

Coffee Klatch Notes – October 24, 2019

Present: Ann Heywood, Carol Craig (facilitator), Margetta Souder, Ed Gorell, Linda Norton, Pat Williams, Judy Gatlin, Carolyn Haar, Ann McKinley, Elaine, Phil Swanhorst, Kathy Tuttle, Eleanor Wolf, Bonnie Golden, Marge Bunce, Carolyn Dunning, Barb Gosch, Breanna Stanley, Mike Lindsay, John Anderson, Margot Bouchard, Mary Michel, Pam Lee, Jeanie Aloia, Carlyn Conway, Zoe Roberts

(C. Craig doing solo on the facilitation, taking notes during meeting then writing them up. It would be greatly appreciated if we could get back-ups for these tasks – even once a month would be helpful. For now, the notes capture the essence of engaging conversations --- just enough to encourage individuals to get there in person next Thursday, October 31 – on the ‘hallows of weens’ 10:00 am, Democratic Resource Center.

Announcements: Please check the EC Dems E-News for complete announcements of events; here are some that were highlighted at the Klatch:

- **November 2-3**, Building Bridges canvassing, Saturday shifts 9:00,12:00 3:00; Sunday 3:00. Call Dem office to sign up 715-852-0330 – we’ll be going out as ‘buddies’ so if you haven’t canvassed before, no worries.
- **November 7**, 7:00 pm, “Reproductive Freedom-Protecting Women’s Rights”, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4215. S. Farwell.
- **November 20**, Democratic Presidential Debate, Democratic Resource Center open to watch debate with kindred spirits.
- **December 4**, 7 pm, Sierra Club presents, “What’s in Your Ground Water- Cows, People and Groundwater”, Dr. Mark Borchardt – presenter.
- **Feb 18- 2020**...First primary election to kick off candidates who are aligned with Democratic values. Check your registration now (www.myvote.wi.gov) and mark your calendars to vote. Assist others in checking their registration; You MUST Re-Register if someone hasn’t voted in last four years, if they changed their address, if they recently moved to Wisconsin, if they changed names...

Discussion:

- Shared several adds that are floating on Facebook that are maliciously false, yet appeal to the uniformed. Critically important the we use a fact check in order to have honest conversations with neighbors, family, friends: **FactCheck.org** , **Snopes.com** , **PolitiFact.com**
- Discussed article written by Francis Bloomberg with Doug Kane (Kathleen Vinehout’s spouse) about “Democrats Facing Their Fears. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/democrats-face-fears-wisconsin-100028888.html>
- Penzey Spices – one a the few progressive private companies willing to support Democrats/Progressives publicly. Percent of profits go to progressives – willing to lose customers by embracing their political values. Check it out <https://www.penzeys.com/>

- Representative from the Farmer's Union was present and shared that they were embarking on an initiative to assist in resolving conflicts that seem very polarized in rural Wisconsin. Focus is on 'finding common ground' and encourage citizens to support policies aligned with 'common ground, not necessarily party candidates.
- Took a three minute 'comedy break' to watch a Stephen Colbert clip on Rudy Giuliani – the absurdities of his answers, how he manipulates truth...etc. It was funny, a good break from serious discussions. Feel free to offer a clip or spotlight on the news at Coffee Klatch; we have internet connections ready to go.
- Many participants were eager to discuss the Eau Claire County Poverty report, indicating that Eau Claire County ranks second in poverty – second only to Milwaukee. We were fortunate to have a rep from the county board and city council present – explained that the increase may be related to vulnerable citizens migrating to Eau Claire because we are a County that believes meeting basic needs of the marginalized is part of adhering to supporting the "common good". Klatch Group requested that we try to bring in a resource person from Jonah or Western Dairyland to discuss the poverty crisis in Eau Claire in more depth.

***Next Klatch Thursday October 31, 10:00 – bring your ideas, opinions and energy,
we'll have coffee and rolls!!***