

National Director of PDA Set to Address PDC



Tim Carpenter, National Director of the Progressive Democrats of America, will join Jennifer Brunner as our special guest March 22, 7-9 p.m., at the Kent VFW.

Tim is a social and political activist who, for more than 30 years, has worked for causes such as nuclear disarmament, peace and justice, abolishing the death penalty, defending the homeless, and fighting for clean elections and campaign finance reform.

Tim established Housing Now! and Democrats for Peace Conversion (DPC), co-founded the Orange County chapter of the Alliance for Survival (AFS), and helped organize the Orange County chapter of Families Against Three Strikes (FACTS). Tim was a national delegate and served in key positions in the presidential campaigns of Jesse Jackson (1988), Jerry Brown (1992), and Bill Clinton (1996). He also spoke from the podium at the Democratic National Convention in New York City in 1992. Tim was director of the Western Massachusetts Clean Elections movement for the public funding of political campaigns. He also served as a field organizer for Clean Elections' Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Warren Tolman. Tim also served as Deputy National Campaign Manager for the Kucinich for President Campaign, was the campaign's state co-coordinator in Massachusetts, and the campaign's Convention Coordinator in Boston. Tim was a co-founder of AfterDowningStreet.org.

He has taught U.S. history and government at both the high school and community college levels. Tim is a product of the California State College system where he graduated from Cal State University Fullerton with Bachelors Degrees in History and Political Science, as well as a Masters Degree in History.

Summit County Progressive Democrats

Present

A Summit for Ohio's Grassroots Organizations, Progressives, and Democrat Activists

SUNDAY MARCH 26, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Akron Summit Library, 60 S. High St., Akron, 44326

Organize, Mobilize, and Deliver the Progressive Vote in 2006

SPEAKER: Dr. John Green of Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics

Grassroots Politics: Something Old and Something New

BREAKOUT SESSIONS to strengthen Grassroots Organizations, including:

Grassroots 101 & 102, Turning Up the Volume on the Progressive Voice, Minority Outreach & Issues 2006

A PANEL DISCUSSION: A Place at the Table: United for a BLUE Ohio

TIM CARPENTER-- *National Director, Progressive Democrats of America*

CHRIS REDFERN-- *Chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party*

CHRIS GLAROS-- *President, Blue 88*

JANE BUDER SHAPIRO-- *Founder, Ohioans for Democratic Values*

STEVE CHAFFIN-- *Regional Coordinator, Ohio Democratic Party*

SCOTT NUNNERY-- *State Organizing Director, America Votes*

MARIAN HARRIS-- *Central Ohio Coordinator, Democracy for America*

Special Guest: CINDY SHEEHAN- Gold Star Mom

To RSVP and for more information, contact Patrick Carano at wswalcott@neo.rr.com, (330)807-9096, or Mary Nichols-Rhodes at mac40h@aol.com.

PLEASE JOIN US ON MARCH 26th to LEARN, NETWORK, and UNITE.

Let's WORK TOGETHER to Push the Progressive Message!



Portage Democratic Coalition
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Kent, OH 44240
(330) 673-1116
www.pdcOhio.us / pdc@pdcOhio.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

"When all government, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the Center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another and will become as venal and oppressive as the government from which we separated." – Thomas Jefferson

The Portage Progressive

March 9, 2006

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PDC Welcomes Subodh Chandra



Subodh Chandra, candidate for Attorney General for the state of Ohio, will speak to the PDC March 9, 7-9 p.m., at the Kent VFW. The role the next Attorney General of Ohio will hold in cleaning up the vast corruption propagated over the past decade by Republicans can not be overstated. Subodh Chandra is an extremely qualified candidate ready to stand up and hold accountable those who have been selling out all Ohioans.

From Subodh's website:

I am a former federal prosecutor who cleaned up corruption in the health-care industry. As Cleveland Law Director and Prosecuting Attorney, I helped clean up corrupt schemes at City Hall. I will end the culture of corruption and cronyism in state government-- and then marshal the office to fight for Ohioans.

We need to make it possible for Ohio's children, including my triplet sons, to live and thrive in Ohio when they grow up. America and Ohio were built on the promise that each generation would be better off than the previous one. Because our statewide-elected officials tried to steal our future with their misbehavior, that future is in jeopardy. Here are a few examples of the corruption:

* Ohio's Governor gave Republican fundraiser Tom Noe a contract to invest \$50 million of workers' compensation premiums--the money for Ohio's injured workers that Ohio's struggling businesses pay.

* Noe has been federally indicted for laundering illegal contributions to the Bush campaign.

* Our government officials forked over another \$215 million of injured workers' money to another politically well-connected firm that lost most of it in other risky gambles. The officials were asked to give the company "a break."

* The governor was convicted of four ethics violations because he golfed numerous times over the years at the expense of Noe and others.

* The state auditor, Betty Montgomery (who used to be the attorney general), and the attorney general, Jim Petro (who used to be the state auditor), took big campaign contributions from Noe. They missed losses in the hundreds of millions.

* Petro failed to advise state officials that state contracts should provide for disputes to be resolved under Ohio law. So now Ohioans may have to fight over \$215 million in Bermuda and go up on appeal to England.

It's time to clean up and take our government back.

