

Mark your calendar!

Next Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 24 • 6:30 p.m.

Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

GMM AGENDA:

- ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT WITH POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT VOTE
- ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS WITH TIM GRUBER AND KYLE RICHMOND
- INCLUSIONARY ZONING UPDATE
- QUARTERLY TREASURER'S REPORT
- PD BIKE TOUR



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.

If your renewal date is 5/1/06 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, June 20 • 5:30pm
 PD Office, 1202 Williamson Street
 (Social Justice Center, downstairs)
 As always, refreshments are provided!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Madison, WI 53701

P.O. Box 1222

PROGRESSIVE DANE

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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) 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

YOU CAN JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE AT WWW.PRODANE.ORG

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 MAY 2006

FORWARD!

REBUILDING POLITICS IN DANE COUNTY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Stay Up-to-Date with PD Listservs

by Yogesh Chawla

IN PROGRESSIVE DANE, THE hot political conversation doesn't stop at the meetings - it's always happening online. PD has a discussion listserv, pddiscuss@prodane.org, where members regularly engage in political discussions or post upcoming events or stories of interest. Are you a PD member who is not yet signed up on our discussion listserv and wants to join? Send an email to office@prodane.org with a 'subscribe' request in the subject line and you can become a part of this exciting member forum.

In addition to the general member listserv, individual committees and task forces also conduct quite a bit of their organizing online. These listservs include Economic Issues, Education, Land Use, Transportation, Outreach, Policy, Elections, and more. To become a member of these listservs, we ask that you actively participate in the task forces or committee prior to subscribing.

If the volume of email that you receive overwhelms you, you can still stay up to date with just one listserv. PD has a general announcement listserv that is open to members and the general public: progressivedaneannounce@prodane.org. This listserv will keep you up to date on all the upcoming meetings and PD's busy calendar. You can expect to receive about 5-6 emails a month from this list and can subscribe directly from our website.

You can also visit our blog at www.prodane.org/in_the_news. The blog has action alerts, messages from party leaders and members, highlights from the local press, and general announcements. If you are a techno wiz, please be sure to subscribe to our blog's RSS feed. If you don't know what RSS is, you can do a search on Google and read all about it. If you are a member and are interested in contributing to the blog, please send your submissions to office@prodane.org.

The PD Bike Tour is Almost Here!

by Laura Newman

THE "PROGRESSIVE DANE salutes progressive Madison" 2006 Bike Tour is almost here! We started telling folks about the Bike Tour in late April and we already have a good number of riders and volunteers signed up -- but we still need more! Have you signed up yet? On Saturday, June 3 at 10:30 a.m., progressives from all over the city will meet at Burrows Park to kick off Progressive Dane's first bike tour and we hope that you will be there to make this event a success!

The PD Bike Tour is a great way to get outside and ride Madison's bike paths, learn more about some of our great organizations and businesses, and meet elected officials like Brenda Konkel, Austin King, Brian Benford, and Arlene Silveira. We will celebrate Madison's proud progressive history and remember that Madison is a great place to live because we've worked hard to make it that way!

Why should YOU sign up to ride?

1. It's easy! You don't have to be an expert cyclist to ride in the tour. We will ride primarily on the bike path and on quiet city streets. Each participant will get a map of Madison and thorough directions detail

ing the best route to each location.

2. It's non-competitive! This isn't a race - you choose the pace you feel comfortable riding and you choose how many locations on the tour you would like to visit. If you feel comfortable only riding to four stops on the tour, that's great! And if you want to ride to all ten, that's great too!

3. It's fun! We expect everyone in the tour to enjoy themselves. At each location, there will be interesting people to chat with and fun activities to do! And after the tour there will be a delicious picnic lunch and an awards ceremony.

4. It's progressive Madison! The tour will familiarize each participant with many of the wonderful people and places around town. Elected officials and other community leaders will check in riders as they reach locations like Centro Hispano, the Labor Temple, the Social Justice Center, WORT Community Radio Station, Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, and more.

