



New Party Update

A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEW PARTY WILL BE HELD BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, AT 6:30 P.M.

By BETH HARPER

At the end of September, the New Party's National Executive Council will meet to consider the following resolution:

The National Executive Council of the New Party hereby adopts as the New Party's strategic direction the development of a Federation of State & Local Parties along the lines of the March 2000 Federation Proposal Memorandum. Specifically, the NEC authorizes and directs the officers and National Organizers to conduct discussions and develop materials leading toward the establishment of a Federation of (or National Support Center for) State and Local Parties, whose membership would include both state and local political parties currently affiliated with the New Party and such parties that are not affiliated with the New Party. It is our

expectation that this federation, once established, would supplant the functions currently handled by the New Party National Committee and the New Party National Executive Council.

The idea of the New Party becoming a federation first was formally proposed in March 2000 by the New Party officers, Secky Fascione (Missoula New Party), Maxine Nelson (Little Rock New Party), and Suzanne Wall (Oregon New Party). According to the officers' March memo, federation members would be unified in their goal to build progressive third parties and in their general strategy of building political parties from the local level up.

The officers argue that the federation model more accurately describes the current status of the New Party: a group of state and local political parties, none of which have

ballot lines, not a national political party with ballot status in multiple states. Changing the goal of the New Party to that of building a federation would allow more room for working with non-New Party parties, such as the Working Families Party of New York state and the Progressive Party of Vermont. The federation, as currently envisioned, would work on expanding third parties into new states, especially those where fusion is allowed, provide staff training for member parties, raise funds, and run the Democracy Summer internship program.

There are still many unanswered questions at this time, including whether member parties would have to subscribe to a unified set of principles, and if so, how those principles would be established; financial issues such as dues structure and financial support for currently existing parties (right now, PD pays annual dues of \$10 per member to the New Party, and is receiving a \$500/month staff subsidy); whether individual members could belong to the federation (currently, the New Party has thousands of individual members who are not members of local parties); and governance structure.

PD members will have a chance to discuss these and other questions at a special meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 6:30 p.m. (just before the membership meeting), at the Madison downtown public library. At least one of our representatives to the New Party's Executive Council will be there, to listen to your thoughts and answer questions.

In July, Chick Mitchell and Nolen Johnson stepped down from the Steering Committee (SC) due to scheduling conflicts. PD thanks both for the time and energy they contributed to the SC. Fortunately, both continue in leadership roles for PD. Chick continues to help coordinate PD's tabling at community events, and Nolen is the co-chair of PD's revitalized Fundraising Committee.

At the July General Membership Meeting Tom Running and Betty Volquardsen were elected to the SC.

Also in July, the SC appointed Richard-Marie Commander to the position of co-treasurer. Some of you may know Richard-Marie from his work with Madison

(See "Progressive Dane News" on page 3)



Progressive Dane Notes

September 2000 • Volume VIII, No. 9

Progressive Dane Notes is the local chapter newsletter of the New Progressive Party of Wisconsin.

Production and Circulation Consortium

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

This month's contributors

Mary Anglim, Sheila Crowley, Beth Harper, Sue Vilbrandt, 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, oversee the progress of other committees, and to set the agenda for the general membership meetings. SC meetings are open to all PD members.

Next meeting: Wed., Oct. 11, 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.

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.

Next meeting: Mon., Oct. 16, 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Chris Babiarz (257-3288)

Students for the New Party is the UW-Madison branch of PD and the New Progressive Party of WI. 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., Oct. 2, 7 p.m.

Chair: Michael Jacob (245-0894)

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

Chair: Brenda Konkel (251-2412)

Smart Growth Task Force focuses PD's energies on County development issues. We meet the first Wed. of the month.

Next meeting: Wed., Oct. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Chair: Sheila Guilfoyle (244-7534)

Fundraising Committee plans fun events that raise money for PD.

