

# Sauk County Democratic

# Voice

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a publication of The Democratic Party of Sauk County

Editor: Bob Johnson

Opinion Editor Emeritus: 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: Debate, Fair and Parades, News and Opinion.

## Calendar

**August 7**, 7PM, General Membership Meeting, Reedsburg. Reedsburg Public Library, [370 Vine Street](#). On the agenda, a primary debate, see below for more details.

**August 18**, 7PM, Fund Raiser for Steve Hilgenberg at the Lake Wisconsin Country Club, [N1076 Golf Rd](#), Prairie du Sac.

**September 4**, 7PM, General Membership Meeting, Baraboo. Baraboo Civic Center, Room 18, [124 2nd Street](#).

**September 6**, Fighting Bob Fest, Baraboo. Contact Barb Bair to volunteer at the booth; 356-6194 or [bbair47@hotmail.com](mailto:bbair47@hotmail.com). 12 able bodied folks are needed to spend 1 hour cleaning up to raise money for the campaigns in Sauk County. Start at 5 pm and the rally point is the Commercial Building.

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## Chair's Corner

Dear Sauk Democrats,

We need commitment. Nothing less will do. Commitment means that you take a stand on the issues, on the candidates, and on the future. A commitment means that you give yourself to the greater movement and ideals embodied in the campaigns. Arguments and clever comments will not sway those around you. Commitment will.

The practical aspect of commitment is giving. Your gift of time or energy, finances or public declaration is an example to the timid and wavering that they, too, can be confident, proud, and courageous. Your gift renews the ancient hope of democracy and of your participation in it. It signals the retreat of the reign of fear and intimidation.

The time is now. We do not need anything that we do not have right here. Call and ask what you can do to help. It is in your hands.

Democratically yours,

Greg Sacra

### **Strong Showing at County Fair**

BARABOO -- We did it! Some 31 people from all over the county made sure the Sauk County Democratic Party had a strong presence at the Sauk County Fair July 9 – 13. People who staffed the booth included Toni Ankenbrandt, Barb Baker, Jim Buckson, Mark Cummings, Bill Dagnon, Matt Egerer, Anna Frey, Nick Kelly, Luann Krohn, Monica Liegel and friend, Barbara and Terry McCormick, Rob Nelson, Cathy Prescott, Bev Quandt, Sheila Roznos, Greg Sacra, Joel Sprecher, Nate Timm, Gretchen and Joe Viney, David Wernecke, Joan Wheeler, Sterling Wight and family, and David Zeller. Special thanks to Tom Scharbach for being there about 20 hours over three full days; to Judy Spring who pulled together the supplies; Scott Alexander for his support; and Barb Bair for her patience and persistence in scheduling all the staffers. Thanks, also, to candidates Fred Clark, Tom Crofton, and Steve Hilgenberg and their campaign helpers for making time during their vigorous campaigns to “meet and greet” a few hours at the fair.

### **EMS and Firemen's Festival**

PLAIN – On July 27, a contingent of six Sauk County Democrats joined Steve Hilgenberg and his wife Mary Mayo in Plain for the Fireman's Festival parade. On a beautiful sunny summer day many smiles were elicited by Greg Sacra's antics, the distribution of Obama '08 stickers and tossing of candy.

### **Fourth of July Parade in Sauk County**

WITWEN -- A group of 22 people representing the Hilgenberg and Crofton campaigns and Sauk County Democrats marched together in the always colorful Witwen Fourth of July parade. People along the parade route clapped when they saw the Obama signs and applauded as the Sauk County-based group chanted, “Yes, we can!” “We got goosebumps when the audience applauded in response”, said Barb Bair. “It was exciting and a lot of fun.”

[Click here to see some photos of the Witwen Parade.](#)

### **Sauk Democrats join Columbia County Dems at Another Fourth of July Parade**

PORTAGE, COLUMBIA COUNTY -- A very energetic contingent of 28 people, about half from Sauk County, marched with Fred Clark in the Pardeeville Fourth of July parade. Northeastern Sauk County, including Baraboo, West Baraboo, and Lake Delton, is part of the 42nd Assembly District, which encompasses much of Columbia and Marquette Counties and a bit of Adams County. The contingent included about 10 young people, some on scooters and in wagons, plus a lovable dog, who greeted the crowd along the fast-paced, hour-long route. Fred said he really enjoyed being able to walk up to people on their porches to say hello.

## Debate at the next General Membership Meeting

Tom Crofton and Darryl Teske, Democratic Candidates for the 50th Assembly seat have agreed to a debate. The debate will take place as part of the General Membership Meeting for the Democratic Party of Sauk County. The meeting will take place at the Reedsburg Public Library, 370 Vine Street, Reedsburg, Wisconsin. 7PM will be the start time for the meeting.

The debate will start with a five minute statement from each participant. This will be followed by a two minute response from each. One question each will be directed to the other and the floor will be opened for questions from the membership.

Also attending the meeting will be a guest representative from the Obama for America Campaign Headquarters in Madison. This will be a good chance for the membership to ask questions, learn what the campaign plans to do in Wisconsin to win back the White House and to pick up Obama campaign materials.

