

Welcome to the Email version of our newsletter. Forward a copy to a friend and encourage them to email us and add their names to our list.

SAVE THESE DATES:

FEB 10TH --
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM
RICHLAND COUNTY GROUND FLOOR ROOM COURTHOUSE

MAR 10TH --
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM
RICHLAND COUNTY GROUND FLOOR ROOM COURTHOUSE

APRIL 14TH -
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING 7:00 PM
RICHLAND COUNTY GROUND FLOOR ROOM COURTHOUSE

REMEMBER EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH WE HOLD OUR MEETINGS AT 7:00 PM IN THE GROUND FLOOR ROOM OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Alert! Alert! New Meeting Times

We have had difficulty finding a meeting room for our regular monthly meeting. The Hospital and Library have too much construction going on and the Courthouse has other commitments on Mondays. We have scheduled the second Tuesdays at 7 PM for our regular meetings through the winter. The dates are Feb 10th, Mar 10th, and April 14th. Enter the building at ground level from the parking lot on Haseltine where the sheriffs park their cruisers. The door is locked after 7 PM, though we will block it open for a few minutes after that. If the door is locked you need to call the sheriff!!! (That should get you there on time)

Solar Energy Forum



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SOLAR ENERGY?

H&H Solar Energy Services will host a
FREE Open House on Solar Electric (PV) and Solar Thermal (Hot Water)

If you need to "Heat-up" your relationship on Valentine's Day what says "I Love You" more than going to hear Glenn Schnadt and H&H Solar Energy Services on

Saturday February 14th 2009 from 1p.m. to 3p.m.?

Open Forum Format

LGI Room

Richland Center High School
1996 Highway 14 West Richland Center WI

If possible, please RSVP to: <mailto:info@hhsolarenergy.com>
Or Call 608-268-5923

Democratic Special Interest Groups Line Up Behind Tony Evers For State Superintendent

Madison Teachers Inc. (MTI) joined WEAC, AFSCME, and a long list of endorsees of Tony Evers for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

“Tony Evers has a record of standing up for children, their education and the teachers who teach them. He has the experience teachers want to see in their next Superintendent,” said MTI Executive Director John Matthews. **“Members of MTI are proud to endorse Evers’ candidacy for this important office.”**

“Our teachers are the foundation of our communities, so having [these endorsements] means a lot to my candidacy,” said Evers. “I couldn’t be more pleased to have their support.”

A product of Wisconsin public schools, Tony Evers has spent 34 years working on the front lines of public education in Wisconsin. He is a proud parent of public school graduates and grandparent of a Wisconsin kindergartener. As State Superintendent, Evers will bring unity around the mission to fulfill every child's birthright to a quality education as well as the goal to ensure that every child will become a graduate with the 21st century skills they need to succeed.

Since 2001, Dr. Tony Evers has served as Deputy State Superintendent. From 1992 to 2000, Evers was the chief administrator of Cooperative Educational Service Agency 6, serving 42 school districts in east central Wisconsin. Prior to this position, Tony was superintendent of the Verona and Oakfield school districts, and was a high school principal, elementary school principal, teacher of gifted and talented children, and technology coordinator in Tomah. On a national level, he has been a curriculum auditor in states across the U.S., and was elected to serve as the national president of the Deputy State Superintendent Leadership Commission.



The Path Ahead

The View From the Rocking Chair

Opinion from Tom Crofton

It's time to take a quick look back at how far we, the RC Dems, have come, and peer into the future to figure out where we should go. Our local, state, and national landscapes are different today than they were even a year ago, and yet, in many ways history is repeating itself. The parallels to the era of the Great Depression are striking. Unregulated greed created a bubble that burst. The concentration of wealth increased at every step of the process. When the economic system could not sustain itself, government subsidized the losses and got the economy moving again. Before the ink was dry on the new laws, big business started an attack on the new regulations. Sound familiar?

At every level we are already witnessing the Republicans trying to make tax cuts the most important part of the economic recovery, somehow forgetting that as much as \$150 billion of the bailout went out as dividends to the people who get those tax cuts, while nothing has been done about the mortgage foreclosures or layoffs. Many of the people involved in the big bubble are in charge of the bailout.

