

Mark your calendar!

# Next Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting  
 Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 p.m.  
 Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

1. Introduction and ice breaker.
2. Staff Report
3. Alder Report: featuring Marsha Rummel
4. Supervisor Report: featuring Barbara Vedder
5. Current Issue (Educational): Homelessness : featuring Jacque Pokorney and Brenda Konkel

Chair: Lukas Diaz 262-443-3136



# FORWARD!

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 5 MAY 2008

Rebuilding Politics in Dane County from the Grassroots

## Last Month at the GMM

By Aaron Crandall

WE MET ON APRIL 23 AND HAD THE usual meeting of reports, presentations, and discussion. The discussion was a bit longer than usual however, because we had to wait on our last presenter to arrive. That was a great opportunity for those in attendance to bring their insights to the larger group and contribute to PD, especially those who can't make it to committee and task-force meetings.

Alder Brenda Konkel led us in a continued discussion regarding current issues and setting priorities for the rest of the year. It was decided that the three priority issues for PD are (a) homelessness, (b) transportation 2020/Madison Metro, and (c) economic development. The task-forces taking these on are Housing, Transportation, and Economic Issues. See website for more information and how you can get involved.

Madison School Board President Arlene Silveira was unable to make it but we did stick around long enough for County Supervisor John Hendrick to give a report on County activities. John basically told us about the internal elections of the County Board and gave us an update of who was elected into leadership and other roles, which did not include any PD endorsed representatives. However, it was very informative.

Individuals who are not members of Progressive Dane are encouraged to attend, so bring a friend to a future GMM. We'd also like to see YOU at a future meeting as well. It's a great way to connect with other concerned members of YOUR community and also a way for you to find out what is going on in YOUR community. Please join us next month!

## The Dane County Coalition to Fight Homelessness and End Poverty

By Andrew Kell

ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 A GROUP OF individuals and reps from various organizations met in the Social Justice Center to talk about the objectives of the newly formed Dane County Coalition to Fight Homelessness and End Poverty. There were people from the Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin, Madison-Area Urban Ministry, YWCA, the Tenant Resource Center, Operation Welcome Home, and Progressive Dane, who were joined by a reporter from the *Capital Times*. The focus of the meeting was to commence planning for a large public and media engagement on June 5, which will be hosted by the First United Methodist Church from 5-8 p.m..

The program will host a group of panelists with various expertise to educate and engage the participants on the history of homelessness in Madison and Dane County, current issues surrounding homelessness in our community, as well as presenting current plans to end homelessness. It should be a great event aimed at strengthening the growing coalition of progressives from various faiths, political beliefs, and areas of focus to come together on this urgent issue and get something done in terms of solidifying planning and support, as well as getting policy and funding passed to back it up.

At our last general membership meeting, Progressive Dane members unanimously voted in favor of making

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## Madison's Homeless Students

By Marij Passman

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE WILL BE over 700 homeless students in and out of our schools this year. This number has been climbing since the inception of TEP (Transition Education Program) in 1989. It is difficult to assess how these children affect other students in the District other than as a highly recognized mobility factor in our schools but TEP provides a much needed resource to homeless children and their families.

The McKinney-Vento Act of 1989 (and reauthorized in 2002) is the primary piece of federal legislation dealing with the education of homeless children. As usual, it provides no

funding. An interesting aside is that MMSD started their program before it even knew about McKinney -Vento.

The School Board Policy adopted in 2002 defines homeless children and youth as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship": those living in motels, hotels, emergency shelters, Salvation Army and the YWCA etc. Homeless families in Madison can choose to send their elementary children to the three TEP schools: Emerson, Lapham, or Marquette Elementary. They also have the right to choose their current or neighborhood school. This option is often chosen because it offers some

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**VOLUNTEER NIGHT!**  
 Meet great people and help with labeling our newsletter and other easy tasks.  
 May 20 at 5:30  
 Social Justice Center, 1202  
 Williamson Street  
 As always, refreshments are provided!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**PROGRESSIVE DANE**  
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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:**     \$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 \_\_\_\_\_

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. *Cochairs* Lukas Diaz diaz\_luke@yahoo.com and Jacque Pokorney juju\_jacque@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* June 9, 7 p.m.

**Elections Committee**  
*Chair:* Lukas Diaz, diaz\_luke@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* June 4, 8:00 p.m.

**Newsletter Consortium**  
*Contact:* Jim Kellerman, 345-7385

**Outreach Committee**  
*Contact:* Norm Littlejohn, normlittlejohn@hotmail.com  
*Next meeting:* May 27, 7:00 p.m.

**Policy Committee**  
*Chair:* Brenda Konkel, brendakonkel@prodane.org  
*Next meeting:* June 15, 4:00 p.m.

**Transportation Task Force**  
*Contact:* Aaron Crandall, aaron.crandall@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* June 12, 5:30 p.m. Escape Java Joint

**Public Safety Task Force**  
*Next meeting:* June 10, 6:30 p.m.  
*Contact:* Jessa Lutz, jessa.lutz@gmail.com

**Economic Issues Task Force**  
*Contact:* Rick Richards, syzygy1@charter.net, 255-5023  
*Next meeting:* June 10, 5:00 p.m.

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

**Housing Task Force**  
*Contact:* Jacque Pokorney, 843-9616  
*Next meeting:* June 15, 7:00 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting**  
 May 28 6:30 p.m. Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM: Lukas Diaz, John Dupuis, Jim Kellerman, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney, Richard Russell, Ralph Shively,

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: Aaron Crandall, Lukas Diaz, Sheila Guilfoyle, Andrew Kell, Ashton Kumar, Marj Passman, Marsha Rummel

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the June newsletter to Jim Kellerman, 345-7385, or office@prodane.org by noon, Tuesday, June 10.

