

Mark your calendar!

Next Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting
 Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
 Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

- Staff & Treasurer Report
 - Follow up on Listserv Guidelines
 - Supervisor Report – John Hendrick
 - Alder Report – Satya Rhodes-Conway
 - Metro (Aaron Crandall, TJ Mertz, and guests)
 - Immigrant Deportation (Adam Porton)
- Chair, Tj Mertz



FORWARD!

The Official Newsletter of Progressive Dane Volume 16 No. 11 November 2008

Rebuilding Politics in Dane County from the Grassroots

Last Month at the GMM

By Dace Zeps

PROGRESSIVE DANE'S ANNUAL platform and steering committee election meeting was held Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at the Downtown Madison Public Library. Dace Zeps chaired as the 2008-09 Steering Committee was elected. Those nominees present gave a brief statement outlining what they hope to accomplish for Progressive Dane by being on the Steering Committee.

Lukas Diaz presented the City Platform recommendations of the Elections Committee. Excellent discussion was had and the City Platform was accepted as amended. The new city platform can be seen at www.prodane.org.

All our endorsed elected were invited to attend this meeting to make a statement on their current work and how we can help support that work. It is important to remember that many of our electeds have city or county committee meetings and were not able to attend. Our School Board Members were at a public information session on the School Referendum.

Alder Satya Rhodes-Conway spoke about the Solar & Wind Ordinance, the budget, and the Zoning Rewrite, a three year project with huge implications. Supervisor John Hendrick spoke about the Human Services budget and shore line protection.

Aaron Crandall presented a draft of the PD Discuss listserv policy. There was discussion on the function of the list. Satya asked that the Steering Committee finish a draft on this and the other PD listservs and post those to each listserv prior to the next GMM to allow people on those lists to weigh in.

Isn't Metro a City Service?

By Aaron Crandall

LATELY, WHEN I THINK ABOUT public transportation, I often question why is it not a service provided to the citizens just like the police, fire departments, schools, roads, and other city services? There is proof that if an area has reliable, safe, easy, and convenient public transportation, it's simply a better place to live and the proof is often in the quality of lives of those living there. That leads me to the topic I'd like to address: the inequity of passing the increased costs of operating Madison Metro onto the people who are actually trying to utilize its services.

If you're not aware, a provision of the new city budget provides the ability for Metro fares to be increased

by up to 50 cents, thus potentially bringing up a one-way fare to \$2. That's as much as it costs to ride public transportation in Chicago!

To fix Metro's budget shortfall, the city could increase parking rates and fines, decrease road infrastructure and capacity, divert funds from future nonessential road projects, and also potentially raise taxes. Let's keep fares affordable or better yet, FREE!

So, simply put, raising Metro fares to \$2 is a terrible direction for Madison. This is an unfair burden on folks who choose not to drive, are elderly or impaired, and/or cannot afford any other means of transportation. Let's make sure this doesn't happen and keep Madison from raising fares on OUR public transportation.

Thank you to PD Alders Satya Rhodes-Conway and Robbie Webber for all you've been doing and continue to do on behalf of the users and riders of Madison Metro.

County Budget 2009

By John Hendrick County Board Supervisor

PROGRESSIVE DANE'S SIX COUNTY supervisors are hard at work improving the \$493 million county budget proposed by the County Executive. Some of the highlights of that work include:

Sup. Barbara Vedder's proposal to give a 1% COLA to POS agencies. POS stands for purchase of services and refers to the multitude of private agencies that contract with the Dane County Human Services Department to deliver county-funded services to children, families, older adults and persons with disabilities. The 1% "cost of living adjustment" (COLA) is an across-the-board increase to all agencies of \$1.1 million dollars. To put this in perspective the City

of Madison's Office of Community Services which proposes a total budget this year of \$3.2 million for community resources with no increase. Sup. Vedder's proposal would be a welcome relief to the agencies providing these vital services whose county funding has been stagnant or declining for years in the face of rising costs.

Sup. Chuck Erickson (along with Sup. Schmidt) is proposing a variety of sustainability initiatives that total over \$2 million. These include a geothermal system for the new Badger Prairie nursing home and all have great potential to protect our environment and rescue our county budget in future years.

Sup. Al Matano is supporting an amendment by Sup. Wheeler and Sup. Martz to increase the library

See Budget page 2

VOLUNTEER NIGHT!
 Meet great people and help with labeling our newsletter and other easy tasks.
 December 9th at 5:30
 Social Justice Center, 1202
 Williamson Street
 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) \$ _____ / 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) 257-4958
 You can also join Progressive Dane at www.prodane.org

Forward! is the newsletter Progressive Dane 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 in the main conference room of the Social Justice Center at 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. *Cochairs:* Norm Littlejohn normlittlejohn@hotmail.com, Jacque Pokorney juju_jacque@yahoo.com *Next meeting:* December 1, 7 p.m.

