



Calendar

May 7, 2009, 7PM, GENERAL MEM-

BERSHIP MEETING in Baraboo. Baraboo Civic Center, Room 18, [124 2nd Street](#).

Kathryn Schauf, Administrative Coordinator for Sauk County will be the guest speaker for the meeting. Ms. Schauf's duties include providing recommendations to the County Board regarding annual budget procedures and long-range capital improvements, and serving as the Community Development Block Grant - Revolving Loan Fund Administrator.

The topic of discussion will be the possible impact on Sauk County of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as it is being implemented by Congress and the Obama Administration. This act is known in the media as the “stimulus package”. Also, the effects on the county due to likely cuts in the state budget.

June 4, 2009, 7PM, GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING in Sauk Prairie. Prairie du Sac Town Hall, [S9903 U.S. Hwy 12, Prairie Du Sac](#).

June 12 - 13, 2009, DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN STATE CONVENTION, Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, [2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay](#).

July 7 - 12, 2009, SAUK COUNTY FAIR. Contact Barb Bair to volunteer to work at the Democratic booth 608.356.6194 bbair47@hotmail.com

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.

Chair's Corner

Dear Sauk Democrats,

How the mighty have fallen; and therein lies a cautionary tale.

One year ago, the worry was that the Republican Party might yet draw upon its big donors and fundamentalist workhorses to find some meaning and excitement in the party's presidential nominee.

Now, the sad, ragtag GOP army retreats into its shadows. In its disorganization, it feeds upon itself, attacking one another for any display of reason or deviation from the arrogant rants of its radio talking-heads. They speak to the benighted loyalists who are united only in opposition.

Nevertheless, they are regrouping even now to attack Governor Doyle's administration during this most difficult of times, claiming that they would do what they have never really done, namely, reduce spending and taxes, while protecting Wisconsin's citizens.

We, as Democrats, do not claim perfection. But we must be steadfast in support of our good and faithful representatives and be willing to clean our own house when necessary. Otherwise, we will try the active trust of our friends, earn the indifference of allies, and follow where our unfortunate Republican friends now lead.

Democratically yours,

Greg Sacra

by Bob Johnson

The Democratic Party of the Second Congressional District held its annual convention in Portage on April 18. The delegates from Sauk County were Greg Sacra, chairman, Tom Scharbach, membership secretary and Bob Johnson, vice chair.

The proceedings were brought to order by Chairman Peter Rickman. 42nd District Representative Fred Clark gave the welcoming address to the delegates. A total of 65 delegates was announced at the final count.

The first scheduled speaker was to be Sen. Mark Miller but due to the passing of his mother, Midge Miller, he was not present. The first address to the delegates was by Assembly Speaker Mike Sheridan. In this reporter's opinion, the state could not have a better leader in Madison, than Sheridan. Having been the UAW president in Janesville, he is sure to be a good and tough negotiator and leader.

Next on the agenda was Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. It was clear from what she said that Democrats will have a much easier time getting things done now that they hold the majority. And Ms. Baldwin has already enjoyed several visits to the White House! The Assembly Majority Speech was given by Rep. Thomas Nelson.

Although at this time it is not known what resolutions were adopted by the 2nd CD which will be forwarded to the state convention, it is very likely that a number of them from Sauk County will be included. There was a long discussion about "Supporting National Single-Payer Health Insurance" and the delegates voted to amend it.

At the 3rd CD Convention, five resolutions that Sauk County submitted were adopted, including the health insurance one mentioned above.

by John Nichols

The world's most endangered family of birds got a boost from the U.S. House this week, thanks to Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and the desire to do something meaningful for endangered species on the eve of Earth Day.

Baldwin's Crane Conservation Act of 2009, passed Tuesday by the House by a 288-166 margin, aims to help protect and preserve the cranes that groups such as the Baraboo-based International Crane Foundation seek to defend.

And that defense is necessary. Eleven of the world's 15 crane species are currently at risk of extinction.