## State News

### Obama still leads in Wisconsin poll

By CRAIG GILBERT  
cgilbert@journal sentinel.com  
Posted: July 25, 2008

Another Wisconsin poll shows Democrat Barack Obama with a double-digit lead over Republican John McCain in the state, though the same pollster finds McCain making gains in some other key presidential battlegrounds.

Obama leads McCain 50% to 39% among likely voters in the survey done July 14 to Tuesday by Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, which is conducting regular surveys in a series of swing states this year.

Obama had led by a slightly larger margin — 52% to 39% — in a Quinnipiac poll in Wisconsin taken June 17 to 24.

Although the Wisconsin numbers changed little in a month, two other state polls that Quinnipiac released Thursday find McCain making more significant gains since June.

The Quinnipiac poll, which surveyed 1,094

### Wisconsin Democrats oust convention delegate for McCain support

By STEVEN WALTERS  
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Posted: July 25, 2008

The Wisconsin Democratic Party on Friday replaced a national convention delegate for saying that she planned to vote for Republican Sen. John McCain for president in November instead of Sen. Barack Obama.

The unanimous conference-call vote of the Democratic Party's Administrative Committee removed as a convention delegate Debra Bartoshevich — the first time in the nation a state party has taken such action.

Bartoshevich told party leaders it was an "emotional time" for her when her preferred candidate, Democratic Sen. Hillary Clinton, conceded and threw her support to Obama in mid-June.

At the time, Bartoshevich told a Journal Sentinel reporter she would vote for McCain instead of Obama — a comment that surprised party leaders and delegates to the state Democratic Party

likely voters in Wisconsin, was done in partnership with the Wall Street Journal and washingtonpost.com. It has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

In the Wisconsin survey, Obama led among women, 56% to 31%, whereas McCain led among men, 49% to 43%. Obama also led among independents, 47% to 38%.

Both candidates were viewed positively by a majority of voters: 55% viewed Obama favorably, 28% viewed him unfavorably. McCain's scores were similar: 52% viewed him favorably, 28% viewed him unfavorably.

Only 26% approved of the job President Bush is doing, and 68% disapproved.

convention, who passed a resolution asking that she be ousted as a delegate to the national convention in Denver. National party officials told Wisconsin Democrats to decide the matter themselves, prompting Friday's vote.

After the vote, Bartoshevich again said she planned to vote for McCain in November and that she was dropping out of the Democratic Party.

The committee replaced Bartoshevich with Marilyn Nemeth, a retired educator and former board member of the Wisconsin Education Association Council.

## 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, [robertjl@charter.net](mailto:robertjl@charter.net)

Opinion Editor Emeritus Jack Ferver

### Patriotism

You may have seen the lead story in the *Wisconsin State Journal's Parade* a couple of weeks ago in which McCain and Obama responded to the question "What is Patriotism?"

Their answers pointed out for all to see the basic difference between Republican and Democratic policies of what our country is or should be all about.

McCain's views, of course, reflected his most difficult military experiences, while my buddies and I serving in the Army Air Corps in WWII would try to keep light-hearted about it by joking, "Ours is not to reason why, ours is just to do or die."

I was certainly luckier than McCain, and that may have something to do with my finding Obama's views about Patriotism much more acceptable than McCain's.

For McCain Patriotism is "Putting our individual interests aside" and "Putting our Country First."

For Obama Patriotism is putting "we the people first," it is "Faith in one another as Americans."

McCain cited Jefferson in making his case, but in so doing he missed Jefferson's key point in

drafting our Constitution. Jefferson didn't want to see our new nation become just another monarchy, or a nation controlled by the rich and powerful, but a Democracy in which "We the People," all of the people, have a voice. This required Jefferson to put more faith in "we the people" than was common in the world of his day, or is common among Republican policy makers today.

Fortunately, having "faith in one another as Americans" hasn't been lost by Obama. There is still hope that we may again recover a Jeffersonian Democracy in America, one in which "all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

### **Conservatives are Hypocrites**

For those of us who lean toward the progressive side of politics, the idea that conservatives are hypocrites is something we have known for a long time. I, for one, am proud to call myself a liberal.

The real mystery is why people who are more in the "mainstream" of politics can't see this. The evidence is so obvious it is overwhelming. Just look at some recent court decisions and the conservative reaction.

When the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Washington D.C. handgun ban, they were beside themselves praising the decision. According to them, this was a classic example of the court upholding the Constitution. The Second Amendment was reaffirmed. Never mind that the decision actually tears the amendment in two by splitting it apart as if it were two sentences instead of one.

Next, look at the decision by the California Supreme Court reinforcing gay marriage. Conservatives were beside themselves condemning the decision. You would think the earth itself were ready to split apart. Classic case of judges rewriting the law and overriding tradition, they said.

If conservatives agree with a decision, it is always upholding the rule of law, but if they disagree with a decision it is because it is legislation from the bench. They can't accept the fact that they are just plain wrong.

***Ed.***

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