Elections Committee
Chair: Lukas Diaz, diaz_luke@yahoo.com
Next meeting: December 3, 8:00 p.m.

Newsletter Consortium
Contact: Dace Zeps, 257-4985

Outreach and Fund raising Committee
Contact: Norm Littlejohn, normlittlejohn@hotmail.com
Next meeting: On hiatus until January 2009

Policy Committee
Chair: Brenda Konkel, brenindakonkel@prodane.org
Next meeting: As needed, 4:00 p.m.

Transportation/Environmental Task Force
Contact: Aaron Crandall, aaron.crandall@yahoo.com
Next meeting: As needed, Escape Java Joint

Public Safety Task Force
Contact: Jessa Lutz, jessa.lutz@gmail.com
Next meeting: TBA, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Issues Task Force
Contact: Rick Richards, szygy1@charter.net, 255-5023
Next meeting: On hiatus until January 2009

Education Task Force
Contact: TJ Mertz, tjmertz@sbcglobal.net
Next meeting: TBA

Housing Task Force
Contact: Jacque Pokorney, 843-9616
Next meeting: On hiatus until January 2009

General Membership Meeting
Next meeting: December 17, 6:30 p.m.
Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM: John Dupuis, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney, Richard Russell, Ralph Shively, Dace Zeps

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: Dace Zeps, John Hendrick, Satya Rhodes-Conway, Adam Porton, Sheila Guilfoyle, TJ Mertz, Aaron Crandall

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the September newsletter to Dace Zeps, 257-4985, or office@prodane.org by noon, Friday, December 5.

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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Budget from page 1

reimbursement to 100%. The county collects a separate library tax from communities without libraries to cover their share of the cost of their residents using other libraries. If Sup. Martz's Fitchburg constituents want to pay this tax, there is no logical reason to deny this tax relief to Sup. Matano's Madison constituents.

Other amendments include Sup. Kyle Richmond's effort to restore two Extension positions, one of which deals with the Food System; Sup. Wyndham Manning's funding for fishing advisory signs to warn about mercury pollution; and Sup. Hendrick's effort to reduce or eliminate the 3% funding cut for services to persons with developmental disabilities.

The county budget is under-publicized but extremely important, and our county supervisors are working tirelessly to ensure that it reflects our progressive values.

Progressive Dane Students in Action

By Adam Porton

THIS FALL, A NEW GROUP CALLED Student Progressive Dane has formed to help further Progressive Dane's political agenda. While based out of UW-Madison, Student PD also welcomes individuals from MATC, Edgewood College, and local high schools. The goals of Student Progressive Dane are to both support PD's legislative platform, and to apply PD's organizing model to the campus level to ensure progressive representation in campus governments across the city.

One of Student PD's first campaigns is an effort to stop Democratic Dane County Sheriff David Mahoney's policy of reporting the names of non-citizens held in the county jail to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. ICE uses these names to determine if anyone held in Dane County is without proper documentation, and then

See You at the 2008 Snow Ball

By Sheila Guilfoyle

BY NOW YOU SHOULD HAVE received your invitation to the 2008 Snow Ball, Progressive Dane's winter fund raiser. We hope that everyone can join us on Saturday, December 6th from 5-8 p.m. at the Brink Lounge (East Washington between Blount and Livingston).

Here's what you can do to help: Sponsor the event by returning the pledge form in the envelope provided in your invitation. If you can't find it, pledge on-line at www.prodane.org.

Another way to help is to volunteer to bring food. Because the Brink has some restrictions on what types of food can be brought in, please contact Sheila Guilfoyle (smguilfoyle@hotmail.com) to confirm the details.

Finally, come to the Brink and join us for an evening of food, drink, music in support of Progressive Dane—and have a great time!

often deports those whose status is in question, regardless of why they were arrested in the first place.

This practice of reporting names to ICE is not required by law, and in fact Mahoney's Republican predecessor did not choose to engage in it. Further, this practice has had a devastating effect on our county's immigrant community, as many individuals in that community are now so distrustful of law enforcement they often are afraid to report actual crimes.

To protest the Sheriff's actions we are organizing a community rally outside of the City/County Building next Monday, November 17th at 6:30pm. The County Board will be meeting then to finalize their budget, and our goal is put pressure on the Sheriff by bringing media attention to this issue, while at the same time supporting efforts to cut money from the Sheriff's department.

