


Progressive Partners


**Progressive Grassroots Groups
of Wisconsin's Second Congressional District**

January 2013

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Mission

**Progressive Partners exists to support and facilitate
coordination, communication, and collaboration among
autonomous community-based progressive
grassroots groups and their allies.**







What this booklet is

This booklet was compiled by GROW members Peter Bloch, Karen McKim, and Ron Wolfe as a one-time product for the January 2013 meeting of Progressive Partners.

Groups included identify themselves as community-based, independent, progressive grassroots groups. At the end, we have profiled a few additional groups that have missions closely related to those of the community grassroots groups. Many other groups not included in this booklet should also be considered allies —particularly labor groups, issue-oriented groups, and party organizations.

To gather the information, we spoke with the person listed as contact with the WGN and got information from the group's web presence (Facebook, website, etc.) We did our best, but this booklet almost certainly contains omissions and likely a few errors. We hope that, even with its limitations, it serves its purpose of facilitating discussion and networking at the January meeting.

Key to activity icons

-  **Elections:** Working for candidates, holding candidates' forums, recruiting candidates, etc.
-  **Issue Advocacy:** Organized group activity, such as petitioning or letter-writing, to promote specific public policies, such as amending the Constitution or preventing harmful mining.
-  **Educational:** Activities that educate the group or the community about issues, outside of an organization action project. Includes events such as speakers, teach-ins, and documentary films.
-  **Social justice:** Activities to benefit the community in non-political ways, such as food drives, adopt-a-highway, or voter registration.
-  **Social fun:** Activities just for fun and to help build friendships in the group, such as picnics, parties, festive annual meetings, etc.
-  **Outreach:** Activities intended to promote awareness of the group or of progressives in general, such as signage that is not related to an election, or having a float in a parade.

Activities can serve more than one purpose, of course. For example, marching as a group in the Fourth of July parade is both social fun and publicity for the group.

Active McFarland

Active membership: About 50

Broad network: About 150

Area: McFarland area including people from towns of Dunn and parts of Madison

Email: activemcfarland@gmail.com

Who we are: Active McFarland encourages active participation (democracy) and progressive ideals. The group's strength lies in ties to local government and local progressives.

Organization: Active McFarland is a relatively new, rather loose organization with no regular meetings. They meet when the need arises at local library. They have a checking account and a treasurer, but no other officers or bylaws.

Partisan nature: Not partisan but generally has supported progressive candidates who have a Democratic Party affiliation.

Activities

- ☒ The group has invited nonpartisan or progressive candidates. Due to the polarizing political environment the progressives have generally been affiliated with the Democratic Party.
- ☒ Has been involved in local town board elections.
- ☒ The group has not endorsed candidates but the group encourages its members to support candidates through canvassing and phone banking.

Contact on WGN database:

Jerry Collins -- 838-8620 -- glcsandrac@charter.net

Columbus Fall River Grassroots

Active membership: About 20

Mailing list: About 40

Area: Around city of Columbus and Village of Fall River

Facebook: 90+ likes

Who we are: A group of grassroots / local residents / Democrats-Independents-Former and current Republicans / Working-class middle Americans who have decided it's time to get involved in our political future.

Organization: Currently, the group has no regular meeting time or place, no officers or committee structure, etc. Until the November election, they shared office space with the Democratic Party, but gave up that arrangement.

Partisan nature: The group was closely tied to the Democratic Party during the campaign, but now wants to redefine themselves to become more focused on local issues, local offices, and not so tied to the election cycle. As of mid-December, they haven't worked out the details or reached consensus on what their new incarnation will be like.

Activities

- ☒ CFR has invited elected officials or candidates to speak with the group, and did not limit it to Democrats, but the Republicans didn't come.
- ☒ CFR has done much campaign work for Democratic candidates.
- ♥ CFR had a Halloween event to raise money for the food pantry.

Contact on WGN database:

Mary Lou Sharpee -- 846-4127 -- mlsharpee@yahoo.com

County Line Progressives

Active membership: Around 30

Mailing list: About 40

Area: Belleville, New Glarus, Monticello and surrounding area

Facebook: 50+ likes

Mission statement: The communities of Belleville, Monticello and New Glarus are organized to ensure our Local School Boards, Villages, Townships, State and Federal Governments will know the will of our communities. We will work to elect and support officials that will stay true to our Wisconsin Values. We will stay informed of local boards and organizations issues and activities by making coalitions where possible, joining their email lists, or assigning our own reporters to attend open meetings and report to our Group. We will form Action Teams as needed.

