



The Manitowoc Progressive

The Voice of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party

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www.mantydems.com

March 2011



FROM THE EDGE OF THE CHAIR

Kerry Trask

As a student in Minnesota I regularly read the news from Wisconsin and soon came to appreciate the distinctive qualities of this state's civic culture. From where I sat, Wisconsin appeared to be that enlightened place east of the St. Croix River where the values and principles of the Progressive Movement still persisted and the echoes of Fighting Bob LaFollette continued to inspire people to care about fairness and equality, good government, and to place high importance on the general good of the entire society.

Because of that I was elated when UW-Manitowoc offered me a teaching position. Moving to Wisconsin, I believed, would enable me to become part of something fine, good and forward moving — a society that was uplifting and progressive and dedicated to the greatest good for the greatest number.

Perhaps I was a little overly idealistic but many of my youthful hopes and expectations were fulfilled, at least in the beginning.

Nevertheless, somewhere along the way (perhaps during the seemingly interminable tenure of Tommy Thompson) that began to change. And now in this time of the new Republican ascendancy, when the state government deliberately makes war on teachers and its own public employees, there seems little left of that Wisconsin I once so deeply admired.

But none of that has happened by mere coincidence.

For the last forty years, like a posse of the legendary Sherriff of Nottingham, right-wing legislators have been shamelessly robbing from the middle class and working families of Wisconsin. And, as they looted our economy not only did the wealthy surge upward, but so too did their political power. As a result, since the 1970s we have endured a succession of deep tax cuts for the wealthy and

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Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 22nd

7:00 PM

Pizza Garden

Corner of Rapids Road and Menasha Avenue
Manitowoc WI

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS AND DELEGATES

This will be a working session, spending time on resolutions. It is the people of the party who set the party platform, and this is where it begins — on the ground floor of the local parties. Please see the insert for the rules for creating resolutions. The local party will adopt up to 10 resolutions for submission to the 6th Congressional District. Create a resolution that is important to you. We also will be appointing delegates (16 this year) to the Congressional and State Conventions.

The 6th CD Convention will be on Saturday, April 16th. The State Convention will be on Friday and Saturday, June 3-4.



PROXMIRE DINNER

Sunday, April 10th

Eagles Club

823 Hamilton St.

RSVP Necessary

See Insert for Details

FROM THE EDGE... (Continued)

a precipitous decline in state revenues coming from corporations. The effects of that have been compounded by trade policies that trade not goods but people's jobs; obscene corporate profits; and a proliferation of corporate welfare hand-outs and bail-outs (like those just passed by the Republican legislature).

And, while this has been happening, economic gains for the middle and working classes have virtually flat-lined. Indeed, between 1990 and 2005 purchasing power for working people actually declined by 9.3% when inflation was taken into account.

But while more and more of our people have been losing their pensions, their homes, their jobs, and what remained of their sense of hope and security, the salaries of CEOs increased by almost 300%. By 2005 the ratio of executive pay to that of the average worker was 411:1. (In 1960, when Wisconsin was still a democratic society, that ratio was 42:1)

As a result of deliberate policies, most vociferously advocated by Republicans and politicians like Bob Ziegelbauer, the distribution of wealth has become so grossly lopsided that it now threatens to capsize this society. In 2004 the top 1% of the population owned over a third (34.3%) of all the privately held wealth in the United States. In fact, the top 20% owned 85% of all the wealth leaving only 15% for the bottom 80% of our people. All of that has since been exacerbated by the fallout from the Great Recession and the extension of the Bush tax cuts for the rich. Now, next to Singapore and Switzerland, we have the most unequal distribution of wealth of all the developed countries of the world.

That is the root cause of Wisconsin's deficit. That is the real reason why we have to lay-off teachers. Yet smarmy politicians like Scott Walker want us to blame public employee unions and teachers themselves for those problems. If that isn't class warfare, what is?

