



Progressive Dane and the Nader campaign

BY BETH HARPER

In July, the PD General Membership voted to endorse Green Party candidates Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke for president and vice-president. This represents a major step for PD, as well as a break from our past strategy of staying out of national races. How did we come to this decision, and what does it mean in the future?

At the PD strategic planning session in May, those in attendance developed the following list of questions to use in considering PD's involvement in state and national races:

1. Does the campaign further the progressive vision?
2. Does the campaign build PD or build third-party opportunities?
3. Is it compatible with running our own candidates?
4. Is there accountability to PD and appropriate use of resources?

In June, the Wisconsin Green Party approached PD about endorsing Nader and LaDuke, and the PD Elections Committee, after careful consideration, recommended endorsement. At the July General Membership Meeting (GMM), after a lengthy discussion, the GMM voted to endorse.

There's no doubt that Nader and LaDuke are running on progressive issues. They're using the presidential election to talk about progressive goals like the rights of workers to organize, have safe working conditions, and earn **living** wages; more spending on education and crime prevention and less on prisons; universal access to high-quality health care; and a food system that relies on family farms rather than

multinational corporations. Most importantly, they're calling for a society wherein the rights of citizens have priority over the interests of corporations.

PD believes that the Nader/LaDuke campaign presents tremendous opportunities to build progressive third parties nationally and locally. Nader and LaDuke recognize the need for progressives to build their own parties and have made party-building one of their campaign goals. We believe PD's participation in the campaign will build PD by:

Helping us develop skills and experience. PD's major contribution to the Nader/LaDuke campaign is running the south-central Wisconsin voter identification canvass, in which volunteers go door-to-door in targeted neighborhoods to identify Nader supporters. PD volunteers and supporters are organizing this canvass and PD members are among the large group of volunteer canvassers. All the volunteers are learning with each canvass shift, and we'll be able to put that knowledge and experience to good use in future campaigns.

Increasing our visibility. As we explain to people why PD is supporting Nader, whether at information tables or canvasser trainings, we explain how PD is already meeting the Nader campaign's goals on a local level, by increasing citizen involvement in the political process to advance a progressive agenda and small-d democracy. For example, at the September 20 "Night with Nader" at the Orpheum Theater, PD volunteers talked to hundreds of individuals, and all the local elected officials on stage with Nader were PD

members.

Giving us the chance to work with Greens and other Nader supporters. We're learning about other progressive third-party models and building a strong foundation for possible cooperation in the future.

Right now, our priorities in this campaign are to educate the public about the Nader/LaDuke campaign's issues and the need to open the political system to third parties, and to encourage political participation. After November 7, our focus will switch to reaching out to Nader supporters to tell them about what PD has accomplished on a local level during the past seven years. As for future involvement with other progressive third parties or with state- or national-level campaigns, those decisions will be made case by case, by you, the membership.

The Spoiler Issue

As we've worked on this campaign, we've repeatedly heard the line "a vote for Nader is a vote for Bush." Let's be clear, a

(See "PD and Nader" on page 3)

PD pioneers local campaign finance reform

BY MICHAEL JACOB

When Dane County voters pick up the ballot on November 7, we will have the chance to send a message to the State Legislature that we are tired of big money calling the shots in the Capital. Voters will be asked:

"Do you support legislation to reform the state campaign finance system that would limit campaign spending and contributions and require full and prompt disclosure of election-related activities?"

Our answer, of course, is "Yes!" And to back it up, members of the Clean Government Task Force have taken the extraordinary step of setting up a campaign committee specifically to advocate for a strong "yes" vote here in Dane County.

Backed by Progressive Dane, Common Cause, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and others, The Coalition for Clean

(See "Campaign Finance" on page 2)

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE CAMPAIGN

u Vote for Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke for president and vice-president on November 7!

u Volunteer for the South Central Wisconsin Voter Identification Canvass.

Every weekend between now and November 7, PD, the Greens, and the Nader/LaDuke campaign will be going door to door in Madison and other communities to identify supporters and talk to people about the campaign. The information

(See "Nader - What you can do" on page 2)

Progressive Dane Notes

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Production and Circulation Consortium

Lynn & Lacy Allen, Chris Babiarz, Beth Harper, Jim Powell, Kathy Schroeder, Tona Williams.

This month's contributors

Beth Harper, Michael Jacob, Sheila Guilfoyle, Cynthia White

Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization with the following committee structure: (all meetings held at the PD office, 200 N. Blount St., unless otherwise noted.)

Steering Committee meets to review the direction of PD, coordinate major activities, and set the agenda for the general membership meetings. SC meetings are open to all PD members.

Next meeting: Wed., Nov. 1, 7-9 p.m.

Co-chair: Beth Harper (238-8147)

Co-chair: Brenda Konkel (251-2412)

Elections Committee recruits PD candidates, trains candidates & campaign managers, and assists campaigns.

Next meeting: Mon., Oct. 30, 6 p.m.

