

# Eau Claire County Democratic Party Coffee Klatch Notes

**Thursday, November 1, 2018**

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Present: Terry Ajir, Jeanie Aloia, Steve Boyle, Marjorie Bunce, Carlyn Conway, Carol Craig (facilitator), Jodi Emerson, Jan Frase, Dale & Chuck Gable, Judy Gatlin, Bonnie Golden, Carolyn Haar, Constance Heffernan, Ann Heywood, Rollie Hicks, Carole Johnson, Linda Ladolce, Bob Matthews, Ann McKinley, Linda Norton, Maurie Pasternack, Connie Russell (recorder), John Sandquist, Carolyn & Robert Caribou Schwaderer, Maureen Slauson, Jeff Smith, Liz Spencer, Kathy Tuttle, Charlie Warner, Pat Williams, Robert Wojnowski, Eleanor Wolf

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Next Coffee Klatch:** Thursday, November 8, 10 a.m. – 12 Noon; Resource Center, 440 Broadway St.

Join a lively conversation about the election and other current events -- share opinions, experiences, resources, and celebrate the wins! Note: We have a flat-screen TV and laptop available in the Resource Center for anyone who wishes to show a website or online resources to the Klatch group.

**Election Watch Party:** Tuesday, Nov. 6; 8 – 11 p.m.; The Green Mill/Clarion, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Eau Claire Hmong New Year Celebration:** November 10 & 11<sup>th</sup>; Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center, 3456 Craig Road. Open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday with night entertainment scheduled for Saturday from 7 p.m. to midnight. Plans are being made to have voter information available at the event. Contact the Resource Center if you can work a shift at the EC County Dems booth.

## **RECOMMENDED READING/VIEWING/LISTENING**

**Cyberwar: How Russian Hackers and Trolls Helped Elect a President – What We Don't, Can't, and Do Know**

(Oct. 2018) by Kathleen Hall Jamieson. Points out how malleable “late-deciding” voters are and how the 24/7 news cycle contributed to the manipulation of those voters’ decisions.

**Walls** – Barbra Streisand’s new album. The group enjoyed watching and listening to one thought-provoking cut from the album, titled “*Don’t Lie to Me.*” Watch it [here](#)

Related Article in New York Times by Maggie Haberman: “**Barbra Streisand Can’t Get Trump Out of Her Head. So She Sang About Him.**” [Haberman article.](#)

**Massive Loss of Insects in Puerto Rico** – Many news outlets are reporting on evidence of climate change shown in Puerto Rico, where the temperatures in the tropical forests of northeastern Puerto Rico have climbed two degrees Celsius since the mid-1970s, and the biomass of arthropods – invertebrate animals such as insects, millipedes, and sowbugs – has declined by as much as 60-fold, according research published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. [Washington Post article](#)

These results have profound implications for the future stability and biodiversity of rainforest ecosystems.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Campaigns & Elections**

**Getting Out the Vote:** -- We’re in the final stretch! Spirits are high and a positive energy exuded from the group. Everyone shared what they’ve done in the past few weeks to help get out the vote and campaign for our candidates, including:

- Writing Letters-to-the-Editor
- Talking to friends, acquaintances, relatives, service people
- Putting out signs
- Writing checks
- Finding out voters care about the referenda issues: re-districting and legalization of marijuana.

**Phone Banks** – will still be up and going right up to 8 p.m. on Nov. 6. Phones are provided!

GOTV weekend – **Nov. 3 – 6** will be headquartered at 634 Water Street. Food will be provided and donations of casseroles, snacks, etc. are welcome. Bring a friend!

GOTV organizers are still looking for drivers to get people to the polls. Offer to take your friends and neighbors to the polls, or help them with early in-person absentee voting.

“Plant the Seed” – Wear Dem tee shirts around town; call groups or organizations you’re a member of to remind them to vote on Nov. 6. Send out post cards. Post reminders on FaceBook targeting your young friends and relatives emphasizing the importance of young voters in changing the government to work for everyone.

### **Gun Violence**

Once we’re past the election, it will be time to get back to addressing the escalating violence in our country. We need to look at mental health treatment and connect the dots between crime, drugs, and poverty. Our children are showing signs of the trauma of having active-shooter drill evacuations. Public school resources shouldn’t have to be spent on managing the potential of such events.

People who don’t feel like they belong are vulnerable to feeling like they’ve found a “home” in hate groups.

### **Dollars Going From Public Schools to Private Schools**

A short article in the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the Leader Telegram reported that enrollment in Wisconsin’s school voucher programs is up \$33 million over last year (\$302 million this year). And much of the increase is among students living outside Milwaukee and Racine. Overall, 39,381 children received vouchers to attend one of 279 private schools in the state’s three choice programs (Milwaukee, Racine and statewide). The surge this year is in both the number of schools and the students enrolled through the statewide program. This year, 213 schools are participating, up from 154, and the number of students increased 57 percent to 7,340. Here in Eau Claire, Regis gets about \$1 million in taxpayer funds. The increase is related to the Legislature raising the cap from 2 to 3 percent. Overall, the state is not budgeting more for K-12 education, so the increases in public dollars going to private schools comes at the expense of the public-school districts.

### **Future Topics:**

- Conducting a “Civility” survey in the city, using university students to interview citizens as part of a Service Learning project.
- “Marsy’s Law: -- What are the ramifications of states passing this victims’ rights law? Does it protect or impinge on constitutional rights?

The group adjourned early to get on with campaign activities.

