

Mark your calendar!

## Next Membership Meeting

Wednesday, August 26 • 6:30 p.m.

Monona Community Center • 1011 Nichols Rd, Monona  
(turn west onto Nichols off of Monona Drive)

Educational – Monona Issues and Initiatives, Jacque Pokorney  
Amendment to the Bylaw, Norm Littlejohn – VOTE  
Burning Issues – Priorities, Brenda Konkel -VOTE

Chair: Jacque Pokorney, [juju\\_jacque@yahoo.com](mailto:juju_jacque@yahoo.com)

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.



**VOLUNTEER NIGHT!**  
Meet great people and help with labeling our newsletter and other easy tasks.  
Tuesday, September 15 • 5:30pm  
PD Office, 1202 Williamson Street  
(Social Justice Center—conference room)  
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) 257-4985

You can also join Progressive Dane at [www.prodane.org](http://www.prodane.org)!



# FORWARD!

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 8 • AUGUST 2009

Rebuilding Politics in Dane County from the Grassroots

## Proposal to Amend PD's Bylaws

by Norm Littlejohn, PD Co-Chair

AT THIS MONTH'S GMM, THE STEERING Committee will present a proposed amendment to Progressive Dane's bylaws.

This amendment is intended to provide a framework for establishing branches of PD outside of Madison. The language may need tweaking, and we'll need to discuss where in the bylaws to insert the amendment if it's passed by the GMM.

This is the language passed by the Steering Committee:

*When a community wishes to establish a branch or chapter of Progressive Dane, representatives of the group shall obtain permission to use the name "Progressive Dane" first from the Steering Committee of the original Progressive Dane (hereafter "OPD"), then, if so recommended by the Steering Committee, from a General Membership Meeting of OPD. The Steering Committee of OPD shall retain the option to recommend that the General Membership Meeting of OPD revoke permission to use the name "Progressive Dane." A decision to grant or revoke such permission in the Steering Committee or at the General Membership Meeting of OPD shall be determined by a simple majority vote.*

*Each branch or chapter shall establish its own policies regarding membership and dues, but members of branches or chapters will be eligible to vote at General Membership Meetings or committee and task force meetings of OPD, or to run for the Steering Committee of OPD, only if they are members in good standing of OPD. Each branch or chapter shall report to the General Membership Meeting of OPD at least once a year on membership, finances, policies and activities.*

*The finances of any branch or chapter shall not intermingle with the finances of OPD, and OPD shall not be responsible for the finances, financial practices or debts of any branch or chapter.*

## Issues Vote This Month in Monona

by Jacque Pokorney, PD Co-Chair

AT THIS MONTH'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP meeting we need a large turnout to vote for the 1-2 core issues our members are ready to work on. Here is a re-cap of the five issues we are considering.

### REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA)

The governor passed a budget that allows the taxation authority required to move forward with the RTA and planning for a more expansive county-wide public transportation system. So now the work of Progressive Dane really begins. Our help would be needed immediately to attend meetings and speak against efforts to divert some of the tax money to new road construction. Discussions happened around the approval of the state budget, to allow some of the money to be diverted to roads. PD adamantly opposes this.

PD members will also need to advocate for significant expansion in bus service (not just

the train going down the isthmus corridor) to surrounding areas in Madison and other communities including Monona. We believe that strong advocacy will need to happen to provide significant bus service as a part of the RTA process. This is the right thing to happen to adequately support regional public transportation but also to have area cities and towns support the RTA.

And finally, we will need the most help to draft and get signatures for the upcoming referendum needed to move the RTA process forward. Again, without this work we are likely to get resistance from outlying communities in the county who may think the RTA and public transit system will only be beneficial to Madison.

