



The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin

JOIN THE BIG HUDDLE FOLLOW UP SESSIONS

Pick your passion -- national politics, public education, environment, local elections or health care

May 15 to May 17

Immigration Simulation event in Platteville

Sun., May 7

REGISTER NOW.



Sun., May 7, 2 to 4:30 p.m. (Platteville) 'WALK IN OUR SHOES': UNDERSTANDING THE LATINO EXPERIENCE.

Are you concerned about how the Immigration issue is affecting people in our own communities? This Immigration Simulation event is a wonderful opportunity to discover for yourself what our Latino friends and neighbors endure every day. You will be "walking in their shoes" as you go from station to station in this Simulation event. LOCATION; First Congregational United Church of Christ, 80 Market Street, Platteville. The event is free but space is limited. Register now! Call 608-348-6578



REPORT FROM THE "BIG HUDDLE"

BIG CROWD AT "BIG HUDDLE" About 70 folks came together at the Action Iowa County's BIG HUDDLE in Mineral Point to map out strategies for action on five major topics. Each action group is moving forward and is eager for others to join in. Here are dates and locations for follow-up meetings. This is a great chance to get involved with concerned folks.

Mon., May 15, 6:30 p.m. (Dodgeville) THE PUBLIC EDUCATION group will meet at the Cobblestone Coffeehouse, 233 North Iowa Street in Dodgeville. Help the group craft strategies to 1) support our local teachers, 2) keep the public school system strong by slowing the effort to privatize education; 3) reject the "right to carry laws" for schools (a bill co-authored by State Senator Howard Marklein), 4) advocate for a change in the way Wisconsin funds its public schools and more. Contact Jessie Wieczorek at jawieczorek24@gmail.com or Christie Johnston at christie.m.johnston@gmail.com

Tues., May 16, 6 p.m. (Mineral Point) THE NATIONAL POLITICAL ACTION group meets at Tequila Point, 43 High Street, Mineral Point to focus on campaign finance and gerrymandering, balance in the national press, the Russia/Trump investigation, Trump's tax returns and today's impulsive saber rattling. For more info, contact Susan Van Sicklen at svans5@icloud.com or Laura Cisler at glcisler@yahoo.com

Wed., May 17, 6 p.m. (Mineral Point) THE LOCAL ELECTIONS group is encouraging people to run for local elections. They already have a game plan in place. Join this motivated team for its follow up meeting at Tequila Point, 43 High Street. Contact Parrish Johnston at crazyparrish@yahoo.com or Sue Gereau at sjgereau@hughes.net

Wed., May 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Dodgeville) THE ENVIRONMENTAL group encourages others to join them for a one-hour focused discussion of its goals at the Country Kitchen, 1202 North Johns Street in Dodgeville. Food can be ordered. "What a great meeting. It was empowering to see so many motivated, talented, like-minded neighbors," said Mike Van Sicklen, about the recent Big Huddle environmental discussion. For more info, contact Mike Van Sicklen at mikevansicklen@gmail.com or Chuck Tennesen at twotens@yousq.net

THE HEALTH CARE group talked about developing small group trainings/workshops on "how to talk to your neighbors by finding common ground". The aim is to learn to have conversations about important issues without alienating others or getting angry. They are also developing simple talking points so people can be armed with the facts about health care when engaging in conversation. Let us know by return email at grassroots@merr.com if you are interested in joining this effort.



JOIN THE ACTION IOWA COUNTY'S WEEKLY POSTCARD WRITING ACTION Postcards and pens will be supplied. For more info, contact Susan Van Sicklen at svans5@icloud.com or Laura Cisler at glcisler@yahoo.com.

Times and Weekly Locations for upcoming postcard parties:

- Wed., May 3, 9:30 a.m. at Café 43, at 43 High Street in Mineral Point
- Wed., May 10 at 9:30 a.m. at Dodgeville's Cobblestone Café, 239 N. Iowa St.
- Wed., May 17, 9:30 a.m. at Mineral Point's Grey Dog Deli, 215 N. High St.

DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY



Sat., May 13, 11 a.m. -- into the evening (Darlington) CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL This free, family-fun event showcases the cultures of our Latino friends and neighbors who live and work in SW Wisconsin - including the cultures of Mexico, Honduras, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay. Dance demonstrations, food vendors, a Salsa contest, a soccer tournament and carnival rides for the kids are just some of the activities at this

colorful, festive event. Stop by the booth sponsored by our Grassroots partner group, the MultiCultural Outreach Program (MCOP), to find out how you can be part of the effort to enhance the cultural diversity in our communities. The festival site is at the south end of Main Street (Hwy. 23) in Darlington - at the bridge.



THE FUTURE OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS was an important topic at Todd Novak's recent Listening Session in Dodgeville - and also at the Big Huddle. Health care and women's rights were among the other topics addressed at both events. LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD IN MADISON -

by contacting your state senator and representatives continually. And share your views with your community by writing letters to the editor. Click here for contact info for your representatives - and email addresses for letters to the editor. PRINT OUT THE LIST AND KEEP IT BY YOUR PHONE AND COMPUTER.

<http://www.grassrootswi.org/uploads/images/file/LET%20YOUR%20VOICE%20BE%20HEARD.pdf>



Thurs., May 4, 7:30 to 9 p.m. (New Glarus) NEW GLARUS

INDIVISIBLE GROUP TO MEET The first gathering of the new

Indivisible group in New Glarus will be at the home of Filip Sanna. Contact him at filsanna@yahoo.com for specific location.

KEEP THE PRESSURE ON YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES by



signing up for 5 calls at <https://www.5calls.org/> This easy to use site sends you weekly emails highlighting the 5 or 10 most pressing issues and includes the necessary background on each issue -- plus phone numbers for the legislators you need to call (type in your zip code). DOWNLOAD THE 5 CALLS APP for your phone.



Sat., May 6, 11 a.m. (Dodgeville) MONTHLY CITIZENS CLIMATE

LOBBY meeting at Country Kitchen, 1202 N. Johns Street in

Dodgeville. Join this committed group for its monthly international conference call with a well-known environmental expert. Contact Chuck Tennesen at twotens@yousq.net for more info



Tues., May 9, 6:30 p.m. (Spring Green) The River Valley Chapter of

DAWN will meet at the General Store. All are welcome. For info contact: Grace Timmerman at contactdawnwi@gmail.com



CONSIDERING A SOLAR INSTALLATION IN IOWA

COUNTY? Save money now by becoming part of the limited time "buyers-

club" sponsored by our Grassroots' sister group -- Sustain Iowa County/Citizens Climate in cooperation with UW Extension and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy Discounts on each solar installation will depend on how many people sign up. Contact Chuck Tennesen at

wotens@yousq.net to find out about Information Sessions coming up soon.

GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, an energetic group of over 1000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Richland, Lafayette and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state and national issues. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Shirley Barnes, *Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin*, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI. 53533, 608-623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.

To unsubscribe from our e-mail list, please click on "Reply" and write "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.