

# The Kenosha Democrat



Jan.-Feb. 2015

kenoshacountydems.org

## Board of Directors

## DEMOCRATIC CORE VALUES

### Chair--Mary Jonker

mjonker1@wi.rr.com  
262-658-1224

### Vice Chair--Leah Blough

leah.blough@gmail.com  
262-697-8065

### Treasurer--Ann Wilson

a51wilson@aol.com  
262-654-1445

### Secretary--Sally Simpson

sjs-jr@sbcglobal.net  
262-694-8254

### Srgt-At-Arms--Mike Goebel

mikeyg12@aol.com  
262-496-9979

## Board Members At Large

### Rollin Pizzala

262-705-6463  
rpizzala11th@yahoo.com

### Karen Kempinen

262-945-2091  
kkempinen@gmail.com

### Scott Page

scottppage@gmail.com  
262-308-1879

### Tyson Froh

tysonfroh@gmail.com  
262-654-1246

### John Franco

jlfhoops@aol.com  
262-857-6772

## College Dems

### Andy Berg

aberg48@wi.rr.com  
815-701-1267

### Newsletter Editor:

Karen•Erb  
kaerb@email.com  
262-889-4815

### Webmaster:

Karen•Erb  
Karen Kempinen

Fair•trade•policies,•collective•bargaining,•embryonic•stem•cell research,•living•wage,•affordable•healthcare•for•all,•jobs•from new•energies,•fairness•and•equality,•separation•of•church•and state,•environmental•preservation,•women's•rights,•balance of•power,•equal•opportunity,•fiscally•sound•budgets,•quality education,•balancing•the•tax•base,•right•to•privacy,•pro•hunting &•fishing,•and•keeping•guns•out•of•schools,•bars,•churches,•e



## Message from your KCDP Chair

2014 is coming to an end and a new year is about to begin, bringing in 2015 should be with enjoyment, fun, and a good party. After the celebration has ended, it is time to get to work. Spring elections will be upon us right after the beginning of the year for Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, and School Board. Give a few hours of help to a candidate of your choice for this spring election. We need to continue to elect progressive candidates.

Learning about our community is the Kenosha County Democratic Party theme for 2015. In January we will hear about the proposed casino project from Eric Olson, Kenosha project director for the Menominee tribe. Come and hear about the plans for the Kenosha Casino.

**Note that the date of our January meeting has changed to Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.**

At our February meeting we will invite School Board Candidates for a forum to learn their views on what their plans are for Kenosha Unified School District. This is your chance to ask questions and learn about the candidates. Check out other events in this newsletter, plans for a bowling party, book club, and a movie. Fun events are happening in 2015, come join other democrats for these events.

Keep a lookout for more events in March, April, and May.

This holiday season and beyond celebrate with your family and friends and work to make our community a better place to live.

Happy Holidays!!!  
Mary





Karen Kempinen, Kenosha County Democratic Party Board Member At-Large, is Chair of the KCDP Public Relations/Outreach Committee. Her mother, a strong populist Democrat, raised Karen and her brother with stories of FDR's Fireside Chats and the need for middle class Americans to pull together.

In 2011, Karen retired after 39 years as a special educator; she has continued working as a substitute teacher, for a total of 43 consecutive years of teaching. She has seen many changes in the field of education, but the light that appears in a child's eyes when he or she understands a concept has remained the same and still inspires Karen after all this time. She is a lifetime member of NEA, WEA, and KEA-Retired and an active member of KESA, the substitute teachers' bargaining unit. Karen's daughter, Rebecca, is continuing the family tradition of serving children with special needs; she works as a speech therapist in the Fairfax, Virginia Public Schools.

Karen also serves as Publicity Chair of the Parkside Adventures in Lifetime Learning organization, which boasts almost 600 members, and she serves on the Church Council of Kenosha's St. John's Lutheran Church in evangelism and fellowship capacities. She fosters for Cairn Terrier Rescue USA, and she has two senior cairns of her own. The cairns assist Karen with one of her other passions, gardening, by patrolling the yard for rabbits and other critters.

She is excited about continuing her efforts to increase the sustainability of her city garden by growing more perennial food plants and by saving more seeds.

Karen looks forward to working with members of the Kenosha County Democratic Party as well as with other members of our community to return our county and state to their progressive roots, which served all the people, not just a privileged few.

The City Clerk is in need of poll workers for elections.

If you are able to work at the polls, contact Ann Wilson at [a51wilson@aol.com](mailto:a51wilson@aol.com) or the City Clerks Office.

Candidates and Office Holders:

Please be sure to email or call Karen Kempinen of any fundraising events or meet and greets you are holding, so that your information can be included in the calendar on our website and on our Face Book page. Karen is chairman of our Public Relations Committee.

## AM 820 Available

**CHICAGO'S PROGRESSIVE TALK**  
 Now on FM at 92.5 (West), 92.7 (North), 99.9 (South)  
 and still at 820-AM for the City!

