

Mark your calendar!

Next Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 26 • 6:30 p.m.

Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

Agenda:

Steering Committee special election
— three spots are open

Elected official report

Report on PD's First Annual Progressive
Bike Tour

2006 Spring Election Wrap-Up; 2007
Spring Election Strategizing

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.

Proposal for new Education Taskforce
Sick Leave — final discussion before
Council vote

Facilitator: Satya Rhodes-Conway,
satya.vadia@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER NIGHT!
Meet great people and help with labeling
our newsletter and other easy tasks.
Tuesday, May 16 • 5:30pm
PD Office, 1202 Williamson Street
(Social Justice Center—conference room)
As always, refreshments are provided!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Madison, WI 53701

P.O. Box 1222

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Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone (evening / day) _____ E-mail _____



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

Sustaining membership: \$ _____ / month (minimum \$5) \$ _____ / quarter (minimum \$9) \$ _____ / year (minimum \$12)

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) 257-4985

You can also join Progressive Dane at www.prodane.org!

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FORWARD!

REBUILDING POLITICS IN DANE COUNTY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Progressive Dane's first bike tour coming in June

By Laura Newman

WHAT DOES A HARD-WORKING PROGRESSIVE do to unwind after a long week? Why, they ride in the Progressive Dane 2006 Bike Tour, of course! PD is holding its first ever bike tour. Spring is the time to reward ourselves for working hard all winter, to take the bike out of the garage and get it ready for summer, and to spend time in the park, enjoying the sun and the company of friends. So mark Saturday, June 3, on your calendars and read on to find out what it's all about!

WHY A BIKE TOUR?

Our "Progressive Dane salutes progressive Madison" Bike Tour touches on so many of Progressive Dane's values: uniting people and community organizations, celebrating Madison's proud history of independent political action, and supporting transportation and environmental issues. For fourteen years, the party has been democratically run and funded by hundreds of people throughout Dane County. The bike tour provides an excellent opportunity for every one of us to come together to celebrate, to be more visible in the community, and to hopefully pick up a few new members along the way!

Madison's hard-working progressives are constantly advocating for positive change, working on difficult policy issues, participating in long meetings, and fighting for what is right in our city. The Progressive Dane Bike Tour is our way of saying, "Thank you, Madison!" It is a time to pause in our good work and celebrate our diverse, progressive city and the different organizations, businesses and individuals that have helped make it such a wonderful place to live.

HOW DOES THE PROGRESSIVE DANE BIKE TOUR WORK?

The theme of our Bike Tour is "Progressive Dane salutes progressive Madison." Each bike tour participant will receive a list of ten progressive businesses and organizations in the greater Isthmus area and a map of Madison, with each location marked on it.

The participants will then have 2-1/2 hours to visit each location on their list, covering about 15 miles. Each participant may choose their own route, though we encourage you to ride in groups and stick to the bike paths.

This is a do-it-yourself tour; you may go to as few or as many stops as you like, riding as quickly or as slowly as you like. We only ask that you ride safely and obey all traffic laws. PD members and elected officials will be waiting at each location, checking in participants as they arrive and providing scavenger-hunt type activities that participants can complete to earn prizes. The tour starts at 10:30 a.m. at Burrows Park and participants need to be back at the park by 1 p.m. for lunch and the awards ceremony.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

It costs \$25 to register for the Progressive Dane 2006 Bike Tour and proceeds will be used to cover expenses—any extra will go

into our Organizing Fund. In return, you will participate in the tour and receive a delicious lunch, a grab bag of prizes, and a lovely commemorative American Apparel Progressive Dane Bike Tour t-shirt. Riders that are not already members can choose to pay \$36 for a one-year PD membership, and get a free Bike Tour entry.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in riding in the Bike Tour, you may complete the registration form that came with your newsletter and mail it in to the PD Office. If you don't want to ride, but want to help out either on or before the day of the tour, please e-mail or call Laura at office@prodane.org or 257-4985. We need lots of volunteers to staff each bike tour "stop" location, to help register participants on tour day, to help serving lunch and passing out t-shirts, and much more.

