

Mark your calendar!

# Next Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting  
 Wednesday, August 27, 6:30 p.m.  
 Madison Public Library, 201 West Mifflin Street

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

- Staff & Treasurer Reports, Amended Budget Vote
- Elected Officials Reports
- Elections Committee Update, Lukas Diaz
  - Proposal to endorse School Board Referendum, Vote
  - Update on District 10, Possible Vote
- Homelessness Issues Budget Developments, Jacque Pokorney  
*Chair, Sheila Guilfoyle*



**VOLUNTEER NIGHT!**  
 Meet great people and help with labeling  
 our newsletter and other tasks.  
 September 16 at 5:30  
 Social Justice Center, 1202  
 Williamson Street  
 As always, refreshments are provided!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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**PAID**  
 Madison, WI  
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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:**
- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <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 \_\_\_\_\_



# FORWARD!

The Official Newsletter of Progressive Dane Volume 16, No. 8 August 2008

Rebuilding Politics in Dane County from the Grassroots

## Last Month at the GMM

By Norm Littlejohn

JULY'S PROGRESSIVE DANE General Membership Meeting introduced PD's new Outreach Volunteer Coordinator Colin Bowden, who stopped in during his supper break from working at the next-to-last Concert on the Square. Welcome, Colin! See his first column lower right on this page.

After staff reports, Carol Carstensen, School Board Rep. Marjorie Passman, and Education Task Force chair TJ Mertz, gave an overview of what the Board hopes to accomplish in the next year. A major focus will be whether to propose a funding referendum; after that GMM, the Board discussed one for the November ballot, and has held public meetings to air the issue.

School boards function under state-imposed limitations on taxing powers, forcing budget cuts year after year. After years of squeezing, there's no fat left to cut, and programs are suffering.

The Board will decide by Aug. 25 whether to put a referendum on November's ballot. For more information, see the website of Community And Schools Together at madisoncast.org or contact your favorite school board member.

County Supervisor Al Matano updated us on what's happening on the crucial county level. Al is energized by the effort to persuade the state legislature to allow a half-cent sales tax to create a regional transit district: Transport 2020.

It's self-evident that transportation planning and funding are dominated by the impulse to build highways, but Al, and most of those present, believe that we must diversify our approach. T2020 would seek rail solutions and involve Madison and other cities, the county, the UW and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Depending on the results of November's election, the Legislature may give *See GMM page 2*

## Update on Homeless Issues in Dane County

By Jacque Pokorney

THE LAST MONTH HAS SEEN progress and positive developments around homelessness in Madison and Dane County. The Dane County Coalition to Fight Homelessness and End Poverty met with Mayor Dave to discuss issues regarding the upcoming budget and also to challenge the mayor to stick by his commitment to work with this coalition. The general budget message from the mayor is that there is no additional money; however, as we know from last year, the more vocal constituents are about budgetary issues, the more likely they are to sway decisions.

The more hopeful part of the discussion was a commitment to work with the coalition, along with representatives from the county, business community, United Way, and Madison Police Department to give a more positive message to the community about progress being made. This work should hopefully coincide with

the newly forming Poverty Task Force on the County Board.

The Coalition held its second forum and the evening started with a new game that the group created to try and give participants a sense of what it might actually feel like to be homeless or on the verge of homelessness. The game was a truly amazing experience. Each player had an identity to start—maybe a single male who is recently homeless due to medical issues and unpaid bills, a single mother with children who lost her job to take care of sick children, or a married couple without children who have to stay in separate shelters because they are not considered “a family”.

There were three levels of “homelessness”; on the street; in a shelter; or recently in housing. To “win” the game, a player needs to advance to the end of the board, which says that he or she was able to stay in housing for one full year. Of course there are many trials and tribulations

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## A Call To Action

By Colin Bowden

HI, MY NAME IS COLIN BOWDEN, and I'm the new Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator for Progressive Dane. I am currently and will continue to ensure Progressive Dane is strong and growing stronger by the day as the true party of the people of Dane County. But, I have come to realize in my years as a politico, if you'll grant me use of that buzzword for a small moment, is that such growth won't come just from me. It comes from the whole organization working as one, all of us putting in what we can and what we must; to have homelessness treated as a community issue and not a business issue; to have our public schools get all the resources they need to give the children of Dane County the best chance possible;

and to institute and maintain a living wage for all. We may not agree on all these, but for those we do agree upon, we need to get to work, and we need to get to work together.

So, with that said, let me invite you all to come table with Progressive Dane on Saturday, September 6, when we go to Fighting Bob Fest, in Baraboo, WI. I plan to table from the morning (the event should start around 9 a.m.) until just before dinner (probably 4:40-4:45 p.m.) and so anyone willing to come between those times will see me, Colin Bowden, with a name tag, probably some nice snacks from my house, a smile, and lots of literature. We also need members to help with tabling on the September 27 (another Saturday) for the Willy Street Fair. It's a nice, vibrant affair, fun for all, and I'll have a similar time *See Call page 2*

*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:*

Sheila Guilfoyle, smguilfoyle@hotmail.com  
Jacque Pokorney juju\_jacque@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* September 8, 7 p.m.

