The Kenosha Democrat







Jan. - Feb. 2016

kenoshacountydems.org

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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

THE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As everyone prepares for the holidays, we cannot forget how important this upcoming year will be. This spring alone, we are going to have delegate selection for the National Democratic Convention in July, the Wisconsin primaries on April 5th, as well as local nonpartisan races for county board and city council. Since 2016 is a presidential election year, all Democrats have to pull together to support whoever the nominee will ultimately be. Due to the fractured Republican Party, Democrats have a very good chance of winning the White House next November. Moreover, we need to ensure that Russ Feingold takes back his seat in the Senate. In fact, the Kenosha County Democratic Party is honored to have Russ Feingold speak at our spring banquet on March 19th at the Bristol Oaks Country Club in Bristol.

This past month the new board met and was able to establish a budget which will be presented to the membership for a vote at our January 7th general meeting. Chairs of standing committees were nominated and all board members were assigned to committees. A tentative schedule for the next year was discussed and will be forthcoming.

At the general meeting, we will also be fortunate to have Kory Koslowski, the Executive Director of the State Party, speak to our members about the upcoming year. I hope all of you can attend because it will be an important and interesting time as we all prepare for what is to come. Have a happy holiday and see you on January 7th.



Kory Koslowski

Sincerely, John Franco, Chair of the KCD Party

THE CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Well, the Republican Party outdid itself this week by passing two unpopular bills that do absolutely nothing to address any pressing needs for the people of Wisconsin, but rather only ensure more consolidation of party control over the reins of state government. AB 386 and 387, quietly signed by Governor Walker, not only end the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board by installing two partisan boards, but also eliminates any reasonable restrictions on campaign finance in the state of Wisconsin.

Put another way, the Republican Party of Wisconsin apparently feels that we need more political partisanship, more money in politics, and less transparency. It seems that the Republicans are living in a parallel political universe because all reputable polls show that the vast majority of Americans feel that our politics have, in fact, become extremely partisan, dangerously opaque, and awash with enormous sums of money largely donated by a few mega wealthy donors. Those on the right appear to have amnesia. They have forgotten that the GAB was instituted in 2007 precisely to remedy the rancorous Legislative Caucus Scandal of 2001-2002.

In short, Republican policy does not correlate with the concerns of average Americans precisely because Republicans do not represent the interests of the vast majority of people but instead those of the wealthy donor class who fund their campaigns. In the Republican world view, these policies make total sense. Of course, one would want to do away with campaign finance restrictions, accountability, transparency and any limitation on coordination if this increases the amount of money flowing into ones coffers. Why? Because they have to rely on an ever smaller group of people who, in essence, can buy influence and, ultimately, elections. Added to this is a logical corollary of ensuring the maintenance of power by doing away with any independent means of tracking that flow of money.

These misguided laws continue to move Wisconsin in the direction of one party rule which, of course, is bad for our democracy. Unfortunately, this assumes the Republican Party actually believes in democracy. They say they do, but their policies reinforce plutocracy and, unfortunately, the real losers will be the people of Wisconsin.





KCDP Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 6 pm

Bristol Oaks Golf Club and Banquet Center, 16801 75th Street, Kenosha WI 53142

We are excited to announce that our featured speaker will be Russ Feingold!



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 or the City Clerks Office.







New Kenosha Artwork Featured in Capitol

Just in time for the holiday season and the turn of the new year, Lemon Street Gallery returned to the State Capitol o share some new pieces by Kenosha artists in Tod Ohnstad's office. It is such a privilege to share the ncredible artwork from Kenosha with the visitors and egislators who stop by.



Artist Patricia Krueger, "Rooster," Photograph



Artist Kathleen Knutell, "Grandpa's Barn," Watercolor



Artist Carolyn Garland, "Mountain Top," Acrylic

CALENDAR

Jan 7: General Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Union Club, 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha Guest Speaker: Kory Kosloski

Feb. 4, General Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Union Club, 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha

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Bob Wirch's Birthday Party