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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consistency to a child in an already confusing time of instability. MMSD pays for transportation.

In order to minimize the serious effects of homeless conditions on these children emphasis is placed on "overcoming all barriers that prevent homeless children from being successful." TEP components include: school supplies, counseling and advocacy, transition into new schools, breakfast, lunch and snacks, assistance with health clinics, preschool and Head Start, referrals to community agencies, family/personal hygiene supplies, attendance monitoring, summer school, and CASPAR (Collaborative After School Program of Education and Recreation). MMSD provides 2 teachers, 2 social workers and 2 educational assistants and all transportation costs. It receives only a \$65,000 grant from DPI and incurs costs of roughly \$300,000. There is obviously a right way to run a program and a wrong way.

## New Elections Chair

PROGRESSIVE DANE RECENTLY ELECTED LUKAS DIAZ AS CHAIR OF THE Elections Committee. Lukas replaced retiring Elections Committee Chair Michael Jacobs (MJ). MJ has worked tirelessly on behalf of progressive candidates and progressive ballot measures. Happily, MJ will be still hanging around to assist with elections stuff. So a big 'thank-you' to MJ for all the work he has done and welcome and good luck to the new chair.

## What can be said about Mike Barrett?

Well, he's a guy who's very passionate about cycling and it shows. I've only known Mike a short while, but have realized that he's a wealth of knowledge in the local community and throughout the state, possibly beyond that.

Mike has been the chair of the PD Transportation task-force for the past while and recently gave it up due to other commitments and in general, life. It was great having Mike while we had him and thoroughly appreciate his commitment to PD over the course of his tenure. He'll be missed but we know we can count on his continued involvement in PD and also know that we'll have him around as a resource in the future.

Thank you Mike for your service to PD and for your continued involvement and advocacy at the local level. Keep up the fight!

MMSD has taken their role in educating homeless children very seriously and has tried, through TEP to alleviate as much stress as possible so that these youngsters in a fragile world, not of their making, will remain engaged in the learning process. There is no data to suggest success or lack of.

I can only offer a personal observation as a former classroom teacher. There are some earnest staff involved in this program and they do an excellent job with classroom teachers to help students deal with a life of unpredictability by offering them a safe and secure school day environment.

Madison schools maintain that all their children must have the same educational opportunities and its Homeless Program addresses this issue. It obviously has little control over the increasing need of its students outside of its sphere of influence. This is where the city, county and school officials must work together.

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the issue of poverty and homelessness a top priority for this year. To take initiative, members from our outreach committee and housing task force have been planning an event to follow up after the meeting on the 5th. It will be held on Sunday, June 8 from 6-8 p.m. at the Wil-Mar Center. The goal of this event is to engage our membership and elected officials on the issue and form better coalitions with groups such as those who met to form the Coalition listed above. We are working to assemble a panel of individuals working with organizations who have been working on plans and now need a broad base of support. Your attendance and participation at the Coalition's event on June 5th, and Progressive Dane's follow up event on the 8th is much needed. Please contact me with any questions: organizer@prodane.org, 608-467-1679.

## Table for PD this Summer!

By Andrew Kell

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS ARTICLE WE WILL HAVE COMPLETED OUR SECOND TABLING event this year with the WORT Block party. PD members were great about signing up to table early so we had 2 people every shift to ensure all the tablers had someone for conversation and support. My hope is that for all the festivals and farmers' markets we table at this summer our shifts will be full of volunteers early enough so I can spend my time scrambling to find new members instead of finding tablers to for the most current opportunity.

The fact is that tabling is so much fun and I want to be all-inclusive when signing up our members this summer. So below is a tentative festival schedule with dates where we probably will be tabling. Please take the time to review the schedule, pick which festivals you can make it to and table, and then contact me with your availability. Preferably you will be tabling for 2-3 hours, but if you can only make it for an hour we will fit you in. So contact me soon before another member takes you place: organizer@prodane.org, 608-467-1679.

Allied Community Festival: Sat. June 7	Orton Fest: late August
Juneteenth: Sun. June 14,	Fighting Bob Fest: Sat. Sept. 6
Atwood Summerfest: Sat. July 26	Willy St.. Fair: Sat. and Sun. Sept.
Triangle Ethnic Fest: Sun. Aug. 17	20-21




## Summer Garden Party Fundraiser

### -We Need Your Support

*By Sheila Guilfoyle*

THE 2008 PROGRESSIVE DANE FUNDRAISER WILL BE HELD FRIDAY JUNE 20 at the home of Betty Zeps (thank you Dace's mom), at 1922 Adams Street, Madison, Wisconsin. This is our major summer fundraiser and we need your support to continue rebuilding politics in Dane County from the grassroots. The suggested donation is \$25-\$100. Come relax with friends and talk summer politics over drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts. You can help Progressive Dane meet our fundraising goals. It's easy to do: Send a check in the enclosed envelope to: Progressive Dane PO Box 1222 Madison, WI 53701; go to www.prodane.org and donate online or send an email to office@prodane.org and indicate that you want to support the Garden Party. Attend the Progressive Dane Garden Party!!! If you can volunteer to bring food or help with set-up email Sheila Guilfoyle: smguilfoyle@hotmail.com (334-3183).

Get your copy of the documentary *Progressive Dane: 15 Years and Counting*. A donation of \$15 is requested for the DVD, which also gets you a copy of the 15th Anniversary booklet. Send your order, along with your donation, to Progressive Dane attn: PD Documentary, PO Box 1222 Madison, WI 53701.



**Friday, June 6, 2008, 5:30 p.m. Brink Lounge  
701 East Washington Ave.**