Organization

- Regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Corner Café in Belleville.
- CLP considers itself to be part of a geographically larger Grassroots group "South Central Wisconsin Progressives," but the 'larger' group is less active.

Partisan nature: As of mid-December, some members want a stronger partisan identity; some want nonpartisan identity. Solutions being considered are to keep the partisan activities in committees or in affiliated groups.

Activities

- ☒ CLP has invited candidates to speak. They invited all candidates for a State Assembly race, but the Republican didn't come.
- ☒ CLP has endorsed candidates in both partisan and nonpartisan races. They've been most active related to school board elections.
- ☒ CLP has campaigned for Obama and Baldwin.
- ♥ CLP has dropped flyers at doors that encourage people to vote and that provide information about voting, but that did not promote any specific candidate.
- ♥ CLP has participated in food drives.
- 📖 CLP tries to devote one meeting each month to educational topics or speaker.
- 📖 CLP advertises its educational speakers/programs in the community.
- ! CLP will work for Move to Amend in 2013.

Contact listed on WGN database:

Tim Sager - 335-4051 - TRSager@gmail.com

DeForest Area Progressives

Active membership: 10-20

Broad network: About 150

Area: The northeast section of Dane County including parts of Vienna, Windsor and Burke townships.

Facebook: 90+ likes

Blog: www.wisconsingrassroots.net/deforest_progressives_blog

Members' website: www.meetup.com/DeForest-Meetup-Deforest-Area-Progressives/

LinkedIn: as DeForest Progressives

Email: deforestprogressives@gmail.com

Office: 6619 Lake Rd, (HWY CV), Windsor, WI 53532

Mission:

To promote progressive ideas, issues, candidates. Involvement at the community level is where we focus and then widen our range of interests and actions.

Organization

- Meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 at their office.
- They have a checking account and a treasurer, but no elected officers and no bylaws but they do have a checking account registered to the Treasurer.

Activities

- 📖 Making signs with changeable messages to announce activities of the group or to assist local candidates.
- 😊 They meet socially to develop connections within their group.
- 📖 Present documentary films along with invited speakers to discuss issues of concern locally, state wide and / or nationally. The group is concerned about political, economic and environmental issues and attempts to keep their membership informed about activities in these areas.
- 📖 Presentations on the use of popular software such as Facebook and twitter
- ♥ Currently have a college student "intern" to help with planning and organizing social programs.

Contact on WGN database:

Marcia Riquelme - 446-1446 - mom.pazyarte@gmail.com

Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin

Active membership: 10-12

Broad network: About 800 email addresses (so more people)

Area: Iowa, Sauk, Lafayette and Grant Counties

Facebook: 126 likes

Website: grassrootswi.org

Email: grassroots@merr.com

Phone: 608 623-2109

Our Vision and Shared Values: Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin is a network of engaged people in Southwest Wisconsin who through constructive dialogue and education foster informed, positive change at the local, regional and national levels.

Our work is rooted in the basic values of opportunity, fairness, tolerance and respect for each other.

We value our freedom to communicate ideas, just as we value the tolerance and respect which is given to others who speak, write, and take action.

We value universal access to excellence in education, to economically sustainable jobs, and to quality health care.

We seek security through global cooperation.

We value honesty, integrity, and financial responsibility in governments and in business, as we do in our homes and in our communities.

We value respect for the resources of our planet.

We value fairness in bearing the burdens of citizenship.

We value common good over self-interest.

We value the arts which delight, inspire and enliven our shared community life.

Organization:

- Our leadership council meets at one of our members' homes.
- We have a bank account, bylaws, articles of association, and officers: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer.
- At our "Politics and Pie" events, we break out into interest groups and decide which actions we would like to pursue in the coming year.

Partisan nature: The Grassroots Citizens group is nonpartisan. We focus primarily on progressive issues and are not involved with political campaigning. We feel very strongly that our organization would lose credibility as a community-based group which partners with other community organizations if we as an organization were involved with partisan politics.

