



February 2026, Newsletter

Thank you all for your generosity of time, energy, and money during the month of January!

(Please see Upcoming Events below for additional ways you can get involved.)

December and January were very busy months for our organization. We welcomed two new members to our Steering Committee, Nancy Kolb, serving as Vice Chair and overseeing media relations, and Keith Mogel, who joins as 2nd Vice Chair and leads Membership. They have succeeded

Steve Pearson (Vice Chair) and Patti Hurd (Membership), both of whom will continue to advise and lead various committees. We appreciate the collaborative efforts of all of our Steering Committee members. Your work is invaluable.

Additionally, we added a new position Event Liaison, with Pam Duncan assuming this responsibility. If you are aware of an event in Burnett County where our presence would be beneficial, please email Burnettcountydems@gmail.com or call 715-8699-6081, your suggestions will be forwarded to Pam.

On January 10th, a group of dedicated BC Dems made close to 600 outreach calls to Burnett County residents interested in Democratic issues. We thank each volunteer for their commitment and time.

Finally, despite the cold, we had a strong turnout for our Chilli, Chili, Feed Fundraiser, featuring special guests Charly Ray, Fred Clark, Mandela Barnes, and via video Ginger Murray. Proceeds from the event--totalling \$2860--were distributed between two food shelves in Grantsburg and Siren.



Upcoming Events

February

- 3rd Progressives Coffee (Pour House) 10:00 am
- 5th Burnett County Dems Monthly Meeting (Siren Senior Community Center)
 - 6:00 pm Social
 - 6:30 business meeting
 - 7:00 guest speaker (either via Zoom or in person) Devin Remiker, WisDems Chair. (30 min)

- Followed by a discussion on how to write resolutions from Patti
 - 12th Steering Committee, 4:00-6:00, must be a paid member and not open to the general public.
 - 17th Spring Primary Election
 - 17th Progressives Coffee (Pour House) 10:00 am
 - 19th Dining with Dems (Roundabout Bar and Grill) 5:30-7:00 pm. You do not have to be a member or even a democrat to join us.
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March

- 3rd Progressives Coffee (Pour House) 10:00 am
- 5th Burnett County Dems Monthly Meeting (Siren Senior Community Center)
 - 6:00 pm Social
 - 6:30 business meeting
 - 7:00 Guest speaker (either via Zoom or in person) TBA on February 26th.
 - Presentation of Resolutions to get them ready for the CD-7 Conference April 25th.
- 12th Steering Committee, 4:00-6:00, must be a paid member.
- 21st Door Knocking for Judge Taylor (sign-up in March's newsletter and at our March Monthly meeting)
- 17th Progressives Coffee (Pour House) 10:00 am
- 19th Dining with Dems (TBA) 5:30-7:00 pm. You do not have to be a member to join us.

*****April 18 (Save the Date) Dueholm get-together with Polk County. Here is your chance to meet candidates and sign their nomination forms.**

We are looking for one more committee member to help with this. Contact Brenda at 715-869-6081 if you would like to volunteer. ***



From Steve Pearson

My Duluth friend Tom and I traveled to Minneapolis on January 27th to visit the memorials for Alex Pretti and Renee Good, both murdered by ICE agents in the past month. It was a very moving experience, at once both sad and hopeful. At Alex Pretti's memorial, there were close to 100 people present at midday on a Tuesday. People were warm and loving, showing care and concern for each other. Several blocks away, at Renee's memorial, a smaller crowd stood vigil, silently circling the 10'x40' display.

Contrary to the media image of a city on the brink, it seemed like an ordinary day in the Big City, though that evening, Representative Ilhan Omar was sprayed with an unknown substance at a town hall in north Minneapolis. President Trump, who earlier in the day said he planned to "de-escalate" the situation in the Twin Cities, responded to the attack on Omar by saying, "She probably had herself sprayed, knowing her."

We also stopped by the Whipple Building at Fort Snelling to take the temperature there. My hope had been to have an opportunity to engage with ICE individuals in a non-confrontational way, my belief being that 1:1 dialogue is always preferable to angry shouts back and forth across barricades. It turned out to be strangely quiet there with about 20 protesters behind a chain link fence and no ICE or law enforcement presence, save for a Hennepin County Sheriff's vehicle parked two blocks way. Tom rolled down his window as we left the area and thanked the officers for their service and their efforts to keep things peaceful.

As we drove north from the Cities later that afternoon, I felt a sense of calm and hope that I haven't experienced for some time. I was



cautiously optimistic when I heard that Tom Homan, who was first appointed by President Obama, would replace the polarizing director of the so-called surge, Greg Bovino. May justice be served for the murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti.



Steve bio: Steve grew up in the Twin Cities and graduated from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. In 1979, my wife and I moved to Burnett County, where we've lived for the past 47 years.

Pictures taken by Steve Pearson

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