So what are we going to do to as concerned citizens? I'm hoping we can spend the winter meetings developing new understandings of our role as group in affecting the future.

The hard work of many activists in the past, the recent electoral gains made by our candidates in many wards, and the changing demographic make-up of our region point towards us becoming an equal player in elections for the foreseeable future. We need to decide where we can focus our efforts to build on these successes.

I was especially struck, when analyzing the 2008 election results that the big farm townships voted overwhelmingly against us (in local races). While this may not be surprising at first glance, I believe that 80% of the workers on those farms are hired hands making wages near the poverty level with no health or retirement benefits. They are our people, and so are the factory workers getting pink slips in these difficult times. As we look to the future I hope we can figure out ways to make our party theirs.

Our industrious and creative crew (of Deb, Carol, Will and others) put together a joyous and successful inauguration party. Thanks a bunch to Bonnie and Lon Arbegust for allowing us to invade their home. It's great to see so many supportive people coming together to share the victory for change. A big part of our future planning will be to put future events on the calendar on a two or four year cycle, and find people to staff the committees in advance. I hope we can get the next half dozen events "penciled in" and have coordinators signed up soon. (I am dreaming up a summer event that may be worth repeating annually.)

We are also planning a book club that will meet separately. Those interested will pick a book and a time to meet (possibly before the regular meeting). I hope this club will bring out more folks to our meetings and will delve deeply into the issues of the day.

"Our local, state, and national landscapes are different today than they were even a year ago, and yet, in many ways history is repeating itself."

IF YOU WISH TO COMMENT FEEL FREE TO EMAIL A RESPONSE TO [MAILTO:WILLBUROS@COUNTRYSPEED.COM](mailto:WILLBUROS@COUNTRYSPEED.COM)



CHIEF JUSTICE ABRAHAMSON SHIRLEY

GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO CONTINUE EXCELLENCE

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
WILL BUROS

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT:

[WWW.RCDEMS.ORG/
INDEX.HTM](http://WWW.RCDEMS.ORG/INDEX.HTM)



Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson recently marked her 10th year as Chief Justice. She began practicing law in Wisconsin with a small firm in Madison, and Governor Patrick J. Lucy appointed her to the Supreme Court in 1976. The Chief is a tough but fair judge. Her decisions are guided by the same basic values that Wisconsin families rely on every day: Common sense. Independence. Integrity. Hard work. Her rules are based on facts and merits of the case—not politics or ideology. That's why she has the support of thousands of police, district attorneys and sheriffs from all across the state.

Your work will be crucial to Shirley's victory this April. Following are just a few of the things you can do to organize your community.

- **Become a county lead!** We will be looking for a leader from each county as well as people who can fill in lead roles on their team.
 - Roles include volunteer coordinator, events coordinator, phone bank coordinator, canvass coordinator, and data coordinator.
- **Join the Speaker's Bureau.** We need community members who are ready and prepared to talk about Shirley! Most members of the Speaker's Bureau will be asked to attend events in their area that Shirley is unable to attend.
- **Get into the field.** Starting mid-February, we will have a ton of phone calls to make and doors to knock to get out the vote for Shirley and secure a much needed win.
- **Let us know about community events.** Shirley wants to visit your neighborhood and so do her many supporters, so let us know about any events they can attend.
- **Host a house party or fundraiser.** A great way to raise money, make phone calls or recruit new volunteers. And maybe Shirley will stop by or call to say hello!
- **Write to your local newspaper.** We need you to write letters to the editor that inform voters Shirley is the tough, independent judge we need on the Supreme Court. Be a part of our Rapid Response Network—when things heat up, we'll make sure you're informed and ready to represent our campaign in your community.
- **GET OUT THE VOTE!** We need masses of volunteers to go door to door and make phone calls the weekend before and the day of Election Day. Just one last reminder to your community that this election is crucial.

Contact Stephanie Biese, Field Director, with any questions, events, or interest in these activities. Email: stephanie.biese@gmail.com Phone: (608) 222-8806.

Visit the Chief Justice's website and show her your support!
<http://abrahamson2009.com/index.php>