

Mark your calendar!

Next Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 28 • 6:30 p.m.

Verona Public Library • 500 Silent Street, Room B

GMM AGENDA: CHAIR, JOHN HENDRICK

- PRESENT FINAL SET OF LOGOS TO CHOOSE FROM, VOTE WILL BE ON-LINE
- COUNTY PLATFORM AND VOTE
- REPORT FROM THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE RECRUITMENT OF COUNTY BOARD CANDIDATES
- EDUCATIONAL – RURAL SUBDIVISIONS ON VERONA AND CROSS PLAINS, CHUCK ERICKSON AND OTHER GUEST SPEAKERS



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 11/1/07 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, December 11 • 5:30pm
 PD Office, 1202 Williamson Street
 (Social Justice Center, downstairs)
 As always, refreshments are provided!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PROGRESSIVE DANE
 P.O. Box 1222
 Madison, WI 53701

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Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

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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:

<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$36 Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Low Income
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250+ Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$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

VOL. XV, NO. 11
 NOVEMBER 2007

FORWARD!

REBUILDING POLITICS IN DANE COUNTY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Last Month at the GMM

by Dace Zeps

DURING THE OCTOBER 24TH Progressive Dane General Membership Meeting, lively discussion was had as the general membership reviewed the **County Platform**. The document reviewed at the October GMM is in this newsletter. Changes offered by the general membership, as well as subsequent suggestions submitted to the Elections Committee prior to their meeting on November 19th, will inform the final draft presented for a vote at the November 28th General Membership Meeting in Verona.

A proposed **Membership Policy** change to revert back to the old process --whereby a new member's annual membership would begin upon receipt of payment and be renewable every 12 months after that--was postponed until a more fully articulated policy could be developed.

Steering Committee Nominations were put forth as a block and approved unanimously. The co-chairs will be voted in at the next Steering Committee meeting. Those elected to serve on the Steering Committee from November 2007 to October 2008 are:

- Aaron Crandall • Brenda Konkel
- Jacque Pokorney • Jim Kellerman
- John Hendrick • Lukas Diaz
- Norm Littlejohn

Progressive Dane's **Public Safety Task Force** was re-constituted, and Jessa Lutz volunteered to be the chair. The first meeting was held Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Escape Java Joint on Willy Street with subsequent meetings to be held the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

GMM in Verona This Month To Discuss Dane County Comprehensive Plan

by John Hendrick

ON JANUARY 1, 2008, THE first ever Dane County Comprehensive Plan takes effect. It is the result of a broad-based democratic process over several years. As of that date, all county land use decisions need to be consistent with that plan. One of the first tests of the new plan will be how the county handles rural residential subdivisions.

The comprehensive plan includes county-wide policies developed by citizen workgroups, but it also incorporates very specific local plans developed by Dane County's towns, cities and villages. Some local plans prohibit rural subdivisions and others permit them under very limited circumstances. Controversy arises when developers and sometimes local governments treat those limitations as mere guidelines while the county and sometimes neighboring residents treat those limitations as rules.

At the November GMM, we will hear from county supervisors and local residents about several proposed subdivisions in the Town of Verona and the Town of Cross Plains. This will be a chance for Verona and Cross Plains residents to see PD at work and for PD members to get first-hand information from the larger Dane County community.

This month's General Membership Meeting will be Wednesday, November 28, 2007, at the Verona Public Library in Verona, WI, Room B. Directions are at <http://www.prodane.org/calendar/>

To get to Progressive Dane's GMM in Verona this month, please consider carpooling. Several individuals will be

leaving Madison from different locations. You may contact the office at office@prodane.org or leave a message at 257-4985 if you would like to ride with someone or drive others. Directions to the Verona Public Library can be found at <http://www.prodane.org/calendar/>.

Knowing that many may not have time between work and the meeting to go home and eat dinner, some plan to meet up at Gray's Tied House on 920 Kimball Lane in Verona at 5:30 p.m. for a quick bite to eat before the meeting. Directions can be found at <http://www.graystiedhouse.com/directions.php>.



The Beer Caucus

December Beer Caucus

Friday, Dec. 7

5:30PM

Brink Lounge

E. Washington Ave.

Be There or be Square!