(more on next page)

Activities

- ♥ We usually work in partnerships with other groups, such as our Community Connections Free Clinic and the Iowa County Literacy Partnership – on the English as a Second Language Tutoring Program
- ♥
- 📖 Forums on cutting edge issues. Public forums which we sponsor periodically are held at various locations throughout our service area.
- 📖 We send out a Grassroots Gazette newsletter every two weeks or so.
- 📖 We frequently partner with other community groups, such as local libraries, local theater groups, local schools, the local bar association, etc.

Contacts on WGN database:

Shirley Barnes -- 623-2109 -- grassroots@merr.com

Grassroots Organization of Waunakee (GROW)

Active membership: 10-20

Broad network: About 150

Area: Village of Waunakee and Town of Westport

Facebook: 16 likes

Website: grassrootswaunakee.org/

Twitter: @GrassRootsWauna

Other use of web: Yahoo group for members

Email: info@grassrootswaunakee.org

Phone: 520-0420



Mission: As a grassroots organization, we educate each other about issues affecting our community, share ideas and opinions, and join together to take action to make sure our government is responsive to our needs. We organize and participate in educational events, such as movies, teach-ins, or discussions; have social get-togethers; and support each other in promoting progressive initiatives and progressive candidates, without regard to party affiliation.

Who we are: As progressive citizens, we believe that regular folks like ourselves and our neighbors are the bedrock of American civic life. Self-governing citizens create government to, as our Constitution says, "promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." We don't care as much about the size of our government as we care about whether it is well-run and responsive to citizens' needs and concerns. We don't mind paying taxes if we can see that they are put to good use. We believe our government should be open, honest, and clean and that our election laws should promote the broadest possible participation of all citizens.

We believe our government should promote an economy that produces a just and sustainable distribution of wealth and provides all citizens, rich and poor, with equal opportunity for achievement and success. We are vigorously opposed to allowing global corporations, which have no love for our country or stake in our communities, to have more influence over our governments that we and our neighbors do.

Partisan nature: Recently adopted bylaws designate the group as nonpartisan, and we intend to get 501(c)(4) status, which requires nominal nonpartisanship. We have sponsored candidates forums, inviting all candidates, and we have invited individual progressive officials to speak to our group.

Organization

- Meets weekly on Sundays from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Waunakee EMS Community Room.
- Have a bank account and a treasurer.
- Recently adopted bylaws and will elect officers at their annual meeting and open house in February.

Activities

- ☒ Encourage members to get involved in supporting candidates of their choosing through canvassing and phone banking activities.
- ! Members are also active in writing letters to the editor of the local Tribune as well as more widely distributed papers.
- 📖 Present documentary films with invited speakers to discuss issues of local, state, or national concern locally, state wide and / or nationally. The group is concerned about political, economic and environmental issues and attempts to keep their membership informed about activities in these areas.
- ☺ Annual meeting with potluck dinner and party in February
- 📄 Sold hamburgers at a community event for fundraising

Contacts on WGN database:

Laurene Bach -- 852-5654 -- lbach1948@charter.net
Ron Wolfe -- 831-8757 -- rwwolfe@yahoo.com

MadtownO's

Area: Madison's west side, generally from Monona Bay to Whitney Way, and from the Allied Drive area to Old University Avenue.

Facebook: 72 likes

Website: www.madtownos.org

Twitter: 57 followers - @MadtownOs

Email: madtown.volunteers@gmail.com

Mission/Partisan nature/Activities: The group is closely tied to the Democratic Party and OFA, in mission and activities.

Organization: Steering committee meets every 2 weeks on Sunday afternoon from 4:00-6:00

Contact on WGN database:

Eric Sundquist - 257-2721 - nomoretraffic@yahoo.com

Middleton Action Team (MAT)

Active membership: About 30

Broad network: About 120, although we have about 700 on our volunteer list (we don't have everyone's email).

