



# September '09 WCDP News

Winnebago County Democratic Party 920-203-6883

[www.winnebagodems.com](http://www.winnebagodems.com)

## Spring Election Candidates Sought!

Before our October meeting we will host a forum for people interested in becoming candidates for Spring 2010 election. These are local offices such as City Councils, School Boards and County Board.

If you are interested in any of these positions, please mark 6:00 PM October 14<sup>th</sup> on your calendar.

As our Mission Statement says: "The Winnebago County Democratic Party is committed to seeking out and helping to elect Democrats to office at all levels of government, working to have Democrats appointed to boards and commissions at all levels of government" we are looking to help all Democratic candidates with their campaigns.

If you know you would like to run before, please contact Jef Hall at [jef@jefhall.com](mailto:jef@jefhall.com) or 920.203.6883.

Signature collection to run for these offices begins December 1<sup>st</sup>!

The next meeting of the Winnebago County Democratic Party is:

**September 9th, 2009**

@

***The Delta***

515 N Sawyer Street  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

### *Topics for Discussion:*

*Healthcare Discussion*

*Fall 2009 Events*

*2010 Candidate Recruiting*

*Membership Recruiting*

*2009 Budget & Activities*

*2009 Committees Meetings*

*Legislative Updates*

*Local Issue Updates*

*Visit The Winnebago County Democratic Party On Line:*

**[winnebagodems.com](http://winnebagodems.com)**

## Volunteers: 2 Opportunities

### 1. Winnebago Hmong Summer Festival

Sat & Sun, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Winnebago County Park  
501 East County Road Y - Oshkosh

The Winnebago Dems will host a booth this weekend at the Hmong Summer Festival. We need people to staff the booth on Saturday and Sunday. If you are able to fill in a shift, please email Jef Hall – [jef@jefhall.com](mailto:jef@jefhall.com) or call 920.203.6883 to sign up. This is a growing constituency, and we can make a real impact by putting our best foot forward here.

### 2. Winnebago County Labor Day Events

We will again show our support for labor by marching in the Menasha-Neenah Labor Day Parade Monday, September 7th. Please meet at Germania Hall – 320 Chute St, Menasha at 9:15 AM for a 10:00 AM Parade start.

After the parade we will spend time at both the Neenah and Oshkosh Labor Day picnics.

Neenah Labor Day Picnic: 157 S Green Bay Rd, Neenah  
Oshkosh Labor Day Picnic and Car Show: South Park, Oshkosh

Please join or renew your membership! See the form on back.

**Join the Party**

Send Check for \$25 to: Evelyn Rieckmann Treasurer - 9680 N Oakwood Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956-9337

Paid for by [the Winnebago County Democratic Party](#) – [Jef Hall](#), Chair

## ***WCDP Events!***

**Mon Sep 7th – Neenah/Menasha Labor Day Parade & Celebration**

**Mon Sep 7th – Oshkosh Labor Day Celebration & Car Show**

**Wed Sep 9th – WCDP Monthly Meeting**  
7:00PM – Delta Restaurant - 515 N Sawyer St,  
Oshkosh

**Fri Sep 25th – Fox Valley Dems Unity Breakfast**  
7:00AM – BJ Clancy's - 3341 S Oneida St,  
Appleton

**Wed Oct 14th – WCDP Monthly Meeting**  
7:00PM – Delta Restaurant - 515 N Sawyer St,  
Oshkosh

**Fri Oct 30th – Fox Valley Dems Unity Breakfast**  
7:00AM – BJ Clancy's - 3341 S Oneida St,  
Appleton

**Wed Nov 11th – WCDP Monthly Meeting**  
7:00PM – Delta Restaurant - 515 N Sawyer St,  
Oshkosh

**Fri Nov 27th – Fox Valley Dems Unity Breakfast**  
7:00AM – BJ Clancy's - 3341 S Oneida St,  
Appleton

**Wed Dec 9th – WCDP Monthly Meeting**  
7:00PM – Delta Restaurant - 515 N Sawyer St,  
Oshkosh

**Fri Dec 18th – Fox Valley Dems Unity Breakfast**  
7:00AM – BJ Clancy's - 3341 S Oneida St,  
Appleton

**Wed Jan 13th – WCDP Monthly Meeting**  
7:00PM – Delta Restaurant - 515 N Sawyer St,  
Oshkosh

**Fri Jan 29th – Fox Valley Dems Unity Breakfast**  
7:00AM – BJ Clancy's - 3341 S Oneida St,  
Appleton

**Wed Feb 10th – WCDP Monthly Meeting**  
7:00PM – Delta Restaurant - 515 N Sawyer St,  
Oshkosh

**Fri Feb 26th – Fox Valley Dems Unity Breakfast**  
7:00AM – BJ Clancy's - 3341 S Oneida St,  
Appleton

*Have an event the WCDP should feature?*

Contact Jef to get it on the schedule!