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, brendakonkel@gmail.com

Co-chair: Lukas Diaz, 262-443-3136 (cell)

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 pm

Elections Committee

Chair: Michael Jacob, michaeljacobdc@gmail.com

Next meeting: Thursday, December 13, 6:30 pm

Newsletter Consortium

Contact: Jim Kellerman, 354-7385

Outreach and Fundraising Committee

Contact: Dace Zeps, office@prodane.org, 257-4985

Next meeting: Monday, November 26, 5:30 pm

Policy Committee

Chair: Amy Westra, 212-7716, awestra@gmail.com

Next meeting: Sunday, December 16, 6:30 pm

Transportation Task Force

Contact: Mike Barrett, mikeb@urbanthoreau.com

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 13, 6:00 pm, Escape Java Joint

Public Safety Task Force

Contact: Jessa Lutz, jessa.lutz@gmail.com

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 pm, Escape Java Joint

Environmental Task Force

Contact: Satya Conway-Rhodes, 257-4985

Economic Issues Task Force

Contact: Rick Richards, zyzygy1@charter.net

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 pm

Education Task Force

Contact: TJ Mertz, tjmertz@sbcglobal.net

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 5, 7:00, Edgewood College, Predolin 214

Housing Task Force

Contact: Jacque Pokorney, juju_jacque@yahoo.com

Next meeting: Sunday, December 16, 7:30 pm

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM:

Lynn Alten, Mary Anglim, Jamie Annear, Chris Babiarz, Erik Breilid, Lukas Diaz, John Dupuis, Sheila Guilfoyle, Jim Kellerman, Tom Kozlovsky, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney, Richard Russell, Ralph Shively

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: Mary Anglim, Aaron Crandall, Lukas Diaz, John Hendrick, Jim Kellerman, Norm Littlejohn, Dace Zeps

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the December newsletter to Dace Zeps, 257-4985, or office@prodane.org Noon, Tuesday, December 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.

Help Us Throw the Snow Ball



Happy Birthday, Progressive Dane!

Join us for the Snow Ball, our winter fundraiser, and celebrate 15 years of progressive politics

Saturday, December 8 ☀ 7-10 pm

State Bar & Grill ☀ 118 State Street, Madison

Music: The Gadjō Players ☀ Video Premiere: PD History

Share your thoughts about Progressive Dane so far!

GIVE US YOUR BEST 25-50 WORDS. E-MAIL office@prodane.org

We'll include selected comments and memories in the Anniversary program booklet.

PROGRESSIVE DANE TURNED fifteen years old on November 9th. And now it's time to celebrate with a big party.

There'll be food, a cash bar, music by the Gadjō Players, and the premiere of a video on PD History by Rick Richards. There won't be another event like this until 2012! Don't miss your chance to relive the high points, catch up with old friends and make new ones, and congratulate ourselves for a ton of hard work.

Do you have something to say about Progressive Dane? Your favorite campaign, your analysis of our past, your hopes for the future, or ??? Send us 25-50 words by November 30th to office@prodane.org for possible inclusion in the program brochure.

Since we need to raise some money too, your sponsorship is important. Watch for your invitation and send in your donation, or contribute at the door. Sponsors who respond by November 30th will be immortalized by being listed in the program brochure.

Process for Updating PD's County Platform

by Lukas Diaz

EVERY YEAR PROGRESSIVE DANE takes a look at either the city or county platform, depending on the next elections (it's the county this year). We look at the platforms because new issues can arise, issues can change, words can be improved, and sometimes we successfully achieve our goals laid out in the platform--so we can cross them out and leave more room for other issues.

After soliciting advice from various task force chairs and other PD members, the Election Committee develops a set of recommendations that are offered to the body as a single motion (see pages 3 and 4). It's important that our platform accurately reflects what we believe, so we encourage you to head out to Verona for this month's GMM.

Additional amendments can be made "from the floor" at the GMM November 28th, but the author must put his/her amendments in writing and bring 25 copies.

What's Going on in Local Government?

by Mary Anglim

IT'S BEEN A BUSY SUMMER AND fall. The city just finished a marathon budget session in which the lion's share of new money went to increase the police force by 30 officers with much more modest spending for homeless services and after-school programs, and neighborhood planning was closely scrutinized and often rejected. The county's less contentious budget process nonetheless put pressure on health and human needs services. An accurate summary of wins and losses in both budgets remains to be done.

