



The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin. To subscribe to the email version of the Grassroots Gazette, [click here](#) or email grassroots@merr.com

Get engaged with local groups

Here are the local groups that are thinking globally and acting locally to address environmental issues, public education, affordable health care, elective politics and immigration.



Weds. Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25, 9:30 a.m. (Dodgeville and Mineral Point). TAKE ACTION TOGETHER WEEKLY This is a group that is NOT SILENT. Every Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m., either in Dodgeville or Mineral Point, they meet to write postcards and make phone calls – and often to “laugh loudly to fight the despair” which is easy to feel in these troubling times. They are eager for others to join them. “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends,” Martin Luther King. **Schedule for October:**

- Wed., Oct 4, 9:30 a.m., Gray Dog Deli, 215 High Street, Mineral Point.
- Wed., Oct. 11, 9:30 a.m., Cook’s Room, 138 N. Iowa St., Dodgeville.
- Wed., Oct. 18, 9:30 a.m., Café 43 Coffeehouse, 43 High St., Mineral Point.
- Wed., Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m., Cobblestone Coffee House, 239 N. Iowa, Dodgeville.



Sun., Oct. 15, 4 p.m. (Dodgeville) Lend your support to SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN at this Dodgeville fund-raising event. Here’s a great opportunity to meet Sen. Baldwin in person and get a behind-the-scenes report about the political chaos in Washington, D.C. and what she is fighting for. She’ll be on the 2018 ballot. Your early support is vital. The Baldwin event will be Sunday, Oct. 15 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the home of Susan and Mike Van Sicklen, 3862 Evans Quarry Road, in rural Dodgeville. Suggested donation: \$50 or more. To RSVP, contact Emma at emma@tammybaldwin.com or 608-663-6300 or online at www.TammyBaldwin.com/17105Dodgeville



Saturday, Oct. 14, 11 a.m. (Mineral Point) – MONTHLY SUSTAIN IOWA COUNTY/CITIZENS’ CLIMATE LOBBY meeting at Gray Dog Deli, 215 High Street in Mineral Point. This active local group is engaged globally with climate change issues as well as locally to make changes right here at home. Following the Oct. 14 meeting, they will be heading out for a Fall Road Clean-Up project. For more info, contact Chuck Tennesen at

twotens@yousq2.net



THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY IN GOV. WALKER’S 2107-19 EDUCATION BUDGET Below is a great summary from Jessie Wieczorek, co-chair of the Action Iowa County’s Education Team. To get involved locally, contact Jessie at jawieczorek24@gmail.com

- **The Good:** An increase of **\$200 per pupil spending** in the first year **plus an additional \$204 in year two**, allowing districts to keep up with inflation but not recover from past cuts.
- **The Bad:** The **voucher program** was **expanded** in eligibility and funding. (Tax payers are paying the bill.) **No more oversight** of for-profit colleges. Also, **teacher certification requirements** have been **loosened**.
- **The Ugly:** **Vetoed** was a **provision** that would have given **school districts** locked in at low spending limits a **boost** to reduce the disparity.
- **The Truth:** Be wary of the statement that this budget is the highest ever for education. Notice the word “public” is missing. The **voucher expansion is expensive** and done without any vote by the public. Also, more than **\$150 million** in the education budget is a **property tax credit** and cannot be used in the classroom.
- **The Future:** Considering all the demands on the budget, **how will public school funding fare** in the years to come?



BECOME A VOLUNTEER FOR THE MULTI CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM (MCOP) The MultiCultural Outreach Program needs volunteers to welcome our immigrant neighbors in various ways – from teaching English as a Second Language (free training offered) to supplying much needed transportation for immigrant workers and their families who are not permitted to have drivers licenses. Here's how you can help address the immigration

issue right here at home – by welcoming those who are hard-working employees on our dairy farms, cheese factories and small businesses. Contact Nereida Burkard at 608-642-1753 or luzneriesl@gmail.com for more information as to how you can help.

ACTION IOWA COUNTY

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR LOCAL OFFICE? People willing to serve our communities on the county board and other local offices are sorely needed! Email grassroots@merr.com to learn more.



Sun., Oct. 15, in the afternoon at Shake Rag Alley (Mineral Point) FUNDRAISER FOR ACTION IOWA COUNTY As a fundraiser for the local action group, Action Iowa County, reproductions of Artist Jennifer Sharp's memorable series of 12 oil paintings of children will be available for sale at Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag Drive, Mineral Point, the afternoon of Sun., Oct. 15. These paintings were created to remind us that the political decisions made today will have a profound effect on the future.

GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN is an energetic group of more than 1,000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Lafayette, and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state, and national issues. For more information, please contact: Shirley Barnes, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI 53565, (608) 623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.