



# *The Manitowoc Progressive*

*The Voice of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party*

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June 2011



## **FROM THE EDGE OF THE CHAIR**

*Kerry Trask - On Energy*

A few weeks ago I drove to Connecticut to attend my daughter's graduation from graduate school. The further east I traveled the higher the gas prices became, starting in Manitowoc at \$3.94 a gallon and reaching \$4.58 in New Haven.

Many people have come to regard such spikes in gas prices as an annoying annual rite of spring, peaking around Memorial Day and then gradually easing off once the unscrupulous oil companies and speculators have again bloated their bottom lines.

It is easy and even somewhat emotionally satisfying to demonize oil companies and speculators. After all, they deserve our scorn. But demonization alone leaves us with an over-simplified conspiracy theory which ignores most of the realities of what is happening to our entire economic system, a system built upon a presumed superabundance of cheap petroleum. Indeed, throughout much of our way of life since 1945, most of our prosperity and inflated expectations have floated for the past 60 years upon a vast dark sea of low-cost crude oil. But now as we burn it up at a rate of 20 million barrels a day, every day, and China, India, Brazil, and other emerging economies consume an ever greater volume of the stuff, that sea is running dry.

Jeff Rubin, a highly regarded international energy expert who has consistently been well ahead of his pack in accurately predicting oil price increases, convincingly explains how and why we are currently caught in a "quantum supply shift," moving disturbingly fast away from a time of relatively cheap, good-quality oil into an era of increasingly inaccessible, high-cost, poor quality petroleum - the extraction and consumption of which is causing severe environmental damage.

The discovery of new oil fields peaked in 1966 and has been falling ever since. Furthermore, oil production has remained almost static since 2005. At the same time

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## **The Courthouse Democrats**



### **MantyDems Meeting**

**Monday, June 27, 2011**

**7:00 PM**

**Public Invited**

**Time Out Sports Bar and Grill**

**1027 N Rapids Road, Mntwc**

Join us as the Courthouse Dems share their views of the twists and turns of county government in these turbulent and economically challenged times.

Accepting at press time:

**Jamie Aulik, County Clerk  
Cheryl Duchow, County Treasurer  
Curtis Green, County Coroner**

## From the Edge *(continued from Page 1)*

demand has exploded, and speculation escalated. Rubin predicts gasoline prices in this country will reach \$7 a gallon by 2013. After that the price will continue to rise.

This is a fate we cannot avert, says Rubin, who warns that the consequences will be catastrophic if we do not immediately begin reducing our dependence on oil. As supplies diminish the prices of everything will be driven steeply upward, economic growth will be crippled by persistent and severe recession, and the forces of globalism which have reshaped the world during the past three decades will come to a screeching and disastrous halt. Misery will multiply and suffering abound.

To mitigate the worst effects of this “quantum shift,” while working to maintain a modern economy in which energy is the life-blood of progress, we will need to begin producing large supplies of alternative fuels made from renewable resources. Also, more of our electricity will have to be generated with geothermal, solar, and wind energy as well as by anaerobic digesters. Above all else,



*In church I over heard the lady in the pew next to me saying a short private prayer. It was so sweet and sincere that I just had to share it with you.*

Dear Lord,

These have been tough times ... You have taken my favorite actor Patrick Swayze, my favorite actress Elizabeth Taylor, my favorite musician Michael Jackson, my favorite salesman Billy Mays, and my favorite athlete Steve McNair.

I just wanted you to know that my favorite governor is Scott Walker.

Amen!!

we have to move with deliberate speed to make the necessary transition from a transportation system based on freeways, SUVs, fuel-guzzling aircraft and heavy trucks to one of high-speed rail, efficient public mass-transit, electric cars, and a revival of shipping on our lakes and rivers. (*Air transportation burns 44 times more energy as shipping while moving the same amount of freight.*)

Unfortunately, under the misguided leadership of Scott Walker and the Republican-Tea Party Coalition we are stupidly moving in exactly the wrong direction.

Walker and his supporters are fanatically committed to feeding the old, oil-dependent economy as it voraciously gobbles up more and more wealth and power primarily for the benefit of its ruling elite. While doing so, the minds of these Republicans seem mesmerized by a host of illusions violently at odds with the factual verities of the real world. Many insist that climate change is just a hoax and evolution just another flawed theory, that the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few will rain-down prosperity upon the lives of the many. And, they adamantly maintain that both the state and federal budgets can and must be balanced by spending cuts alone. Not only is such ignorance harmful to the general good, but its injurious impact is compounded by the ruthless Machiavellian brand of politics they practice.

This lethal concoction of illusion and ruthlessness is what led the Republicans, along with Bob Ziegelbauer and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, to ridicule and reject Wisconsin's Clean Energy Jobs Act, a comprehensive, future-oriented energy policy put forward during Governor Doyle's last term. It is what fueled Walker's attempt to end state support for recycling, why he foolishly gave back \$810 million in federal funds for building a high-speed rail system, why he has made it virtually impossible for the wind energy industry to survive in Wisconsin, and why his budget has no shortage of money for the construction of roads.

