

Sauk County Democratic

Voice

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a publication of The Democratic Party of Sauk County

Editor: Bob Johnson

Editorial: Jack Ferver

Mission: to provide leadership and support for Democrats and like-minded citizens to translate our ideals into a government that is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.

In this issue: Crofton, Clark, Ferver and Witwen

Calendar

July 4, Witwen Parade. A volunteer opportunity to show your support for local Democrats. Meet at the intersection of County Road O and E at the south end of the village. See below for more details.

July 9 – 10, Sauk County Fair at the Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo. Another volunteer opportunity to show your support for local Democrats. Get on the schedule to help staff the Democratic Party of Sauk County booth. E-mail Barb Bair bbair47@hotmail.com and get on the schedule! Or call Bob Johnson at 608.513.7935.

July 26, Tom Crofton brat stand in Reedsburg. Tom can use volunteers to help with selling brats. Just show up that morning and tell Tom you would like to help. For more information, e-mail Tom at tcrofton@countrysspeed.com

August 7, General Membership Meeting, Reedsburg. Reedsburg Public Library, [370 Vine Street](#).

September 4, General Membership Meeting, Baraboo. Baraboo Civic Center, Room 18, [124 2nd Street](#).

September 6, Fighting Bob Fest, Baraboo. A volunteer opportunity to staff the Democrat's booth and help in clean up after the event.

Chair's Corner

Dear Sauk Democrats,

What Democrats do now is of the utmost importance. The rest of the citizens of Sauk County are finally emerging from their slumber to choose what direction the country should take. They will want to take a stand, they will want to help and they will want their votes to count and to mean something.

It is now that Democrats must lead. The people of Sauk County need and deserve it. Thus, we will volunteer, we will donate, call our neighbors, and open our homes. We will do this and all that is necessary and required to guarantee that the democratic process produces a government for which we can again be proud.

I am asking every one of you to take your place among the leaders of Sauk County, by marching at Witwen, by staffing the fair booth, and by committing to a campaign that puts Sauk on the map in Madison. For our children, for our State, and for the country, failure cannot be an option. We must win. And when the history is written of how all happened, we can each reflect that it started here and that we did our part.

Democratically yours,

Greg Sacra

Crofton Float at the Sauk County Fair

Tom Crofton, progressive Democratic candidate for the 50 th Assembly District seat in Madison reports that he has reserved a spot at the Sauk Cty Fair for his campaign float.

Crofton says that the reserved spot for the float will be offered up to other Democratic candidates to also use the spot for campaigning.

Although it is an expense he says “I think will be worthwhile, other candidates will have a chance to stand with me. The float is a winner so far, and the moving parts are a crowd magnet.”

Parade Help Needed

The Hilgenberg Campaign reports that the Republican candidate Nathan Russell had a strong showing at a parade in Iowa County. An estimated 15 people, friends and family, were there to support Russell along with a huge float.

The Witwen Fourth of July parade is coming up quickly. The more volunteers we can get the better. Let's show that Democratic support in Sauk County is strong. Please volunteer to walk the parade by contacting Bob Johnson at 608.513.7935.

The parade starts at 10:30AM, but walkers should be there early. Wear blue t-shirts and candidate gear.

The start location is at the intersection of Hwy O and E. From Sauk City go west on Hwy 60 for 3.5 miles, turn right on Hwy O and go 5 miles. [Click here to see a map.](#) The parade units line up along Hwy O from the intersection and west out of the village.

Tom Crofton Brat Stand Schedule

Saturday, July 26 at the Village Market in Reedsburg

Saturday, August 9 at the County Market in Hillsboro

Saturday, August 23 at the Village Market in Reedsburg

Friday, September 19 at the Village Market in Reedsburg

Tom would appreciate any volunteers that could help sell brats while he talks to the folks!

Fred Clark Campaign

Fred Clark, Greenfield Township/Baraboo area, is running an energetic campaign against "Doc" Hines in the 42nd Assembly District. Fred is meeting with key contacts throughout the district, knocking on doors, and getting an earful about the public's disgust with the ineffectiveness of the state Assembly. To volunteer for the Clark campaign, call 356-2801. See www.clarkforwisconsin.org.