Chair: David Austin (250-0424)

Policy Committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month with PD-endorsed elected officials to develop plans to meet their (and PD's) legislative goals.

Chair: Ron Richardson (256-7144)

Newsletter Consortium produces this document on a monthly basis. We're always on the look-out for aspiring moguls; you're invited to join our team.

Contact: Chris Babiarz (257-3288)

Students for the New Party is the UW-Madison branch of PD. You don't have to be a student to get involved with our campus-based projects!

Contact: Nolen Johnson (249-3903)

Clean Government Task Force coordinates PD's efforts on local-level campaign finance reform.

Next meeting: Mon., Nov. 6, 7 p.m.

Chair: Michael Jacob (245-0894)

Housing Task Force works to create fair and affordable housing in Dane County.

Next meeting: Mon., Oct. 23, 7 p.m.

Chair: Brenda Konkel (251-2412)

Smart Growth Task Force focuses on land use, transportation, growth and sprawl issues.

Next meeting: Wed., Nov. 1, call for location

Contact: Sheila Guilfoyle (244-7534) or Forrest Aguirre (238-1912)

Fundraising Committee plans fun events that raise money for PD.

Next meeting: Tues., Oct. 24, 8 p.m. at Cafe Assisi, 254 W. Gilman St. (off of State St.)

Chair: Nolen Johnson (249-3903)

ProgressiveDaneHotline: 257-4985

Progressive Dane Notes is published nine days before the General Membership Meeting. The deadline for the next issue is Noon, Tuesday, Oct. 31. Submissions should be directed to Beth Harper at 238-8147 (harper@danenet.wicp.org). Send all correspondence to:



Progressive Dane
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Elect the new PD Steering Committee this month

At the October membership meeting, PD will elect a new Steering Committee (SC) to serve from Nov. 2000 through Oct. 2001. The SC plans, facilitates, and carries out the directives of the General Membership Meeting (GMM). It also maintains ties among the PD committees and task forces and oversees the organization as a whole. With the national New Party subsidy ending at the end of this year, part of the new SC's challenge will be to help PD stay healthy financially and expand membership.

The SC has a membership of ten (at least five must be women), and meets the second Wednesday of each month. SC duties amount to at least ten hours a month. Two co-chairs will be selected by the new SC to act as the day-to-day spokespersons and problem-solvers for the organization. The following people were nominated at the September GMM:

Megan Walsh	Stephanie Rearick	Sheila Crowley
Kathy Schroeder	Brenda Konkel	Richard-Marie Commander
Tom Running	Michael Jacob	David Austin
Kyle Richmond	Sheila Guilfoyle	

Further nominations will be accepted at the October GMM. You can nominate yourself or someone else. Each candidate will be asked to give a one-minute (or less) statement on why they're interested in serving on the SC.

NADER - WHAT YOU CAN DO (from page 1)

gathered will be used for get-out-the-vote activities just before the election. In the first two weekends of canvassing, the response from both volunteers (many are first-time canvassers) and voters has been excellent.

There are four shifts each weekend through Nov 5: Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and 3-7 p.m. Training is provided at the start of each shift. To volunteer, call the Nader/LaDuke Wisconsin headquarters at 608/204-7336 (608/20-GO GREEN).

We also need volunteers to send canvassers out and check them in, at 9:30 a.m., 12, 2:30, and 5 p.m. on Sat. and Sun. To volunteer, contact Nick Berigan at 608/257-0187, berigan@terra.com.net

To learn more about what you can do, from phone banking to donations to yard signs, please call the Nader/LaDuke Wisconsin headquarters at 608/204-7336, or visit the Wisconsin Nader/LaDuke web site at <http://winaderladuke.dhs.org/>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE (from page 1)

Government has signed up more than 60 locally elected officials of all stripes to urge their constituents to vote "yes" on November 7.

We have a proud tradition in Wisconsin for being leaders in enacting laws at the state level that promote real democracy and subsequently have been adopted at the national level. PD is leading the charge here in Dane County.

Look for a full-fledged campaign in the coming weeks, including press conferences, editorials, grassroots voter contact, and ads in our local papers.

Contact Michael Jacob (245-0894) to volunteer or Sheila Guilfoyle (244-7534) to make a financial contribution.

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Many thanks to the Great Dane for their contribution of beer to the People versus the State softball game

~ Committee Bulletins ~

On Oct. 30, the Elections Committee will consider changes to the PD city platform. That's at 6 p.m. at the PD office on 200 N. Blount St. The general membership will vote on all major changes to the platform at the GMM on November 15.

If you're interested in Land Use, Transportation, Growth and Sprawl issues, the Smart Growth Task Force is the place for you. We meet the first Wed. of the month. Call Sheila Guilfoyle (244-7534) or Forrest Aguirre (238-1912) for the Nov. meeting location.

