

Message:

Dear WRHLC and WAA Members,

Sign Up Now for the 2012 WAA Conference & Tradeshow

This year's WAA convention theme is WAA: Extra, Extra-Protect Yourself!. It will be held Friday, October 12th - Sunday, October 14th at the Plaza Hotel & Suites in Wausau.

I will be presenting "Legislative and Political Updates 2012" at the convention. My part of the program will be on Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:20 a.m. Hope you'll have a chance to join us. I will have all the updates on a draft of the Crime Free Lease Addendum Legislation and an update on our legislation to change the way landlords are forced to pay the utility bills of some tenants.

Department of Administration Installs 482 Panic Buttons in Capitol Offices

From The Wisconsin State Journal

Attempts to step up Capitol security continued this week with the installation of panic buttons in staff offices and the continued targeting of certain protesters.

The Department of Administration confirmed Tuesday that it installed 482 panic buttons in offices around the statehouse, in an effort to provide a level of comfort for staffers who they say have felt harassed by the presence of protesters in the historic building.

The wireless buttons send an alert to Capitol police, who will respond immediately, DOA Spokeswoman Stephanie Marquis said. "(Staffers) have basically been told to press it anytime they feel threatened," she said. Marquis said the buttons cost a total of \$103,172, a total that will be divided between the DOA, the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly and the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

That news comes a day after Capitol police continued its crackdown on protesters accused of holding or posting signs and banners in the Rotunda. Marquis said seven citations were written Monday to four protesters, all of which were issued at protesters' homes and in one case, a workplace. "The citations were served at their homes to avoid confrontation and maintain order at the Capitol," she said.

But that is not how many of the protesters see it. Bart Munger of Milton received two tickets, each totaling \$200.50, for lack of a permit and an illegal display of a sign. Police delivered them to his job on campus at UW-Madison, where he works maintenance.

Munger, who attended the noon sing-along protest at the Capitol Tuesday, said he felt the move was meant to intimidate him. Fellow protester, Arthur Kohl-Riggs, said it seemed police were trying to get Munger fired. "It's a clear case of harassment," he said. "And they made sure to do it where it couldn't be caught on camera, because they know it would get a lot of people upset."

More than 100 people turned out for the Tuesday sing-along, a number far greater than what the daily

tradition had become before new Capitol Police Chief David Erwin announced he was going to crack down on the event, held for some time without a police permit.

The strict enforcement of the rule, along with actually ticketing and arresting some violators, seems to run in direct opposition to the state's earlier stated position. In December 2011, Jocelyn Webster, the then-DOA spokeswoman and now-communication director for Gov. Scott Walker, told several news outlets that "No one is going to be arrested for not being in compliance with the permit policy."

When asked about the apparent change, Marquis would only say, "The standards upon which the police take action remains the same. Arrests are based upon the law."

State Rep. Chris Taylor, D-Madison, said she understands the desire to be safe, but thinks the chief's approach has been heavy handed. "It's hard to know when you will need a panic button, until you need it," she said. "But I have never felt threatened, especially by simply having people sing songs."

State Rep. Joel Kleefisch, R-Oconomowoc, agreed that he has never felt really unsafe in the building, but added, "It's never a bad idea to be careful."

Racine County board committee urges lawmakers to institute online sales tax
From The Racine Journal-Times

Racine County board committee members passed a resolution Tuesday urging lawmakers to support extending state tax requirements to online retailers nationwide.

"It's only fair that everybody has to operate on the same structure of bidding," said board vice-chairman Rusty Clark.

Currently, online shoppers are technically required to keep records, report their purchases and pay state taxes on them, but each year billions of sales taxes go unpaid and uncollected. Proposed federal legislation would change that, requiring online retailers to collect and pay state sales taxes.

Taxing online sellers ensures a level playing field for local vendors, Clark said. For example, if residents look to buy a product that costs \$19.99 at a local Walmart and is the same price from an online outlet like amazon.com, consumers may be tempted to buy online to avoid paying Wisconsin sales taxes, he said.

The resolution supporting the tax is part of the Wisconsin Counties Association statewide platform. Supporting the resolution at the local level reaffirms that stance and "sends a message to our legislators saying, 'Hey, you need to take a stance on this and pass the law,'" said Clark.

