


  
**PROGRESSIVE DANE**
  
 Rebuilding politics from the grassroots up
   
**Forward!**
  
 Progressive Dane is affiliated with the Independent Progressive Politics Network.
   
 P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 | 608/257-4985 | office@prodane.org | www.prodane.org

# Candidate Agreement plan takes shape

By NICK BERIGAN, PD Co-

**CHAIR** On the agenda for the November General Membership Meeting (GMM) is the item "Determine Candidate Agreement for 2004." PD's desire to have clear relationships with our candidates and officeholders sets us apart from the other actors in the local political scene.

I joined PD ten years ago because I needed assurance that my volunteer time and energy would be effectively applied toward public policy changes via electoral and issue work.

That assurance was the PD Candidate Agreement -- a document that has undergone periodic review. Against a backdrop

where officeholders endorse each other and appeal to the general progressive community every two years at re-election time, but are otherwise not connected to constituencies, our Candidate Agreement has often been misrepresented. The Candidate Agreement (CA) is one of the reasons that we are a long-term force in public policy debates in Dane County.

The CA should be a living document to avoid a disconnect between our tactical methods (the CA) and our goals (building an organized force of savvy activists that apply their skills successfully). It's time to revisit the CA for the 2004

(and possibly 2005) election cycle. Whatever period we choose, we will revisit the CA periodically, just like we do with our city, county, and school board platforms.

We've taken a half a year to accumulate feedback on possible modification of the CA. We started discussion last spring at a GMM, set up a list-serve for debate, had a meeting of our caucus members to weigh in, and reviewed what we heard at a Steering Committee (SC) and recent GMM meeting. Now it's time to make some choices.

We've culled a range of opinions, but most focus on two areas of contention: the

so-called *non-endorsement policy* and the *specific requirements* of cooperation for endorsees. We also heard a new idea about defining the *responsibility of the organization* to our hardworking officeholders as well.

We'll break down the CA into these three general topics for revision. If we start with the non-endorsement policy, it will make some of the later decisions more apparent.

**Topic 1:** *The non-endorsement policy* (NEP) of the current CA states that endorsed candidates are required to refrain from endorsing candidates who oppose other PD-endorsed candidates.

See Candidate, p3

## Drug Policy Taskforce makes changes

By DAVID CHASTAIN

Since I recently moved from participant to co-chair (with Stephanie Rearick), it is a good time to introduce myself, and describe the Drug Policy Task Force. The basic focus of the Task Force is to support changes in drug-related policies that address drug use, abuse, and dependence from a health perspective, rather than a heavy-handed emphasis on the law. **Some** of the issues we've been working on include:

- \* lobbying for medical marijuana
- \* support of personal marijuana use as reflected by Madison ordinance 23.20

- \* harm reduction approaches to narcotics
- \* increased access to treatment
- \* increased use of treatment as an alternative to jail time
- \* increased emphasis on neighborhood policing.

We are working on a follow-up to our first State of the City address in August of 2002. Stephanie Rearick deserves considerable credit for that event and for her leadership on the Task Force. Another strong emphasis is greater Task Force membership. There is more work than our small number can do effectively. The next meet-

See Taskforce, p3

## Progressive Dane's Snow Ball Fundraiser



**Friday, December 12 5-7 p.m.  
At The Cardinal, 418 E. Wilson**

Celebrate a great year, welcome in an even better one with other Progressive Dane members, and join us in recognizing and honoring the work of our dedicated volunteers!

We are looking for people to sponsor the Snow Ball with a \$25 donation (or more!) to help make sure we end the year with a bang and in the black (no debt!). If you can help sponsor our last fundraiser of the year please call the PD office at 257-4985 or email office@prodane.org. Do it by Monday, November 17th to have your name included on the invitation.

## Forward!

November 2003 • Volume XI, No. 10

Forward is the local chapter newsletter of the New Progressive Party in Dane County, Wisconsin.

*Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization with the following committee structure (all meetings are held at the PD office, 122 State St. 4th floor, 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.

