**Eau Claire Dems: Coffee Klatch Notes – July 26, 2018 *Coffee Klatch is open to ALL citizens interested in a civil, dynamic exchange of ideas!***

**Presen**t: Mary Mickel, Eleanor Wolf, Ann McKinley, Sharon Hydo, Pat Williams, Jim Stefanic, Pat Everhart, Linda Lodoln, Jodi Emerson, Bob Matthews, Kathy Tuttle, Ann Heywood, Bob Andruszkiewicz, Carol Craig, Carolyn Dunning, Renee Fontaine, Abby Green, Jackie Christner, Bobbi Greene

**Discussion**: (In the absence of Connie Russell, our official note-taker/creator, the notes for the next two weeks will be less detailed – BUT capturing the essence of the dynamic discussions.)

* There was again discussion about the many gubernatorial candidates and the indecision by many democrats as to whom they support. Obviously, money is a factor and knowing where the candidates aligns him/herself based on campaign contributions should help individuals know more. Check out this website for detailed information as to WHO contributed to all candidates’ campaigns – drill down deeper (on the same website) and see what organizations/interest they are affiliated with: [https://cfis.wi.gov/#](https://cfis.wi.gov/) , go to file reports
* Discussed the importance of getting ALL eligible voters registered and out to the polls in order for democracy to be functional. Chippewa Valley Votes - <https://chippewavalleyvotes.com/> is asking all candidates to support the Automatic Voter Registration process. This allows individuals to automatically be registered to vote when they get their driver’s license and/or access state office for any official business. A petition is circulating – if you haven’t/ seen it/signed it please notify CVV or come to the Klatch this Thursday 😊! There are over 90,000 eligible voters in Wisconsin but only 62,000 are registered to vote.
* An enlightening discussion about the relationship between the Democratic Party base and the ‘revolutionary’ members of the arty who feel there has to be a more dramatic appeal to the issues facing middle America, namely access to affordable health care and living wages. There have been several articles on this, here is one: <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/podcast-dept/the-wilderness-reviewed-can-a-partisan-podcast-save-the-democratic-party> .
* The value of the Electoral College was discussed (again) – namely because Pres. Trump did not get a majority of the popular vote. Various perspectives supported the Electoral college: all states have influence, Electoral delegates are under each states authority as to who they vote for, etc.) and perspectives as to why we should abolish: no other democracy in the world has such an obstacle to the popular vote, each citizen’s vote should count, etc.).
* “What we are not being taught in our schools” – a young adult activist just returned from a leadership program in Washington DC, and reported on one session that was ‘eye opening’ to her, namely, that textbooks in our public schools do not represent the ‘whole picture’ relative to racism, poverty, environment, etc. Text books are written by private publishers that receive money from special interest groups --- go figure that reality will be shaped by money!! Another reason to check out: [https://cfis.wi.gov/#](https://cfis.wi.gov/) to follow the money on the gubernatorial candidates!

Next Klatch August 2, yikes, less than two weeks to primary. Offer to take a neighbor/friend to the polls, make calls supporting your candidate of choice, ***DO SOMETHING*** – our democracy depends on it.