Wayne Gretzky once explained his remarkable success at scoring goals by observing: "A good hockey player plays where the puck is. A great hockey player plays where the puck is going to be." The same is true for political leadership. Great leaders anticipate where the future is heading and move to stop problems before they occur. With Walker and the Republicans we have just the opposite kind of leadership. Even while the cheap-energy economy is showing unmistakable signs of trouble they continue to inhabit their make-believe world, refusing to either recognize or prepare for the perils that surely await us when gasoline is selling here for \$7 a gallon or more. ■

See Jeff Rubin's book, *Why Your World is About to Get A Whole Lot Smaller: Oil and the End of Globalization*, (Random House, New York, 2009)

# From the Convention:

A number of us attended the Democratic Party of Wisconsin's annual state convention in Milwaukee on June 3 - 4, and came away energized by the experience.

This was the best attended Democratic state convention in years—so big they had to move to a larger meeting hall on Friday night. And the party's overall membership has escalated since Walker introduced his infamous Budget Repair Bill so that it is now higher than at any other time since the 1960s.



**Yes, When we get screwed we multiply.**

People are fired up and around the country Wisconsin is being identified as “political ground zero”, a political struggle the outcome of which will decisively shape the character of our way of life for the future.

Ironically, many of the convention speakers expressed gratitude for Scott Walker being such a potent catalyst in revitalizing the Democratic Party of Wisconsin after the disastrous election of 2010. Walker and his actions have enabled us to better identify what we are against, but during the convention it became evident that we Democrats are now much more certain of what we are for – what we believe in and the kind of democratic, inclusive, humane, and fair society we want to restore in Wisconsin. It felt like the rebirth of the Progressive Movement was happening in that hall and I had a deep sense that we had rediscovered our mission and regained a collective will to fight back.

There was considerable optimism about the recall elections for the state senate, and the crowd went ecstatic when Chairman Tate announced that the party was determined to recalling Walker.

During the Friday evening session there were many sincere expressions of gratitude for the exceptional service and personal integrity of Herb Kohl, who, for 23 years, has been nobody's senator but ours. Senator Kohl himself addressed the convention in the calm and thoughtful manner that has come to epitomize his approach to politics and earned him so much respect. He leaves an empty place that will be hard to fill.

During the two days we had speeches, many of them stirring, from all of our people in the House of Representatives, as well as animated presentations from Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, head of the Democratic National Committee, and the much accomplished and feisty Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky from Illinois. They were all good but the two speakers that I liked and admired the most were Dave Obey and Gwen Moore.

Dave Obey has come back home to Wisconsin to retire after an unusually distinguished career of 41 years in the House of Representatives. Now gray and hunched and walking with a cane, Congressman Obey is nevertheless the wise, senior statesman of our party who is not the least bit inhibited about frankly saying what he thinks. In his speech he took the time to rip to shreds, with sharp rhetorical slashes, Paul Ryan's ideas and expose him as a shallow, superficial thinker – an uncritical, sophomoric disciple of Ayn Rand – and a dangerous man whose values are not our values. It has been a long time since I have heard anyone articulate our Wisconsin Democratic worldview and sense of mission more clearly and compellingly than Dave Obey did that Friday night. We are indeed fortunate to still have his seasoned and wise leadership.

Gwen Moore, who represents Milwaukee's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, is in a league of her own within the party. If Obey is our wise man then Moore is our soul sister, and a woman of remarkable eloquence, intelligence, and humor who, like Obey, does not suffer fools like Scott Walker kindly. The range of response she evoked and provoked was amazing, from laughter to indignation, to deep and powerful feelings of solidarity and a chilling pride in being Democrats. She could lead an army into battle.

We have some very good candidates to take on Paul Ryan and Shaun Duffy in 2012, and Steve Kagen seems to be thinking about running for the United States Senate.

The Wisconsin 14 were cheered throughout the convention. They are political folk heroes on their way to becoming legends. We received a warm welcome from Tom Barrett who remained elusive about ever running for governor again. But you couldn't find a more pleasant man than Tom Barrett in the whole hall, *with the possible exception of Bob Jome*.

Besides the speeches there was the usual abundance of free food and drink—Sloppy Joes served up by Russ Feingold looking rested and content in a smart gray suit; ice cream and toppings from Steve Kagen, who greeted us in a red leather jacket; and the traditional Herb Kohl breakfast on Saturday morning, which prematurely ran out of coffee.

All our resolutions sailed through the approval process unchallenged. Mike Tate and all the members of his executive committee were unanimously reelected. And all of us in the Manitowoc delegation departed the convention feeling that the party is in excellent shape and optimistic about our chances of saving Wisconsin from misguided designs of Walker, Ryan, and the rest of the Republican thugs. It was a grand, confident feeling. What could attest to the success of a political convention more completely than that? ■

*Kerry Trask*

# RECALL 2011

## 2 Hours or \$10

### State Senate

Although our district is not having a recall election, their significance for the people of the State of Wisconsin is huge. Please join the members of WEAC in supporting the candidates with a donation of 2 hours of your time and/or a minimum of \$10. Also, it is critical that we continue the momentum for change generated by the huge demonstrations this spring in the State Capital. Join recall events as they are offered to the community.