Ohioans deserve to have their elected officials more concerned about public service than serving their political patrons. I slashed spending in Cleveland on outside attorneys by 88%, saving taxpayers millions. Once we clean up our state government's mess, we will then fulfill the full creative potential of the office. For more info: <http://www.chandraforohio.com/index.html>



Calendar of Events

March 9: Subodh Chandra @ PDC Meeting

March 22: Tim Carpenter and Jennifer Brunner @ PDC Meeting

March 23: Meet and greet Tim Carpenter @ Spaghetti Warehouse

March 25: Cindy Sheehan in Cleveland-- location TBA

March 26: SCPD Summit

PDC Committees

Outreach

chair: Anita Bixenstine
anitabix@sbcglobal.net

Program

chairs: Barb Gaskins
330-422-0559
Carol O'Laughlin
cmolaughlin@att.net

Fund-Raising

chair: Fred Mendiola
mendi368@aol.com

Politics

chairs: Fred Mendiola
mendi368@aol.com
Walt Adams
wadams@neo.rr.com

Communications

chair: Bonnie Hawk
bonniebuz@aol.com

Volunteers

chairs: Anita Bixenstine
anitabix@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Adams
nbadams@neo.rr.com

Support the Kent VFW

Come for breakfast the first Saturday of each month and support the gracious host of our PDC general meetings. The next breakfast is April 1, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Donation: \$4.50

"Everyone thinks about changing the world, but no one thinks about changing himself." – Leo Tolstoy

PDC Joins PDA

In January, the Steering Committee of PDC voted to become a Chapter of the Progressive Democrats of America. We want to visibly support the Progressive movement in the Democratic Party and join with others in giving voice to Progressive goals.

What is PDA?

PDA is a large group of progressive grassroots activists from across the country who want to support other progressive grassroots activists locally.

What is PDA's mission?

Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) exists to carry the progressive agenda from the American grassroots to Congress to guide the development of progressive legislation, fight for its passage into law, and support the realization of progressive policies at the state and local levels.

Who is PDA?

You. All progressives who support an inside/outside strategy to create change.

Does PDA have a governing board?

No, PDA is a conglomeration of thousands of grassroots activists, all who can voice their opinions by contacting the appropriate person in PDA.

What is a PDA Chapter?

A Chapter is a local organizing unit at the city, county or Congressional District (CD) level that wishes to establish a formal relationship with PDA. Groups may organize specifically as [PDA Chapters](#). Other groups that already exist-- such as Democratic clubs, peace groups, Democracy for America (DFA) groups, senior citizen special interest groups, etc-- may maintain their original identity while also taking on an identity as a PDA Chapter.

What are current action items for the PDA?

Support legislation that stipulates no more war money without conditions. Censure Bush and Cheney.

Advocate for no permanent bases in the Mid-East.

Tell Congress: stop Sudanese genocide.

Support single-payer health care bill.

Support legislation (HR 4179) to aid devastated Katrina victims.

For lots more information, visit the PDA website at

<http://pdamerica.org>



PDC Members Enter the Political Arena

More than 20 members of the Portage Democratic Coalition will be on the May primary ballot as candidates from their precinct for the Democratic Central Committee. "So many fresh faces in Portage County politics will invigorate and bring new life to the Democratic Party," says Fred Mendiola, PDC Steering Committee member.

Jennifer Brunner To Visit PDC

The PDC is happy to announce that Jennifer Brunner, candidate for Ohio Secretary of State, will join us at our March 22 meeting at the Kent VFW, 7 9 p.m. How important is the Secretary of State? Just ask yourself how different our country would be today if Ohioans did not have to suffer the outrageous practices of voter fraud, corruption, and disenfranchisement at the hands of our current Secretary of State, Ken Blackwell.



From Jennifer's website:

I am excited to be a candidate for the office of Ohio Secretary of State in 2006. On September 1, 2005, I resigned as a judge of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court in Columbus, so I could run for Secretary of State. Judicial canons require judges to resign from office when they become a candidate for a nonjudicial office. It was not an easy decision, but it was one I was willing to make, because I believe so strongly in public service and in a fair election process in Ohio.

BIOGRAPHY:

- * Former Judge, Franklin County Common Pleas Court, Columbus, Ohio

- * Former Legislative Counsel, Office of Secretary of State – Deputy Director and Legislative Counsel responsible for communications with 88 county boards of elections and Ohio legislature on legislation affecting elections in the state and administrative and budget issues for the Secretary of State's office

- * Former member, Franklin County Board of Elections

- * Elections attorney for 12 years in private practice, representing local, statewide and presidential candidates, legislative caucuses, labor unions, businesses, associations and other organizations in complying with often-complicated election laws and in successfully accessing Ohio's election system

- * Married to Rick Brunner, mother of three children, resides in Columbus

THE PLAN:

- * Administer all elections in a fair, open and honest manner with a process that can be audited and verified.

- * Ensure equal distribution of voting machines and enforce laws against voter intimidation and fraud.

- * Honor the role of Secretary of State and not use the office or title to campaign for issues or candidates.

- * Promote an informed electorate through innovative and interactive voter education techniques.

- * Create an environment where business growth and expansion is uncomplicated and quick.

- * Collaborate with community leaders to develop and maintain a Social Health Index and measures of self-sufficiency for persons in poverty to promote effective policy and budget accountability based on statistical information available for our state and counties.

Website Links:

Here are some great links to keep yourself informed. If you have any suggestions please email us at pdco@pdcoho.us.

www.summitprogdems.org

www.afsc.org

www.truthout.org

www.alternet.org

www.commondreams.org

www.motherjones.com

www.thenation.com

www.airamericaradio.com

www.democracynow.org

www.truemajority.org

www.wellstone.org

www.pdamerica.org

www.buyblue.org

www.democracyforamerica.com

"Every friend of freedom must be as revolted as I am by the prospect of turning the United States into an armed camp, by the vision of jails filled with casual drug users and of an army of enforcers empowered to invade the liberty of citizens on slight evidence."

– Milton Friedman