The famous Wisconsin writer Zona Gale once characterized the political history of this state as "the history of the fight against special privilege which sought advantage for the few at the expense of the many." It is time to renew that fight with a vengeance. It is time for a new Robin Hood 'revolution' in Wisconsin.

BULLETS – Action Alert!

✿ Go to www.unitedwisconsin.com and **pledge to recall Walker/Kleefisch**. Do this today and spread the word. If you twitter, you can copy, paste and circulate a message to pledge. We need 540,206 signatures to recall and will have 60 days to collect, collate and file them beginning November 3rd. Pledge now.

✿ **Help recall the 8 GOP Senators.**

- Help circulate recall petitions. Although, you must reside in a particular senator's district to sign a petition, anyone can circulate petitions. You can help in other districts.
- Wisconsin Democratic Party - www.wisdems.org

Note: Unfortunately, Leibham escapes recall. Not because he is benevolent on this issue - he is a skill for the extreme right wing if there ever was one - but because he is newly reelected he gets a year grace period from recall.

✿ **Donate money for running ads.** Recall ads are beginning to air on TV. Help keep them running with generous and ongoing contributions. But...

- **Beware of money grabbing scams** – bogus telephone scams have begun. Know to whom you give money.

✿ **Stay in the Loop** – Websites that can provide information about the Walker/GOP protest and Recall efforts. You can get on email lists to receive notices on many of these sites: Here are a few.

- Service Employees International Union - www.seiu.org
- Wisconsin Democratic Party - www.wisdems.org
- www.OneWisconsinNow.org
- Wisconsin Democracy Campaign www.wisdc.org

Trask is working on setting up a link with Unions so we can alert party members of local and state rallies. We will give information as we get it.

✿ **Renew Your Membership to the Democratic Party.**

Most memberships expired at the end of 2010. Please renew now by using the enrollment form on the last page of this issue. Membership will no longer follow a calendar year format, but will expire 365 days from the date of joining/renewing. People can join online as well. www.wisdems.org.

VOTE APRIL 5th !



*Fifth Annual
Bill Proxmire Banquet
& Silent Auction**



With Special Tribute to the

Courageous 14 Wisconsin State Senators

District 3 – Senator Tim Carpenter, Milwaukee
 District 6 – Senator G. Spencer Cogg, Milwaukee
 District 12 – Senator Jim Holperin, Conover
 District 16 – Senator Mark Miller, Monona
 District 24 – Senator Julie Lassa, Stevens Point
 District 26 – Senator Fred Risser, Madison
 District 20 – Senator Dave Hansen, Green Bay

District 4 – Senator Lena Taylor, Milwaukee
 District 7 – Senator Chris Larson, Milwaukee
 District 15 – Senator Tim Cullen, Janesville
 District 22 – Senator Robert Wirch, Pleasant Prairie
 District 25 – Senator Robert Jauch, Poplar
 District 27 – Senator Jon Erpenbach, Middleton
 District 31 – Senator Kathleen Vinehout, Alma

*Receiving the Honor –
Senator Dave Hansen, Green Bay*

*Thanks to the generosity of our Manty Dems, the **Silent Auctions** at the annual Proxmire Dinners have been very successful fund raisers to support the work of the Manitowoc County Democratic Party. We will have another Silent Auction at the Proxmire Dinner this year and hope that all of you will be able contribute to its success by donating items to be ‘sold’ at the auction.

In the past, the following items have garnered a lot of interest among participants at the dinner:

- art work – original art pieces are the best
- books
- clothing items with party or candidate insignia
- electronic gadgets
- gift certificates
- memorabilia from the Democratic party and past campaigns

This year we will also include a bake sale to provide an opportunity for the bakers among us to share their specialties.

If you can contribute an item to be included in the Silent Auction or the Bake Sale, please contact Kathie Fishbeck at 684-5597 or kathleenfishbeck@comcast.net by April 3rd.

