

Sauk County Democratic

Voice

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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: Feingold, Wiley, Guest Editorial

Calendar

September 4, 7PM, General Membership Meeting, Baraboo. Baraboo Civic Center, Room 18, [124 2nd Street](#). Fred Clark will be our speaker on "Breaking the Legislative Logjam

September 5, 5PM, Obama for America Rally and pig roast hosted by Peter Livingston. The address is [E6095 County Road WC](#), Spring Green. E-mail for more details, peter@starklivingston.com.

September 6, Fighting Bob Fest, Baraboo. 15 able bodied folks are needed to spend 1 hour cleaning up to raise money for the campaigns in Sauk County. Contact Barb Bair to volunteer; 356-6194 or bbair47@hotmail.com. Start at 5 pm and the rally point is the Commercial Building.

September 9, Primary Elections for the 47th and 50th Assembly Districts.

October 2, 7PM General Membership Meeting in Sauk Prairie. Prairie du Sac Town Hall, [S9903 U.S. Highway 12](#), Prairie Du Sac.

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Chair's Corner

Chair's Corner

Dear Sauk Democrats,

Reviewing the compelling letters and articles below, I will refer the reader to them if there are any questions remaining about the crossroads now before us, the corruption of once respected institutions, or the importance of this election to us and the world.

For the rest of us, let us take note that there are only 70 days to the election. The task before us is to educate the voters. The time is short, but adequate, if we prepare now.

Come to the general membership meeting September 4 at 7 pm at the Baraboo Civic Center. We will provide the "Big Picture" of what we need to do and how we are going to do it.

Above all, remember that the stakes are simply too high to do nothing. We must win and, with your help, we will.

Democratically yours,

Greg Sacra

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A Letter from Sen. Feingold

As a Progressive heavily involved in your county party, I don't have to tell you how important this year's election is. At the state level, we have a great opportunity to increase our margins in the State Senate and retake the State Assembly so that our Governor has a legislature more willing to move Wisconsin in the right direction come 2009. In the 8th CD, Congressman Steve Kagen has been a tireless advocate on behalf of his constituents and his reelection this November is going to be vital in our efforts to turn our country around following eight years of the Bush Presidency.

However, I don't have to tell you how important of a role Wisconsin will play in electing our next President. No other state in the country has been closer these past two Presidential elections than Wisconsin. That's why it's up to each and every one of us to do everything we can to ensure Barack Obama wins Wisconsin – and the presidency – come Election Day this November.

I've enjoyed working with Senator Obama and I'm proud to support his campaign. With his strong Midwestern roots and his dedication to public service, Senator Obama understands, like we do, the values of hard work, standing up for what's right, and making our country a better place for us, our children and our grandchildren.

At both the state and federal level, Senator Obama has been able to reach across party lines and work with members from both parties to help move our country in a better direction. From fighting to create jobs, to making health care available and affordable to all Americans; from fighting for our rights and freedoms, to ending the war in Iraq, Senator Obama has the strength and leadership ability to get our country

See Feingold...

Outgoing UW Chancellor Lashes Out at Business Lobby

The outgoing chancellor of Wisconsin's public flagship school is not leaving his post quietly.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor John D. Wiley, who steps down Sept. 1 to pass the torch to former Cornell University Provost Biddy Martin, penned a 3,000-word story in the September issue of Madison Magazine blasting Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and what he describes as the hyper-partisan political environment at the state Capitol.

"WMC has, somehow, passively allowed itself to be hijacked by highly partisan, ideologically driven staff," Wiley said. "WMC has evolved from being a strategically focused business organization to being a partisan political lobbying organization.

"This, combined with WMC's wealth and undeniable political influence and effectiveness, has made WMC the single biggest driver of our toxic political environment and, thus, the single biggest obstacle to the recovery of Wisconsin's economy."

At the UW System Board of Regents meeting this morning, Wiley said he had been cleaning out his office and found an article he'd written in 2003 for Madison Magazine calling for public debate on how to protect funding for the state's higher educational system, saying the institution was at a crossroads.

"I found the article and said, 'This feels like unfinished business,' " Wiley said.

WMC issued a statement yesterday defending the lobbying group, saying the piece contained a

See Chancellor...

Feingold...

back on track.

It's not going to be an easy task and I'm going to continue to do everything I can to help him win Wisconsin and the Presidency this year – and if you haven't already, I hope you will join me.

Thanks again for all that you do.

With high hopes,



Russ Feingold, United States Senator, www.russfeingold.org

Chancellor...

number of factual errors.

WMC Vice President James Buchen said "WMC actively lobbied for final passage of the UW budget," but no such lobbying effort shows up in WMC's report on its lobbying effort to the state Government Accountability Board. The group reported it lobbied on 36 areas of the budget - from transportation to medical assistance - but UW funding is not mentioned in the report.