We hope to see everyone there!

Election a big win for progressives

By Michael Jacob

CLIFF HANGERS, COMPLETE BLOW outs and commentary on a national disgrace—there was a little bit of everything during election night this spring.

The question for Ashok Kumar's county board race and for the Bring the Troops Home referendum was not whether they would win, but by how much. Both posted huge margins.

Unabashedly progressive, active in ways not seen on campus for some time, and just plain likeable, Ashok, with the help of a dedicated team of students, a strong resume of activism, and a deep connection to his district received almost 70% of the vote. The County Board needs to be ready to acknowledge that the campus has a voice on that body and it will be heard.

Madison voters made us all proud by supporting the call to bring our troops home to their families. Predictably huge margins

for a YES vote on the Isthmus were complimented by supportive majorities in all but a few wards. More importantly, Madison was joined by 23 other municipalities in the call to change our approach to the war.

And, of course, there was a dynamic race to fill the open seat held by progressive school advocate Bill Keys. Arlene Silveira's win was the culmination of a million little things coming together—an outstanding candidate with a long history of involvement in the schools, a dedicated team of advisors, outstanding volunteer mobilization, solid fundraising, a compelling message delivered through a variety of media, endorsements from leaders throughout the city and across the political spectrum, and good old hard work to name a few. Without each of these things and dozens more, the results may have been different.

None of it would have mattered, though,

Please see "Election", page 2

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 Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson, 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: Lisa Subeck, 358-7090

Co-chair: Brenda Konkel, 345-8720

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 7 p.m.

Elections Committee

Chair: Michael Jacob, 245-0894

Next meeting: Thursday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Consortium

Contact: Laura Newman, 257-4985

Outreach and Fundraising Committee

Contact: Laura Newman, 257-4985

Next meeting: Monday, May 1, 6:30 p.m.

Policy Committee

Chair: Ron Richardson, 256-7144

Next meeting: Sunday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.

Transportation Task Force

Contact: Mike Barrett, 245-1059

Next meeting: Thursday, May 11, 5:30 p.m.,

Escape Coffeehouse, 916 Williamson

Land Use Planning Task Force

Contact: Amy Westra, 212-7716

Environmental Task Force

Contact: Satya Rhodes-Conway, 320-0254

Next meeting: Monday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Issues Task Force

Contact: Rick Richards, 255-5023

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.

Education Task Force

Contact: Jason Engle, 240-9291

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM:

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THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: Michael Jacob, Brenda Konkel, Laura Newman, Satya Rhodes-Conway, Rick Richards, Vicky Selkove

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the May newsletter to Laura Newman, 257-4985, or office@prodane.org by noon, Tuesday, May 9.

Send all correspondence to:

Progressive Dane
P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701

Visit Progressive Dane on the web at
www.prodane.org



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(608) 257-4985
office@prodane.org

PD learning series underway

By Brenda Konkel

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW TO figure out what is on an agenda and when? How to have the best impact when contacting local elected officials? What you should say at a public hearing? And if it matters? Come hear from elected officials about what they think is effective. Learn the ins and outs of how things get done in local government and how best to impact those decisions.

School Board 101—*Bill Keys:* Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 pm, Social Justice Center

County Board 101—*Chuck Erickson, John Hendrick:* Tuesday, May 30, 6:30 pm, Social Justice Center

These trainings are the beginning of a series of presentations and discussions about how to be more active in local government. Next up, City Council 101 will be followed up by presentations about effective media work, effective organizing, elections trainings and much more.

Contact Ron Richardson 256-7144 or Brenda Konkel 345-8720 or brendakonkel@yahoo.com if you have requests for future trainings or any questions.

