

# public hearing

to discuss military spying  
on akron citizens



February 13, 2006

6:30 p.m.

Akron Summit County Public Library  
Downtown Main Branch / Meeting Room 2AB  
(Free parking after 6:00 off High Street)

The Department of Defense (DOD) spied on Akron citizens who took part in a lawful and nonviolent march and rally on March 19, 2005, to commemorate the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Iraq war/occupation. Yet, the event on the military database was listed as a "threat" and after the fact was still labeled "Open/Unresolved." Speak out against this chilling waste of taxpayer dollars directed against citizens expressing their First Amendment rights to dissent. Invited to hear testimony are US Representatives Tim Ryan and Sherrod Brown and US Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich.

Sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee  
Co-sponsored by  
Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network,  
Summit County Progressive Democrats,  
Akron Food Not Bombs,  
Asian American Bar Association,  
League of Women Voters Akron Area  
For more information call AFSC at 330-253-7181  
[www.afsc.net](http://www.afsc.net)



Portage Democratic Coalition  
1640 Franklin Ave., Suite 10  
Kent, OH 44240  
(330) 673-1116  
[www.pdcoho.us](http://www.pdcoho.us) / [pdcoho.us](mailto:pdcoho.us)

## Our Mission Statement

*The Portage Democratic Coalition is an organization open to diverse individuals and groups. Our mission is to promote progressive domestic and foreign policies and practices, as well as positive change, at all levels of government and society.*

*We serve as a vehicle for social justice, a source for progressive public policy, and a force for universal access to education and other goods and services.*

## Membership

Become a member of the Portage Democratic Coalition. By becoming a member you are helping build a permanent progressive organization in Portage county. The more generous you are with your membership dues, the stronger we will become.

### Membership Annual Dues—

\$10 regular membership  
\$25 supportive membership  
\$50 sustaining membership

*"One of the most horrible features of war is that all the war-propaganda, all the screaming and lies and hatred, comes invariably from people who are not fighting."*

-- George Orwell

# The Portage Progressive

February 12, 2006

Volume 2, Issue 1

## PDC Welcomes Sherrod Brown

The PDC is pleased to announce our second campaign guest of the all important 2006 election year. On Sunday, February 12, 3:30 p.m., Brown will speak for 20-30 minutes followed by a 30 minute Q & A session at the Kent VFW. If you are not familiar with Sherrod, he is one of the staunchest Progressives in Congress. From Sherrod's website:



Since voters in Ohio's 13th Congressional District first sent him to Washington, D.C. in 1992, Sherrod Brown has earned a reputation in Congress as a respected voice in health care, trade policy, job creation, education, the environment, energy policy and issues that matter to working families in northeast Ohio.

As the most senior Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, Sherrod successfully fought to lower the cost of prescription drugs by helping close loopholes used by brand-name companies to prevent price competition. He has sponsored legislation to allow for prescription drug importation. Seniors' groups in Ohio have honored Sherrod for sponsoring bus trips to Canada that allow consumers to get prescriptions drugs for up to 80% less than the price in the U.S.



Sherrod has led the fight in northeast Ohio to protect Lake Erie and is a long-standing member of the U.S. House and Senate Great Lakes Task Force. Sherrod is also a member of the House International Relations Committee.

In 2005, Sherrod led the House bipartisan opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), and the call to renegotiate, winning the debate on merit. During a middle-of-the-night vote, CAFTA passed by only two votes and only after Vice President Dick Cheney, and other White House officials, were sent to the House floor to make deals, twist arms, and convince members to switch their votes.

Sherrod has been fighting for fair trade policies in Congress for more than a decade and believes that trade agreements must include protections for workers, ensure fair wages, and foster a climate that supports small businesses, family farms and ranches in the U.S. and abroad..

Sherrod regularly votes against Congressional pay raises, and has refused to accept the Congressional Health Plan until universal health care is available to every Ohioan.

Sherrod was born and raised in Mansfield, Ohio. He earned a bachelor's degree in Russian studies at Yale University and a master's degree in education and public administration at The Ohio State University. He served two terms as Ohio's Secretary of State and four terms in the Ohio House of Representatives.

## 2006 PDC Committees

**Program:** the Program Committee is responsible for scheduling, agenda development and general organization of membership meetings & special events, including logistics.

**Outreach:** the Outreach Committee is responsible for 1) membership development; 2) recruiting volunteers; 3) contact with allied groups, and 4) contact with affinity groups which arise from within or alongside the PDC.

**Communications:** the Communications Committee is responsible for 1) internal (member) communications, including e-mail & other methods; 2) external communications, including PR functions and the website; and 3) rapid response capability.

**Politics & Intelligence:** the Politics & Intelligence committee is responsible for identifying election deadlines (such as for submitting candidate petitions), identifying & recruiting potential candidates, and educating the PDC about the electoral dynamics of critical issues.

**Fundraising:** the Fundraising Committee is responsible for raising sufficient funds to keep the PDC afloat.

I am interested in serving on the following committee(s):

Program       Outreach       Communications       Politics       Fundraising

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email you response to Judy Kirman, [judy@pdcoho.us](mailto:judy@pdcoho.us), or by snail mail to the PDC office.