The legislation, which still must be considered by the Senate (where it is being pushed by Wisconsin Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl), establishes a grant program to fund crane conservation projects in the United States and abroad and encourages the Department of Interior to work with and seek input from groups such as the International Crane Foundation on conservation efforts designed to protect rare birds and their ecosystems.

"The work done at the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo has had an impact worldwide in preserving and protecting this magnificent animal species," says Baldwin. "With federal support, we can expand that influence to inspire and instruct a new generation of conservationists at home and abroad. This is the 'Wisconsin Idea' in action."

Baldwin's bill was co-sponsored by Congressman Ron Kind, D-La Crosse. The only member of the Wisconsin delegation that voted no for the bill was Republican James Sensenbrenner

Bill Novak of *The Capital Times* contributed to this report.

<http://www.madison.com/tct/news/stories/448063>

by Todd Krysiak, *Sauk Prairie Eagle*

The Sauk Prairie School District will get almost \$820,000 in additional funding for programs geared toward students living at or near poverty and special education programs as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In a joint press release issued by Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle and state Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster on Thursday, the state announced it would receive \$366 million in additional funding for school programs as part of the act.

Earlier this year, Sauk Prairie appeared poised to receive as much as \$1.2 million under a bill passed by the United States House of Representatives, but that number eventually was reduced when the bill was passed into law by both houses of Congress.

Sauk Prairie School District Superintendent Craig Bender said now the district has to figure out what it will be required to do to receive the money and figure out what it will be used for.

The vast majority of the funding for Sauk Prairie schools — \$574,214 — is expected to be doled out by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

An additional \$27,148 is intended for preschool programs aimed at students with disabilities. The remaining \$217,408 will go toward Title I programs used by poor and disadvantaged students that focus on improving math and reading skills.

Bender said there still was work to be done at the local level before money flowed in. "With these grants there are restrictions in how you can use that money," he said. "We still need to find out what the rules are."

<http://www.wiscnews.com/spe/news/448350>

by Ron Fournier and Trevor Tompson, AP

For the first time in years, more Americans than not say the country is headed in the right direction, a sign that Barack Obama has used the first 100 days of his presidency to lift the public's mood and inspire hopes for a brighter future.

Intensely worried about their personal finances and medical expenses, Americans nonetheless appear realistic about the time Obama might need to turn things around, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. It shows most Americans consider their new president to be a strong, ethical and empathetic leader who is working to change Washington.

The AP-GfK poll suggests that 64 percent of the public approves of Obama's job performance, down just slightly from 67 percent in February.

More than 90 percent of Americans consider the economy an important issue, the highest ever in AP polling.

The percentage of Americans saying the country is headed in the right direction rose to 48 percent, up from 40 percent in February. Forty-four percent say the nation is on the wrong track.

So far, Obama has defied the odds by producing a sustained trend toward optimism. It began with his election.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted April 16-20 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Media. It involved telephone interviews on land-line and cell phones with 1,000 adults nationwide. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Doyle should not Blink

Gov. Jim Doyle's approval rating has fallen to the lowest level since his election in 2002.

According to a new statewide poll by St. Norbert College, only 45 percent of Wisconsinites say they are satisfied with the job Doyle is doing. St. Norbert's polls regularly, and this is the first time that the governor's positive rating has fallen below 50 percent.

On the surface, that might seem like very bad news.

But the surface analysis can be deceiving.

Wisconsin, like the rest of the country, has been hit hard by the economic downturn that is the hangover of Bush/Cheney administration excesses. Doyle has taken plenty of hits as he has tried to address the crisis. The latest is a new ad campaign in which the state's corporate special-interest lobby, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, attacks the steps the governor has taken to address a \$5 billion revenue shortfall.

But when asked about the specifics of Doyle's plan -- especially the parts for which WMC is criticizing the governor -- voters are enthusiastically supportive.

For instance, Wisconsinites favor raising taxes on the wealthy -- via the state's system of progressive taxation -- by a remarkable 67 percent to 28 percent.