Election

from page 1

if three important sets of votes had not come through:

- The near east side went really big in numbers and margins for Arlene. Her experience and vision rallied the progressive base.
- She held strong in the far southwest and southeast part of Madison, areas that have been very tough turf for progressives and referenda.
- Arlene also brought in her home turf of Fitchburg and the areas around Leopold School. Her deep roots and history of work in this part of the district paid big dividends.

Through it all, PD did what we do best: we mobilized and coordinated amazing volunteer support, provided guidance to the campaigns, and added critical expertise and energy to strong messages and personal bases of excellent candidates.

LOOKING AHEAD

Ashok will join Barbara Vedder, John Hendrick, Al Matano, Chuck Erickson and Kyle Richmond on a County Board with an expanded progressive/liberal majority that should be in a position to take a more progressive approach to land use, human services and incarceration issues in Dane County.

JOIN THE PD STEERING COMMITTEE!

The PD Steering Committee is seeking three members to fill gaps until the scheduled election in November. Thought about running for an SC position but afraid to make the year-long commitment? This is an opportunity to try it out for six months!

“Job” requirements—must be:

- Available on second and fourth Wednesday evenings of the month for SC and general membership meetings;
- Current member of PD;
- Excited about building PD!

If you are interested, or know someone who would make a good addition, email Mary Anglim at mtanglim@charter.net, and come to the April GMM for the election!

PD seeks an outreach intern...

...to help design and implement a monthly or quarterly lecture series, starting this autumn, to provide a forum on Madison and Dane County issues. The internship will start in June, and continue through the academic year.

Please send a résumé and a short statement of your interest by May 15 to: Progressive Dane, PO Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701; or e-mail materials attached as Word documents, with “outreach internship” in the subject line, to office@prodane.org.

Arlene will have the opportunity to share her communications and collaborative skills with a School Board that needs a stronger connection to the community as it continues its struggle to provide for our kids and their educators in the face of damning spending caps from the State.

The grassroots’ call to change our ways in Iraq has not ended, but just begun.

Stay tuned on all fronts. Join us to celebrate our successes. Work with our policy groups to support these elected officials. And get ready to do it all again next spring when the Mayor, all 20 alders, and three school board members are up for election.

NOW IT'S TIME TO PARTY!

Volunteer Recognition Party

Friday, April 29 • 5:30–7

Michael Jacob's house,

410 Russell St. • near bus lines 3, 4, 38

BYOB and something to grill or pass.

Awards program for candidates and volunteers.

Come recognize the work of others
and be thanked for your help this spring!

Sick leave heads to a vote in May

By Vicky Selkove

IT WAS NOT EXACTLY THE TYPE OF crowd the Economic Development Commission (EDC) is used to. At its March meeting, the EDC heard testimony from dozens of low-wage workers who all explained articulately and passionately the difference that paid sick leave would make in their lives. Advocates who work with low-income families described how missing just one or two days of work can mean the difference between paying the rent and facing eviction. That testimony was enough to convince three members of the EDC to vote to support the sick leave ordinance (don't forget: the EDC voted to oppose the minimum wage 10-1 two years ago!). The turnout and this surprising vote are more signs of the momentum this campaign has as it heads for a final Council vote.

The Council is expected to vote on the ordinance at its May 16th meeting. The vote is going to be very close and several alders (Bruer, Cnare, Golden, Knox, Palm and Rosas) are still on the fence. The ordinance was amended in March to reflect substantive concerns heard by the business community—details are at www.healthy-familiesmadison.org.

The Healthy Families, Healthy City Coalition (made up of more than 40 organizations, including Progressive Dane, the Dane County Democratic Party, the Four Lakes Green Party, the South Central Federation of Labor, and numerous others) needs your help to bring this exciting, groundbreaking campaign to victory. Here's how you can help:

- Come canvass in swing alders' districts on Saturday, May 6th. Email the campaign at healthyfamilies@gmail.com to sign up & get all the logistical details.