It's easy to forget the other work that our endorsed public officials do. Along with time spent on evaluating license applications, development permits, and project designs, our alders and supervisors developed important legislative proposals. Here are a few examples of initiatives that Progressive Dane members and endorsed officials proposed, worked in committee to craft, and/or helped to enact in the past year:

- The final draft of the Dane County Comprehensive Plan
- A local preference purchasing policy in Madison (now enacted) and in Dane County (under development)
- A bus pass program for Madison's local businesses
- City and county resolutions in support of a Regional Transit Authority
- Better environmental practices, e.g., expansion of the Dane County Conservation Fund, recycling for special events, study of lake clean-up strategies, green building standards, septage monitoring, and regulation of lots greater than 35 acres in size
- A legislative audit of the American Transmission Company (referred but not yet acted upon)
- Review of city hiring and contracting practices and of the Water Utility
- Creation of the Dane County Food Council and the City Economic Development Committee's Subcommittee on Job Creation

- Living wage provision extended to temporary workers in the Alliant Center, and to city workers who perform a mix of city and non-city work
- Competitive bidding on jail services, including telephone services
- Updating of the Dane County Fair Housing Ordinance (vetoed for technical reasons by the County Executive)
- Guarantee of 26 weeks of unpaid family medical leave for County employees
- An early comment period at City Council meetings to allow people with child care and other scheduling conflicts to speak on any agenda item early in the session
- A study and recommendations to improve the balance of women, racial/ethnic minorities and people with

disabilities in top city management positions and in city committee, commission, and board appointments

- A capital borrowing program to allow lending to developers at city interest rates to build affordable rental housing. (rejected by the City Council)
- A resolution on impeachment of President Bush and Vice-President Cheney (approved by the County Board, rejected by the City Council)

Though most of these initiatives were adopted, some were not, and some undesirable legislation passed as well. Progressive Dane members face a long-term challenge to figure out how to design good public policy and to persuade our fellow citizens to concur.

Grassroots Leadership College

by Aaron Crandall

THE GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP COLLEGE IS A PROGRAM for training Madison area residents to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods and communities. It supports developing grassroots leaders by providing the opportunity to build skills and relationships in a supportive and challenging environment.

I enrolled in GLC for the fall semester and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience as an emerging leader. My coach has been supportive of my project, which I had already begun and is to organize my neighborhood into a neighborhood association. I've felt that the training that GLC has provided, from holding an effective meeting to analyzing power structures, has been helpful in providing me some insight into what could be done next.

The discussion that occurs during classes is probably the most beneficial because it gives all attendees, both coaches and leaders, the opportunity to share ideas and also give others ideas. We have been meeting every Thursday at the James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation on East Johnson and will be "graduating" in early December. It's been fun and helpful in my quest to learn new skills and also build upon what I already know and can share.

Their mission statement is: "The Grassroots Leadership College supports the development of grassroots leaders by building skills and relationships in a supportive and challenging environment". If you're interested in learning more or enrolling either as a coach or emerging leader, check out their website at www.grassrootsleadershipcollege.org.

Remember to Sponsor
15th Anniversary Snow Ball
www.prodane.org

County Platform of Progressive Dane

Revised and Approved by the Progressive Dane Membership, November 28, 2007

Progressive Dane believes that Dane County government should do the following, and commits itself to working for full implementation of these policies.

1. Living Wages and Economic Development

- 1.a. Provide health insurance and a Living Wage adjusted for the higher cost of living in Dane County (at least 112% of the federal poverty level for a family of four) for all county-funded jobs
- 1.b. Target economic development subsidies to projects and locally-owned businesses that offer family-supporting jobs, affordable health care, respect for workers' rights, equal opportunity, and environmental soundness
- 1.c. Promote and support "buy local" policies and initiatives
- 1.d. Work to connect low-income residents to skill-training, educational opportunities, workforce supports, and family-supporting jobs
- 1.e. Develop and coordinate programs that foster small, local and start-up businesses; for example, entrepreneurial training, micro-lending, business incubators, business-owned storefronts, assistance with business plans, and identifying available office and manufacturing locations and other needs