**Elections Committee**  
*Chair:* Lukas Diaz, diaz\_luke@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* September 3, 8:00 p.m.

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

**Outreach and Fundraising Committee**  
*Contact:* Norm Littlejohn, normlittlejohn@hotmail.com  
*Next meeting:* August 25, 7:30 p.m.

**Policy Committee**  
*Chair:* Brenda Konkel, brenadakonkel@prodane.org  
*Next meeting:* September 14, 4:00 p.m.

**Transportation/Environmental Task Force**  
*Contact:* Aaron Crandall, aaron.crandall@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* TBA, 5:30 p.m. 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, syzygy1@charter.net, 255-5023  
*Next meeting:* September 11, 5:00 p.m.

**Education Task Force**  
*Contact:* TJ Mertz, tjmertz@sbcglobal.net  
*Next meeting:* TBA, 6:30, Edgewood College, room TBA

**Housing Task Force**  
*Contact:* Jacque Pokorney, 843-9616  
*Next meeting:* September 14, 7:00 p.m.

**General Membership Meeting**  
August 27, 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: Colin Bowden, Lukas Diaz, Andrew Kell, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney, Dace Zeps  
Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the September newsletter to Dace Zeps, 257-4985, or office@prodane.org by noon, Thursday, September 11.

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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frame. I'll be there a bit later, around 10 or 10:30, but I'll stay there for the fair so one can see me with my name tag and know where to help out. I encourage you all to take an hour or two of those weekends and come by and offer your assistance.

Another mention, on Volunteer Night I hope you'll all come out and support Progressive Dane by helping us do aggressive phone banking and really try to make sure we retain the strength of our party and our organization which is our membership. I'm asking that our members do at least 10 calls each on Volunteer Night, and I think it can happen. Basically put, if you help with the phone banking, that'll pay off in multiples by allowing PD to focus on receiving new memberships more often, garnering more resources, boosting a larger base, having more connections.

## PD Needs You!

By Andrew Kell

PD needs you to get all your progressive friends and family in Madison and Dane County to become members if they aren't already.

The 4-Step Initiative: 1. Make a list of 10 (or more) friends/family members who are not, but, by all means should be members of Progressive Dane. 2. Compose a personalized email/letter to send to these friends to encourage them to join. 3. Send your composed emails/letters to your friends. 4. Wait about a week and then have a conversation with each friend to further encourage them to join (in person preferable, but if not possible a friendly phone call will do).

The Need: Switch the "back-to-basics" wave that has overcome Madison and get all progressives on the bandwagon to support local progressive candidates and policy in favor of the "big idea" of social and environmental justice and progress right here and right now. We can only do this with expanded outreach and volunteer effort, which can only be done with a solid budget for our organization, which can only be sustained by membership support.

The Challenge: Which PD member can recruit the most new members by the end of August? If you want to be part of this challenge please send names from your list (no contact info needed; we will not contact them, that's your job) so we know who gets credit for whom. Send lists to: office@prodane.org

to the community we serve, and coming much closer to bringing the policies we want to fruition. We cannot have progress without increasing our base and that starts and ends with you.

If you can help out at any of these events, you can call me up at (847) 380-0644 or email me at organizer@prodane.org. You can also text to the phone number, as it is a cell phone. Just include your name and that you're with PD if you text. A wise man once said, "Do or do not, there is no try." Well, now it's do or do not, there is no second try. If in this time of relative strength, we do not push now with our members out in front, we may not truly grow to be the sort of powerful political force we all want PD to be in the foreseeable future. Thank you for your time and your patience.

The Prize: A Secret (plus bragging rights!)

The Double-Dog Dare: I'm betting that y'all are too preoccupied with daily routines, national elections, and activities with all the other activist organizations you're involved in to take this initiative seriously. I'm taking this prize damn it; who's gonna stop me? By the way, I'm no longer paid staff of PD so I am doing this as a volunteer initiative; so we're playing on a fair field. So bring it on!

By the way, it has been a great year with PD. Thanks to all of you who have dedicated your time and effort to this great organization. If you would like to send an email to me personally, you may do so at: andrewkell10@hotmail.com.

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the green light to T2020 as early as January.

Finally, PD Cochair Lukas Diaz led a discussion of the "big idea," precipitated by a quarter-witted editorial in Madison's remaining daily newspaper. Are we done with the "big idea"; is it irrelevant? Most PD members there thought not. A recurring theme was that there are no national or state issues that don't have local impact: the US's economic crisis, homelessness, the foreclosure epidemic. Big ideas on big issues may increase PD's visibility, and attract even slightly cynical people who fundamentally agree with us to take action locally.