Area: City and Town of Middleton

Facebook: 60 likes

Other Internet use: Google group for email and document sharing

Email: MiddletonActionTeam53562@gmail.com

Phone: (262) 358-1044

Mission: "Progressively Making Things Better" Our Purpose:

- To provide an organizational base in the Middleton area that supports progressive ideals and priorities.
- To promote civic action, education and engagement on issues affecting our community, our region, state, nation and world.
- To plan and organize community service projects that improve the quality of life in the greater Middleton area

Who we are: Our group supports: progressive ideals and priorities; civic action, education and engagement on issues affecting our community, our region, state, nation & world; and community service projects that improve the quality of life. We've had success in staying active with grassroots issues and building our team since 2008. We've been acknowledged by other groups to be great at getting volunteers and getting out the vote.

Organization:

- Steering committee meets Wednesday mornings at 10:30 at Sofra's
- No officers; we rotate meeting facilitation among members on a voluntary basis. A rotating note taker volunteers for one month
- Use a consensus-building model for decision-making: If no one objects to a new idea, we devote our meeting time to carrying it out. If anyone objects to the idea, then the person who proposed it becomes the leader of a subgroup and asks for volunteers to work on the idea/project/etc. That subgroup meets outside of our weekly meeting and reports on their progress or makes specific requests of the group at future meetings. Each person a choice to participate or not in everything we do. In other words, a majority does not really rule nor does any single leader.
- Over time the format of the agenda has come to pretty much follow standard sections: 1). Brief announcements by anyone; 2) Current subjects continuing from previous meeting; 3) New items to be discussed/proposed etc; and

4) Rants - This addition has been very helpful. Whenever someone starts to rant, which we all do, the facilitator cuts in and says save it for the end of the agenda. It works. Keeps us on track. Makes us laugh. We do rant often.

Partisan nature: We are progressive but unaffiliated with Democratic or any other party. All or virtually all members support Democratic candidates but the group is determinedly nonpartisan.

Activities

- ☒ We've held candidate forums, not limited to Democrats. Members were active in both recall and Obama campaigns. We organized phone banking with our own list and script, and canvassing with OFA list and script.
- ☒ Registering voters at apartment complexes and keeping in touch with them—letting them know where to vote and other information about an upcoming election.
- ☒ We had a "Can Walker" event where people brought a can for MOM's food pantry and then signed up to volunteer for the recall election.
- 📖 We have a banner that we use when doing community service or education events.
- 📖 The "Can Walker" event was on the evening news. We've had the local paper, the Middleton Times Tribune do an article on us.
- ♥ Food drives for the local food pantry. Once a month we do a mobile grocery for low income senior housing by getting food and items from MOMs food pantry and distributing in community room.
- ♥ Work with local store and Kiwanis Club to give customers a list of needed items and then collect items near the store exits. We do similar thing for school supplies at start of year at Walgreens for local elementary school. These events "keep us together" between elections.
- ☺ We had a potluck dinner and a local jazz band provided entertainment at a local enclosed park shelter, to socialize after canvassing.
- 📖 We've held many forums on, e.g. health insurance reform, Afghanistan, and with the Trial Lawyers Assn. to watch the "Hot Coffee" film about tort reform propaganda.
- 📖 We are slowly building a "cookbook" of organizing methods for our and other groups.
- ! Work on election integrity. We have had sign campaigns, similar to Burma shave ads, during morning and afternoon rush hours before an election to bring awareness of the election and issues of importance.

Contacts on WGN database:

Bev Jambois -- (262) 358-1044 -- bevjambois@gmail.com

Oregon Area Progressives



Active membership: about 10-15
Complete mailing list: about 400
Area: The Oregon School District, which includes the city of Oregon plus parts of Fitchburg, Brooklyn, Belleville
Facebook: 140+ likes
Website: oregonareaprogressives.org
Twitter: 140+ followers -- @OregonWIprogs
Email: oap@oregonareaprogressives.org

Mission statement: Our mission is to build and strengthen the grassroots organization by educating and empowering people to act on local, state, and national issues. "Let's make America work for everyone"

Organizational features

- Regular Saturday morning meetings at 10:30 am at the Firefly Coffeehouse in Oregon
- Has steering committee, rotates responsibility for chairing meetings
- Has treasurer, bank account
- Has standing committees (Finance & Funding; Organization Development; Elections; Issues; Outreach & Community; Data)
- Is working on bylaws

Partisan nature: OAP is comfortable being closely identified with the Democratic Party and served as the Obama campaign's southern Dane County GOTV headquarters.