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Opinion

Opinions expressed here are the sole responsibility of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Democratic Party of Sauk County. For comment or to submit possible articles for future issues, write or e-mail Bob Johnson, 1506 Lori Ct., Sauk City, WI 53583, robertjj1@charter.net

Dear Friends in the Sauk County Democratic Party,

I have a problem. I'll be 88 before we can take back our country from President Bush and his Republicans in November and get it back on course at home and abroad. We have had to live with Republican policies on human rights, economics, international relations and health, education and welfare for the last eight years and I have allowed my depression from that to interfere with finishing the writing of my book, *Spiritual Humanism for Freethinkers*. If I were 66 as I was when I retired from the University of Wisconsin this wouldn't be a problem, but at 88 who knows?

Compounding my problem is that most of our friends; Dorothy's long-time high school friends from the Maple Bluff area and my long-time friends at the Lake Wisconsin Country Club; have lots of money and are naturally political and religious conservatives, and I have to spend too much of my time biting my tongue about politics and religion in order to continue socializing with them.

I have cleared the decks from several time-consuming obligations I have had so I can get on with the extensive research required for my book. Its amazing how many ups and downs and promising approaches to religion we have experienced over the last 2000 years. We are now, unfortunately, in a down cycle, and that contributes more than most people realize to the dismal state of world affairs.

I can't give up golf because it is my physical therapy. I think it contributes to the excellent physical health I continue to enjoy, and keeps me from going completely nuts because of the antics of Mr. Bush and friends.

So this, dear friends, leads me to announce I will no longer be contributing my rantings on a regular basis to the Opinion Page of our Sauk County Voice, and I urge you to take over and send your opinions to Bob Johnson, our fabulous Editor. To you with aging hands I throw the torch, be it yours to hold high!

Jack Ferver.

Editor's Note: Jack's voice will be missed. When I accepted the responsibility to produce this newsletter, I wanted to keep Jack's "rantings" as a regular part of it. I believed it served as a representation of a legacy reaching back to what had gone before us as The Democratic Party of Sauk County changed. But, I also believe that for anything to prosper, it must grow and change is a part of growth. However, I don't think we have heard the last word from Jack Ferver!

The Voice does welcome opinions from all and reserves the right to refuse to publish and or to edit as is necessary. A letter was received in time to be published in this edition. The writer did make several valid arguments related to the campaign strategy and policy positions of an assembly candidate in his district. Unfortunately, the overall negative and confrontational tone of the letter should have been reserved for a Republican opponent rather than being pointed at a fellow Democrat.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2008

Spring Green Community Library

1. Fifteen people attended, including officers Sacra, Bair, and Baker. Greg Sacra welcomed candidates Senator Mark Miller, Paul Fisk, Tom Crofton and Darryl Teske. Don Jones (2nd CD) and Katie Naessens (3rd CD) from the Democratic Party were also present.
2. There were no additions to the agenda.
3. Senator Mark Miller, the guest speaker for the evening, mentioned that he was also up for re-election this fall. Much of his talk centered on the 2008 election year. He commented on the historic primary within the Democratic Party. Never before have an African American and a woman been running. They presented a review of the Bush Administration's disastrous policies and Obama provided hope for a change. Mr. Miller said that Democrats should expect a nasty campaign as the Republican power begins to be threatened. As it has been predicted that Wisconsin will be a battleground state, it is important that we have a high voter turnout. This county has been able to promote a high turnout (e.g. the Hilgenberg election results). The state government has 10 targeted seats this election. Many veteran Republicans are choosing to retire rather than fight for reelection this year and their Party is having difficulty recruiting any good candidates. Democrats need to provide a consistent and coherent message – Healthcare for everyone and fair application of taxes. There has been poor budgeting for the last eight years. Governor Doyle began with a deficit and the Republican legislature emphasized tax cuts with no increase in taxes. Fiscal coherence (spending supported by taxes) is needed. Questions answered by Mr. Miller regarding:
 - a. Report on public financing of Supreme Court elections: The Senate has passed a campaign finance bill, but the Assembly hasn't taken it up to date. The Supreme court actions have made it more difficult to determine who is behind campaign spending. Increased transparency is needed in a Democracy. Due to higher voter turn out in fall elections, moving all elections to the fall is being considered.
 - b. Report on the possibility of merit appointment vs. election of judges: Voter polls indicate that the public wants to vote for judges. The state constitution would have to be changed to do otherwise.
 - c. Report on how the government can better anticipate budgetary problems: Currently there are no predictive models to anticipate shortfalls. A 'Rainy Day Fund' category exists, but there are no funds in it.
 - d. Report on anticipation of fall-out from Janesville automotive plant closing: Money was allocated for worker retraining for General Motors, but it is not known how it was applied.
4. Candidates were invited to speak and introduce themselves and the issues they wish to address.
 - a. Paul Fisk is the former mayor of Lodi running in the 47th District. His district has been consistently Democratic – except for the Assembly seat. He has experience working with the utilities and government positions within his district for many years. There will be a get-together on Crystal Lake on June 19th for him.
 - b. Tom Crofton, running for the 50th District, represents working people and hopes to lessen the disconnect between the government and the working people. He plans to attend Dairy Days / Rodeo parade, has planned a Brat sale for Hillsboro, and a dairy breakfast in Reedsburg. Tom has held one brat sale in Reedsburg and given half of the proceeds from that to the Sauk Democrats for helping. There are plans for additional brat sales throughout his district. Mr. Crofton emphasizes the importance of staying positive and engaged during this election process.