A 2009 University of Tennessee study projected Wisconsin would lose \$126.1 million in state and local sales taxes in 2011 and \$142.1 million this year from online shopping alone. The figure does not include

catalog, mail-order and telephone shopping.

Rep. Taylor Urges Action to Aid Homeless Children

Rep. Chris Taylor (D-Madison) this week joined with advocates for children and homeless individuals to raise awareness about homelessness among children and to issue a call for action to address the increasing numbers of homeless children and youth in our community and throughout our state. As poverty has increased in our community, with almost one in five Wisconsin children living in poverty as of 2010, numbers of homeless children and youth have also increased. According to the Madison Metropolitan school district, 1,157 Madison Public School children were homeless last year.

Research shows that poverty in general and housing instability in particular can have long term, negative effects on children's health and development. The Institute on Poverty and Children reports that research links housing instability to a range of child and adolescent challenges, ranging from lower school achievement to poorer social and emotional adjustment.

"As many children with no homes head back to school, it is a perfect opportunity for policy makers and communities to examine the declining status of children in our state, and the challenge of homelessness that confronts an increasing number of children and youth," stated Rep. Taylor. "There are some simple legislative fixes that would really help children experiencing homelessness, which everyone should be committed to lessening."

According to the Wisconsin Division of Housing, on average more than 10,000 Wisconsin children turn up in homeless shelters, transitional living facilities, and other homeless support services each year. Yet shelters are full and their waiting lists are long. As a result, an estimated several thousand more children technically avoid homelessness by doubling-up with friends or relatives.

In Dane County, groups like the Dane County Homeless Services Consortium ("the Consortium") are seeing an increase in the number of families with children that are homeless. "In one year alone we have seen an increase from 237 to 324 homeless households and the number of unsheltered families with children and unaccompanied youth is 4 times greater in 2012 than it was in 2011," said Mike Basford, Chair of the Consortium.

Homeless youth who are on their own, referred to as "unaccompanied youth," face even greater challenges, as these numbers have increased in Dane County. There are too few emergency youth shelters in the state. State law also limits the time youth can spend in these shelters to 15 days. According to Jani Koester Transition Education Program (TEP) Resource Teacher with the Madison Metropolitan School District, "15 days is simply not enough time to assist every youth in getting the services and support they need."

Rep. Taylor and advocates specifically call for state funding for emergency youth shelters and for allowing youth to stay in emergency shelters for up to 28 days. "Every homeless youth should be able to

go to a safe and caring place where they can get the help they need while continuing their education," stated Rep. Taylor. "This is really the very least we can do for them."

Census Shows U.S. Poverty Continues at Record Level

The ranks of America's poor remained stuck at record levels, although dwindling unemployment benefits and modest job gains helped stave off what experts had predicted would be the fourth rise in a row in the poverty rate. With joblessness persistently high, the gap between rich and poor increased in the last year, according to two major census measures.

Also, the median, or midpoint, household income was \$50,054, 1.5% lower than 2010 and a second straight decline.

A Census Bureau report released Wednesday provides a mixed picture of the economic well-being of U.S. households for 2011, when the unemployment rate improved to 8.9% from 9.6% in 2010.

In a blog post, the White House said the latest figures show that government policies can help the poor, middle class and uninsured, while more work remains to be done. "While we have made progress digging our way out of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, too many families are still struggling and Congress must act on the policies President Obama has put forward to strengthen the middle class and those trying to get into it," the blog post said.

At a fundraising event in Jacksonville, Fla., President Barack Obama's GOP rival for the White House, Mitt Romney, said the president "is the candidate that's pushed the middle class into poverty." "We're the party of those who want a brighter, prosperous future for themselves and for their kids," he said. "We're not the party of the rich. We're the party of the people who want to get rich."

By total numbers, roughly 46.2 million people remained below the poverty line last year, unchanged from 2010. That figure was the highest in the more than half a century that records have been kept. The 15% poverty rate was about the same as it was in 1993 and was the highest since 1983.

Broken down by state, New Mexico had the highest share of poor people, at 22.2%, according to rough calculations by the Census Bureau. It was followed by Louisiana, the District of Columbia, South Carolina, Arkansas and Georgia. On the other end of the scale, New Hampshire had the lowest, at 7.6%.

