

VOL. XV, NO. 3
MARCH 2007

F FORWARD!

REBUILDING POLITICS IN DANE COUNTY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Progressive Opportunity

OUR DYNAMITE STAFF PERSON'S law career is taking off so fast that she needs to put aside the many tasks she does for us. We are happy for Jessa, but hereby announce that Progressive Dane is seeking qualified applicants to fill one or both of her shoes.

We are looking for two functions--an Administrative Coordinator and a Membership Development Coordinator. These two positions could be filled by one person but we are very open to hiring someone with a preference for just one of them.

The Administrative Coordinator manages the Progressive Dane office, sends out membership renewal notices, collects and trouble-shoots sustainerships, assures accurate financial and personal records in the Progressive Dane data-base, and performs other general office tasks. Candidates will need excellent computer and writing skills, database management experience (File Maker Pro a plus!), and preference for working independently. The position will be 15 hours per week.

The Membership Development Coordinator builds leadership capacity among current members and works to increase interest in Progressive Dane. The person in this position recruits new members and expands Progressive Dane's volunteer base. Duties include working closely with the Outreach Committee to coordinate events designed to increase Progressive Dane's membership, coordinating tabling events to publicize Progressive Dane, and reaching out to other progressive groups in Dane County to help build collective action. This position will be 10 hours per week.

We anticipate that the hiring process will begin in April. Look for more information at www.prodane.org. If you are interested in applying for either of these positions--or both!-- please contact Lisa Subeck (lisasubeck@sbcglobal.net) or Brenda Konkel (brendakonkel@prodane.org).

PD Candidates Offer Dedication, Experience

THIS ISSUE OF THE PROGRESSIVE Dane newsletter is devoted to our terrific group of endorsed candidates for City Council and Madison School Board. Each won our endorsement by hard work for progressive ideals in past terms of office and/or by offering to do that hard work in the coming years. They are not just an accidental collection of "left-leaning" (to use the mainstream media's buzz word) political aspirants who happened to accept an interview with Progressive Dane. They are a real group because they share common values and policy objectives, and with luck they will pull together to make a team.

It's obvious that lots of people--maybe you yourself--devote hours upon hours of

time and energy during the election season to run for office or to support someone who is running. Some people seem to enjoy the contest and relish the prospect of changing local policies. But for many, when the returns come in, the season is over until the next time. Elected officials can be more or less abandoned by their constituents once the election has passed. Until a controversial issue comes up, the official is often on his or her own to figure out how local government works and to respond to constituent complaints. It's hard to find time to formulate long-term goals or create strategies to achieve them. It's easy to rely on a few advisors who

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Primary Success! On to the General!

By Michael Jacob

THE 2007 ELECTIONS OFFER MORE choices in more races and more primaries than in recent memory, making for an exciting and daunting election year for progressives. The first round of good news came in February when all of Progressive Dane's endorsed candidates with primaries advanced to the general election on April 3.

Beth Moss came through with half the vote in a three-way primary for one of the school board seats. Satya Rhodes-Conway came in just short of winning the primary even though progressives were splitting their votes in District 12. Vicky Selkove garnered 40% of the vote in a three-way primary in her bid to unseat Larry Palm in District 15. Marsha Rummel rolled her experience and tenure in District 6 to a massive percentage of the vote over her three primary opponents. Tim Gruber showed very well in his effort to earn a second term against two candidates in District 11.

These five candidates join Johnny Winston, Jr. (school board, running for re-election), Marj Passman (running for the open

seat being vacated by Ruth Robarts), Robbie Webber (District 5, running for re-election), and Lauren Woods (District 8, the seat held by retiring Alder Austin King) in competitive races. Alders Brenda Konkel and Mike Verveer are running unopposed.

Does a sweep of the primary elections suggest more spring cleaning in April? Only if progressives rally hard in the final days to support -- for the first time or the umpteenth time -- our many candidates in heated races. Particularly important is helping with Get Out the Vote lit drops and phone calling, especially if we can offer the personal touch juxtaposed with the endless robo-calls that are sure to hit in the waning days.

Lauren Woods, Satya-Rhodes-Conway, Tim Guber, Vicky Selkove, Robbie Webber and Beth Moss all have GOTV events and are in tight races. The hour, or several hours, you provide to help can be the difference. Write the [pddiscuss](mailto:pddiscuss@listserv.org) listserv or contact Michael Jacob at michaeljacobdc@gmail.com or 712-5475 to get signed up.