- c. Darryl Teske has just announced his candidacy for the 50th District seat. He is a 27 yr old graduate of UWGB currently living in Madison who plans to return home to Mauston. He previously worked with the Kerry campaign. He wants to define Democratic issues and has interned in Madison. He has no definite plan for events at this time.
- 5. Update on candidates not present:
 - a. Fred Clark held a fund raiser pancake breakfast . Attendance was greater than anticipated. He is getting signatures for nomination and developing a very organized campaign.
 - b. Hilgenberg has an event on 6/5 with Spenser Black.
 - c. Trish O'Neil is having an event on 6/8 at Roxbury Tavern.
- 6. A motion was made by Barb Bair to approve the minutes of the May meeting without corrections and the motion was seconded.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Greg Sacra reported the current account balance.
 - b. There is an opportunity to perform the clean-up after Fighting Bob Fest and receive payment for that. This was well received by the group and Mr. Sacra requested additional help for that event.
 - c. Campaign Office Proposal:
 - 1. The plan to open a campaign office in the fall will require some fund raising. There is an EC strategic planning meeting planned for 6/21 to discuss details.
 - 2. Mr. Sacra requested authorization to spend money exceeding the \$200 current expenditure limit and possibly all of the funds in the checking account necessary and proper to establish this office. A motion to spend the funds requested by Mr. Sacra was made by Jack Ferwer and seconded by Mary Louise Simon.
 - 3. The state Party can provide computers to make calls, tables and chairs, but no money.
 - 4. Don Jones of the 2nd CD stated that it is illegal for the National Party to provide money to the State Party.
- 8. Parades: Barb Bair provided the following information and encouraged as many Democrats as possible to participate. She distributed details for the parades.
 - a. Butterfest Parade is 6/14. Members were encouraged to march in the parade. Tom Crofton plans to have a float.
 - b. Witwen Parade is 7/4 at approximately 10 AM. Democrats will meet at the crossroads.
 - c. Sauk County Fair – There will be a booth at the Fair.
- 9. The State Party Convention is June 14th and Greg Sacra will be attending.
- 10. Neighborhood Leader program: Don Jones from the 2nd CD passed out application forms for the Neighborhood Leader program.
- 11. Roundtable:
 - a. Greg Sacra mentioned Emerge Wisconsin for Democratic Women. This is a political leadership training for Democratic women. Contact them at contact@emergewi.org or P.O.Box 2369, Madison, Wis. 53701. It is a 6 mo. training program emphasizing campaign strategy, fund raising, public speaking, field work, networking, media skills, and more. Cost is \$250 with some aid available.
 - b. Jack Ferwer advises the members to approach the election in the 'same positive way that Barack Obama has promoted' and exhibit his positive enthusiasm.

Barbara Baker, acting Secretary

The *Voice* is authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Sauk County, WI,
David Zeller, Treasurer.