

Democratic Convention Ends, Laning Team Reelected

Written by John M. Rybski, Kewaunee

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Democratic Party of Wisconsin annual convention draws over 1,500 delegates and guests to set future course. Incumbent Chair Martha Laning wins another two year term, along with other current party officers.

MADISON - The 2017 Wisconsin Democratic Party State Convention concluded this afternoon in Middleton with announcement of the results of the election for our officers for the next two years. Continuity seems to be the theme as incumbent officers Martha Laning (Chair), David Bowen (1st Vice Chair), Meg Andrietsch (Secretary), and Randy Udell, Treasurer, were re-elected. While no stranger to Wisconsin politics, Khary Penebaker was newly elected to complete the vacated Wisconsin Democratic National Committee seat through 2020. Caucuses convened Friday afternoon. Speeches by Wisconsin elected officials and the mayor of Los Angeles highlighted Friday evenings plenary session.

Over 1,500 people were in attendance at the convention. Over 1,120 delegates and 76 alternate delegates were identified in the initial report of the credentials committee. Delegates were joined by non-voting guests from throughout the state.

Resolutions to guide party activities were taken up at 8:30 Saturday morning. Speeches by candidates for party office followed. We returned to resolutions after the speeches, broke for voting, and finished consideration of resolutions at 2:30.

According to party documents, "resolutions are considered active for four years after adoption and the 2017 resolutions will be used to advise the DPW platform drafts in 2018 and 2020." If

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this writer understands correctly, this means resolutions passed in 2016 and 2017 will impact on the 2018 and 2020 draft platform. Because of the overlap, resolutions adopted in 2016 obviated the necessity of passing the same or similar resolutions in 2017.

Forty-six resolutions were submitted to the Convention for consideration by the Platform and Resolutions Committee. Generated at the county level and approved at the Congressional District Conventions, the Platform and Resolutions Committee compiled, combined similar resolutions, reviewed them for duplication with 2016 resolutions, and submitted them to the Convention. Each resolution came forward with a recommendation for action, no action (due largely to duplication), or recommendation for separate consideration by the convention as a whole.

Most resolutions were acted upon as a group. The group consisted of resolutions about which there was no objection or request for separate consideration. Resolutions identified by the Platform and Resolutions Committee for separate consideration and resolutions identified in the session by any single delegate were then taken up for separate consideration. The resolutions separately considered included a variety affecting party governance, agriculture and environmental affairs, justice, human concerns, and democracy, and education, labor and economics.

Of particular interest to our county we considered and passed resolutions addressing the revision of the laws and rules regulating confined animal feeding operations, urging public funding for contaminated well testing, and recommending termination of the use of public dollars to support private educational institutions. A complete copy of the adopted resolutions will be available through the official Wisconsin Democratic Party website in the near future.

John Rybski posted this report on the Democratic Party of Kewaunee County FaceBook Group.