Last Month at the GMM

by Mary Anglim

The spring elections absorbed much of our attention at the February GMM. Michael Jacob reported on behalf of the elections committee that all our endorsed candidates with primaries succeeded, often with gratifying margins. All that's needed now is a few hundred more volunteer hours to get mailings mailed, lit dropped, and phone calls placed. **No race can be taken for granted.** Check the website, www.proदानe.org, for campaign schedules or contact any of the candidates profiled here to volunteer. Opportunities for fresh air and exercise are abundant.

On the recommendation of the Elections Committee, members approved contributing \$700 to Beth Moss's campaign for School Board and \$100 to Tim Gruber's campaign for Alder. We also approved donating the up-dated voter file for District 5 and District 8 to the Robbie Webber and Lauren Woods alder campaigns respectively (estimated value \$100 each). The Elections Committee also intends to reserve \$1,000 to purchase the April 2007 voter file for future use, plus funding for the newsletter and 2008 fund-raising efforts. Additional donations, if funds are available, may be proposed at the March GMM.

John Hendrick and Ashok Kumar gave an Elected Officials Report on Dane County land use issues. A 2006 study by the Brookings Institution found that the Madison area ranks fifth

in the nation in the percent of population living in "Exurbia." Exurbs are "communities located on the urban fringe that have at least 20% of their workers commuting to jobs in an urbanized area, exhibit low housing density, and have relatively high population growth." Exurb areas are expanding rapidly, especially in the South and Mid-West, with predictable consequences for farmland near urban centers.

The Dane County Board can do some things to mitigate the downside of housing and population growth, especially in the unincorporated areas of the county. For example, zoning changes could discourage use of very large lots (in many parts of rural Dane county, 35-acre lots are standard). Farmers could be empowered to sell the development rights on their property, thus preserving that land for long-term agricultural use. To make it happen, citizens have to show the County Board that they are interested, and interested citizens have to be encouraged to run and get elected to the County Board. Contact the Land Use Planning group if you want to work with Progressive Dane on county development issues.

Conversation at the end of the meeting focused on recent tough prosecutions of minor drug offenses by the Dane County District Attorney. Several members urged writing letters to the County Board to express concern.

Don't throw your vote away! Vote Absentee!

Will you be out of town during the UW or MMSD spring break? Take a few minutes to vote early, or arrange to cast an absentee ballot. Your vote just might decide an important race.

Early voting is available at the City Clerk's office, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, any time from now until March 31. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 31. The clerk's office will be open 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on March 24 (as well as the 31st) and open 8:00 am to 6:30 pm March 26 through March 29.

Request an absentee ballot by mail using the form at www.ci.madison.wi.us/clerk/documents/AbsenteeBallotRequest.pdf, and return the ballot to the City Clerk on or before April 3.

New Membership Schedule Coming Soon

Do you pay your PD membership annually? Starting May 1, all annual memberships will run from May 1 through April 30. If you joined on February 1 or later, your membership extends until April 30 of the next year.

You'll receive more information by mail about how this change affects you. Don't forget that you can avoid all renewal hassles and save postage too by becoming a sustainer. Sustainers authorize a periodic deduction from a checking or savings account. It's painless and easy. Annual and quarterly sustainer options are available, as well as monthly deductions.

Party, Party, Party,
Party, Party

Progressive Dane Potluck

sponsored by the PD Outreach Committee

Sunday, March 25, 5-7 p.m.

at the home of Jessa Lutz

311 N. Hancock, #232.

Bring a dish and a friend and relax with your fellow PD members.

Election Night Parties

Tuesday, April 3, starting about 8 p.m.

Marsha Rummel, Vicky Selkove, and Beth Moss will celebrate at the Harmony Bar, 2201 Atwood Avenue.

Satya Rhodes-Conway will see you at the Sandlot, 301 North Street.

Tim Gruber invites you to join him at EVP, 3809 Mineral Point Road.

Check candidates' websites for more locations as the date approaches.

PD Beer Caucus

Thursday, April 5, 5:30 p.m.

Brocach's Pub, 7 West Main Street on the Capital Square.

"Party For a Better World: Madison's

Progressive Community Celebrates"

Thursday, April 5, 7-11 p.m.

Brink Lounge, 701 East Washington Avenue.

Music provided by the Brink, includes a set by Greg Winkler opening for Alexander Merrick & Brown. Cover is \$5, cash bar. Co-sponsors include Midwest Environmental Advocates, WI CUB, WI LCV, 1000 Friends, and Progressive Dane.

Volunteer Recognition Party

Monday, April 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Brink Lounge, 701 East Washington Avenue.

Meet the volunteers who made PD-endorsed candidates' campaigns possible, hear the inside campaign stories, and honor the contributions of our retiring electeds.