You may register to ride online at www.prodane.org/bike_tour or request a paper registration form by calling our office at (608) 257-4985. Please contact our office if you are interested in volunteering!

Keep Discrimination Out of Constitution Volunteer to Defeat the Ban

Fair Wisconsin is working every day to defeat the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage at the November ballot box. Progressive Dane endorses this campaign and is working with Fair Wisconsin. Find out how you can help at <http://eqfed.org/aw/event-calendar.tcl>.

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: Lisa Subeck, 271-1004.

Next meeting: June 14, 7 p.m.

Elections Committee

Chair: Michael Jacob, 245-0894.

Next meeting: June 15, 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Consortium

Contact: Laura Newman, 257-4985.

Outreach and Fund raising Committee

Contact: Laura Newman, 257-4985.

Next meeting: TBA, 6 p.m. (see web site).

Policy Committee

Chair: Ron Richardson, 256-7144.

Next meeting: June 18, 7 p.m.

Transportation Task Force

Contact: Mike Barrett, mikeb@urbanthoreau.com.

Next Meeting: June 8, 5:30 p.m.

Escape Java Joint, 916 Williamson Street

Land Use Planning

Contact: Amy Westra, 608-212-7716.

Environmental Task Force

Contact: Brett Schumacher, 238-3441.

Next Meeting: June 19, 7 p.m.

Economic Issues Task Force

Contact: Vicky Selkove, vsselkove@gmail.com, 772-6046.

Next meeting: June 27, 6:30 p.m.

Education Task Force

Contact: Jason Engle, 240-9291

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM:

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THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: Yogesh Chawla, Julian Zelazny, Brenda Konkel, Laura Newman, Satya Rhodes-Conway, Jason Engle

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the June newsletter to Laura Newman, 257 4985, or office@prodane.org by noon, Tuesday, June 13.

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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PD Environmental Task Force Update

by Julian Zelazny

PD'S ETF (ENVIRONMENTAL Task Force) has been busy working for positive changes for the environment. Currently the ETF is working on three issues, two of which are near-term goals and the third a long-term vision.

ETF members are now in discussion with city and county officials regarding the establishment of a policy of "green purchasing". The policy would incorporate a range of practices including such established practices as requiring minimum recycled content in purchases of paper products, to the more novel notion of fueling government vehicles with renewable fuels.

The other near-term project will establish a program at all outdoor fairs and events to collect and transport beverage containers for recycling. Currently events like the Madison Farmers' Market and Art Fair on the Square lack adequate

facilities for people to dispose of their beverage containers and they end up in the trash. ETF members are currently in discussion with city and county officials working toward achieving this goal.

Finally, the long-term project envisions that all county-owned buildings would conform to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards. Such standards are available for both new construction and major renovation work. Since buildings tend to last for a long time, it is seen as an excellent way to reduce our long-term environmental impact.

Interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend ETF monthly meetings. The ETF meets at 6:30 pm on the third Monday of the month at Escape Java Joint on Williamson Street in Madison.

Contact Satya Rhodes-Conway at satya.vadia@gmail.com or 320-0254 for more information. We hope to see you at one of our meetings soon!

Progressive Dane Considers Housing Committee

by Brenda Konkel

YUP, IT'S TRUE. DESPITE Progressive Dane elected officials leading the charge on many controversial housing issues, we currently don't have a housing committee.

Forgetting about the last round of discussions about Inclusionary Zoning, there are many other issues happening in the community that we could have an impact on. What kind of housing will be built on Allied Drive? Should we renew our efforts to have landlords accept Section 8? Can we strengthen the rent abatement ordinance to help tenants who have landlords who don't make repairs? Should we be making improvements to the tenant-landlord laws?

If you are interested in any of these issues, please contact Brenda Konkel at 345-8720 or brendakonkel@yahoo.com to help

make the decision. If we have enough interest, we will officially re-create the Progressive Dane Housing Committee!



BRENDA'S HOUSE PARTY

Are people in Progressive Dane as scary as the Wisconsin State Journal would lead you to believe? I don't think so! I'm inviting friends and colleagues to a house party to learn more about Progressive Dane, what we work on, and who we are.