In Wisconsin, the median household income last year was \$52,058, which was not statistically different from the previous year's \$51,939. However, median income in the state was 6.4% lower than in 2007, the year before the recent recession.

Wisconsin's poverty rate rose from 10.1% to 13.1% over the past two years, with roughly 743,000 people living in poverty in the state last year.

The official poverty level is based on a government calculation that includes only income before tax deductions. It excludes capital gains or accumulated wealth, such as homeownership.

As a result, the official poverty rate takes into account the effects of some stimulus programs passed in 2009, such as unemployment benefits, as well as jobs that were created or saved by government spending. It does not factor in noncash government aid such as tax credits and food stamps.

Those at the top saw more growth in their incomes. David Johnson, the chief of the Census Bureau's household economics division, said the top 1% of wage earners had a 6% increase in income in the last year, while earners in the bottom 80% of the income distribution mostly lost ground.

The share of Americans without health coverage fell from 16.3% to 15.7%, or 48.6 million people. The percentage of people in Wisconsin without health insurance rose to 10.4% but was not statistically different from the previous year.

Upcoming Fundraisers

As the fall election cycle picks up steam, there will be many fundraisers for legislators being held around the state. Here are the ones I am aware of for the next week. Members are always encouraged to make the effort to meet the candidates and discuss issues of mutual concern.

Upcoming Democratic Party Candidate Events

Fundraiser for 39th AD candidate Jim Grigg

9/16/2012; 11 a.m.

Swan Park, Shelter at Mills St. and University Ave., Beaver Dam.

For more details or to volunteer a food contribution, contact Peggy Siez [920-326-3295](tel:920-326-3295)

All contributions accepted

Checks payable to: Friends of Jim Grigg, P.O. Box 25, Horicon, WI 53032

jimgrigg2012@gmail.com; www.jimgriggforassembly.com

Reception for Sen. Dave Hansen

9/18/2012; 5 p.m.

Madison's, 119 King St., Madison.

Join Senate Majority Leader Mark Miller at: A Reception for Senator Dave Hansen

\$1,000 Host; \$500 Sponsor; \$250 Friend

Sorry, no PAC accepted

Spring Green reception for 51st AD candidate Maureen May-Grimm

9/18/2012; 6 p.m.

Pat's Place at the Spring Valley Inn, 6279 County Road C, Spring Green.

Host \$150, Friend: \$100

RSVP: jacobr@wisdems.org 608-695-1767

Maureen May-Grimm for Assembly, PO Box 123, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Give online: <http://maureenmaygrimm.com/contribute>

*All Contributions Welcome

Reception for 26th AD candidate Mike Helmke

9/19/2012; 4 p.m.

Home of Maeve Quinn and Andy Ross, 310 Saint Clair Ave., Sheboygan.

Hosts: Mary Lynn Donahue, Maeve Quinn, Andy Ross, Cal Potter, Jim Baumgart

\$250 and \$100

RSVP: Mary Lynn Donahue

Mike Helmke for Assembly, 4408 Red Pine Lane, Sheboygan, WI 53081

Give Online : <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/mikehelmke>

*All Contributions Welcome

Reception for Rep. Steve Doyle

9/19/2012; 5 p.m.

Brocach Irish Pub, 7 W. Main St., Madison.

Special Guest Peter W. Barca

Host \$250, Sponsor \$100, Friend \$50

RSVP to : Tip McGuire [\(262\) 914-1571](tel:2629141571)

Friends of Steve Doyle, N5525 Hauser Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650

Give Online: <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/entity/26645>

***No PAC Contributions

Oktoberfest reception for Sen. Jennifer Shilling

9/19/2012; 5:30 p.m.

City Brewery Hospitality Center, 1111 3rd St. S., La Crosse.

Fundraiser for 38th AD candidate Scott Michalak

9/20/2012; 7 p.m.

Carp's Landing, 103 N. Main St., Lake Mills.

Guest Speakers Representative SONDY POPE-ROBERTS and Representative GARY HEBL.

Suggested donation is \$25.