The group has spent \$1.4 million to lobby the Legislature in the last year and a half.

Wiley said he wasn't surprised by WMC's response.

"They said about what I expected they would say," he said. "I thought it was pretty lame."

By ERICA PEREZ and PATRICK MARLEY, eperez@journalsentinel.com, Posted: Aug. 21, 2008

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

Guest Editorial

Fired up and Ready to Go!

Senator Obama, like our first President, George Washington, is coming into the presidency during an economic crisis in a time of war. As the first Afro-American candidate for the presidency, he is charting a course for change amidst a very entrenched political arena.

Politics is about reputation and character. In 1791, John Fenno, of the Gazette of the United States, gushed that Alexander Hamilton, "is a star of the first magnitude in our political hemisphere." Is Senator Barack Obama also that star; or is he a comet burning brightly in the sky only to shine for a moment and then be extinguished?

According to Thomas Jefferson, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time." Obama is doing just that by inspiring thousands of Americans to get out for the first time to caucus and vote in the Primaries. He has created a great infrastructure across the nation in a short time by appealing to each of us to get involved. He has demonstrated by his leadership that his principles, words and actions are congruent.

Wanting a total change for both the common man and the elite in the Federal government, Barack is walking a tightrope between black/white, rich/poor, young and old. Since talent, skill and moral fortitude guide his judgment, I believe that he will not be a traitor to the truth to please anyone.

With formidable zeal for his country, accompanied by integrity and honesty, he promotes liberty and justice for all. His orations, charismatic personality and vocal advocacy for the rights of all, ignites the hope of the return of the government of the people, for the people and by the people.

Right now, something new is being offered. It is the possibility of opening up our narrow vision and untapped potential by believing, "YES WE CAN." As shown in his latest book, "Audacity of Hope", he is daring, decisive and audacious! He is used to taking huge risks and he is used to winning. Courage and intelligence dovetail with his ambition to obtain the consent of the whole people to elect him as the next President of the United States of America. He has enormous plans and knows how to kick them into gear. "FIRED UP AND READY TO GO."

Benjamin Franklin, who signed the petition for the abolition of slavery, said, "The noblest question in the world is, 'What good may I do in it.'" The primary concern of many of us is the national debt. What good may Obama do in it?

As in every conflict, the basic causes must be addressed and resolved. This is a national curse because it yields power to nations like China, who can demand payment without notice, thus putting the U.S. at great economic risk. As Thomas Jefferson said in the 1700s, "We will never be respected abroad until we have resolved our debtor status." Like black slavery three centuries ago, this enormous debt is a forbidden subject that must now be addressed. What better man to address and resolve it than Barack!

A creative statesman like Obama, can conciliate views. He identifies problems; brings all the relevant players to the table; asks what do we need to do about it; how do we fix it; listens; sorts out the solutions; organizes bi-partisan collaboration and then co-ordinates immediate action.

I believe that presidential candidate Obama can unite us and lead the way out of our economic crisis and bring an end to war.

Janet E. Collins
Lake Delton

General Membership Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2008

Reedsburg Public Library

1. 25 people were present, including officers Greg Sacra, Tom Scharbach, Barb Baker, Judy Spring and David Zeller. Attendees included people from Columbia, Dane, Juneau, and Sauk Counties.
2. Greg Sacra moderated a forum between candidates Tom Crofton and Darryl Teske, both vying for the 50th Assembly seat. Both the Reedsburg Times Press and Reedsburg Independent were present to cover the discussion.
3. June minutes were approved.
4. Treasurer's report. David Zeller reported the healthy balance, thanks to help from Columbia County Democratic Party and its members.
5. Summer events: Thanks to the more than 30 volunteers who participated, the County Fair booth went well, as did the parades in Witwen and Pardeeville. Barb Bair is recruiting people to help with the Bob Fest booth and clean up. Sauk County Democrats are invited to walk with Rep. Hilgenberg at the parade in Plain.
6. Coordinated Campaign: Sarah Shorder, Sauk County's field organizer for Obama, briefly described the cooperative efforts at the national, state and local levels. The plan is to have a coordinated campaign office in Sauk County, probably in Baraboo. The office will be a base for all elections affecting voters in Sauk County. Volunteers are needed to help staff the office. The local Coordinated Campaign is also training people to register voters. There will be a voter registration table at the Baraboo Art Fair.
7. Assembly races: Everyone needs to remember to go vote Tuesday, September 9. There is a primary between Teske and Crofton for the 50th Assembly District. Local Democrats are encouraged to participate in parades and fundraisers to support the candidates. In the 42nd Fred Clark is running a vigorous campaign against Doc Hines. In the 51st, Steve Hilgenberg is a freshman legislator running for re-election. There is a fundraiser for Steve August 18. There is also a primary of interest to Sauk County Democrats in the Merrimac area of the 47th district.

Judy Spring, Secretary

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David Zeller, Treasurer.