Sunday, April 10th
5:00 – Cash Bar
6:00 – Chicken Dinner
Followed by Program

Eagles Club
823 Hamilton Street
Manitowoc

Advance Sales \$20/Person
\$35/Couple
\$25 for those who
fail to RSVP

Public Invited
Bring Friends

RSVP by April 3rd
Bob Jome, Treasurer
rjome@sbcglobal.net
(920) 682-4074



5th Annual Bill Proxmire Banquet (Please RSVP no later than April 3rd)

Name _____
Address _____

Number attending _____ **at \$20 each \$35 /couple** (\$25 each at door) \$ _____
 (Total enclosed)

Make Contributions payable to: Manitowoc County Democratic Party, PO Box 1373, Manitowoc WI 54221-1373



CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Resolutions should be on state and national issues/topics, and if adopted at the local level will be presented to the 6th Congressional District. From the resolutions presented to the District at the 6th CD Convention on April 16th, a total of 10 will be selected for submission to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin for review and adoption by the party delegates at the State Convention.

To facilitate the review of resolutions, please submit them to our Secretary no later than **March 18th**. The Secretary will prepare copies of all submitted resolutions for review at the membership meeting on March 22nd. *(Late resolutions will be accepted at the meeting if presented in written format, a minimum of 25 copies for distribution to membership.)*

Submit to: Sherrie Richards, Secretary
s.irene63@yahoo.com
1136 S Lake Street
Manitowoc WI 53015

Deadline: March 18th (see remarks above)

Resolutions may not exceed 100 words (no exceptions) and should follow the format in the sample below.

Resolutions may touch on a multitude of topics including but not limited to:

- Collective Bargaining
- No-Bid Sales
- Social Security
- Education
- Health Care
- Election Process, Voter ID
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Separation of Church and State
- Campaign Financing
- Repeal of Patriot Act
- Women’s Right of Privacy
- Marriage/Civil Unions
- Conservation — Global Warming, air Pollution, Lakefront, Sustainable energy
- Living Wage
- Agriculture
- Taxation — Property Tax – Taxpayers Protection Act, TABOR
- Homeland Security
- Disparity of income

(1) Public Education Funding

Line	Text	Words
1	Whereas, a healthy and vibrant public education system is vital for a progressive	13
2	and forward moving nation; and	5
3	Whereas, the use of public funds for religious schools breaches the law that	13
4	constitutionally separates church and state; and	6
5	Whereas, the diversion of public monies to finance private and/or religious	12
6	schools reduces the ability of the public education system to provide quality	12
7	education to children; therefore,	4
8	Be it resolved, the DPW is opposed to public funding of private and/or religious	15
9	schools.	1
Total Words		81

What am I?

By John K. Thompson

WHAT am I?

In a speech given by our President, Barrack Obama after winning the election in November of 2008 he said, "America is a place where all things are possible."

What am I? First and foremost — I'm a believer. I'm a believer for my children. I'm a believer for the children I teach every day. I'm a believer for my friends and family, for my colleagues who I work with and struggle with to make our community a better place to live. I'm a believer for every one of you out there who make this community strong!

You work hard to make this community strong! This community would not be strong if it were not for your hard work.

But now I see that dream is being threatened.

My dream is not possible without a strong voice out there, the voice of Wisconsin public employees like myself helping each other protect our rights in the workplace. For many years I have taken for granted that that voice is always going to be there. And why would it not? It seems logical to me that after 50 years of human rights struggles for fairness in the workplace it would seem we had finally learned to accept the idea that unions represent a pathway to peace and a protection of our right to earn a fair days pay for a fair days work.

But out of from the darkness steps a quiet, soft spoken man who claims to speak for Americans who want to tear apart the very fabric that has made this state strong....our public employee unions. He declares them the problem. The cancer on the system.

And I become what some would label an AWM [Angry White Man]. Not the AWM you are used to hearing about. Not the one that is angry because he has to pay his taxes. Or the one who wants to gut all government services. Or the one who looks around him and only envies the power others have earned through their own blood, sweat, and tears. I want to pay my taxes. I know my taxes go to support the communities I love and trust my family to every day. And I'm proud of my work. I work hard for a living. We all work hard for a living.