920.203.6883 – [jef@jefhall.com](mailto:jef@jefhall.com)

## **Join the UW-O College Democrats for a Meet and Greet Party!**

*By Amy Gearhart*

*Chair of the U W Oshkosh College Democrats*

Come join the College Democrats at UWO for a meet and greet party!

As college students, we have a responsibility to give back to the community we have come to live in. An open relationship between county party members and college chapter members means more volunteers, more enthusiasm, and more elected Democratic officials.

Come meet the up and coming face of your Democratic Party!

A party will be hosted by the UWO Democrats on September 30th, from 7-10 in the Reeve Union, Room 201.

All county party members are encouraged to attend! Paula Zellner from the Feingold Campaign will be in attendance as well as local officials.

Please, help us to welcome in the new school year by spending this evening with us. Tell us what you need from campus and we will tell you what we can offer.

A ten dollar recommended donation would be appreciated, but please don't let that hold you back!

Please RSVP to UWO Chair Amy Gearhart through email at [gearha4@uwosh.edu](mailto:gearha4@uwosh.edu).

### **College Dems are also looking to volunteer:**

As part of our priority to give back to the community, October will be community involvement month for college democrats. If you know of anyone that could benefit from some help raking leaves or another group activity, please contact me and we will see if something can be arranged!

**Here's to a great year of working together!**

**Join the Winnebago County Democratic Party Online:**

[www.winnebagodems.com](http://www.winnebagodems.com)

**PLEASE SUPPORT Senate Bill 203 / Assembly Bill 291 The Family Justice Bill  
Sponsored by Sen. Jeff Plale & Rep. Jon Richards**

*Contributed by WCDP Member Jane Spietz*

Background: Under current law, many families are left with no remedy when an unmarried, widowed or divorced family member dies as a result of medical malpractice. Parents can file for the loss of their minor child but not once the child reaches 18 years of age. Wisconsin also prohibits the right of an adult child to file action if their elderly parent dies due to medical malpractice. The only person that can file a claim in this case is the spouse of the elderly parent. If that spouse is already deceased, then there is no one to file a claim to recover for the wrongful death.

This bill allows the parents of children over 18 to pursue wrongful death claims in medical malpractice cases. It also allows adult children to pursue similar claims in cases involving an unmarried, divorced or widowed parent.

Wisconsin is one of a handful of states that deprive adult children of the right to bring a wrongful death claim for the death of a parent in a medical malpractice case. In fact, if the doctor had caused the death of the parent in an automobile accident, a wrongful death claim could be filed. This is absolutely nonsensical!

Last session, the bill passed the State Senate by an 18-15 vote on January 22, 2008. (2007 SB 138)

The following chart clearly illustrates the injustice in the current law:

	<b>Fact Situation</b>	<b>Current Law</b>
<b>Loss of Child in Medical Malpractice Case</b>	If child is under age 18.	Parents may bring a claim for loss of society and companionship
	If child is age 18 or over	Parents may not bring a claim for loss of society and companionship
<b>Loss of Parent in Medical Malpractice Case</b>	If parent is married with no minor children . . .	Surviving spouse may bring a claim for loss of society and companionship
	If parent is unmarried, widowed, divorced with no minor children	No family member may bring a claim for loss of society and companionship
<b>Negligence by Doctor</b>	If behind the wheel of a car	Subject to same accountability as other members of society
	In operating room	Exempt from accountability in cases of adult children and parents without spouses or minor children

Reason for Support: Wisconsin families deserve the right to a fair and just civil remedy through our court system when a loved one is killed in a medical malpractice case. Age and marital status should not be the determining factors!

How would you deal with the awful prospect of the loss of your own 18-year-old son or daughter due to medical errors? How would you react to the fact that there is no legal recourse for the medical negligence that led to the death of your 18-year-old or your elderly parent?

Everyone deserves to be treated equally in Wisconsin. Our laws should not discriminate against people based on their age or marital status. Negligent health care providers in an operating room should not be treated differently than negligent car drivers.

For more information contact:

Joe Strohl, Governmental Relations, Wisconsin Association for Justice  
608-251-0900 - [jstrohl@pffw.org](mailto:jstrohl@pffw.org)

