

Eau Claire County Democratic Party Coffee Klatch Notes

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Present: Terry Ajir, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Marjorie Bunce, Maggie Cameron, Carolyn Conway, Carol Craig (facilitator), Carolyn Dunning, Donna Fortin, Judy Gatlin, Carolyn Haar, Gloria Hochstein, Bob Matthews, Ann McKinley, Mary Mickel, Julian Emerson, Linda Norton (recorder), Mike O'Brien, Darla Sorenson, Kathy Tuttle, Pat Williams, Eleanor Wolf, Pat Kreitlow, Barb Gosch, Jan Frase, Robert Wojnowski, Constance Heffernan, Jodi Emerson, Charlene Warner, Phil Swanhorst

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Coffee Klatch -- **Thursday, May 2, 10 a.m. – 12 Noon;** Resource Center, 440 Broadway St.

Come join a lively conversation about current events – share opinions, experiences, resources with a progressive-minded community. Come when you can, leave when you must. The coffee will be on and the treats will be out.

State Budget Update: Listening sessions are over but you can still submit your written testimonial. **Click here for help to craft written [testimony](#).** In May the Joint Finance Committee sessions start and there should be a vote on the budget first week in July. To send written comments on the state budget to the Joint Finance Committee, send by email to budgetcomments@legis.wisconsin.gov or mail handwritten letters to Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 54702

April 30 : Movie “Death of the Great Lakes”; **May 1** – Sierra Club sponsoring discussion with guest speaker from Madison on ‘Charter of Great Lakes’; **May 2** – Aquatic Invasion in Chippewa Valley; All at LE Phillips Library – all at 7:00pm

JUNE 8th – Wear “ORANGE” Day – this is a national day is focused on Gun Safety initiatives; more to come as to specifics activities in Eau Claire. Check out some of the Eau Claire images: [Images for wear orange day eau claire](#)

Spetember21 – International Non-Violence Day. Jan Frase and the Coalition for Non-Violence has a very active day planned at ECCT. Many community groups will be participating. Mark your calendars now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conventions

3rd Congressional District – **Saturday, May 4,** WTC campus, La Crosse. Eau Claire Dems have ‘full representation’ – this speaks volumes about Eau Claire Dems willingness to take action. Car pools are available -call the Dem Resource office for details: 715-

DPW – **Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2,** Potawatomi Hotel and Casino, Milwaukee

To be a delegate to these conventions, you must notify Beverly Wickstrom: wickstrom@gcwlawyers.com before April 20. Registration opens at 9 a.m. on May 4. Car-pooling is being set up.

DISCUSSION:

- CAFO’s – 8,000 hogs will be coming to Burnett County; Eau Claire County currently has a moratorium on CAFO’s but will be up for vote on ordinance in May. Public comments are important. If mandatory water testing was required for all houses, citizens would see just how vulnerable they are for contaminated water due to excessive manure.
- Question raised re the emails from Sarah Godlewski to ‘fund the Treasurer’s office’. Essentially the republican legislature took away ALL funding for staff, phones, computers, etc., for the State Treasurer’s Office. Sarah is operating in a vacuum and needs support to advocate for increased funding.

- A recommendation to begin a discussion about presidential candidates so that we can be better informed on various candidates' views. Gloria agreed to develop a spread sheet listing all candidates and Klatch participants will research candidates for a 'forum of idea' to share in a public venue. Sounds exciting – jump in there and volunteer to research a candidate!
- County Board Rep discussed the most recent change in Madison – requiring counties to find places for sex offenders to reside. Interesting point- Republicans seem to think 'local control' is OK for this difficult task, a participant noted that the East Hill Neighborhood Association was very proactive in assisting with the possibility of a sex offender residing in their neighborhood. They discussed and provided a process whereby concerns were addressed and solutions were forthcoming.
- "Roundabout" at State and Roosevelt streets was discussed. Very confusing as to what problems, the roundabout will actually address? If slowing traffic is the main reason (for pedestrian safety) is this really the most viable option? Home owners on in these areas will have major disruption to their yard and houses (traffic within feet of their houses). If you haven't driven by to notice the orange markers, do so. More importantly ask your City Council Reps. To explain how this alternative is better than nay other --- have they consider others?
- Rep. Jodi Emerson shared that there is legislation pending that would allow non-citizens to gain a driver's license. This is supported by many roar farmers and other employers who depend on non-citizens to keep their businesses going.
- Sue Miller provided EC Dems with a storehouse of memorabilia and very important record covering the EC Dems since 952!! Whoa Sue, thank you for keeping these important and interesting documents/pictures. EC Management Team will decide how best to display/keep them.