## SCPD SUMMIT

Dear Ohio Progressives, Grassroots Organizations, Democrats and Activists:

The Summit County Progressive Democrats are hosting a Summit in Akron, Ohio, on Sunday, March 26th:

*Organize, Mobilize and Deliver the Progressive Vote in 2006.*

Come join host Summit County Progressive Democrats in welcoming National Director Tim Carpenter of the Progressive Democrats of America, new ODP Chair Chris Redfern, Director John Green of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, Blue 88 Executive Director Chris Glaros, ODP Regional Coordinator Steve Chaffin, America Votes Scott Nunnery, and progressive grassroots organizations and activists from around the state.

Learn practical information to strengthen your grassroots organization, hear discussions of the strategies for winning in Ohio, and network to build the statewide coalition for success in Ohio and our Nation in 2006.

**Sunday, March 26**

**1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Main Branch of the Akron Public Library in downtown Akron, 60 South High Street, 44308**

**Free parking**

### Support the Kent VFW

Come for breakfast the first Saturday of each month and support the gracious host of our PDC general meetings over the past year.

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Donation: \$4.50

March 4 & April 1

# PDC Opens New Office

## Another PDC Milestone

We have a home! Thanks to our supporters, the PDC-sponsored fundraiser in December netted almost \$2,400 to assist with expenses for our new office. This gives us a base of operations for our political activities and meetings, as well as work space and storage.



County Commissioner Chuck Keiper, newly-elected PDC Chair Bob Howard, former Chair Anita Bixenstine and Leigh Herington chat at the December PDC Fund-Raiser.



The Steering Committee now hold their meetings at the office.

Initially, we are planning to be open each Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are located at 1640 Franklin Ave., Suite 10, in Kent. The building is across from Currie Hall Parkway, almost at the intersection of Rt. 261. Stop by and see us!

## We could use your help in the new office!

Email Anita Bixenstine at [anitabix@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anitabix@sbcglobal.net) or return this form to Anita at:

PDC  
1640 Franklin Ave, Suite 10  
Kent OH 44240

I would like to volunteer in the following areas:

- phone calling
- clerical work (organizing and filing)
- computer skills
- organizing volunteers
- receptionist
- other (please describe)

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**A DRAFT of PDC Priorities for 2006 is posted on our website, [www.pdcoho.us](http://www.pdcoho.us). We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us arrive at a final document.**

The Portage Progressive

# Message from Outgoing PDC Chair

## Anita Bixenstine Summarizes Our First Year

Organizationally, we have incorporated ourselves as the Portage Democratic Coalition, developed a Mission Statement, created By-Laws which established a Steering Committee as the governing body, formed working committees and voted in a slate of officer. In addition, we determined dues for membership, created a website, and developed a newsletter.

It was important to make ourselves known in the community. To this end, we have held meetings in Kent, Ravenna, Hiram and Randolph. We have formed alliances with other progressive organizations such as the Summit County Progressive Democrats and the Northern Portage Democrats. Members attend meetings of other area political groups and of political candidates and report back to the Steering Committee.

Many of our members are involved in local advocacy groups. For example, several have been active in the thus far successful effort to stop the burn at the Ravenna Arsenal.

We used local events, such as the Kent Heritage Festival, the Ravenna Balloon-A-Fair, and the Portage Democratic Picnic, as a means to introduce ourselves, to let people know about our work, and to recruit new members.

In July, we made a commitment to Reform Ohio Now to help to collect enough signatures to put on the Ohio ballot in November three constitutional amendments. After the successful petition drive we geared up to pass the amendments. We distributed flyers, put up signs around the county, talked to whomever we could buttonhole, and enlisted the support of many members and friends of PDC in making phone calls and distributing literature to inform residents of the Amendments and to urge them to get to the polls. Despite the fact the Amendments failed, we learned what it takes to run a political campaign.

We have become more visible in the anti-war campaign. On the eve of the anti-war protest in Washington in September, which several of our members attended, we were a visible presence as we joined other Kent residents at a rally at the Unitarian-Universalist Church. At the end of September, we joined the American Friends Service Committee to bring to the lawn of the Portage County Courthouse *Eyes Wide Open*, a display of the boots worn by US soldiers killed in Iraq — a moving statement reminding us of the human cost of war.

As the year ended we began what will be an ongoing project throughout 2006, getting to know the candidates and issues. Our first effort bringing Paul Hackett, Democratic candidate for the US. Senate, to speak at our December general meeting was wildly successful. Nearly 200 people turned out to listen and to ask questions. We plan to bring more candidates in the next months.

With your support we have learned and accomplished a great deal. Thank you for all you have done. This coming year promises to be filled with challenges. We hope you will continue to join us in meeting them.

The Portage Progressive

## Website Links:

Here are some great links to keep yourself informed. If you have any suggestions please email us at [pdcoho.us](mailto:pdcoho.us).

[www.summitprogdems.org](http://www.summitprogdems.org)

[www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)

[www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org)

[www.alternet.org](http://www.alternet.org)

[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

[www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com)

[www.thenation.com](http://www.thenation.com)

[www.airamericaradio.com](http://www.airamericaradio.com)

[www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org)

[www.truemajority.org](http://www.truemajority.org)

[www.wellstone.org](http://www.wellstone.org)

[www.pdaamerica.org](http://www.pdaamerica.org)

[www.buyblue.org](http://www.buyblue.org)

[www.democracyforamerica.com](http://www.democracyforamerica.com)

*"If ye love wealth greater than liberty, the tranquility of servitude greater than the animating contest for freedom, go home from us in peace. We seek not your counsel, nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hand that feeds you. May your chains set lightly upon you; and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen." – Samuel Adams*