Activities

- 📅 Monthly newsletter for anyone who signs up on website.
- 📅 Group members have appeared on local radio shows
- 😊 Open Mic (informal event with discussion and different program every month) first Thursday of every month at Firefly Café in Oregon
- 😊 Thank-you dinner planned for GOTV volunteers in January
- ☑ Have had some nonpartisan forums for nonpartisan offices (judge, school board, etc.), but OAP election-related activities are largely aimed at helping Democrats.
- ☑ Worked closely with Obama campaign in presidential campaign.

(more on next page)

- ♥ Raised funds for food pantry
- ♥ Participated in Arbor Day tree-planting event
- 📖 Have had book-club type group readings
- 📖 Movie nights
- 📖 *All About ALEC* conference in 2012 attracted high-profile speakers, 350 registered participants, from Wisconsin and out-of-state. Even with a small \$10 registration fee, the event made money for OAP.
- ! Have worked on local referenda
- ! Planning a conference in April with SCWMTA, about the need to amend the Constitution to fix the money-is-speech and corporate rights problems.

Contacts on WGN database:

Charles Uphoff -- 835-7283 -- cuphoff@hotmail.com
Carlene Bechen -- 513-7655 -- cdbechen@gmail.com

People 4 Progress

Active membership: About 6

Broad network: About 60

Area: Along the Highway 14 corridor; Northwest Dane County in and around the towns and villages of Mazomanie, Black Earth, Cross Plains, Berry, and Roxbury

Website: www.p4pnwdc.com

Email: People4ProgressWI@gmail.com

Phone: 608-279-4970

Mission:

Who we are:

Organization:

- No regularly scheduled meetings.. When issues of concern arise, they generally meet at a local restaurant in Mazomanie
- Has a bank account and a treasurer; no other officers or bylaws

Partisan nature: Their primary focus is support for local people who step up to run for nonpartisan local offices such as town board, school board, etc. Members volunteer to help on state and federal office campaigns but the group does not endorse candidates.

Activities

☞ Have had some success fundraising using the Internet

! Members are encouraged to get involved in issue-oriented campaigns but membership size limits the efficacy of local demonstrations.

☒ Making and placing signs for recall and regular elections.

Contact on WGN database:

Pam Cashman -- 767-5688 - ccashman@tds.net

Al Sulzer – 312-953-0139 - sulzeral@gmail.com

Reedsburg Area Concerned Citizens

Active membership: About 15

Broad network: About 300

Area: Reedsburg area, incl. Rock Springs, LaValle, etc.

Facebook: 165 likes

Email: reedsburgacc@gmail.com

Mission statement: Standing up for Wisconsin's valued traditions: education, health care, social services, working people's rights, the Arts, and the environment

Organization:

- Meet 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 5:30-7 p.m. at the Corner Pub Restaurant in Reedsburg
- Founded in 2011 as a PAC following Governor Walker's election and attack on working people's rights and public education
- Have two main officers: Chair, Treasurer
- Have a bank account, and pass the hat to defray expenses
- Use gmail for communications to the contacts list
- Have an informal division of tasks, e.g. letter-writers, communications, and networking with county board and teachers

Partisan nature: Can't be affiliated with a party because of PAC status. Individual members are mostly partisan, or at least progressive.

Activities:

- ☒ Hosted several public political events (forums and listening sessions)
- ☒ Donate money to candidates via the PAC, urged unsuccessful Assembly candidate to run again
- ♥ "Can Walker" fundraiser for food pantry. In the process of figuring out how to serve the community better
- 📖 Hosted public events about current issues. Films and speakers at the public library on issues such as fracking, health care, climate change.
- ☞ Marched in the local parade,
- ☞ Write letters to the editor of newspaper, one member writes a regular column for the newspaper
- ! Worked successfully to block proposed fee for access to open records at the County Board.
- ! During recall signature gathering, had a daily presence at the city rec center so everyone knew where to go to sign.

Contacts on WGN database:

Judy Brey -- 608-963-1473 -- fjbrey@rucls.net ; reedsburgacc@gmail.com

Sauk Prairie Action Team



Active membership: about 10

Broad network: about 50

Area: Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, plus some members from northwestern Dane County and southwestern Columbia County

Facebook: 72 friends

Who we are: Sauk Praire Action Team is a loosely organized group of citizens who first came together to collect signatures for the recall of Wisconsin governor Scott Walker. We continue to meet and work together to advance citizens' rights and progressive causes in the Sauk Prairie area.