- Send an email in support of the ordinance to the entire Council, the Mayor, the Equal Opportunities Commission (the lead commission deliberating & making recommendations back to the Council on the ordinance), and the local papers. Talking points are available at the campaign's website. The email addresses you need are: cwick@cityofmadison.com (staff person for the EOC), council@cityofmadison.com, mayor@cityofmadison.com, tctvoice@madison.com (*The Capital Times*) and wsjopine@madison.com (*The Wisconsin State Journal*).

- Put the evening of Tuesday, May 16th on your calendar and plan to show up at the Common Council (6:30 p.m. at the City-

County Building) to register your support for the ordinance.

The next PD newsletter will include the final outcome of this nearly year-long campaign, led by our own Alder Austin King and the other members of the PD city caucus. With your help, that article will be celebrating a hard-won and first-in-

Health care forum a huge success

By Rick Richards

OVER 100 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE Health Care Forum at Edgewood College on April 6th. They heard a spirited discussion amongst the four panelists, who presented different solutions for comprehensive health care but agreed on many things, such as the need for a cure, the characteristics of “best” solutions, the unconscionable refusal of our current state and national politicians to deal with serious solutions, and the “brutal” nature of the opposition against sensible health care from corporate interests.

At times the passions ran high. Dr. Linda Farley gave a brilliant overview of the problem in addition to outlining the single payer solution proposed by her group, the Coalition for Wisconsin Health. Each of the remaining plans (presented by David Newby of the AFL-CIO, David Riemer of the Wisconsin Health Project, and Ann Fleischli of Wisconsin) were crafted in various ways to provide nearly comprehensive health care while navigating the political waters and vested interests.

Moderator Darcy Haber, of Wisconsin Citizen Action, kept the discussion lively and added the perspective of Wisconsin Citizen Action. The forum ended with a quote from

PD supports purchasing resolution

By Satya Rhodes-Conway

AT OUR LAST GMM, PD VOTED TO endorse Ald. Brenda Konkel's Local Purchasing Resolution. The resolution asks for a report from the Comptroller and the City Attorney on ways the city can increase the amount of goods and services it purchases from local businesses.

Giving preference to local suppliers, even if it means spending a little more, can actually benefit a city's finances. Dollars spent locally generate additional economic activity even beyond the value of the initial contract as the local supplier in turn sources goods

the-country victory. Progressive activists around the country are watching Madison, eager to see if we can become the first locality to require a minimum standard of paid sick leave for our city's workers.

We will not be celebrating next month without your help. Contact the campaign to get involved and help pass this ordinance, so that 30,000 Madison workers will no longer have to choose between their health and their paychecks.

Winston Churchill provided by an audience member: “Americans will always do the right thing after first trying all of the wrong solutions.”

The forum was taped by Wisconsin Politics and will be available as a web cast within a few weeks. Look for a link to Wisconsin Eye from the Wisconsin Politics web site: <http://www.wispolitics.com/>.

You also can find information about the four health care plans discussed at this forum on the web sites: <http://www.wisaficio.org/features/Wis%20Health%20Care%20Proposal.htm>, <http://www.wisconsinhealthcareforall.org/>, <http://www.wisconsinhealthproject.org/plan/index.htm>, and <http://wisconsinhealth.org/>.

Thanks to all of the PD'ers who made this event possible with their hard work. Also a thanks to our presenters, our moderator and the co-sponsors: Edgewood College Human Issues Program, the League of Women Voters, the Democratic Party of Dane County, the Four Lakes Green Party, the South Central Federation of Labor and the Center for Patient Partnerships at the UW-Madison. Edgewood College and the Democratic Party of Dane County also contributed money to help cover expenses.

and services locally. Each additional dollar that circulates locally boosts local economic activity, employment, and ultimately tax revenue. Several U.S. cities have such policies in place, which generally operate by giving a small preference to local businesses in the procurement process.

Local purchasing is one of the small business initiatives that the PD Economic Issues Task Force has been working on. The report is due back in the end of June, and will hopefully lead to proposed changes in the city's purchasing policy.