### PUBLIC FINANCING OF ELECTIONS

Progressive Dane has long supported the public financing of all local elections (and state-wide would be great too). The work has started in the last year with Mayor *please see "Issues Vote", page 3*

## Autumn Assembly Set for October 10

by Norm Littlejohn, PD Co-Chair

MARK SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, ON your calendar for Progressive Dane's Autumn Assembly -- and come to the August General Membership Meeting at the Monona Community Center to help set the Assembly's agenda.

At this GMM, we'll conclude the process of selecting an issue or two for PD to work on for the near future. The issue(s) we settle on this month will be the focus of our Assembly in October: we'll learn more about it, what PD and our allies should do about it, and how to make that happen.

Whichever issue or issues we decide to pursue, we can expect to work in coalition with other Madison and Dane County

organizations already interested in the topic. We hope to multiply each other's effectiveness while we get something concrete accomplished.

Details won't be set until we have our issue(s) chosen, but we'll be hosting an afternoon event with speakers and strategic and tactical training. Whattaya think, should we finish up with a potluck? Beer, maybe?

Come to the GMM to help decide PD's focus -- then come to the Autumn Assembly and start to make a difference!



*Forward!* is the newsletter of 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 at the Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson Street, unless otherwise noted.*

**Steering Committee:** coordinates major activities, oversees the progress of other committees, sets the agenda for general membership meetings. *Meetings open to all PD members.*

**Co-chairs:** Jacque Pokorney, juju\_jacque@yahoo.com  
Norm Littlejohn, normlittlejohn@hotmail.com  
*Next meeting:* Tuesday, September 8, 7pm

**Economic Issues Task Force**  
*Contact:* Rick Richards, syzygy1@charter.net  
*Next meeting:* Thursday, September 17, 5:30pm

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

**Elections Committee**  
*Contact:* Lukas Diaz, diaz\_luke@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* Wednesday, September 2, 8pm

**General Membership Meeting**  
*Next meeting:* Wednesday, August 26, 6:30pm,  
Monona Community Center  
1011 Nichols Rd, Monona

**Housing Task Force**  
*Contact:* Jacque Pokorney, juju\_jacque@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* Contact Jacque

**Newsletter Consortium**  
*Articles are always accepted from PD members.*  
*Contact:* Dace Zeps, office@prodane.org

**Outreach & Fundraising Committee**  
*Contact:* Norm Littlejohn, normlittlejohn@hotmail.com  
*Next meeting:* Monday, August 24, 6:30pm

**Policy Committee**  
*Contact:* Brenda Konkel, brendakonkel@gmail.com  
*Next meeting:* Sundays, August 30 and September 13, 6pm

**Transportation Task Force**  
*Contact:* Aaron Crandall, aaron.crandall@yahoo.com  
*Next meeting:* Contact Aaron

Production and Circulation Consortium:  
Lynn Alten, Mary Anglim, Erik Breilid, Dave Carrig, John Dupuis, Jamie Annear-Feyrer, Tom Kozlovsky, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney, Richard Russell, Ralph Shively, Dace Zeps

This month's contributors: Norm Littlejohn, Dace Zeps, Jacque Pokorney, John Hendrick

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Visit Progressive Dane on the web at [www.prodane.org](http://www.prodane.org)

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(608) 257-4985  
office@prodane.org

## Help Steer Progressive Dane

by Dace Zeps, PD Staff

PROGRESSIVE DANE IS A VOLUNTEER RUN organization. I can take care of some of the day to day stuff, but we all need your help to take care of the many activities and events of the organization.

Perhaps most importantly, Progressive Dane needs you to consider becoming active on one of the four committees that do most of the real work of the organization. The new Steering Committee will be voted in at the October GMM. Policy is working on the 101 series, content for the Assembly, and issue development. Media works on web content and media messaging. And Outreach works on engaging the membership and fundraising. As you can see, there is a lot to do, and we need more than just a few hands. More information on these committees can be found online at [www.prodane.org](http://www.prodane.org), and more specific information for those seriously considering participating can be obtained by contacting the office.