**Co-chair:** Stephanie Rearick (255-1092)

**Co-chair:** Nick Berigan (257-0187)

**Meets:** 2nd Wed. of month, 7-9 p.m.

**Next meeting:** December 3 (1 week early!)

### Elections Committee

**Chair:** Michael Jacob (245-0894)

**Meets:** 3rd Mon of month, 7 p.m.

**Next meeting:** December 15

### Newsletter Consortium

**Contact:** Chris Babiarz (257-3288)

### Policy Committee

**Chair:** Ron Richardson (256-7144)

### Arts Task Force

**Chair:** Jonathan Zarov (zarov@wisc.edu)

**Meets:** 4th Thurs of month, 6:30-8 p.m.

**Next meeting:** That's Thanksgiving!

### Drug Policy Task Force

**Chair:** David Chastain (243-4343)

**Meets:** 2nd Mon of month, 7 p.m., Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamston St.

**Next meeting:** December 8

### Education Task Force

**Chair:** Kristin Forde

**Meets:** 1st Tues. of month, 7 p.m.

**Next meeting:** December 2

### Environmental Task Force

**Chair:** Brett Schumacher (238-3441)

**Meets:** 3rd Wed of month, 7 p.m.

**Next meeting:** December 17 (same as GMM!)

### Housing Task Force

**Contact:** Megin Hicks, 279-2659

### People-First Planning Campaign

**Contact:** Ron Richardson (256-7144)

**Meets:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m.

## Fair Wage Campaign discussion update

BY SANG LEE, PD STAFF ORGANIZER

The main discussion at last month's General Membership Meeting was on the Fair Wage Campaign launched in September and what Progressive Dane's role should be in this campaign. Joe Lindstrom, longtime antipoverty advocate and one of the activists who launched the campaign, started the discussion with a history of the campaign and its goals. The Fair Wage Campaign is currently collecting signatures from Madison voters for a charter ordinance that would raise the City of Madison's minimum wage from \$5.15/hour to \$7.75/hour and to \$3.88/hour for tipped employees. A charter ordinance requires a 2/3 majority vote instead of the simple majority vote that a regular ordinance would need to pass. In addition, the language of a charter ordinance is fixed. According to campaign organizers, the ordinance vote would most likely happen in April 2004. To see the exact wording for the charter ordinance, visit the campaign's web site at [www.madisonfairwage.org](http://www.madisonfairwage.org).

When asked what the Fair Wage Campaign would like PD to do, Austin King, PD-endorsed alder and one of the activists who launched the campaign, answered that he would like to see PD show our support by officially endorsing the charter ordinance, giving the campaign access to our voter file and volunteers, and using our name. No motion was made on any of these re-

quests, but the discussion that followed touched upon these items.

Some major concerns expressed during the discussion were:

1) The amount of energy and resources that PD would have to dedicate towards the Fair Wage Campaign, with our current commitments and campaigns in mind (People-First Planning, Inclusionary Zoning, and upcoming County Board elections)

2) A minimum wage proposal from the Mayor that would also be asking for the same increase as the Fair Wage Campaign (however, the enactment process is different).

3) The ability of small business owners to meet a higher mandatory wage increase.

Overall, discussion in the room supported a higher minimum wage for workers, but the process of changing the wage and the timing of the campaign were the main questions at hand.

A motion was put forward by Austin King that, "Progressive Dane supports a higher minimum wage of \$7.75." There was some discussion that PD's platform already includes support for a living wage and, therefore, it would be unnecessary and redundant to support a motion that supports a specific amount. Since King's motion was presented with only 10 minutes left in the meeting, a motion to table passed with a vote of 12 to 8.

## SC election update

At last month's General Membership Meeting, PD held its annual Steering Committee elections. We welcome two new SC members: **Shelley Fite**, past PD staff organizer and current Education Taskforce activist, and **Patrick DePula**, longtime affordable housing and neighborhood activist.

Continuing another year of leadership are **Nick Berigan**, **Monya Choudhury**, **Brenda Konkell**, **Michael Jacob**, **Stephanie Rearick**, and **Tom Running**.

Thanks go to former Steering Committee members **Mary Anglim**, **Adam Benedetto**, **Sheila Guilfoyle**, and **Megin Hicks** for their valuable work.

Progressive Dane Office: 257-4985

E-mail: [office@prodane.org](mailto:office@prodane.org)

Web Site: <http://www.prodane.org/>

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the December newsletter to Beth Harper (238-8147 or [harper@danenet.wicup.org](mailto:harper@danenet.wicup.org)) by Noon, Tues., December 2nd.

### Production and Circulation Consortium

Lynn Allen, Mary Anglim, Chris Babiarz, Erik Breilid, Richard-Marie Commander, Sheila Guilfoyle, Beth Harper, Tom Kozlovsky, Andy Kraiss, Nate McQuillen, Richard Russell, Tona Williams.

### This month's contributors

Nick Berigan, Kristin Forde, Brenda Konkell, Sang Lee.



Send all correspondence to:

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

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# Inclusionary Zoning, the final days? Your help is Needed!

By **BRENDA KONKEL**

The Common Council may take the final vote on the Inclusionary Zoning ordinance, Tuesday, December 2nd. To ensure success, it is imperative that you get involved today, in any or all of the following ways!

**Call your alder:** If you live in any of the outlying districts, call your alder and urge their support. The only officials currently in support are Konkel (Dist. 2), King (Dist. 8), Verveer (Dist. 4), Benford (Dist. 12), Olson (Dist. 6), MacCubbin (Dist. 11), Webber (Dist. 5), and Sloan (Dist. 13). If you live in any other district, call your alder and urge support; do it today! The Council office

(266-4071) will forward your message to all alders 266-4071. You can also send a message through e-mail at [council@cityofmadison.com](mailto:council@cityofmadison.com)

**Write a letter:** Please write to newspaper editors urging support of inclusionary zoning, and thanking the committees for their very hard work and thoughtful consideration. Tell them how inclusionary zoning will help you, or someone you know.