**FM Stations Available 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM**

## Calendar

**Note that we are meeting the 2nd Thursday of this month, because the 1st Thursday is New Year's Day.**

January General Membership Meeting Thursday, January 8, 2015, 7:00 pm, Union Club, 3030 30th Avenue, Kenosha, Learn about the plans we have for building community and strengthening our Party in 2015. Also, our featured speaker will be Eric Olson, Kenosha project director for the Menominee tribe, who will speak about the proposed casino. Bring a friend!

Just for Fun: Bowling Party Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 6:00 - 8:00 pm Guttormsen Recreation Center, 5411 Green Bay Road, Kenosha Join the Kenosha County Democratic Party for an evening of bowling. No fundraiser, just an opportunity to hang out and learn who has an awesome hook. :) Please mail your check for \$13 made out to the Kenosha County Democratic Party to Karen Kempinen, 2223 23rd Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140. Please put "KCDP Bowling" on the memo line. Or call 262-945-2091 to arrange to pay cash in advance. The \$13 will include 2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, unlimited soda, and pizza [each large serves 4 people]. Payment must be received by Tuesday, January 13, so we can give Guttormsens a count for how many lanes we need. Space is limited, so reserve your spot now! Hope to see you there!

February General Membership Meeting, Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7:00 pm,, Union Club, 3030 30th Avenue, Kenosha, After a very brief business meeting, we will be hosting a forum for KUSD school board candidates. Join us as we hear them explain why they deserve our votes in the 2015 Spring Elections!

Book Club Meeting: "The Crash of 2016: The Plot to Destroy America - And What We Can Do to Stop It" Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 6:30 pm Private Home, Call 262-945-2091 to reserve your spot and get directions. "The United States is in the midst of an economic implosion that could make the Great Depression look like child's play. In THE CRASH OF 2016, Thom Hartmann argues that the facade of our once-great United States will soon disintegrate to reveal the rotting core where corporate and billionaire power and greed have replaced democratic infrastructure and governance. Our once-enlightened political and economic systems have been manipulated to ensure the success of only a fraction of the population at the expense of the rest of us." [itunes.apple.com] This book is widely available through iTunes, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. Read the book on your own and join other concerned citizens in discussion and plans for action.

Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot by responding to this event.

Pending: Screening of the documentary, "Go Public - A Day in the Life of an American School" Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, More information TBA



Please  
See  
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For  
Information  
About  
Events  
For  
Kenosha  
Kindness  
Week

[www.facebook.com/KenoshaCountyDems](http://www.facebook.com/KenoshaCountyDems)



# 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL KINDNESS WEEK EVENTS

## January 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015



**2015 Theme: “Celebrating Cultural Diversity in Our Community”**

***\*Donations of nonperishable food items and toiletry items will be accepted at all events for area food pantries.***

- Friday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> thru  
Sunday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> Faith Community Weekend – Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Celebrating Peace, Kindness, and Tolerance
- Saturday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 am Kenosha’s 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Unity Breakfast  
(Doors open at 7:30 am) Location: Tremper High School, 8560 – 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha, WI  
Open to the community – Admission - Adults \$7.00/Youth 10 and under free  
For more information contact: Kay Wikel at (262) 496-2452.
- Monday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 Noon (Doors  
open at 11:15 am) 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration  
Theme: Care, Serve, Act  
Speaker: Dr. Tom Thibodeau – Viterbo University  
Gateway Technical College - Madrigano Auditorium, 3320 - 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha, WI  
For more information contact: Diana Carbajal at (262) 564-3222.  
Open to the community free of charge.
- Monday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 PM Congregations United to Serve Humanity (CUSH) – Food Security Taskforce Program  
Theme: God’s Gardens in Kenosha: Can Your Congregation Tend One?  
Location: Second Baptist Church, 3925 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Kenosha, WI  
For more information contact: Pastor Kathy Gloff at (262) 859-2540.
- Tuesday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 PM Courageous Conversations Community Wide Event – Viewing of Freedom Summer, a PBS documentary  
(110 minutes) with discussion following.  
Sponsors: Coalition for Dismantling Racism, United Way, & the LaFave Family Fund of the Kenosha Community Foundation  
Moderator: Sandra Torres – Reporter/Anchor CBS 58  
Location: Gateway Technical College, Madrigano Auditorium - 3320 - 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha, WI  
For more information contact: Madeline Carrera @ carreram@gtc.edu or 262-564-3138.  
Open to the community free of charge.
- Wednesday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>  
11:30 am Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Luncheon  
Sponsor: Urban League of Racine & Kenosha  
Theme: Community and Police Relations in Kenosha/Racine Since Ferguson  
Location: Italian American Club, 2217 – 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Kenosha, WI  
For more information contact: (262) 637-8532 or to RSVP contact: (262) 652-2111  
Open to the community - \$16 admission or \$115 for a table of eight.
- Thursday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6:00 pm Family and Friends Community Interfaith Service  
Location: Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha, WI  
Theme: Celebrating Cultural Diversity in Our Community  
For more information contact: Kay Wikel: (262) 496-2452  
Open to the community free of charge.
- Saturday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program  
Sponsors: The UAW Local 72 Civil and Human Rights Committee  
Theme: Don’t Forget the Past, Keep Moving Forward  
Speaker: Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II  
UAW Local #72, 3615 Washington Road, Kenosha, WI  
For more information contact: Anthony Davis (262) 948-3381  
Open to the community. Admission for dinner & program: Adults - \$20/Children under 12 - \$10

Friends and Neighbors,

As my first term as your State Representative comes to a close, I want to thank you so much for your support and feedback over the last two years. So many important issues come across my desk and it helps me to hear your opinions on the issues important to you. I ask you to continue to do so as the new 2015-16 legislative session gets underway.