RSVP: [\(608\) 622-2310](tel:6086222310) * www.michalakforassembly.com

Committee to Elect Michalak, 433 Waterloo Rd., Marshall, WI 53559

Upcoming Republican Party Candidate Events:

6th annual golf outing & dinner reception for Rep. John Murtha

9/14/2012; 1 p.m.

Pheasant Hills Golf Course, 1025 170th St., Hammond.

With special guest speaker former Representative Kitty Rhoades
1:00 pm – Tee Times begin; 5:30 pm- Dinner Reception
Short program immediately following the meal.
\$100 Golf & Dinner Reception; \$75 Dinner Reception Only
Please make checks payable to: Friends of John Murtha, 2283 20th Ave.,
Baldwin, WI 54002
For Questions or to RSVP please contact: Jennifer at [715 796 2421](tel:7157962421)

Fundraiser for Rep. Garey Bies
9/17/2012; 11:30 a.m.
Simon Creek Winery, 5896 Bocek Road, Carlsville.
With Special Guest Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
Suggested Donation \$50
All donations gratefully accepted
Please Send Checks to: Bies for Assembly, PO Box 101, Sister Bay, WI 54234
RSVP by September 13th to Garey at [\(920\) 421 0019](tel:9204210019) Appreciated

Fundraiser for Rep. John Nygren
9/17/2012; 5:30 p.m.
N2118 Keller Road, Marinette.
Tax Payers for Nygren 7th annual Steak Fry, with Special guest Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
Please join us for an evening of fine food, wine, and good friends at the Nygren home, N2118 Keller Rd,
Marinette.
\$100 minimum contribution suggested.
Host Committee members being sought
Steak Hosts - \$500, Wine Hosts \$250.
RSVP by September 12, to Elect@VoteJohnNygren.com or [715-923-3426](tel:7159233426).
limited space available.

Fundraiser for Rep. Roger Rivard
9/17/2012; 4:30 p.m.
Turtleback Golf & Country Club, 1985 18 1/2 St., Rice Lake.
With Special Guest Governor Scott Walker
Suggested contribution \$100
All donations gratefully accepted
Please make checks payable to: Roger Rivard for Assembly, 2680 17th Ave., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Please RSVP to [715-458-4598](tel:7154584598)

Lunch reception for 30th SD candidate John Macco
9/18/2012; 10:45 a.m.
Jet Air, 1921 Airport Drive, Green Bay.
With Special Guest: Governor Scott Walker

10:45 Host Round Table Briefing/Photo Opportunity
11:30-1:00 Lunch Reception
\$100 per person to attend the 11:30 luncheon
\$500 per person to attend the 10:45 private round table and luncheon
\$1,000 per person for the 10:45 photo opportunity, private round table briefing, and luncheon
RSVP to senate@wisgop.org or by calling [608-257-8035](tel:608-257-8035)
Macco for Senate, PO Box 896, Green Bay, WI 54305

Fundraiser for 22nd SD candidate Pam Stevens
9/18/2012; 11:30 a.m.
Slice Eatery, 4235 Green Bay Road, Kenosha.
With Special Guest: Senator Scott Fitzgerald
Suggested contribution:\$50 per person
For Questions or to RSVP please contact: [\(262\) 945-9560](tel:262-945-9560)
Please make checks payable to: Pam Stevens for State Senate, 4024 Washington Road #208, Kenosha, WI 53140

Fundraiser for Rep. Dale Kooyenga and 13th AD candidate Rob Hutton
9/18/2012; 4:30 p.m.
Miron Milwaukee Office, 10700 Research Drive, Suite 100, Wauwatosa.
Please make checks payable to either:
Citizens for Dale Kooyenga, 15365 St. Therese Blvd, Brookfield, WI 53005
-Or-
Citizens for Rob Hutton, 17785 Marseille Dr., Brookfield, WI 53045

Fundraiser for Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt
9/18/2012; 5:30 p.m.
Trinity Restaurant, 40 E. Division St., Fond du Lac.
Special guest speaker - Julaine Appling, Wisconsin Family Action
Suggested donation - \$25/person; Red hosts - \$500; White hosts - \$350, Blue Hosts - \$250
Checks to Citizens for Jeremy Thiesfeldt, 604 Sunset Lane, Fond du Lac 54935
RSVP to jjt1@charter.net or [\(920\) 933-2086](tel:920-933-2086) by Sept. 14