Volunteer Night is held each month, during which many hands make light work of labeling the newsletter and assisting with the other various mailings.

Others willing to contact members during phone banking, to follow up on renewals, or do survey work would be very helpful. Contact the office for a schedule of monthly needs.

Each fall brings a number of other volunteer opportunities, and this fall is no exception. You'll read elsewhere in this newsletter about the Autumn Assembly. We need a number of volunteers to make this happen. Please call or e-mail the office or show up at the next couple of Outreach Committee meetings, Monday, August 24 and September 28, at 6:30 to lend a helping hand.

We also need help staffing the PD table at events we're committed to. Those include tabling at the Monona Farmers' Market, August 23; LaborFest, September 7; Fighting Bob Fest, September 12; and the Willy Street Fair, September 20. Tell your friends to stop by and hear what Progressive Dane is working on and some of the many things our members are championing. Let me know when you can table and if you need a bit of training.

## Should We Freeze the Conservation Fund?

by County Supervisor John Hendrick

A SMALL GROUP OF CONSERVATIVE county supervisors seeks to freeze for 2010 all purchases of parks and open space using Dane County's Conservation fund. Since 1992, Dane County has borrowed and taxed to purchase lands identified in the county Parks and Open Space Plan. In the 2009 county budget crisis, the Personnel and Finance committee has frozen millions of dollars of capital improvement projects, including some park purchases. On August 6th, these nine conservatives introduced a resolution to extend a freeze into next year and narrow it to only the projects they don't like. Some of these same supervisors speak against and vote against numerous green-space purchases regardless of the budget situation. The budget crisis is simply another opportunity to advance that agenda. The freeze resolution is a bad idea that Progressive Dane can help to crush.

Already, the Parks Commission has unanimously rejected it. The only person who showed up to support the resolu-

tion was sponsor Sup. Ronn Ferrell. On the other hand, parks commissioner and Sup. Jeff Kostelic called the freeze "cartoonish". Other sponsors are Supervisors Gau, Willett, Martz, Bruskwitz, Jensen, Schlicht, Solberg, and Wiganowsky. The resolution now moves on to the Executive Committee; the Personnel and Finance Committee; and the Environment, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee before being rejected by the full county board.

It is true that the 2010 budget will be very difficult and targeted cuts and freezes will be necessary. But Progressive Dane supervisors have shown that it is possible to be responsible with tax dollars and still make vital greenspace purchases when the terms are right. For example, there is an opportunity to use a small investment to qualify for federal stimulus dollars for a bike path connection to McFarland. The county should move to unfreeze this project and continue our record of preserving vital recreational and resource areas for all Dane County residents.

## Issues Vote

from page 1

Dave's committee to look at this issue for the mayoral race. PD supports this being expanded to all local elections but changes may need to first happen at the state-level. By the time you read this, the next meeting of the committee will have happened on Aug. 18 and the discussion about state legislation will have been discussed. It may be too early to work on this issue for this coming year, but PD strongly believes this is the mechanism needed to achieve our best possible candidates for local political office for the future.

### PAID SICK LEAVE

This issue, of course, is near and dear to Progressive Dane, but is it time to work on it again? With the lessons we are learning from the swine flu and the benefit of preventing an epidemic, we strongly feel this issue is relevant now more than ever. A recent op-ed in the Boston Globe brings this discussion back to the national spotlight. One of the drawbacks of working on this now is that the majority of local energy is being invested in the national health care reform debate. And a recent judicial decision in Milwaukee rescinded the referendum that was passed in support of their local sick leave ordinance. The time may not be the best for getting the votes we need, but this issue remains important to PD and will be worked on again when the time is right.

### RACE/IMMIGRATION

This issue has many related issues we could possibly pursue--poverty, out-of-control incarceration numbers, homelessness and lack of affordable housing, increased budget dollars going to police/sheriff budgets, and of course the immigration issues that have had the ongoing attention of PD and especially Student Progressive Dane (SPD). SPD continues to work with local immigrants' groups and our PD Supervisors to change this policy and get some sort of state Driver's License passed as well. The main focus of SPD this coming year will continue to be this issue, and PD in general will add its voice in all local issues related to race and immigration disenfranchisement.