Candidate Profiles

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calming and Metro improvement, better coordination between the city and the schools, and the neighborhood planning processes. Vicky wants to invest in our city's infrastructure and services to expand the tax-base while keeping tax increases down. She will be a hard-working and creative alder.

Mike Verveer, District 4



District 4 includes the Capital Square and area west to Langdon Stree and southwest to Proudfit and Regent Street, an area of intense development both residential and commercial. Mike Verveer has been on

the Common Council for 12 years and an active member of the caucus during the entire life of the Progressive Dane city caucus. After the retirements on the council this year, he will be the person with the second most seniority on the Council. He has served as Council President and has had a notoriously heavy committee appointment schedule. Often he is the alder with the most committee assignments.

He has represented the downtown 4th district through much transition and controversy with development issues, as well as major changes like the Monona Terrace, State Street reconstruction, and the Overture Center. Mike has an excellent voting record on Progressive Dane issues and is very prolific in his efforts to pass legislation. He's an unwavering and proud member of Progressive Dane, and we appreciate that!

Progressive Dane is proud to support three candidates for School Board, Madison Metropolitan School District

Beth Moss, Seat 3

www.mossforschoolboard.com



Beth is married with two children in the Madison Metro School District. She was a co-chair of Community and School Together (CAST), a grassroots-group that worked with Progressive Dane and

others in order to secure passage of school funding referendum. She is also a member of the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools. Beth assisted in the foundation of the A Helping Hand for Autism (AHHFA).

Beth firmly believes it is our fundamental responsibility to provide a public education for all children so that each child will achieve his or her full potential, regardless of economic or racial background or disability. Beth is committed to narrowing the achievement gap, communicating with members of the community as much as possible, and making the budget process easier to understand.

Beth's background as a teacher in Africa, Great Britain, and El Paso, Texas gives her a unique perspective and experience in working with different student populations and in completely different school systems. She can bring this wide array of experience to the board and provide fresh ideas and a new perspective. The MMSD is changing in demographics and available funding; therefore, we need new ideas to continue the excellence we've all come to expect. Progressive Dane strongly believes that Beth Moss can deliver.

Beth's responses to the Progressive Dane questionnaire can be found on her website in the On the Record section.

Johnny Winston, Jr., Seat 4

www.johnnywinstonjr.com



Johnny Winston, Jr. was elected to the Madison School Board in 2004 with PD support. Our efforts have been well rewarded.

Johnny has been a leader on the Board, fostering Board cooperation and encouraging other members to lead. He served as chair of the Finance and Operations Committee in 2005-06 and as president of the Board in 2006-2007. Under his leadership, the Board offered the \$100 Budget Process to educate voters about the school district budget and united to support the Fall 2006 referendum. Johnny's priorities include encouraging parent and neighborhood involvement in schools, protecting educational quality in Madison and keeping middle to high income families in the district, enrolling more students of color in Talented

and Gifted and Advanced Placement programs, and developing alternatives for suspended and truant students. He sees the state revenue caps and school funding mechanisms as counter-productive and will work to change the state law.

Johnny has worked hard to improve communication between the Board and the community. He invites Progressive Dane to help involve people in school issues such as school boundaries, educational equity, and the connection between schools and city government. Put the Progressive Dane Education Task Force on your to-do list and support this experienced and gifted leader.

Marj Passman, Seat 5

www.marjpassmanforschoolboard.com/



Marj has spent more than 25 years as a classroom teacher. Her teaching career has taken her from an inner city New York high school, to elementary schools in England and China, and finally to a middle school in Madison.

Marj received the Madison Metropolitan School District Distinguished Service Award, the University of Wisconsin Distinguished Teacher of Teachers, and the NBC 15 Crystal Apple Award.

Since retiring, Marj has become an active advocate for Madison schools. She has been mentoring first year teachers, and served as treasurer of CAST (Community and Schools Together), an organization that endorsed the recent successful school referendum.

Her core belief is that "all of our students' needs must be met, including the students at both ends of the spectrum as well as those in the middle". At a time when the school district will have to make drastic budget cuts, will be hiring a new superintendent and will be facing issues such as looking at the Code of Conduct, it will be very worthwhile to have a School Board member who knows what is happening in the schools and in the classrooms. Marj will bring that experience to the Board.

Her answers to the PD questionnaire and other candidate questionnaires are available at her website.

Mary Anglim, Lukas Diaz, Brenda Konkel, Michael Jacob, Ron Richardson, Lisa Subeck, and Amy Westra collaborated on this article.