

The Raging Grannies of Madison

December 20, 2019

Dear Members of the DNC Entertainment Committee,

The Raging Grannies of Madison are thrilled at the prospect of performing for delegates to the July 13 – 16, 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee. We are honored by your consideration.

We frequently introduce ourselves with our “signature song.” The melody is [The Glow Worm](#), music by Paul Lincke. You’ll hear it first in our video. The lyrics begin below:

**We are the Raging, Raging Grannies --
We don’t hide in nooks and crannies.**

Wearing shawls, festooned hats, aprons covered with issue buttons, and lots of color, The Raging Grannies of Madison use outlandish “glam” and humor to get and keep your attention. We sing songs of social, economic, environmental, and educational justice wherever we’re invited...and sometimes, where we’re not! Many of our lyrics are written by Grannies. We’ve been a group since 2003, beginning as a project of the Madison chapter of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. We are all “women of a certain age”, each with her own history of participation in democracy and all proud to take part [in international activism on behalf of social justice](#).

**We stand up for peace and justice,
Even when the po-lice bust us!**



During the 2011 Wisconsin uprising, former Governor Scott Walker declared that singing in “the People’s House” was an illegal activity. Several Raging Grannies were arrested by the Capitol Police.

Wisconsin State Journal editorial cartoonist Phil Hands has used the Granny image to excellent effect.



Grannies performed on the Capitol steps before tens of thousands of marchers at the Women's March, [Jan. 21, 2017](#) and again on [Jan. 26, 2019](#).



Women's March

**Join with the Raging, Raging Grannies --
Time to get up off your fannies.**

Grannies value inspiration. We use our music, our lyrics, and our Granny glam to inspire audiences to think about what they value and to act on behalf of those values. We have sung for a wide variety of audiences throughout Wisconsin: grassroots festivals, the annual Fighting Bob Fest (we're their house band), county Democratic party gatherings, Wisconsin United to Amend, University of Wisconsin organizations, church and synagogue groups, library programs, Planned Parenthood, the League of Women Voters, and the centenary celebration of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. During the summer season, we sing every other Saturday at the Dane County Farmer's Market on Capitol Square where shoppers stop to listen, take our picture, and sometimes join us for a song or two. That is a real treat!



At the Farmers' Market



Remembering Rosemarie

**The world needs folks to take a stand,
And that's why we are Grans!**

In 2013, the Raging Grannies of Madison received the Forward Award for Grassroots Activism from United Wisconsin. In 2017, we published our book, "Listen to Your Grandmothers," for which 22 Grannies wrote autobiographical sketches detailing their personal history and the paths that led them to the present. Legislators and others wrote tributes to the Grannies. Here are excerpts from those tributes:

"You know you're in the right place when you see the Raging Grannies." Rep. Melissa Sargent

"The Grannies continue to be on the front lines of fighting for social justice through song. Their energy and lyrics help keep me and progressives energized and ready to work." Rep. Lisa Subeck

"The Raging Grannies are a very strong part of our community and represent the very best of Madison's activist tradition." Congressman Mark Pocan (WI-02)

"The most important thing we can learn from these outrageous and courageous women is that they are not giving up. Neither should we." Rev. Jerry Hancock JD M.Div. Director, The Prison Ministry Project

"They make difficult topics accessible through their humor and biting satire....some have called them 'women warriors' and 'the moral conscience of our community.' They stand up for peace and justice." Paul Soglin, former Mayor of Madison, WI.

We'll close this introduction with a quote from our book:

"Although the stories are dramatically different, they are held together by the threads of belief in the importance of activism and dedication to the common good. Like old, strong, wise women throughout time, we nurture, discuss, sing, and fight for what is right for all living things." Granny Marie Martini

We hope that you enjoy our video. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sheila Plotkin
For the [Raging Grannies of Madison](#)