

Mark your calendar!

Next Membership Meeting

Wednesday, September 28 • 6:30 p.m.

Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

Agenda:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Mayor Dave Presentation | 5) Sick Leave Proposal <i>(Vote!)</i> |
| 2) Steering Committee Election Kick Off! | 6) Referendum on Bringing Troops Home from Iraq <i>(Vote!)</i> |
| 3) Small Business Initiative Proposals <i>(Vote!)</i> | 7) Staff Report |
| 4) Candidate Agreement Discussion | <i>Chair:</i> Lukas Diaz, (262) 443-3136 |



If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodations, please contact the PD office at 257 4985 one week in advance of the meeting.

VOL. XIII, NO. 8
SEPTEMBER 2005

FORWARD!

REBUILDING POLITICS IN DANE COUNTY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Laura Newman Meet PD's New Staffer!

PROGRESSIVE DANE IS HAPPY TO announce that we have hired Laura Newman as our new staff person. PD would like to thank Sang Lee for the fantastic job she did as the PD staffer and regrets to announce that she has moved out of Madison.

During her tenure, Sang helped build PD's membership with many innovative approaches to reach out to the community. She also helped PD improve our online presence and newsletter.

Laura Newman is a lifelong Wisconsinite who grew up in a rural town in the northernmost tip of the state, watching black bears walk by her bedroom window and skiing in May. A few years ago, she completed her undergraduate degree at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where she was involved with campus groups, Amnesty International and the Bowdoin Students' Coalition for Peace. Her interest in politics was strengthened by a year spent at the Université Gaston Berger in Saint-Louis, Sénégal, where she traveled around West Africa and took courses in political science.

Since moving to Madison in September '03, Laura has worked with the Safe Haven Program at Lakeview Elementary School and logged numerous volunteer hours producing a show at WORT radio, mentoring students from Madison East High School, doing office work at *The Progressive* magazine, and baking at the non-profit Catacombs Coffee Shop. She is excited about working for Progressive Dane and having the opportunity to help improve our community.

Economic Issues Task Force Plans to Promote Small Businesses

By Satya Rhodes-Conway and Shelly Fite

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PD'S NEW policy priorities, PD's Economic Issues Task Force (EITF) has developed a list of initiatives to promote small businesses. Pending approval by the September GMM, the EITF will host a public meeting for small business associations, small business owners, and other stakeholders, where we present our proposed initiatives for feedback and discussion.

The next EITF meeting is Sept. 27 at 6:30 pm in the Social Justice Center. To get involved, contact Shelley Fite at smfite@wisc.edu.

Our small business initiatives include:

Amending City Purchasing Policies to Favor Local Businesses By giving a small preference to local businesses, we can improve our bottom line. Each additional dollar that circulates locally boosts local economic activity, employment, and ultimately tax revenue.

Increasing Micro-lending Opportunities We should increase support of existing programs and create new ones using CDBG and Small Business Administration funds. Most low-income workers who want to start a small business cannot do so without help. And it could be cost effective—Nebraska's program created over 500 jobs in 2001, for only \$729 per job.

Encouraging Small Businesses to Buy Their Storefronts We need to look into encouraging developers to make a part of new projects available for sale to small business owners, perhaps as part of a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) application or where the city owns the land. Buying would protect businesses from rent increases, promote stability, and allow businesses to recover their investments should they relocate.

Creating a Transportation Pool for Small Businesses By allowing employers to buy bus passes at a discount

please see "Small Businesses," page 2

Should PD Support Paid Sick Leave Proposal?

By Vicky Selkove

IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT national data reveal that nearly half of all workers have no paid sick leave at all.

These workers are forced to make impossible choices between their health and their paychecks.

These workers go to work when they're too sick to be there (infecting co-workers and customers as well as delaying their own recovery time) because they can't afford to lose pay for that day or because they might be fired if they

stay home sick.

These workers are parents who, without paid sick leave, often have to send sick children to school or daycare because they can't afford to miss work to stay home and help the child recover.

These workers have to ignore doctor's orders to stay home for a day or two because they worry that missing those days' pay will mean they won't be able to make the rent payment that month.

The Healthy Families, Healthy City *please see "Sick Leave," page 3*

If your renewal date is 9/1/05 or earlier, this is your last newsletter. Please renew!

VOLUNTEER NIGHT!
Meet great people and help with labeling our newsletter and other easy tasks.
Tuesday, October 18 • 5:30pm
PD Office, 1202 Williamson Street
(Social Justice Center, downstairs)
As always, refreshments are provided!

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- I support the principles and purpose of Progressive Dane. **Sign me up!**
 Please renew my membership in Progressive Dane.

