

New PDA Chapter in N.E. Illinois

Written by Jeanne Maria Dauray
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Background: *On July 28th, 15 people from North East Illinois met in a Round Lake, IL home to establish a new PDA Chapter. The area has recently been redistricted into Illinois' 10th Congressional district. Jeanne Maria Dauray, chapter chair, explains the motivation behind the group.*



"Some of us were so progressive that the term "Democrat" no longer applied. Some of us had considered ourselves Democrats all along, but realized much greater action needed to be taken as we watched in horror

horror what was happening to our neighbors just over the border in Wisconsin. And others of us had considered ourselves independent voters, but realized we were merely feeding the political beast."

"So, when I saw PDA come up in a Facebook newsfeed, I quickly joined the effort, realizing it was going to take a special kind of Democrat to make this country move forward again.

"A few weeks later, I received an email from PDA asking if someone would like to host a coffee for a progressive Democrat, Ilya Sheyman, running for US Congress in my district. I immediately answered the call, and realized this would be a great opportunity to find other progressive Democrats in my community. It was then that I began emailing, calling, and messaging everyone I knew that might be interested, while PDA also put out the call. Within a few short weeks we had a gathering of well over 20 people at my home meeting Ilya and

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talking about taking real action.



Now, a month later, we have created a local chapter and attended Town Hall meetings where we confront our current Congressman, Joe Walsh. Other members have helped out at the Democrats' booth at the Lake County Fair, many helped organized a protest that made its way onto the Chicago nightly news, and we continue to attract members both in elected office and who are running for office.

We have planned actions to help with canvassing and phone banks in Wisconsin this August, as well as to do canvassing locally for Ilya Sheyman. We're off to an exciting start, and it really was as easy as calling up all the people we knew and getting them excited about making a difference.