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. 10. Submissions should be directed to Tona Williams at 259-9136 (twilliam@ssc.wisc.edu). Send all correspondence to:



Progressive Dane
P.O. Box 1222
Madison, WI 53701

Printed on recycled paper by worker-owned Lakeside Press.

Goodbye and Thank You

Long-time members Stuart Eimer and Alison Wiecek bid Madison goodbye last month; now that Stuart has finished his PhD, they've headed back to the east coast. Stuart was a founding member of PD and the Students for the New Progressive Party (now SNP). In the "early" years of PD, Stuart chaired PD's Fundraising Committee and championed the start of PD's monthly newsletter, among other activities. Stuart was one of SNP's leaders during its first few years, and organized SNP's annual used book sale at the UW. Beyond PD, Stuart also was very active in the Teaching Assistants' Association, especially in the TAA's Political Action Committee.

Also heading east this month, to do fieldwork for his doctoral dissertation, is Paul Lachelier. Over the last several years, Paul has played a big role in keeping SNP visible and active on campus. He's also been a "membership machine," signing up over 50 PD members, as well as logging hundreds of hours at PD's information tables and starting PD's internship program. During the last year, Paul also helped get the UW Labor Center off the ground.

PD thanks these members for their many contributions and wishes them the best in the future. Come back and see us when you're in town!

Congratulations



to members Michael and Lisa Jacob, on the birth of their son Corey on September 7!

Hit A Home Run for Clean Government and Win A Game for The People!

Come to Demetral Park (at 6th and Packers on the East Side) on Saturday, September 23 at 3:30 p.m. for The People vs. The State softball game.

Fun, sun, good food and good company will all be a part of this celebration of our new Clean Government Issue Campaign. Beer and burgers will be provided; just bring a side dish to pass and \$5 for a ticket to the game.

The Madison Common Council Lobbyist Registration victory put the People in the batter's box, so let's step up to the plate at The People vs. The State softball game and launch one out of the park for Clean Government!

For more info call Nolen at 249-3903

We Need Your Leadership- On The Steering Committee

At the September membership meeting, you can nominate yourself or someone else to serve on the PD Steering Committee (SC) for the next year. Further nominations and the election will occur at the October 25th meeting.



The SC plans, facilitates, and carries out the directives of the General Membership Meeting.



It also maintains communication and fosters cooperation among various PD committees and task forces, and watches out for the organization as a whole.



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.

County Living Wage Hike Recommended

REPRINTED FROM THE SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION
OF LABOR NEWSLETTER

The Dane County Living Wage Review Council completed the initial phase of its work in August with a recommendation to the County Executive and the County Board that the living wage be phased in until it reaches 112 percent of the federal poverty level for a family of four. The next steps are for the County Board to amend the ordinance and to appropriate the necessary funds for the fiscal 2001 increment toward the 112 percent.

The Living Wage Review Council was created by the Living Wage ordinance, passed in March 1999. The Council was charged with reviewing implementation of the ordinance, making recommendations on the appropriate level of the living wage and on health insurance for workers covered by the ordinance, addressing the ordinance's exemptions, and a few other matters.

The specific recommendation of the Council is that the living wage be increased to 112 percent of the poverty level within six years by increasing it a minimum of 2 percent a year and that the County also provide funding to address Purchase of Services agencies' escalating health insurance costs. The Council also directed county staff to research the cost of providing health insurance to home health care workers and to investigate those few Purchase of Service agencies that do not already provide health insurance to their workers. The Council's research showed that health insurance coverage was much more prevalent than had previously been thought. The Council will reconvene after the County's fall budget process in order to study additional information gathered for the health insurance issue and to make final recommendations

in that regard.

Members of the Council include Jim Cavanaugh, President of the South Central Federation of Labor and Chair of the Council; County Board Supervisors Darold Lowe, John Hendrick, and Jim Mohrbacher; Richard Berling, Executive Director of Madison Area Rehabilitation Centers; Charles Carlson of Carlson Dettmenn Associates; and Lamont Jones, President of Midwest Consulting Group.