**BRENDA KONKEL'S HOUSE
511 E. MIFFLIN STREET
SATURDAY, MAY 20 • 3-6 P.M.**

Snacks and beverages will be provided, but you are welcome to bring something to share.



101 Learning Series Update...School Board

by Satya Rhodes-Conway and Jason Engle

EVER WONDER WHAT GOES ON AT the Doyle Building (545 West Dayton Street) on Monday nights? Those who attended the first installment of Progressive Dane's "101" series - School Board 101 - found out. Bill Keys, long time PD endorsed and newly retired School Board member, answered questions about a number of topics ranging from rules about agenda setting to the best methods for being heard by the board.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- school board meetings are televised on Channel 10 and streamed at <http://www.mmsd.org/mmsdtv/>

- school board members make \$4,000 per year, an afterthought given the time members spend?

- there are six School Board committees - Finance and Operations, Human Resources, Partnerships, Long Range Planning, Performance and Achievement, and Legislative - which meet Monday nights often before School Board meetings?

- the full board meets about three times a month, also on Monday nights?
- you can find meeting times and agendas online at <http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/boe/>

- the public can register and testify on anything at any meeting, even if it is not on the agenda (but only for three minutes)?

- if a school board member asks you a question after your testimony, there's no time limit on your answer?

- the President and VP of the board meet with the superintendent weekly?

- a gathering of four or more board members constitutes a school board meeting?

- a gathering of two or more committee members constitutes a committee meeting?

It is no surprise that the budget tops the list of school board issues and responsibilities on a weekly basis. Public budget forums were scheduled for May 2 and May 9, starting public input for a familiar budget cycle that has included millions of dollars of cuts in school staff/programming since Revenue Caps

and the Qualified Economic Offer (QEO) went into effect over ten years ago. Other issues that are routine for the board include physical plant issues (opening/closing schools, buildings, maintenance, grounds, etc.), various district policy issues (expulsions, fundraising, use of pets, the pledge, use of schools by outside groups, safety issues, achievement goals, etc.), and hiring/supervising the superintendent.

Keys advised citizens interested in school issues to attend meetings, contact School Board members, and bring up issues by testifying at committees or before the board. Speak from your experience, Keys said, and tell the Board what you'd like to see happen. Don't hesitate to get involved.

One way to get involved is PD's Education Task Force, which will meet next month for the first time to discuss issues, learn, and begin to create a Progressive Dane School Board platform. What are our priorities going forward? It may be, as Keys suggests, as simple as keeping up on the school board agenda; keeping in touch with PD endorsed school board members Johnny Winston Jr., Shwaw Vang, and Arlene

Silviera; and engaging in the budget process.

Although education has not been a major focus of PD's recent work, we've backed several high-quality progressive candidates and have a history of involvement in school issues. Bill Keys is an important part of that progressive tradition. Many thanks to him for an informative, engaging, entertaining, and - in true Keys style - candid session.

**ANNOUNCING
PROGRESSIVE DANE'S
NEWEST
STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMBERS...**

**JIM KELLERMAN AND
AARON CRANDALL**

Progressive Dane announces... County Board 101 with Chuck Erickson and John Hendrick

WHEN: Tuesday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Main Conference Room at Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St.

As a part of the Progressive Dane Training Series, County Board Supervisors Chuck Erickson and John Hendrick will present "County Board 101" on Tuesday, May 30. If you are curious about how the County Board works and want to know how you can effectively influence county policy, County Board 101 is a great place to start. Supervisors Hendrick and Erickson will explain the County Board's legislative process, the various important committees, offer assessments of current County Board Members and much more. Please e-mail Ron Richardson with any questions at pdonly@sbcglobal.net.

PD Elected Officials Chosen for Leadership Roles

Congratulations to Johnny Winston, Jr., for his election to Madison Metropolitan School Board President! Congratulations also to Austin King for his election to Madison Common Council President! We all know you will both do great things in your leadership roles!