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tions along the way that could easily send one back to the streets.

Joe Lindstrom, Homeless Services Consortium, presented their proposals for budgetary requests from the city and county. Joe also highlighted important meetings that are approaching where we need members to testify. Watch for calls to action outlining the issues so that you can attend these meetings, contact your Alders and Supervisors or write letters to the editor.

Kristen Petroschius, of Operation Welcome Home (OWH), also presented their proposal to start a city or county-supported Day Labor Program to assist those who are homeless to build an initial work history and earn a wage.

OWH celebrated their one-year anniversary with a very festive party at Brittingham Park. The group came together one year ago to reclaim a public space that was important to them and "ground zero" for bad publicity targeting the homeless. They also have a new self-produced movie to tell their story. But OWH members will be the first to tell you that their work is just beginning. If you want to get more involved with their work, you can email Kristen at petroschius@riseup.net.

If you want to get more involved with these issues through Progressive Dane, join us the third Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m., usually at the Social Justice Center or email me at juju\_jacque@yahoo.com.

## The 1st Annual County Wide Progressive Dane Assembly

By DACE ZEPS

THE 1ST ANNUAL COUNTY WIDE Progressive Dane Assembly will be held October 4, 2008. Have you thought about running for office or working for a candidate? Do you have a great idea that you'd like to see brought up to the City Council or County Board? Do you want to write a really effective ad hoc article or letter to the editor? Well, here is your chance to learn a few things and have a great time doing so. The Call for Presentations was sent earlier this month and we are expecting to present you with an informative and fun set of break out sessions, with some

## Planning on Providing Input?

### Here are Some Important Dates to Remember

Locations will soon be announced for the City/County 101 to be held September 25th and Budget 101 on October 15th. The Mayor introduces his capital budget September 2 and operating budget October 7. Watch for emails around the time the budgets are released for times and places where they will be reviewed. Also check <http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm> for other updates from the Mayor's office on the budget process.

Tuesday, September 16  
Capital Budget  
Public Hearing  
Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 28  
Operating Budget  
Public Hearing  
Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Adoption/Public Hearing on  
Amendments and Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. (if needed). Thursday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. (if needed)  
Council Chambers

Wednesday, September 10, 5:30pm  
Zoning Code Rewrite Advisory  
Committee

Madison Senior Center  
330 West Mifflin Street, Rooms 1 and 2

Thursday, September 11, 2008, 6:30 p.m.  
Community Meeting  
Overture Center - Wisconsin Studio  
201 State Street

Thursday, September 11, 2008, 6:30 p.m.  
Community Meeting  
Goodman Community Center  
149 Waubesa Street

The Zoning Rewrite committee will also be holding public hearings during the month of September. For more information on this process go to <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/zoningRewrite/>.

## Madison School District Referendum

By Lukas Diaz

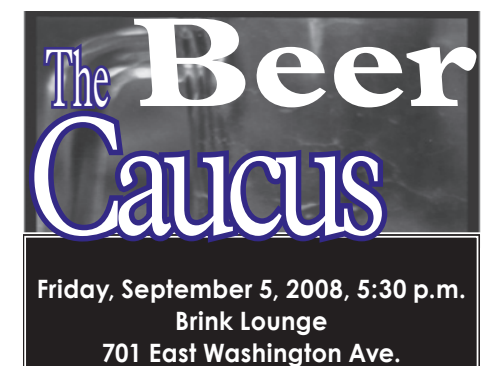
THE PROGRESSIVE DANE ELECTIONS committee recommends endorsing the school funding referendum and donating \$100 to the organization Communities And Schools Together (CAST), which is the main organization backing the referendum. The decision was made because of the importance of quality public education, of which Progressive Dane has always been a proud supporter. The donation recommendation is made because of CAST's record of success and because of their strong support of the referendum. You are encouraged to attend the August GMM where this recommendation will be voted on.

hands on training opportunities, as well as a great presentation from a rousing keynote speaker. We hope that you can make a day of it and spend the evening socializing with fellow progressives. Mark your calendars for 1:00 p.m., into the evening and watch your mail and e-mail for more information as the date approaches.

## Dane County Board District 10 Special Election

By Lukas Diaz

There is currently a special election being held in County Board District 10 to replace the previous supervisor, who resigned to pursue other opportunities. This special election will be held concurrently with the November elections this year. The Progressive Dane Elections Committee will be interviewing at least one candidate in this race, and might be making an endorsement recommendation at the August GMM. In any case, there will be a report given at the August GMM on this race and you are encouraged to attend.



Friday, September 5, 2008, 5:30 p.m.  
Brink Lounge  
701 East Washington Ave.