

COMMON SENSE II

Capitalizing on the familiarity and influence of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" pamphlets that provided American colonists with exposure to the conversation of great thinkers in the pre-Revolutionary period, this paper assumes the name COMMON SENSE II. Similarly, today's series of pamphlets strives to give a direct response to great political events and ideas of our time.

August 2016

Fair Issue

Volume 11 Issue 8

Editor's Note:

To introduce ourselves to the general public, we offer our ideas on who we are as Progressives. It is not an exhaustive list. Each month we discuss these and other issues in more depth. For more insight, visit our new and developing website, www.itascaprogressive.org.

It's What I Am

By Steven Fuller

I have long acknowledged that I am a tree hugger; I accept that label and have for a long time now.

- ◆ I also believe in anthropomorphic climate disruption. Does that make me an Environmentalist?
- ◆ Since I was a union member for 32 years, I believe in the right of workers to organize. Does that make me a Socialist?
- ◆ I was educated in public schools at the public expense and believe that each child has the right to that same opportunity. Does that make me a Liberal?
- ◆ I believe that each citizen has a right to affordable healthcare and that each citizen has a right to a clean, safe place to live. Does that make me a Progressive?

I really don't know what brand I should embrace: Environmentalist, Socialist, Liberal, Progressive. I think I'll embrace them all!



Some Thoughts on Being a Progressive

By Vicki Andrews

As a Progressive I believe there should be equal opportunity for all. Our government should work to alleviate social ills and protect our civil liberties as well as individual and human rights. When government fails in its duty to the people, we need to speak out for justice.

People are basically good. They want to live happy and economically secure lives but sometimes need a hand-up to help them reach their potential. Sometimes, when times are tough, they may also need a hand-out, to make it through the difficult times, but they prefer to be independent and able to work for the money to support themselves and their families. Economic and social mobility for all is a basic human right. Everyone has a right to basic healthcare, adequate food and housing, a good education, and a fair wage for work done.

Peace is good, or as Lorraine Schneider famously put it, "War is not healthy for children and other living things." We need to work together to care for and protect our planet; it really is the only one we have.

Nancy Rudd says:

Progressives are those who move forward through ideas, solutions, and the political process; they put people above profits!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—GET INVOLVED AND GET IT DONE!

Event	Date /Time	Location
DFL Headquarters Open (326-6296)	Tues, Wed, & Thurs 2-5 pm	DFL Headquarters
Itasca Progressive Caucus (259-4490)	3rd Monday 6:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
DFL Central Committee Meets	4th Monday 6:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
DFL Social Club & Lunch	1st Wednesday Noon	DFL Headquarters
DFL Pot Luck (Open to the Public)	3rd Wednesday 5:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
Committee Against Corporate Power	1st Thursday 6:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
Earth Circle	3rd Saturday 2:00 pm	GR Public Library
End of Life Options (326-8899)	3rd Thursday 2:00 pm	DFL Headquarters
Deadline for <i>Common Sense II</i>	September 9, 2016	conray@arvig.net

Liberal or Progressive?

By Valerie Conner

I must have missed it. As usual I'm somewhat out of the mainstream when it comes to pop culture and what is *au courant*. Coming of age in the turbulent 60's, I was proud to be a liberal. Somewhere along the line, "liberal" became a pejorative term to many. (In my mind it's "conservative" that is the pejorative term.) Apparently, to detach themselves from the negative connotations of "liberal," liberals adopted the designation of "progressive" instead.

For the most part, I think modern progressives are really re-named liberals with a dash of historical progressivism thrown in. Historically, progressives come from a proud tradition of promoting the advancement of civilization through education and social and economic equality. Republican President Theodore Roosevelt was a prominent progressive known for his trust busting and conservation accomplishments. Democratic President Woodrow Wilson continued to support modernization for the improvement of people's lives here and abroad.



The issues that interest members of the Itasca Progressive Caucus include environmental preservation, economic fairness, universal healthcare, free public education, and civil rights for all. In short, we believe in looking forward to improve the lives of all. That can be done through responsible community and governmental action.

In contrast we see conservatives as against social progress, of being mean-spirited and having the attitude of if-I-don't-have-it,-you-shouldn't-either instead of if-I-don't-have-something-you-do,-I'll-work-so-we-all-can-have-it. This is particularly evident in their attitudes toward fair wages and rights in the workplace. We see conservatives as willing to sacrifice the future health of the Earth and society so the economically powerful can maintain and increase their power at the expense of peace, people, and even their own prosperity.

Despite our frustration with the current political scene, we progressives continue to be optimistic souls, believing that people are basically good and that with sustained effort, we can continue to make this a better world for us and future generations. Just as conservative is the counterpart of liberal, regressive is the counterpart of progressive. We fight against going backward.

COMMON SENSE II is published by the Itasca Progressive Caucus in Grand Rapids, Minnesota

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Visit us at www.itascaprogressive.org

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What's a Progressive?

By Vicki Andrews

Moving forward
To a better future.

Caring for all,
Respecting all.

All people,
All Beings,
All nature.

Building community,
Working together,
Solving problems,
Caring...Respecting

Building a better country
Building a better society.

Caring for all,
Respecting all..

Moving together
To a higher, a better,
A more advanced stage.

Evolving,
Progressing,
Moving forward.
That's a Progressive!

What It Means To Be a Progressive

By John Halpin & Ruy Teixeira

<http://thinkprogress.org>

As progressives gear up for inevitable fights over taxes, budgets, and social policy, we shouldn't forget about the importance of values in explaining who we are and what we want to achieve. We believe in freedom with opportunity for all, responsibility to all, and cooperation among all. We believe that the purpose of government is to advance the common good, to secure and protect our rights, and to help to create a high quality of life and community well-being. We want decent paying jobs and benefits for workers and sustainable economic growth. We want growing businesses producing the world's best products and services. We want an economy that works for everyone, not just the few. We want all nations to uphold universal human rights and to work together to solve common challenges. This is what a progressive America looks like.

What Is a Liberal?

By Candidate John F. Kennedy

If by a "liberal" they mean

- ◇ someone who looks ahead and not behind,
- ◇ someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions,
- ◇ someone who cares about the welfare of the people—their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, and their civil liberties,
- ◇ someone who believes that we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad...



If that is what they mean by a "liberal," then I'm proud to say that I'm a "liberal."