

Eau Claire County Democratic Party Coffee Klatch Notes

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Present: Bob Andruszkiewicz, Lee Brier, Marjorie Bunce, Mary Burns, Carlyn Conway, Carol Craig (facilitator), Barb Gosch, Carolyn Dunning, Jodi Emerson, Jan Frase, Bobbi Green, Constance Heffernan, Ann Heywood, Gloria Hochstein, Carole Johnson, Pam Lee, Mike Lindsay, Linda Lodolce, Bob Matthews, Ann McKinley, , Jim Messerschmidt, Linda Norton, Mike O'Brien, Betsy Richmond, Connie Russell (recorder), John Sandquist, Kate Shannon, Jeff Smith, Liz Spencer, Kathy Tuttle, Jerry Wilkie, Pat Williams, Eleanor Wolf.

Guest: Ali Holzman, Democratic Candidate for Wisconsin's 75th Assembly District

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Coffee Klatch: Thursday, June 28, 10 a.m. – 12 Noon; Resource Center, 440 Broadway St.

Come to join other democrats and progressives in a lively conversation of current events and to share opinions, experiences, resources. Find out about local candidates and how you can help with campaigns.

Note: No Klatch on July 5th!

West of the River Neighborhood gatherings: Wednesday, June 27, 6:30 – 8 p.m.; Delong Middle School Library. Jill Christopherson, District 4 City Council Member, and County Board Supervisors representing districts on the west side of Eau Claire are offering three community engagement sessions for west-siders this year. The first session on June 27 will focus on *"For the Love of Cities"* – what do folks love about the west side; about Eau Claire? Other sessions: Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Eau Claire Sport Warehouse, 2983 11th St.; topic: *"Roads, Pipes and Water Quality"*, and Tuesday, Oct. 30, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Eau Claire Room, LE Phillips Library; topic: *"Drugs on our Streets – a Glimmer of Hope."*

91st Assembly District Primary Candidate Forum: Wed., July 25, 7 p.m.; Lazy Monk Brewing, 97 W. Madison St. Sponsored by the Eau Claire County Democratic Party. Help is needed with setting up and running the forum. Contact the Resource Center to volunteer: 715-852-0330 or stop in at 440 Broadway.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

King's Closet – Consider donating your good used clothing for kids, men, and women to this free clothing store. It is located at 310 South Barstow St. There is a great need in our community.

Store hours: 1st Saturday: 9am - 1pm & Thursdays: 10am - 5pm

DISCUSSION

Peaceful But Persistent Coalition

Jan Frase passed around a sign-up sheet for those who are interested in taking locally-focused actions to address gun violence in our communities. Look for a "It Seems to Me" opinion piece authored by Jan in an upcoming issue of the Leader Telegram. (Sunday, July 1) She reported on her meeting with the manager of Scheels Sporting Goods regarding the prominent marketing of toy AR 15 look-alike guns to kids. He wasn't overly concerned about the message being sent by a photo of an angry boy holding a firearm used in mass shootings. Some possible actions were discussed:

- Talk to managers of other stores that sell similar toy guns.
- Think about small, local actions that can promote a change in the culture.
- Send a series of letters to the editor targeting different aspects of gun culture, e.g., encourage people to support domestic abuse shelters because research has shown a correlation between mass shooters and domestic violence in their homes, the psychological impact of the gun culture on kids, or the risk of a police officer possibly mistaking a toy gun for a real gun.
- Connect with the City-County Health department's action group addressing domestic abuse.
- Think about using the terms "Gun Safety" or "Gun Reform" instead of gun control.

Elections & Campaigns

Ali Holzman – Assembly Candidate – Allison “Ali” Holzman, 31, of Cumberland is running against incumbent Romaine Quinn for the 75th Assembly District. The 75th District comprises all of Barron County, southern Washburn County and parts of Burnett, Dunn, Polk, and St. Croix counties. Ali has a small farm outside of Cumberland and manages the regional WEAC office. She saw a need to “step up” to make Wisconsin better for all families. She believes government should work for everybody. Her key issues include:

- Putting working families first instead of special interests and wealthy corporations
- Quality health care as a right, regardless of pre-existing conditions.
- Family-friendly workplace policies (parental leaves) and affordable childcare
- Full funding of public education
- Reduction of student debt, a burden that keeps young people from starting families, buying homes, and starting businesses.

Ali supports local control, expansion of Badger Care, and restoring funding for public K-12 schools.

The 75th district also has environmental threats with a turkey CAFO and a sand mine in Barron County.

To give support, you can donate through her website [Ali for Assembly](#).

All members are encouraged to think about ways to help Democratic candidates beyond our home districts – phone banking, donations, etc. Keep checking county democratic party and candidate Facebook and websites for event information. Grow the Blue Island!

Governor Candidates – There was a round robin of opinions and thoughts about the (still long) list of candidates for the primary. Andy Gronik just announced that he is withdrawing from the race and others may follow in the weeks ahead. However, the ballot has been determined and those names will be printed, regardless of announced status. Ballots will be out June 28.

Some thoughts expressed about the process and choices:

- Polls show name recognition is a factor.
- Will voters feel discouraged and not show up because it’s too daunting to research all the candidates? The fund-raising pool is stretched thin, resulting in less information (flyers, media ads) being distributed by individual candidates.
- People are trying to decide between voting for the candidate who best aligns with their values and priorities and the candidate they think has the best chance to win in the general election. That might not be the same candidate.
- Research has shown that people vote with their gut. Charisma motivates voters.
- Which issues will need to be pushed – issues that really resonate with voters state-wide? Democrats must zero in on what voters want most. (affordable health care?)
- Beyond personality and the articulation of issues, the winner will need a massive, effective campaign machine.
- The urban centers in the south/southeast can be counted on to vote for the Democrat against Walker, but the candidate needs to pull in the voters “north of Highway 10.”
- What tactics can be used to motivate those disillusioned voters who have stopped going to the polls?

Sarah Godlewski for State Treasurer – Support our Eau Claire native for state treasurer. To donate, go to her website, [Sarah for Wisconsin](#).

Canvassing for all candidates will be happening all summer. Volunteer as often as you can. We can’t wait until after the August primary to get voters excited about “The Blue Wave.”