What I really consider myself to be is a CWM. A Civil Working Man. I also consider myself a compassionate working man.

Why? Why do I have to be compassionate? Why should all of us be compassionate?

Because I look around me and I see the civil rights that working families have struggled for being trampled. Stomped on like they don't matter anymore. Judged too expensive to tolerate.

I'd like to know when someone has accepted the idea that a freedom, a human right, for instance the freedom to vote, has ever been deemed TOO EXPENSIVE to tolerate.

Our freedoms here in Wisconsin are not for sale. That's why Jefferson called them natural rights.

Our rights are being trampled on.

The same civil rights the Black Pullman train Porters, many of who were former slaves, fought so hard to earn so that they could feed their families.

The same civil rights that caused Rosa Parks to have to be bailed out of Jail in Montgomery, Alabama by a union man....E.D. Nixon, a member of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The same civil rights that Dr. Martin Luther King was compelled to defend when he made that trip to Memphis, Tennessee in 1968 to support city sanitation workers in their fight for a living wage.

The same civil rights that migrant farm workers struggled for to earn a fair wage in the lettuce and fruit fields of California.

The same civil rights that Nelson Mandela demanded when he fought to support the Congress of South African Trade Unions so that they could stand up together against corporate interests and end the horror of apartheid in South Africa.

Unions are not here to steal your money. We are not the thieves in the night who robbed from the poor to disenfranchise middle class families and I am offended that the governor of Wisconsin paints us all as such.

We ARE the middle class and we support those who

who have no voice in the workplace.

Unless their union stands up and speaks for and with them
WHO WILL?

Will Governor Walker?

Will the corporate interests who continue to see double digit increases in their billions of dollars of profits as families like mine are left wondering why we became the targets of so much visceral contempt?

This is not a money issue. My colleagues have made it clear that they will make fair concessions. My colleagues have made it clear that they will negotiate. My colleagues have made it clear that they work for a living to support their families and they want a piece of that dream President Obama is talking about. You don't help Americans achieve that dream by denying them their human rights.

Collective bargaining is a human right.

Dr. Martin Luther King stated as much.... "In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as 'right-to-work.' It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining... We demand this fraud be stopped."

So in conclusion....What am I?

I know what I am? Do you know who you are?

I AM A BELIEVER in an America where ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

I'm a believer!