Sustaining membership: \$ _____ / month (minimum \$5) *To pay by bank draft, please attach a voided check; or first month's check payable to Progressive Dane.*

Annual single membership: \$50 Regular \$36 Basic \$12 Low Income
 \$250+ Benefactor \$100 Supporting \$75 Contributing

Annual household membership: \$100 Contributing \$75 Regular \$50 Basic
More than two adults in the house? Sign them up for \$25 per person. Number of additional memberships _____

Mail to: Progressive Dane, P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 • For more information: (608) 257-4958

Forward is the local chapter newsletter of the New Progressive Party in Dane County, Wisconsin. Progressive Dane is affiliated with the Independent Progressive Politics Network.

Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization. The following committees and task forces meet at the PD office, 1202 Williamson, in the Social Justice Center, unless otherwise noted.

Steering Committee: coordinates major activities, oversees the progress of other committees, and sets the agenda for the general membership meetings. Meetings are open to all PD members.

Co-chair: Brenda Konkel, 345-8720

Co-chair: John McNamara

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 7 p.m.

Elections Committee

Chair: Michael Jacob, 245-0894

Next meeting: Monday, October 31, 6 p.m.

Newsletter Consortium

Contact: Chris Babiarz, 257 3288

Outreach Committee

Contact: Laura Newman, 257-4985

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 5, 6:30 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair: Ron Richardson, 256-7144

Next meeting: Monday, October 31, 8 p.m.

Arts Policy Task Force

Contact: Jonathan Zarov, zarov@wisc.edu

Drug Policy Task Force

Chair: David Chastain, 243-4343

Next meeting: Monday, October 10, 7 p.m.

Education Task Force

Contact: Kristin Forde, 257-4985

Environmental Task Force

Contact: Brett Schumacher, 238-3441

Economic Issues Task Force

Contact: Vicky Selkove, vsselkove@gmail.com

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 6:30 p.m.

People First Planning Campaign

Contact: Ron Richardson, 256-7144

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM: Lynn Alten, Mary Anglim, Jamie Annear, Chris Babiarz, Erik Breilid, Lukas Diaz, John Dupuis, Sheila Guilfoyle, Tom Kozlovsky, Norm Littlejohn, Laura Newman, Jacque Pokorney, Richard Russell, Ralph Shively, Sanhita SinhaRoy, Tona Williams

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: Yogesh Chawla, Shelly Fite, Michael Jacob, Satya Rhodes-Conway, Vicky Selkove
Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the October newsletter to Laura Newman, 257 4985, or office@prodane.org by noon, Tuesday, October 11.

Send all correspondence to:

Progressive Dane
P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701
Visit Progressive Dane on the web at
www.prodane.org

Produced on recycled paper by worker-owned Lakeside Press.

(608) 257-4985
office@prodane.org

The Steering Committee A New Member's Perspective

By Yogesh Chawla

STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS are coming up in October. I was elected to the SC last year and it has been a rewarding experience. When you join the PDSC, you are given a unique opportunity to help shape the future of PD and are given the trust by membership to make important decisions.

Since PD is a member driven organization, volunteers do most of the work, and this gives you a chance to work in many different capacities. During my first year, I have had the opportunity to help plan a counter inaugural evening, rework the PD web site, interview on the local news, and draft fundraising letters. I could not imagine another political organization giving a new member so much responsibility and then having confidence in them to perform. Also, new ideas are encouraged, and the SC is very receptive to giving new members opportunities to take leadership positions.

So what is the process of joining the SC and the time commitments? To join the SC, come to the September or

October General Membership Meeting for nominations. You can either nominate yourself or nudge the person next to you and ask them to nominate you. We then have elections at the October GMM. We will also include candidate profiles on the web.

There are ten steering committee members, and we strive for gender balance, so women fill at least five of these positions. There is one SC meeting per month, and SC members also attend the GMM. Other than that, you can put in additional time on other committees or task forces as your schedule permits.

PD is in a time of change right now. We have two new co-chairs, new and revitalized task forces, a new staff person, and an exciting legislative agenda that is gaining more and more momentum. The SC will play an important role over the next year, and we need your help to create a more progressive community and increase the quality of life for all of our citizens.

Please consider joining the Progressive Dane Steering Committee.

Small Businesses

from page 1

similar to that which big employers are given, Madison can encourage use of the Metro system, increasing Metro's revenue, and help smaller businesses provide an employee perk at a discounted rate.