Organization:

- No regular meetings. Meetings have usually been held at the Sauk City library.
- In transition right now, needs to find a new focus for energy and activity after the November elections.

Partisan nature: Generally has promoted itself as nonpartisan. Members are interested in school and environmental issues, and some benefits are available to nonpartisan groups that are not available to partisan groups, such as meeting space at the Prairie du Sac library.

Activities

- ☒ Has invited partisan candidates to speak with group, and sponsored a forum of school board candidates.
- ☒ Endorsed school board candidates
- ☒ Campaigned for candidates, particularly in recall.
- 📖 As a group, attended educational events such as Move to Amend presentation and GAB's session on Voter ID.

Contacts on WGN database:

Bob Johnson -- 643-8647 -- robertjj1@charter.net

Southwest Wisconsin Area Progressives (SWWAP)

Active membership: about 10

Broad network: about 300 on email list

Area: Mt. Horeb and surrounding Towns

Facebook: 25 likes (three days after creation in December)

Website: <http://www.swwap.org/>

Twitter: Set up but not used.

Who we are: The Southwest Wisconsin Area Progressives (SWWAP) is a local democracy-in-action group, advocating progressive governmental policy..

Mission: The SouthWest Wisconsin Area Progressives (SWWAP) is a local democracy-in-action group advocating progressive government policies that work for a sustainable future. The group is committed to educating the public, as well as itself, in current events. It feels that such an ongoing education, in this warp speed world, is necessary in order to participate in our democracy as informed citizens. SWWAP is open to discussing a broad range of issues, and future topics may include: the occupation in Iraq; voting registration; education; the economy; trade policies; health care current USA alienation and unilateralism in the world; our eroding democracy; and environmental concerns. Topics will be discussed as they are relevant. This progressive group also feels that when American citizens remain uninformed and apathetic, they do not vote, and their democratic government is then weakened. The group is concerned that this apathetic attitude is growing in America and wants to challenge that apathetic way of being. Hence, SWWAP has been formed.

Organization:

- Began as a PAC supporting the 2004 election campaign. Since then reverted to a "true nonprofit," with no legal status and no bank account. We pass the hat when there are expenses.
- Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, currently at Mt.Horeb library but in transition...

Partisan nature: SWWAP is unaffiliated with any party. Members tend to support Democratic candidates but the group itself is nonpartisan.

Activities

- ☒ We were active in both recall – especially petition-signing (from which we got a good list of names)-- and the Obama election, but no endorsement of candidates as a group. We hold candidate forums in conjunction with the League of Women Voters and the Rotary Club.
- ♥ Fundraisers for Friends of Parks, food pantry
- 😊 Social events in coordination with fundraisers, e.g. Halloween
- 📖 We have held many educational programs, which we use to educate ourselves as well as the community, using outside speakers. For example, State Director of Sierra Club will speak in January.
- 📅 With help of a high school social studies teacher, who gives credit for student attendance, have had young people at forums
- ! Worked for an Iraq War referendum; gathered signatures for anti-Citizens Unted referendum in village before Dane County voted (no action since); supported Fair Wisconsin; held meeting on problems of returning war veterans from 4 wars, where high school students interacted with them on issues both groups were facing.

Contacts on WGN database:

Tim White -- 845-7312 -- swap@tds.net

Stoughton Area Dems and Progressives

Active membership: 10-15 for meetings; 60 for campaigning

Broad network: 600 on mailing list

Area: Stoughton Area School District, which covers six townships

Who we are: A group of people who provide campaign support for candidates affiliated with the Democratic Party.