"I'm very pleased that Dane County's living wage is moving up to 112 percent, with increases no less than 2 percent over the usual annual adjustments each year," said County Supervisor Darold "Dode" Lowe. "That's good news for some of the lowest paid workers in the area."

You may contact the SCFL at TheFed@SCFL.ORG or visit their web site at <http://www.SCFL.org>.



PROGRESSIVE DANE NEWS

(continued from page 1)

Community Co-ops or the new Social Justice Center. Richard-Marie shares the PD treasurer duties with long-time treasurer Mary Anglim.

At the beginning of August, David Austin resigned from his position as co-chair of PD and stepped down from the Steering Committee as well. Austin was first elected co-chair in the summer of 1997, and PD

has greatly benefited from his dedication and skills. During his tenure as co-chair, Austin also served as chair and co-chair of PD's Election Committee, during which time PD candidates won 29 of 37 races, including a sweep of all eight City Council races in which PD was involved in 1999. PD thanks David for his contribution of time, energy, and vision.

Brenda Konkel was elected to fill David's position as co-chair of PD. Beth Harper continues as the other

co-chair.

PD's Fundraising Committee has been revitalized thanks to the hard work, talents, and enthusiasm of Carl Silverman, Jose Sentmanat, and committee co-chairs Cynthia White and Nolen Johnson. The committee organized this summer's highly successful "Champagne, Chocolate, and Change" fundraiser, hosted by Carol Weidel and Dan Roberts. The event raised over \$1000!! Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

Visit the PD website....

<http://www.newparty.org/pd>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

.....
Next Meeting

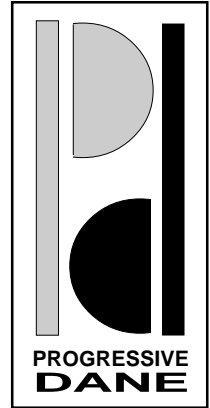
7 o'clock p.m.
September 27, 2000

Madison Public Library
201 W. Mifflin St.
.....

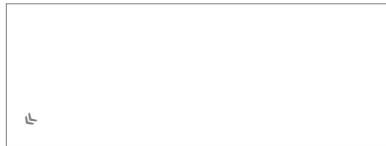
The Agenda

- Educational: Farwell Park proposal, Urban Open Space Foundation
- New Party Update
- Steering Committee Nominations
- Nader Campaign update
- Leadership development plan

Chair: Jim Powell, 257-4985



If your renewal date is 9/1/00 or earlier,
this is your last newsletter. Please renew.



Volunteer Night:
F Help with vital yet easy tasks (labeling newsletters, writing thank-you cards, etc.).
F Chat with Progressive Dane members.
F Catch up on the latest issues/actions.
F Check out our newly-remodeled office space!
F Refreshments provided.
F Monday, October 16, 5:30-7 p.m., 200 N. Blount St.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

New Progressive Party
P.O. Box 1222
Madison, WI 53701

Nonprofit org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1572

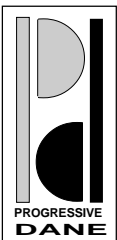
Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Zip _____ Phone (eve/day) _____ Email _____

I support the principles and purpose of Progressive Dane and the New Progressive Party. **Please accept my membership.**

Please renew my membership in Progressive Dane and the New Progressive Party.



OR

Annual membership: \$500 Benefactor	\$250 Patron	\$100 Political Junkie
\$75 Activist	\$36 Regular	\$12 Low Income

Sustaining membership: Amount: \$ _____ /month (minimum \$5/month)
Method: Bank Draft (please attach voided check, or 1st month's check payable to Progressive Dane)

Credit Card type (circle one) Visa Mastercard American Express

Account# _____ Expiration date _____

Mail to: **Progressive Dane, P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701** For more info: (608) 257-4985