We are also discussing:

- Allowing some portion of Facade Improvement Grants to be used by new or expanding businesses, and possibly allowing them to be used for interior improvements.
- Requiring Economic Impact Statements for new developments that address their effect on small businesses.
- Helping businesses deal with construction problems, perhaps by creating a City Ombudsperson position to

help businesses navigate city processes.

- Figuring out a way to notify actual tenants/businesses of construction and other projects, instead of just the building owner.
- Promoting use of TIF for small businesses—perhaps exploring the idea of “small cap” TIFS where some of increment within an existing TID can be set aside.
- Encouraging the creation of small business incubator space, such as shared office space.
- Creating a health care purchasing pool to make insurance accessible for small businesses.

Membership Meeting Will Discuss Updating the Candidate Agreement

By Michael Jacob

AMONG THE MANY THINGS THAT set Progressive Dane apart from—and ahead of!—other policy and political organizations in Dane County is our Candidate Agreement. This agreement has long been a part of the PD endorsement process and currently takes the form of a signed document. In it, the candidate agrees to a number of activities to help grow the work of the party and the organization commits to helping the candidate campaign, serve his/her district, and advance progressive causes.

We last revised the candidate agreement in 2003 and are again looking at it in anticipation of the 2006 local elections. The PD Elections Committee recently spent nearly four hours debating various proposals. PDEC agreed that having a candidate agreement in some form was essential, but decided it needed more guidance from the General Membership before it could advance a specific proposal.

At the September GMM we will discuss the following questions, looking to survey our membership and our currently endorsed elected officials.

1. What's the purpose of the Candidate Agreement? Are we trying to make sure that candidates will commit to helping build PD, or do we simply want some evidence that they embrace progressive ideals?
 2. Should we change the CA at all?
 3. Should it be signed by the candidate and a PD co-chair?
 4. Should it include a clause about not endorsing the opponents of PD endorsed candidates? If so, should that clause be optional or mandatory?
 5. Should it be a stand-alone document or included with the policy questionnaire?
 6. How should we make the CA available (just through EC and GMMs, on our website, etc.)?
- In addition to answering the above questions, we need to think about how

the answers would be addressed through specific language in a CA. Words like “expect” versus “agree to” versus “how you plan to” have important differences that affect both the larger philosophy of the document and what we do with it once it is in place.

We need to make any revisions to the CA before we begin presenting it to potential candidates in November. This discussion at the September GMM will help the PDEC craft a draft CA and present it to the GMM for a vote in October. With limited time available at the PDEC and GMM meetings, your involvement now, through the GMM or by getting in contact with the PDEC, is essential.

GET INVOLVED

- Find the current CA at <http://www.prodane.org/elections/PDCandidateAgreement2003.html>.
- Attend the September GMM (see the back page).
- Attend the next PDEC meeting, Friday, September 30, 6pm, Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St.
- Contact Michael Jacob, PDEC Chair, 712-5475 or michaeljacobdc@hotmail.com

For more information about the agenda for the General Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 28, check the blog on PD's website!

www.prodane.org

Sick Leave

from page 1

(HFHC) campaign was launched in early August with the goal of ensuring that all workers in Madison have the ability to take a few days of paid time off to

deal with their health care needs or those of their family members. The HFHC coalition now includes sixteen different organizations, including: South Central Federation of Labor, Wisconsin Citizen Action, the Dane County Democratic Party, the Four Lakes Green Party, the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice, Latinos United for Change and Advancement (LUChA), and Madison-area Urban Ministry.

The campaign will advocate passage of a municipal ordinance—to be introduced by PD-endorsed Alder Austin King—that would require all Madison employers to provide at least one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. Employees would have to have worked for the employer at least 60 days and have to work at least 12 hours per week to qualify. Employers with fewer than five employees would be exempt, as would any business that already provides an equivalent amount of paid time off that could be used for sick-day purposes, even if they call that leave personal time, vacation time, etc.

This groundbreaking ordinance, if passed, would be the first in the country and is modeled heavily after a federal bill co-sponsored by Russ Feingold and Tammy Baldwin (which, unfortunately, in the current political climate, stands scant chance of passing). The HFHC campaign is already sparking excitement in other parts of the state and country: activists in Eau Claire and Milwaukee are likely to introduce similar ordinances, a coalition has already formed in D.C. to push for a municipal paid sick days ordinance there, and State Representative Spencer Black pledged at the campaign's kick-off press conference that he would introduce a statewide bill to require paid sick leave for all Wisconsin workers.

At the September 28 General Membership Meeting, PD members will have a chance to hear from members of the Healthy Families, Healthy City campaign and to vote on whether PD should join the Coalition. Visit www.healthyfamiliesmadison.org for more information or email the campaign at healthyfamilies@gmail.com