*Note: The last Walkers Against Walker Protest March generated over 200 participants. Well done!*

*(We need a total of 17 Democratic State Senators to shift the balance of power in the Senate. This means we need to keep the 3 incumbents that are being challenged and win at least 3 more seats.)*

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin has endorsed the following for the summer recall elections:

*(I=Incumbent)*

Senate District	Democratic Candidate
2	Nancy Nusbaum, nancyforsenate.com
8	Sandy Pasch, sandyforsenate.com
10	Shelly Moore, mooreforwisconsin.com
12	Jim Holperin (I), holperinforsenate.com
14	Fred Clark, clarkforwisconsin.org
18	Jessica King, jessicakingforsenate.com
22	Robert Wirch (I), bobwirch.com
30	Dave Hansen (I), hansenforsenate.com
32	Jennifer Shilling, jennifershilling.com

A UNITED WISCONSIN TO

# RECALL SCOTT WALKER

SIGN THE PLEDGE AT  
UNITEDWISCONSIN  
.COM

**Be prepared to circulate petitions when the recall effort against Scott Walker is launched in November.**

## MantyDems



## Family Picnic

Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

5:00 – 9:00 PM

Manitowoc Lincoln Park – Cabin 2

\$10.00 – children under 12 free

Chicken Picnic, Games

Guest Speaker:



**Mike McCabe**, Executive Director

Reservations Required

Bob Jome at [rjome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjome@sbcglobal.net) or (920) 682-4074

# The Manitowoc Progressive

The Voice of the Manitowoc Democratic Party

PO Box 1373

Manitowoc WI 54221-1373

## Calendar of Events

- Mon, Jun 27<sup>th</sup> The Courthouse Dems: County Democratic Elected Officials share their views and concerns about changes due to challenging economic times – 7:00 PM, Time Out Sports Bar and Grill, Rapids Road
- Wed, Jun 29<sup>th</sup> Listening Tour for Jobs, sponsored by Progressive Congress.org  
Reps Gwen Moore, Tammy Baldwin, Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky  
Vincent High School, 7501 N Granville Rd, Milwaukee. 6:30-8:00 PM.  
Doors open at 5:45.
- Tues, Jul 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Pizza Garden – *Subject to change*
- Sat, Jul 9<sup>th</sup> Think Tank – 9:30 AM, St James Episcopal Church
- Tues, July 12<sup>th</sup> AFSCME People Pig Roast – 5:00 PM, Lincoln Park Cabin 1; \$15
- Mon, Jul 25<sup>th</sup> MantyDems Family Picnic, Lincoln Park Cabin 2. 5:00 – 9:00 PM  
\$10 – children under 12 free  
Guest Speaker, - Mike McCabe from Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.
- Mon, Aug 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Pizza Garden
- Sat, Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Think Tank – 9:30 AM, St James Episcopal Church
- August 23-28<sup>th</sup> Manitowoc County Fair – Please volunteer to serve a couple of hours at our booth

## MantyDems Officers

**Kerry Trask, Chair**  
[kerry.trask@comcast.net](mailto:kerry.trask@comcast.net)  
[chair@mantydem.com](mailto:chair@mantydem.com)  
920-682-1710

**Jon Buggs, Vice Chair**  
[fluggs@ameritech.net](mailto:fluggs@ameritech.net)

**Dick Ekstrom, Vice Chair**  
[ekstrom99@msn.com](mailto:ekstrom99@msn.com)

**Sherrie Richards, Secretary**  
[s.irene63@yahoo.com](mailto:s.irene63@yahoo.com)

**Bob Jome, Treasurer**  
[rjome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjome@sbcglobal.net)

**Nan Hallock, Past Chair**  
[nanhallock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanhallock@sbcglobal.net)

**Members-at-Large:**  
Kathie Fishbeck, Ted Zigmunt,  
Ron Kossik, Laurie Burke,  
Kate Schuette - Editor

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

Mail to: Democratic Party of Wisconsin ■ 110 King Street ■ Suite 203 ■ Madison WI 53703

Or Join or Renew Online [www.wisdems.org](http://www.wisdems.org)

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Fees include membership to both the State and County Parties.

- \$50 per Month\*     \$75 per Year\*
- \$20 per Month\*     \$45 per Year Activist
- \$10 per Month\*     \$35 per Year Pairs
- \$25 per Year General
- Other \_\_\_\_\_     \$10 Limited Income

\*includes all family members

For monthly contributions – renew online – [www.wisdems.org](http://www.wisdems.org)

Contributions are not tax deductible. Your contribution is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

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.