They also favor the steps the governor has taken to ban smoking in workplaces and to provide legal protections for gay and lesbian couples -- two of the supposedly most controversial components of Doyle's 2009-11 budget -- by 66 to 32 percent and 60 to 33 percent, respectively.

What these numbers say is that Doyle needs to sell his most progressive proposals more aggressively. They are more popular than he is.

The more the governor embraces and advances a progressive agenda in the budget fight, the better his numbers will be.

A Capital Times editorial — 4/23/2009

<http://www.madison.com/tct/opinion/448148>

The Democratic Party of Sauk County

Greg Sacra, Chairman, 608.356.3010 saukdems@yahoo.com

Bob Johnson, Vice Chair, 608.513.7935, robertjj1@charter.net

Barbara Bair, Vice Chair, 608.356.6194 bbair47@hotmail.com

Tom Scharbach, Membership Secretary, 608.253.5750, tomscharbach@yahoo.com

Barbara Baker, Secretary, 608.253.5040 barbara.a.baker@att.net

David Zeller, Treasurer, 608.524.6705, dzeller@rucls.net

General Membership Meeting Minutes*

Reedsburg Public Library, Reedsburg, April 2, 2009

*abridged minutes, complete minutes available at the next GM meeting

1. **Present:** Johnson, Zeller, Scharbach, Baker and 15 others including Bill Davis, Treasurer of the Richland Center Democratic Party.
2. **Resolutions:**
 - a. **Bill Davis** discussed and requested support for **two resolutions** proposed by the Richland County Democratic Party:
 1. **72 County Strategy:** The Democratic Party “should adopt a 72 county program” to provide “Democratic representation in all areas of the state.”
 2. **State Party Support for Candidates:** The Party will “use a candidates willingness to support publicly the party's platform in determining the kinds and levels of support to give candidates”.
 3. **Bill is seeking to represent the 3rd CD** at the Party's Administrative Committee and seeks votes from members attending the 3rd CD.
 - b. **The 15 proposed Resolutions** were distributed to the attending members, titles read, and questions answered. There was a brief discussion regarding the one on Prescription Drug advertising (4) and the one regarding protecting GLBT families (5). The proposal supporting the viability of the family farms (9) was extensively revised to clarify it. A vote was taken on these 15 resolutions.
Resolution Vote Results: The following are the 10 resolutions to be presented to the 2nd and 3rd CD conventions on April 18th: (#2) Campaign Finance Reform; (#3) Global Warming; (#4) Prohibit Prescription Drug Advertising; (#5) Protecting GLBT Families; (#7) Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict; (#8) Save our Schools; (#9) Supporting the Viability of Family Farms; (#10) Supporting a Wisconsin Single-Payer Health Care Reform Bill; (#12) Universal Voluntary Public Service; (#13) Single Payer National Health.
3. **March Minutes:** were approved -T. Scharbach (moved); David Zeller (2nd)
4. **Reports:**
 - a. **Treasurer's:** \$2400.90 in the account with two bills yet to be paid (Fair Booth & Website).
 - b. **Membership:** 39 current members; renewal reminder letters coming out soon. The Executive Committee reviewed the lists of volunteers from the November election to select individuals who might be interested in becoming members. Calls to them to be made soon with a goal of increasing membership to 250.
5. **Business:**
 - a. Everyone encouraged to **vote in the April 7th elections.**
 - b. **Earth Day Presentation** , April 26, 10 AM – 3 at U.W. Baraboo.
 - c. **Democratic Leadership Institute:** Youth must be a senior in High School to attend. Carl Byers was planning on attending, but is a Junior. Gloria Judge will see if her son Rich can arrange permission for Carl to attend.
6. **Roundtable:**
 - a. Carl Byers has requested that members vote “yes” to the Reedsburg school referendum.
 - b. Members were asked to notify the Ext. Office at West Square if any reduction th the Arts programs is noted in local schools.
 - c. U.W. Ext. Arts and Culture Committee is attempting to collect any information and items regarding Arts, Culture, and History from different local areas. Please submit it to the Sauk Co. Historical Society for display at Earth Day event on April 26th.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Baker, Secretary, DPSC

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