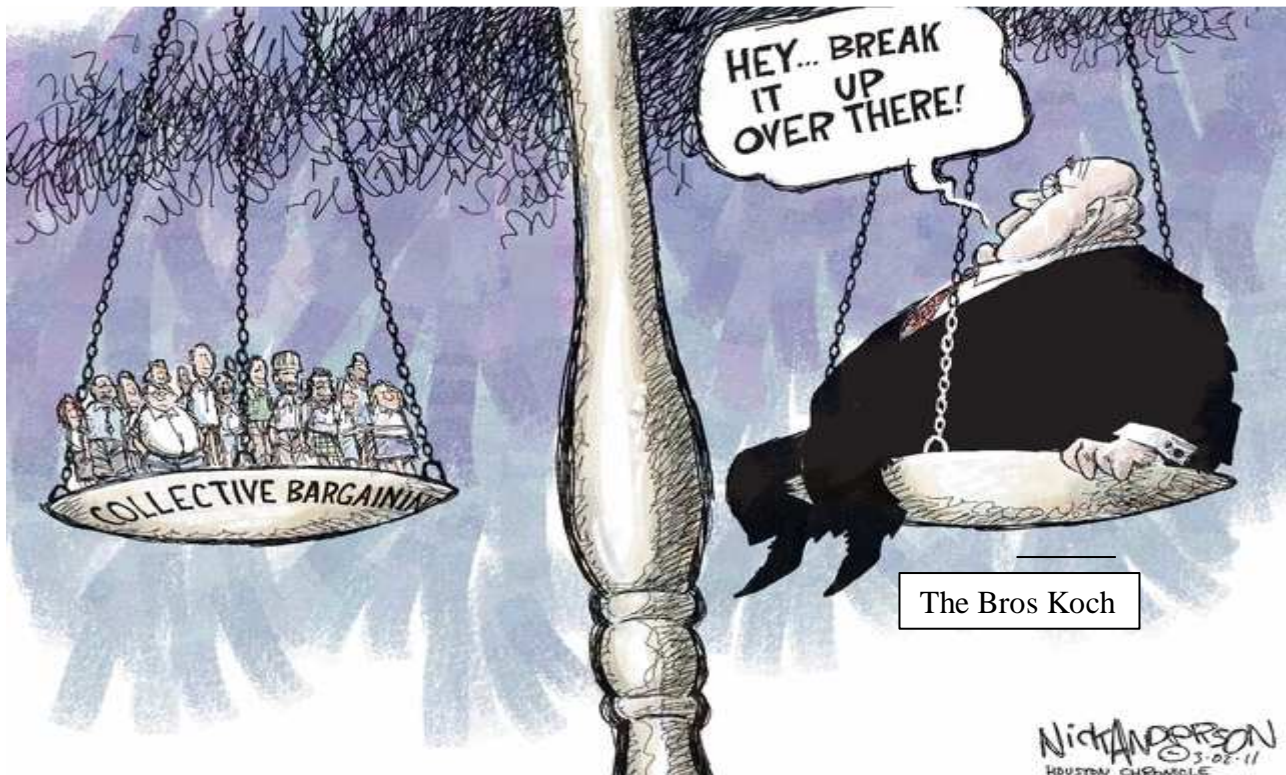
**I BELIEVE IN THE HUMAN RIGHT
TO UNIONIZE!**

I am a union believer!



John Thompson is a Public School Teacher, Mishicot Education Association.

John gave this speech at a rally in Support of the Right of Wisconsin Public Employees to Collectively Bargain – Thursday, February 24, 2011. Manitowoc WI



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The Voice of the Manitowoc Democratic Party

PO Box 1373

Manitowoc WI 54221-1373

Calendar of Events

- Tues, Mar 22nd Monthly Meeting — 7:00 PM – Pizza Garden, Menasha and Rapids Road, Manitowoc – Resolutions and Call for Delegates
- Tues, Apr 5th **VOTE!!!!** Spring Election
- Sat, Apr 9th Think Tank – 9:30 AM, St James Episcopal Church, Manitowoc
- Sun, Apr 10th Proxmire Dinner – 5:00 PM, Eagles Club, 803 Hamilton St. Manitowoc
Honoring our 14 Senate Democrats
- Mon, Apr 11th Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM, Pizza Garden
- Sat, Apr 16th 6th Congressional District Convention - Ripon
- Mon, Apr 26th Monthly Meeting — 7:00 PM. TBA
- Fri-Sat, Jun 3-4 DPW State Convention – Milwaukee

Great Decisions Series – Manitowoc Public Library – Mondays, 6 - 8:00 PM:

- Mar. 21st Sanctions Non-Proliferation: Dr. Charles Baynton, M.D.
- Mar. 28th Global Governance: Prof Lawrence LaBlanc, Marquette University
- April 4 Financial Crisis: Professor Marty Farrell, Ripon College.

Perhaps of Interest

- Sat, Apr 2nd LWV – ‘Are our Voting Rights in Jeopardy?’, 9-11:00 am, Presbyterian Church, 502 N 8th St, Manitowoc. <http://lwvmanitowoc.org>. Visit website for further information. You may need to RSVP as it is a brunch.

MantyDems Officers

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920-682-1710

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fluggs@ameritech.net

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Nan Hallock, Past Chair
nanhallock@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

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.