We already know some of the big issues which will likely be considered by the state legislature in the upcoming term. Weakening private unions with so-called "right to work" policy and dismantling the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board have already been getting heavy coverage as priorities for the Republican majority. As these issues and more come to the forefront, I will fight for policies to improve the lives of Wisconsin's middle class and those working hard to get there, not policies designed to tear our state further apart. I hope you will continue to read my monthly State Capitol Reports and let me know your opinions and priorities.

Lastly, if you have information you'd like me to share in future State Capitol Reports or if you have issues you'd like to see brought up, please let me know. You can always reach me at (608) 266-0455 or Rep.Ohnstad@legis.wi.gov. It is my honor to serve you.

Best wishes in the new year!

## Looking Toward 2015-16 Legislative Session

By the time you receive my next email, the 2015-16 legislative session will officially have started. Inauguration will take place on Monday, January 5th, after which the work of the 102nd Wisconsin Legislature will officially begin.

If you come visit our beautiful State Capitol over the next two years, I hope you will stop by my new office, located at 128 North. For those who came to my office over the last two years, I'm still in the North wing of the Capitol. I'm simply a few floors down, in a bigger and more conveniently-located office.

At this time, I am still waiting to find out which committees I will serve on in the 2015-16 session. I have requested to serve on committees similar to last term, during which I served on the following committees: Jobs, Economy, and Mining; Labor; Tourism; and Insurance. I am excited to find out my committee assignments, as each committee will handle significant legislation and policy. I will let you all know my committee memberships as soon as I have them.

## Audit of Unemployment Insurance System Raises Big Concerns

On Tuesday, December 16th, the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released a long-awaited audit of Wisconsin's Unemployment Insurance System. The audit was revealed some big problems in our state's UI system. (The full report can be read [HERE](#). A summary of the report can be read [HERE](#).) Particularly outrageous to me was LAB's report that almost 1.7 million calls to the call centers at the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), or 60.2 percent of the total, were blocked in fiscal year 2013-14 because call center staff were busy and the telephone queues were full.

This is completely unacceptable news. Workers filing for unemployment insurance should not be forced to jump through hoops to access this assistance, particularly at a time when they and their families are facing financial uncertainty. In light of how Republicans have weakened the UI system in past years, the fact people are getting kicked off the phone when trying to file just adds insult to injury.

The DWD has said it implemented a new computer system to help fix this problem. Until we know for sure whether this new system fully addresses this important issue though, I will be raising this issue on the Assembly Labor Committee until workers can be sure they can get through when they call in to the UI phone lines.

In the meantime, I want you to know my office is always available to help you with your UI claim. If you have any trouble filing your unemployment insurance claim, please call my office at (608) 266-0455. My staff can take down your information and a summary of your UI situation and have someone from UI give you a call. Nobody should get kicked off the phone or wait for hours at a time when filing for unemployment. If you or someone you know needs help with this, just give us a call.

## Still Waiting For Casino Decision

You probably saw news coverage of last week's rally in support of the proposed Kenosha casino. We are unfortunately still awaiting a final decision about whether the casino will become a reality. Here are some links to news coverage, in case you missed it:

Kenosha News: Rally pushes jobs, economic benefits of casino

Fox 6 News: "We need jobs:" Supporters of Kenosha casino turn out by hundreds

Racine Journal Times: Casino supporters rally at Dairyland site

As you know, I strongly support the casino. I sincerely hope Governor Walker does the right thing and approves the casino. Until he announces his decision, I encourage everyone to contact his office to urge him to approve the casino. Governor Walker's phone number is (608) 266-1212. His email address is govgeneral@wisconsin.gov, or you can send him an email through his official website. He will make a decision by February 19th, so there is no time to waste.





Urban League

Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives

# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

*"KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE"*

Wednesday  
JANUARY 21, 2015  
11:30 AM—1:00 PM



**Italian American Club**

2217-52nd St.

Kenosha, WI 53140

**Urban League of Racine & Kenosha**

BUFFET LUNCHEON

presents .....

## **Community and Police Relations in Kenosha/Racine since Ferguson**

\$16 Individual ticket

\$115 table of 8



*Speakers from KDP and RPD*

RSVP: 262.652.2111



*Youth Essay Contest Winners*

INFO: 262.637.8532



*MLK Jr. Humanitarian Awards*

**OUR LIVES  
BEGIN TO END  
THE DAY WE  
BECOME SILENT  
ABOUT THINGS  
THAT MATTER.**