Thank you from Community and Schools Together

By TJ Mertz

PROGRESSIVE DANE WAS THE first organization to join Community and Schools Together (CAST) in endorsing the November 4 school referendum. The decisive victory, an overwhelming affirmation that our community values education, would not have been possible without the financial, logistical, and volunteer support of Progressive Dane. Thank

Planning for the Long Term

By Satya Rhodes-Conway, City Alder

I'M WRITING THIS THE WEEKEND before the City Council votes on the 2009 budget, but by the time you read these words, the long meetings will be over and we'll have a budget for next year, for better or for worse. We'll talk at the GMM about the results of those votes, and what they mean for the City. In this article I'd like to look a little farther out; to think about what we as progressives can do to plan for the future.

One thing we cannot do is forget about the budget during the rest of the year. There's been a lot of good conversation lately about the capital budget, how much we borrow, how much we spend on debt service, and how much we spend on roads and related expenses. I hope this conversation will extend past the budget, since much of the perceived need for road expansions is driven by neighborhood plans and developments that we discuss throughout the year.

The City also has a five year Capital Improvement Program, so it's fairly easy to anticipate what will be in next year's capital budget. What if our transportation task force took a long, hard look at the 2010 CIP projects and made a proposal to the Mayor before he releases his budget? Our alders could follow up with amendments if needed, and we'd be able to make a coordinated statement based on our platform and principles.

Another critical topic of conversation is safety. It's clear to me that progressives need to continue to take the lead in articulating the need for preventative programs and investments that will help ensure our collective safety. What is the City's role in strengthening neighborhood

you all for being there to help.

This is just a beginning. We need you to stay engaged in working to make our schools even better and to join CAST in the effort to secure a state school finance system that by putting education first will make referendums a thing of the past. The PD Education Task Force is a great way to be part of building on our victory.

capacity and communication? What programs or organizations work? What do we fund that gives young people alternatives to getting in trouble? That supports parents so they can be involved in their children's lives and education? That ensures that seniors remain a vital part of our community? What's working? What's not? How do we build support for what works and show that it's worth the investment?

Last, but certainly not least, how do we plan for and build more sustainable neighborhoods and communities? How do we overcome the idea that Metro is a luxury for some, not a service for all? How do we shift the perception that biking is a recreational activity, not a mode of transportation? How do we get people to recognize that walking, not driving, is the most common mode of transportation for the vast majority of people? Think about it – you have to walk to your car, even if you then drive somewhere.

How do we encourage distributed generation of renewable energy, and not just by those who can afford solar panels? How do we grow the local food movement and encourage more community gardens and urban agriculture? How do we promote energy efficiency? Water filtration? Recycling? Composting? Are these things the City should do, or should they come from the grassroots?

You may have noticed that I have more questions than answers. It's hard for one person, even an alder, to accomplish much alone. So I want to know what inspires you, what ways you'd like to plan for the long term. Because together we can get things done.

Progressive Dane announces the 2008-09 Steering Committee

Greg Allen, *Member, Sustainability*
Aaron Crandall, *Transportation Task Force Chair*

John Hendrick, *County Board Supervisor*
Jim Kellerman, *Economic Issues Task Force Member*

Norm Littlejohn, *Outreach/Fundraising Committee Chair, Steering Committee Cochair*

TJ Mertz, *Education Task Force Chair*
Jacque Pokorney, *Housing Task Force Chair, Steering Committee Cochair*

Adam Porton, *Student Chapter*

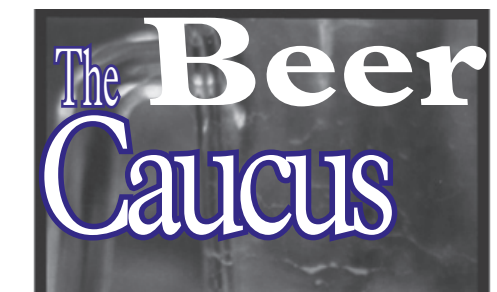
Marsha Rummel, *City Alder*

Kyle Szarzynski, *Student Chapter*

Resignation

COLIN BOWDEN, OUR VOLUNTEER/ Outreach Coordinator, resigned from this position effective October 28, 2008. Colin has decided that this job is not the right fit for himself or Progressive Dane at this time. Colin stays very motivated in his commitment to Progressive Dane and we will see him involved in various volunteer efforts, especially in collaboration with the Student PD group. We are thankful to Colin for his time and efforts.

The tasks of this position will be picked up by Dace Zeps, our primary staff person, with help from the new cochairs of PD, Norm Littlejohn and Jacque Pokorney.



Cancelled: See you at the Snowball December 6 at The Brink!