Organization:

- No regular meetings. A planning group meets when campaign activities need to be organized.
- A checking account and treasurer; no other officers

Partisan nature: Democratic

Activities

- ☒ Canvassing
- ☒ Has organized televised candidate forums

Contacts on WGN database:

Buzz Davis -- 239-5354 -- dbuzzdavis@aol.com

Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition (SPARC)



Active membership: 15-18

Broad network: 300+

Area: City of Sun Prairie, but some members live in surrounding towns

Facebook: 240+ likes

Website: sunprairieaction.org

Twitter: 53 followers - @PrairieAction

Other web: Google group for core members

Email: SunPrairieAction@gmail.com

Phone: (608) 825-2518

Mission: Sun Prairie Action Resource Coalition (SPARC) is a grassroots information and action network which supports and promotes local involvement to move Sun Prairie and Wisconsin forward. SPARC resolves to fulfill this mission through the following actions:

- Campaign for programs and policies which support social justice and people's rights
- Bring democracy back to the people by promoting proactive local involvement
- Promote government which serves people's needs rather than corporate needs
- Support political actions which preserve democratic processes and principles
- Keep Sun Prairie informed of state and national politics and policies which affect our community
- Provide resources for citizens to get involved
- Maintain local visibility and an active presence in the community
- Help local citizens find their voices and empower others to speak out
- Build strong connections within the community and with other progressive organizations
- Provide and maintain a local outlet for community-focused news and information free of corporate sponsorship

Who we are: A network for Sun Prairie, Wisconsin residents to share news, events, and ideas about local issues. It's also a space to promote grassroots collaborations that connect individuals so we can work together toward common goals.

Organization:

- Until recently, met regularly twice a month (2nd Mondays and 4th Sundays); this fall cut back to once every 3 weeks, but schedule isn't regular yet.
- Meets in members' homes
- Bank account and treasurer, but no other officers

Partisan nature: SPARC explicitly identifies itself as nonpartisan and is careful to maintain that status.

Activities

- ☒ Has held candidates forums and invited all candidates running, but only the progressives show up.
- ☒ Members encourage each other to get involved in campaigns, by sharing information on where, when, progressive candidates need volunteers, etc.
- ♥ Conducted a school snack drive, to provide local teachers with snacks for kids who did not bring them to school, so that the teachers don't need to dig in own pockets.
- ! Got guns banned from local library; is considering joining with some other organization to work on assault weapons, high-capacity magazine ban.
- ! Members encourage and support each other in writing letters to the editor, by sharing templates, having letter-writing parties, and signing on to letter from SPARC.
- 📖 Members have done cable television shows, on topics such as healthcare
- 📖 Had SPARC garage sale to raise money
- 📖 Had a fund-raising party, at which people made donations
- ☺ SPARC Night Out—resolved to have a social night every few months; members meet at local restaurant.

Contacts:

Al Guyant -- 825-8844 -- al.guyant@frontier.com
Julie Schwellenbach -- 825-2518
Heather DuBois Bourenane -- 825-2518

United Fitchburg

Active membership: About 15

Broad network: 260+

Area: City of Fitchburg

Facebook: 90+ likes

Twitter: 26 followers - @UnitedFitchburg

Website for members: <https://dashboard.barackobama.com/join>

Other web presence: Google group

Email: United@Fitchburg.WI.US

Mission: United Fitchburg was founded to advance progressive political causes in the City of Fitchburg, Wisconsin. We are working to re-elect the President, elect Tammy Baldwin to the Senate, and help every eligible Fitchburg resident to vote.

Organization:

- Meets about two times a month, but not on a regular schedule
- Meets at Fitchburg Community Center or members' homes
- Has two co-chairs and digital coordinator, no other officers

Partisan nature: Closely associated with Obama campaign (uses its website), but deliberately did not put 'Democrats' in the group title, because wanted to attract progressives regardless of whether they identify as Democrats.

Activities

- ☒ Canvassed and did other campaign work for Barrett, Obama, Baldwin
- ☒ Has had candidates' forums for nonpartisan offices, primaries, and general elections. Whether the group will host a forum or invite candidates to speak to group depends on whether members feel they need to know more about candidates in the race.
- ☺ Holds social get-togethers after campaign work; got together to watch debates in a social group.
- 📖 In planning stages – tort reform
- ! In planning stages – public transportation in Fitchburg

Contacts:

Terrell Brock -- 273-2023 -- tabrock@charter.net
Steve Arnold -- 278-7700 -- Steve.Arnold@Fitchburg.WI.US

Some of our allies . . .

Madison MoveOn Council



Area: Greater Madison area

Facebook: 113 likes

Website: www.moveon.org

Email: glundergan@new.rr.com

Mission: Uniting people to promote progressive ideals

Who we are

We are a group of activists dedicated to fighting for progressive ideals. We are currently fighting against the Walker agenda and working to insure that the rights of the citizens are upheld. Join by contacting Gene Lundergan or signing up on the national website. No membership fee.