**Register/Speak in Support:** There are several important meetings coming up. We'd love your participation. Let us know what you think about the discussion, and if you feel comfortable, we need people to speak in support of the

ordinance. Final meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Council Retreat:** 4:30 p.m., November 18th, Room 260 of the Municipal Building, 210 MLK Jr. Blvd. (no public speaking, but it will be an interesting meeting)

**Special Plan Commission Meeting:** 5 p.m., Council Chambers, Room 201, City County Building, 210 MLK Jr. Blvd.

**Council Meeting:** 6:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Room 201 City County Building, 210 MLK Jr. Blvd.

For more talking points, questions, or to help organize this final push, call Brenda Konkel at 345-8720, or email her at [brendakonkel@yahoo.com](mailto:brendakonkel@yahoo.com).

## CANDIDATE FROM PAGE 1

Some of the pros and cons of the NEP include: officeholder cohesion, being clear in support of the goals of the organization, a more effective marshalling of resources, misrepresentation of the policy by our opponents to undercut our project, and that it is a restriction on choice.

We'll propose three options for discussion: no NEP, the current NEP, or a modified NEP that allows candidates to prove their mettle in other areas. We'll determine which are supported by the attending members, discuss positions, and vote on that part of the agreement.

**Topic 2:** With that decision in mind, we'll address the *specific requirements* of endorsed candidates for outreach, communication, action, and publicity. How specific should the responsibilities be? If we are too specific,

we seem to expect a lot of very busy people, but if we are vague it is hard to evaluate the long-term success of the relationship between the organization and the candidate. What's the right balance? We'll prioritize that list and decide if we want other ways for candidates to work closely with us.

We'll decide if there are things that certain candidates can do for us that others can't. If a candidate has a big list of supporters, s/he might be better able to help us by sponsoring a couple of house parties where we can engage like-minded constituents in our work. If a candidate is really tuned into a certain issue, s/he could write an op-ed piece focusing on the work that PD is doing in that area.

**Topic 3:** Finally, we'll look at the *responsibility of the organization* to the candidates. There are five areas that have come up in discussions:

- 1) training for campaigns

and other relevant skills.

- 2) financial support during the campaign cycle.

- 3) volunteers for campaigns.

- 4) support on issues once elected.

- 5) a volunteer pool to help with work once elected.

If we decide that one or more of these options should be available to the candidates, we would incorporate them in the agreement letter. This will allow candidates to enter the endorsement interview prepared to discuss what they would like from PD in return for our endorsement.

The goal is to have a candidate agreement that has been decided on by the membership for use during the next election cycle (or beyond). Join us at the GMM for this important discussion that will shape Progressive Dane for years to come.

## TASKFORCE FROM PAGE 1

ing is Monday, December 8, 7 p.m., at the Social Justice Center, 1202 Williamson St.

My interest in this area is both personal and professional. Although currently 23 years beyond it, I have experienced fourteen years of active drug use resulting in dependence on marijuana and cocaine. I've worked as an Addictions Counselor for 18 years. In addition to being the AODA Counselor for MATC, I also teach in their Human Services program. I've been with MATC since 1995. The combination of these experiences leads me to seek change in how AODA issues are prevented, identified and treated. The current approach of fear and punishment creates more problems than solutions.

If you have questions about the Drug Policy Task Force, contact me at [dchastain@tds.net](mailto:dchastain@tds.net), or call 224-0431. Perhaps you could join us on December 8?

Come celebrate our reformation with coffee, sweets, and conversation!

**Education Taskforce Kick-off**

**Sunday, November 16, 6-8 p.m.  
EVP Coffee**

1250 E. Washington Avenue

Contact person: Kristin Forde 260-8518 [kforde@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:kforde@madison.k12.wi.us)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

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**Next Meeting**

**7 o'clock p.m.**  
**November 19, 2003**

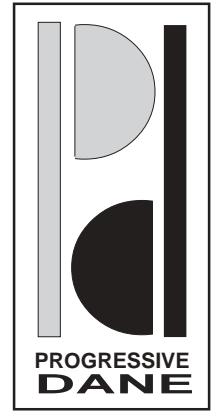
Madison Public Library  
201 West Mifflin Street

.....  
*If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodations, please contact the PD office, 257-4985, one week in advance of the meeting.*

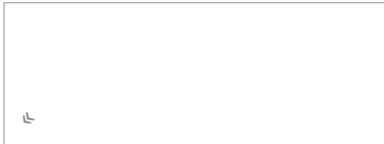
# The Agenda

- \* Staff report
- \* Strategic planning results
- \* Determine the Candidate Agreement for 2004

**Chair: Sang Lee, 257-4985**



*If your renewal date is 12/1/03 or earlier, this is your last newsletter. Please renew.*



Help label our newsletter, write thank-you notes, and other easy volunteer tasks. Refreshments provided.  
Tuesday, December 9, 5:30-7 p.m.  
PD Office, 122 State St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

## Volunteer Night!

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- I support the principles and purpose of Progressive Dane. **Please accept my membership.**
- Please renew my membership** in Progressive Dane.



Sustaining membership: Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_/month (minimum \$5/month)  
To pay via bank draft, please attach a voided check, or the 1st month's check payable to Progressive Dane.

OR

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual membership: | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Regular      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250+ Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Supporting |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$36 Basic        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Low Income  |

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