvement in Iraq with a troop surge, and is widening the conflict to Iraq's neighbors. The President's motive for suddenly supporting increased troops appears to be more in response to the changes in Congress than military objectives in Iraq. The President's latest delusional hope is that temporary military control of Baghdad is the key to transforming Iraq, and it would be comical if not for the death and suffering it is causing both Americans and Iraqis.

Democrats support real security and fiscal responsibility. US military spending exceeds the combined military spending of the rest of the world. We maintain troops in 135 of the world's 193 countries. The US could cut defense spending in half, and we would still spend more than three times the military budget of any other country. Accelerated borrowing from foreign governments to fund our expanding military-industrial complex is undermining national security. Who could believe that foreign funding of our military strengthens America?

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial [and Congressional] complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted.

Dwight D. Eisenhower,
Farewell Address, 17 January 1961

The American public initially embraced the President's "shoot first, ask questions later" approach, but is now ready for a more realistic and effective national security strategy. America's faith in George Bush's arrogant leadership and irrational determination has ended. Democrats have an opportunity to demand responsible policy as an alternative to the blind ideology still being promoted by Republican leaders.



We are at an extraordinary moment. The conservative movement stands intellectually and morally bankrupt while Democrats talk about a 'new direction' without convincing us they know the difference between a weather vane and a compass.

From New Story for America, by Bill Moyers

The American people are tired of reckless and inept government, and have entrusted Congress to Democratic control. Democrats are probably correct that their plans for domestic legislation and their timid reforms are an improvement over the governance we have endured for the last six years. But this is a very low standard, and falls short of our country's desperate need for leadership. Democrats must use this opportunity to defend constitutional government, restore fiscal responsibility, and end the war in Iraq.

Ron Kossik is a member of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party and Lakeshore Peacemakers.

DLI – Democratic Leadership Institute

***April 14th & 15th
Devils Head Resort
Merrimac, Wisconsin***

Workshop Topics

- Grassroots organizing
- Political Communications
- Campaign Finance: What you need to know on the State and Federal Levels
- Membership Recruitment
- Fundraising
- Increasing youth involvement at the County level

Youth Track participants must be Wisconsin residents between the ages of 18 and 25 and must be dedicated to the principles of the Democratic Party. This track is provided free of charge to participants and is designed to prepare participants to become the leaders of a new generation of Democratic Party activists.

Activist Track participants must be current members of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. This track focuses on continuing the great tradition of grassroots organizing in Wisconsin through workshops on building a county party operation, recruiting members, fundraising, compliance law, communicating message, and many other things.

\$40 program fee plus lodging.

Go to: www.wisdems.org for registration forms.

PARTY CONVENTIONS

6TH Congressional District Convention

Saturday, April 21ST

VFW Post

Princeton, Wisconsin

DPW STATE CONVENTION

Friday and Saturday

June 29th and 30th

Hilton Milwaukee City Center

Call for Delegates and Resolutions

This is an opportunity to make a difference. All Party Members are eligible to serve as Delegates. Volunteer to serve.

Resolutions may be submitted by each county for adoption by the 6th CD and transfer to the State Convention for final adoption. They are limited to 100 words and must be approved by the County Party no later than March 27th.

Deadline for Registration and Resolutions is March 27th.

Contact Phil Knier for further info:

pknier@mcleodusa.net * 920-684-1832



The Manitowoc Progressive

The Voice of the Manitowoc Democratic Party

PO Box 1373

Manitowoc WI 54221-1373

Calendar of Events

- Feb 20th** VOTE!!! PRIMARY ELECTION
Feb 24th Think Tank – 9:30 am, UU's, 412 N 8th Street, Mntwc
Feb 27th **Meet and Greet Linda Clifford**, Candidate for State Supreme Court Justice
5:00 pm, Timeout Sports Bar and Grill
Membership Meeting to follow Meet and Greet – 6:30ish. Timeout
- Mar 6th Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm, Hacienda Santa Rosa
Mar 10th Think Tank – 9:30 am, UU's, 412 N 8th Street, Mntwc
Mar 24th Think Tank – 9:30 am, UU's, 412 N 8th Street, Mntwc
Mar 27th Membership Meeting - TBA
Apr 3rd VOTE!!! GENERAL ELECTION
Apr 10th Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 pm, TBA
Apr 14th Think Tank – 9:30 am, UU's, 412 N 8th Street, Mntwc
Apr 14-15th Democratic Leadership Institute, Devils Head Resort - Merrimac
Apr 21st 6th Congressional District Convention - Princeton, Wisconsin
Apr 24th Membership Meeting - TBA
Apr 28th Think Tank – 9:30 am, UU's, 412 N 8th Street, Mntwc
Jun 29-30th Democratic Party of Wisconsin 2007 State Convention
Hilton Milwaukee City Center

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Yes, I'll Join the Party and Help Democrats Win!

Mail to: Manitowoc County Democratic Party, PO Box 1373, Manitowoc WI 54221-1373

Name/s _____

Sign me up for: \$45 Activist*

\$1,200 Finance* \$35 Pairs

Address _____

\$600 Patron* \$25 General

City/Zip _____

\$240 Friends* \$10 Senior/Student

Telephone _____

\$120 Supporter* \$10 Limited Income

Email _____

\$75 Family* Other _____

Employer _____

*includes all family members

Employer Address _____

Occupation _____

_____ Contribution to Newsletter Fund \$ _____

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions, in the aggregate, exceed \$200 in an election cycle. Please provide all information on the membership form.