Clean Government Task Force: *Three wins, more to come* BY MICHAEL JACOB

The wins are coming fast and furious for PD's signature issue, Clean Government. First, the City of Madison passed a resolution introduced by PD's Ald. Jean MacCubbin to establish a system for City candidates voluntarily to file their campaign finance reports electronically by e-mail. The reports can be viewed on the Internet so that anyone can research specifics without having to hand-enter the information. This is the State's first e-filing system and many of our Alders led the charge by filing electronically in July. We hope to have full participation of all Alders and the Mayor by next January.

Second, Dane County followed suit as PD volunteers worked with County Clerk Joe Parisi to implement an electronic campaign finance filing system at the County level. The City and County both used software developed and donated by PD volunteers.

Our third win, lobbyist registration, also fits in the "Show Us The Money" category. Madison voters no longer need to

wonder if "hired guns" are influencing our City Council members on important issues like housing, land use, TIF and downtown development. Thanks to PD Ald. Mike Verveer for four years of work on this issue.

So what next? There is plenty to do in the name of Clean Government. Members of the Task Force set up the Coalition for Clean Government to push a "yes" vote on the campaign finance reform referendum that will appear on the ballot November 7 (see page 1). We are exploring mid-level campaign finance and ethics reforms at the County and City levels. Also, we are working with PD Ald. Judy Olson on a series of proposals to make the City Council and its committees more constituent-friendly. Finally, we are keeping a close eye on the redistricting discussion that will affect our local government for the next ten years. We have plenty of room for many more helping hands. Come to the next Task Force meeting (1st and 3rd Mondays at 7 p.m.) to get in on the action.

PD AND NADER (from page 1)

vote for Nader is a vote for Nader. Labeling third party candidates "spoilers" has long been a scare tactic of the major parties. We believe that there's no better time to stand up to that tactic than this election, for a number of reasons:

- We have a third-party ticket with a long record of activism and integrity, as well as a high public profile. Nader and LaDuke are taking this campaign seriously, and reaching millions of people.

- This past year has seen an incredible resurgence of activism on the Left, starting with the WTO protests last December in Seattle. Those protests brought together groups that had at best tolerated and at worst actively opposed each other, such as environmentalists and union activists. The Nader/LaDuke campaign gives the Left a great opportunity to build on these events.

- This is the time to tell the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) - which was led,

at various times in its short life, by Clinton, Gore, and Lieberman - that shifting the Democratic Party to the Right will lose them votes. Clinton's election proved that an extraordinary personality can win with the DLC strategy. A Gore landslide would send the message that Clinton wasn't a fluke, and the DLC was correct to abandon the progressive wing of the Democratic Party.

- There is no denying that the makeup of the Supreme Court has a major impact on many issues of great importance to the Left (affirmative action and abortion, to start). Nor can the president's role in appointing justices be ignored. But every Supreme Court appointment must be confirmed by 2/3 of the Senate. For that reason, Gore or Bush are more likely to appoint a centrist with a mixed record rather than a staunch liberal or conservative. And, as many have pointed out, there's no way to know how a Justice will rule until she takes the bench. Justices Scalia and Thomas are terrible on many progressive issues, but Scalia's

appointment was approved by the Senate 98 to 0, and Thomas by 52 to 48, with several Democrats voting for him. On the abortion question specifically, keep in mind that Justices Blackman, Stevens and Souter were appointed by Republicans, but still uphold choice.

The Power of the Nader/LaDuke Vote

Regardless of who wins the 2000 election, a strong showing by Nader/LaDuke would remind everyone that there is an organized Left that is not content to sit on the sidelines. This would make it harder for either Bush or Gore to roll back the gains progressives have fought so hard for.

There's no magic formula for building a progressive movement overnight. We've learned here in Dane County that it takes time, hard work, persistence, and courage to build a truly democratic political process and a government that puts the interests of people first. We also know that we can't wait for others to make it happen; we have to stand up and take action. Now is the time to do so.

Rainbow Bookstore Co-operative and the Madison branch of Solidarity present

"The Run-Up to the Election, Media Coverage, and Opportunities for the Left"

featuring...

media critic **BOB MCCHESENEY** and political commentator **JOHN NICHOLS**

7 p.m., Thurs. Oct. 26th, UW-Madison (call Rainbow Bookstore, 257-6050, for exact location)

PD's Unsung Heroes .. We want names!

As part of this year's Snowball fundraiser, we'd like to recognize some outstanding volunteers. Who do you think of as "unsung heroes" in PD-the people who do the week-to-week work that keeps us going. It could be someone who comes to lots of lit drops, mailing parties, or meetings, a stalwart phone banker, or someone who organizes events. If you'd like to nominate someone for this award, just write a letter explaining why you think this person is especially deserving of recognition.

Send your nominations by Wed, Nov 1, to: Progressive Dane / Attn: Steering Committee / 200 N. Blount St. / Madison WI 53703.

Or email them to: ProDane@newparty.org / Subject: unsung hero

Keep up on the action

Visit the PD website.... <http://www.newparty.org/pd>