Progressive Dane



Area: Dane County

Facebook: 590 likes

Website: www.prodane.org

(Check out their *links* page!)

Twitter: @ProgDane

Email: (Contact thru website)

Phone: (608)257-4985

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701

Office: 1202 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

Who we are: Progressive Dane is a progressive political party in Dane County, Wisconsin. Progressive Dane believes that ordinary citizens should control public policies at the community and national levels. We support tax justice, better social services, equality in public education, affordable housing, and public transportation. Progressive Dane helps community members organize around issues that are important to them and also works on the grassroots level to elect progressive political candidates. Join by signing up on line; \$36/year.

Sauk County Progressives

A Facebook page for communicating among Sauk County Progressives and Democrats and people with like interests from the surrounding areas, with 160+ likes, and an average of 1,500 views per week. On this Facebook page, find humor, progressive news, and information about Sauk County Democratic and progressive events and activities.

Contact: Trina Anderson -- 393-5395 -- lukasandtrina@gmail.com

South Central Wisconsin Progressives

A Facebook page for progressives in Green County and bordering communities, with 74 likes. The group has a mailing list and its aspiration is to get “organized to ensure our local school boards, villages, townships, state and federal governments will know the will of our communities. We will work to build sustainable community groups in each and every village and city, in and near Green County Wisconsin. We will work to elect and support officials at the county level and above that will stay true to our Wisconsin values.”

Contact: Tim Sager -- 335-4051 -- TRSager@gmail.com

Wisconsin Grassroots Network



Area: Statewide
Facebook: 72 Likes
Website: <http://www.wisconsingrassroots.net>
Twitter: @WiscGrassroots
Email: WiGrassrootsNetwork@gmail.com
Phone: 608-220-0139

The Wisconsin Grassroots Network (WGN) encourages and connects over 70 community groups around the state that meet on a regular basis. The unifying goals of these groups are to increase government’s accountability to “We The People,” promote progressive ideals, and encourage people to have a positive effect on their communities.

WGN groups include people who are engaged with grassroots activities, political parties, and unions. These groups are directed by the concerns and passions of the members of the group. The groups serve as amplifiers of the ability of individuals to have their voices heard and their goals realized.

The Young Progressives



Area: UW Madison campus
Facebook: 1,386 Likes
Website: theyoungprogressives.com
Twitter: 1,552 followers @YoProWI
YouTube: [theyoungprogressives](http://theyoungprogressives.com)
Email: info@theyoungprogressives.com
Phone: (608) 561-7306
Office: 333 E. Campus Mall Room 3156

Mission: The Young Progressives is devoted to forming a long-term, sustainable progressive movement on UW’s campus and beyond. To accomplish this, we advocate for student and progressive issues, as well as give young people and community members the tools they need to advocate for themselves. Activities include lobbying, fundraising, voter contact and field, and online outreach. Through our partnerships with other progressive organizations and political campaigns, we organize to elect candidates who will stand for us and progressives across Wisconsin and the United States.

Eastside Progressives (late insert)

Active membership: About 45

Broad network: About 280

Area: Far east side of Madison

Email: eastsideprogressives@gmail.com

Mission: (Working on a goals-and-mission statement, but it's not done yet.)

Organization:

- Regular meeting once a month at an east side church

Partisan nature:

Not affiliated with any political party

Activities

- ☒ Organize candidates' forums
- ☒ Canvassing and other campaign work for progressive candidates
- ☺ Pot luck dinners before some meetings
- 📖 An occasional speaker about civic issues

Contact:

No individual serves as a contact person. Send emails to eastsideprogressives@gmail.com

Verona Area Progressives (late insert)

(Information obtained from Facebook page)

Area: Verona and surrounding area

Facebook: 30 likes

Other web use: Has a Google group to communicate with its members

Who we are:

We are Verona Area Progressives. We are a group of like-minded people working to promote progressive ideals and candidates. We are from Verona, Wisconsin - Hometown USA -and its surrounding area. We are the 99%.

Contact:

Jill Bemis -- jlpb3@yahoo.com