2. Open and Democratic Government

- 2.a. Urge the state legislature to permit counties to implement their own campaign finance reforms, including limits on contributions and significant public funding of all elections
- 2.b. Strictly enforce laws governing full and timely disclosure of the sources of funds for county electoral races; require candidates to file their campaign finance reports electronically; require the County Clerk to post this information immediately on the county web site
- 2.c. Make readily accessible the wages and other compensation paid to county-funded employees, including managers and executives
- 2.d. Pursue ways to make all aspects of county government responsive and accessible to the public
- 2.e. Support efforts to enhance the ability of all residents to fully participate in county boards, committees, and commissions

3. Public Safety and Protection

- 3.a. As the primary approach to dealing with non-violent crime, provide diversion and preventive programs that address the root causes of crime and juvenile delinquency, while respecting civil rights and individual liberties
- 3.b. Provide a secure treatment facility for alcohol and other drug abusers as the primary incarceration tool used to prevent repeat offenses and reduce jail crowding

4. Land Use, Transportation and Environmental Protection

- 4.a. Ensure that Dane County's comprehensive Smart Growth plan emphasizes preserving farmland, encouraging family farming, and fostering livable communities
- 4.b. Promote clean water and reduce flooding by prioritizing county stormwater enforcement and enhancing county wetland protection efforts through additional land acquisition and tighter zoning enforcement
- 4.c. Prioritize funding for the Conservation Fund to purchase additional parks and open space
- 4.d. Encourage rural preservation by using Transfer of Development Rights programs in new development areas

- 4.e. Support a regional transit authority that provides affordable, available and accessible public transportation; support subsidies for elderly, disabled, and low-income residents using public transportation
- 4.f. Expand pedestrian and bicycle routes
- 4.g. Avoid major new highway construction, including construction of a North Beltline
- 4.h. Provide incentives for all county employees to use public transportation, carpooling, biking or walking to get to work
- 4.i. Support county purchasing policies that favor recycled, recyclable, locally produced, environmentally friendly, sweatshop-free and energy efficient goods; support purchasing significant amounts of and increasing proportions of clean energy
- 4.j. Operate all county-owned buildings in such a way that reduces energy use; audit all county-owned buildings to determine ways to save energy and increase energy efficiency
- 4.k. Any vehicle owned or leased by the county should be as fuel efficient and non-polluting as practicable
- 4.l. Promote and support green and sustainable initiatives and practices by business and government both in current activities and in new projects and developments

5. Affordable Housing

- 5.a. Promote development of housing stock that includes affordable options for every Dane County resident
- 5.b. Support community land trust programs, an affordable housing trust fund, single room occupancy housing, and transitional housing services to further enhance housing options throughout Dane County
- 5.c. Support community-based programs that educate renters about their legal rights and assist them in defending those rights
- 5.d. Support county laws and policies that prohibit housing discrimination and discourage economic segregation

6. Quality Human Services

- 6.a. Adequately fund human service agencies, including annual cost of living increases, to address issues such as poverty, discrimination, domestic violence, community safety, and public health
- 6.b. Ensure basic safety net services to those who are ineligible for federal Supplemental Security Income and food stamp benefits and Wisconsin's welfare (W-2) program
- 6.c. Support due process provisions in state and county social services programs for those who are wrongfully denied eligibility for these services

7. Efficient, Effective Government

- 7.a. Oppose privatization of services currently provided by County employees
- 7.b. Take measures necessary to ensure that county employees' workplaces are free of discrimination and harassment
- 7.c. Extend benefits available to married couples to all domestic partnerships
- 7.d. Require proposals to consolidate government services to demonstrate that they will result in improved delivery of services and cost savings will not be derived from reduced staffing
- 7.e. Give preference in county contracts to firms paying prevailing wages or employing a unionized workforce and to those with a history of no violations of environmental, safety, labor or civil rights laws
- 7.f. Give preference in county contracts to firms with proven affirmative action records and to those owned by minorities and women
- 7.g. Urge the state legislature to permit progressive sources of revenue and to eliminate spending caps on raising revenue