### URBAN AGRICULTURE

This issue is very important and engaging now as we become more aware of peak oil

and the need for more local availability and control of food systems. Many local groups and elected officials are starting to pay more attention to this issue at the city and county levels. The one difficulty with this issue as a "core issue" for PD is making it more concrete, more policy related, and with goals/activities that have a definite end-point. In September we will be hearing more from PD member Joe Mingle about work he is already doing with other PD members and PD alders about an exciting development proposal for the "abandoned" Union Corners. This project would incorporate some exciting urban agriculture, green jobs, and local democracy issues--stay tuned for an article and presentation at the September GMM. We will also share a brief overview of this issue at this month's GMM in Monona as well as a potential core issue of PD.

### IN GENERAL

We need your energy, your ideas, your support, and your vote. So please come to this month's GMM in Monona and vote for what you are willing to work on. Also, if you cannot attend, please let our staff person Dace Zeps know what you are willing to work on as well (your online vote) at [office@prodane.org](mailto:office@prodane.org) or (608)257-4985.

## Why Progressive Dane in Monona?

by Jacque Pokorney, PD Co-chair

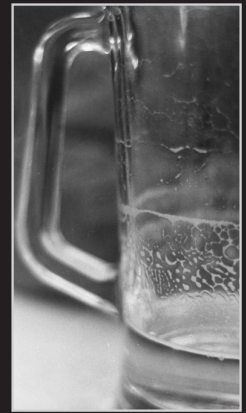
PROGRESSIVE DANE HAS ALWAYS supported the issues that affect ALL of Dane County, but often we can get a little "Madison-centric". We are committed to becoming more engaged with other cities and towns in the county, and one way is to hold our monthly General Membership Meeting in other communities. In August we are meeting at the Monona Community Center.

As a resident of Monona, I am interested in engaging my fellow Mononans in issues that are relevant to us. Some issues that PD is already working on that Monona residents may want to become more involved in include the RTA and improved public transportation that works better with Madison Metro, improved water quality for Lake Monona, and improved funding for schools. Additionally, Monona has also been considering a "chicken ordinance" similar to Madison's, which addresses improved options for

## Last Month at the GMM

by Dace Zeps

COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOHN HENDRICK chaired the July 22 General Membership meeting held at the beautiful Rosemary Garfoot Public Library in Cross Plains. It was a wonderfully informative meeting. In addition to the Treasurer's Report presented by Mary Anglim and the Staff report by yours truly, County Supervisor Hendrick spoke about the recent developments at the Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC). Background information can be found in last month's newsletter. County Supervisor Kyle Richmond was on hand to talk about the work he has been doing on the Dane County Food Council looking at self-sufficiency and local economic vitality. Broken up into four working groups headed by very knowledgeable individuals, the Council is focusing on beginning farmer needs, profitability and marketing, urban agriculture and food security, and land use. Look for a report and action plan in the coming months. Arnold Harris spoke passionately about land use in Western Dane County. Detailed information on that can be found at [westdane.org](http://westdane.org) under the "Why Smart Growth" link. Lastly, the membership voted to endorse the Healthcare NOT Warfare Town Meetings and to help publicize upcoming meetings.



**BEER Caucus**  
Friday  
September 4  
5:30  
**Brink Lounge**  
East Washington  
between Blount  
& Livingston  
*...there's always so much to talk about*

local food sovereignty.

So my fellow residents of Monona, come join us this Wednesday evening. Come listen to our discussion around our core issues. Come bring your own ideas and concerns that you think Progressive Dane could help with. And for other information of what PD has been up to lately, check out our website at [www.prodane.org](http://www.prodane.org).