Fundraiser luncheon for Rep. Mary Williams
9/19/2012; 11:30 a.m.
Tee Away Golf Course & Steakhouse, 1401 E. 11th St. N., Ladysmith.
With Special Guest Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch
Suggested Minimum Contribution \$25
All Contribution Gratefully Accepted.
Please make checks payable to:
Mary Williams for 87th District Assembly, 542 Billings Avenue, Medford, WI 54451
Please RSVP to Brian Nodolf [\(715\) 210-5658](tel:715-210-5658) or bmnodolf@gmail.com

Tea with Tonette fundraiser for Rep. Amy Loudenbeck

9/19/2012; 2:30 p.m.

Abbey Resort, Porto Room, 269 Fontana Blvd., Fontana-on-Geneva Lake.

Special Guest Wisconsin First Lady Tonette Walker

\$100 Suggested contribution

Please send contributions to:

Amy Loudenbeck for Assembly, P.O. Box 556, Clinton, WI 53525

Please RSVP to Jillian at jillian@amyforassembly.com

Fundraiser for Rep. Jim Steineke

9/19/2012; 5:30 p.m.

Hollanders Pub & Grill, 1820 E. Main St., Little Chute.

Host level \$500 & \$250; Suggested Contribution: \$25

Please make checks payable to: Steineke for Assembly, N2352 Vandenbroek Road, Kaukauna WI 54130

RSVP to jim@jimsteineke.com or [920-427-2477](tel:920-427-2477) by Sept 14th

Fundraiser for Rep. Kathy Bernier

9/19/2012; 6 p.m.

Home of Doug & Sue Bowe, 1496 Co. Highway UN, Chippewa Falls.

With Special Guest Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch

Suggested Donation \$50

All donations gratefully accepted

Please Send Checks to: Friends of Kathy Bernier, 4511 110th St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

RSVP by September 14th to Kathy at [\(715\) 590-8754](tel:715-590-8754) Appreciated

Reception in support of 18th SD candidate Rick Gudex

9/20/2012; 5 p.m.

Robbins Restaurant, 1810 Omro Road, Oshkosh.

With Special Guests: Senator Scott Fitzgerald, Senator Glenn Grothman, Senator Luther Olsen, Senator

Mike Ellis, Senator Joe Leibham, Senator Rob Cowles, Senator Leah Vukmir, Senator Frank Lasee

Suggested contribution \$50 per person \$75 per couple

RSVP to senate@wisgop.org or by calling [920-922-1383](tel:920-922-1383)

Gudex for Senate, PO Box 1381, Fond du Lac, WI 54936

Cocktail reception for Rep. Chris Kapenga

9/20/2012; 5:30 p.m.

Home of Barbara & Tim Michels, 6831 N. Highway 83, Hartland.

\$100 per couple

Please make checks payable to: Taxpayers for Kapenga

For questions, or to RSVP, please contact Laura Gralton at [414-881-1005](tel:414-881-1005) or via email at

Laura@Graltonconsulting.com.

Fundraiser for Rep. Paul Farrow

9/20/2012; 5:30 p.m.

Bonfyre American Grille, Arbor Gates Towers, 2601 W. Beltline Highway, Madison.

PLEASE JOIN US with Fmr. Lieutenant Governor Margaret Farrow

for an event honoring Candidate for State Senate Paul Farrow

Women for John Spiros fundraiser

9/20/2012; 5:30 p.m.

The Great Dane, 2305 Sherman St., Wausau.

Special guest speaker: Rachel Campos-Duffy

All contributions gratefully accepted. Please make checks payable to: Spiros for State Assembly 1406

East Fillmore Marshfield, WI 54449

Website: www.spiros4stateassembly.com

As always, feel free to email me with questions or suggestions. Here is the information on how you can contact me:

Gary R. Goyke

Legislative Liaison

754 Williamson Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

[\(608\) 237-8121](tel:6082378121) (daytime)

[\(608\) 249-8118](tel:6082498118) (evenings)

[\(608\) 255-3301](tel:6082553301) (fax daytime)

gary.goyke@gmail.com (email)