

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 26, 2008

PEORIA EDUCATOR/ASTRONOMER SHELDON SCHAFER TO RUN FOR CONGRESS
ON THE GREEN PARTY TICKET

Sheldon Schafer, a Peoria educator and astronomer and founder of the Peoria Area Green Party, has been slated as the Green Party Candidate for the US Congress, 18th District. The decision was made last week at a meeting of 18th district Green officials. Official papers were filed with the State Board of Election in Springfield Thursday.

“Voters in the 18th Congressional District will be offered a candidate who is serious, articulate and able to show voters a practical alternative choice to the Republican and Democratic Party candidates,” said Dave Pittman, Chair of the Peoria Area Greens.

Schafer will kick off his campaign this Friday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at the Rhythm Kitchen on Water Street. (Media is welcomed to attend. See below.)

Schafer is one of many new Green Party candidates likely to be announced at the party’s Membership Meeting & State Convention this coming weekend, to be held at Bradley University in Peoria. More than one hundred Green Party members are expected at Bradley University’s Student Center, Saturday and Sunday, March 29 & 30, hosted by the Bradley Campus Greens. Schafer’s candidacy is part of the most active election cycle in Illinois Green Party history, and he is the first Green to seek the 18th district seat currently held by Republican Rep. Ray LaHood, who is not running for re-election. Schafer’s candidacy was made possible, in part, but Rich Whitney’s showing in the 2006 gubernatorial election, gathering over 361,000 votes or 10% of the total vote in the gubernatorial race, good enough to make the Greens an “established” party in Illinois. For more information contact the Illinois Green Party’s website, www.ilgp.org.

WEEKEND EVENTS OPEN TO THE PRESS:

Schafer Campaign Kick-off, Rhythm Kitchen, 305 SW Water St, Peoria, Friday, March 28, 7 PM
Illinois Green Party Press Conference, announcing decision on U.S. Senate candidate, Saturday, March 29, 12:30PM, Bradley Student Center, Bradley University, Peoria,