

Minutes of the August 11 & 12, 2001 Green Party of Michigan State Quarterly Meeting

Held at Wyandotte, MI

DRAFT—September 1, 2001

Welcome by Dawn McClain, today's facilitator

Introduction of Darren Wilkinson, Downriver local

Introduction of officers present

Introductions of members present

Housekeeping issues, Ray Ziarno

Announcements

Rules for meeting(copy available): Dawn, in concert with the other facilitators and after discussion by the SCC, presented proposed rules to govern the discussion of issues at the SQM. Rules as follows were accepted for use at the SQM.

GPMI - Rules for State Quarterly Meeting/s

1. When a proposal is brought to the floor, all questions will be answered first, before a stack begins. However, anyone with a question, either of the person making the proposal or of the facilitator, may raise their hand and state they have a question at any time during the discussion. People with questions will be taken ahead of the stack. The person submitting the proposal/s may answer questions off the stack but may not answer objections; after submitting and explaining his/her proposal, that person is then to take part in the stack like all other members.
2. After all questions are answered, the facilitator will ask for a show of hands to determine how many people wish to speak right away. After those hands are counted, the facilitator will state how long each person has to speak. The formula for this will be determined by the amount of time left in the agenda to discuss the issue, minus 10 minutes for voting. If the first "wave" of the stack hasn't taken up all of the allotted time, the stack will be reopened. If the first wave has used all of the allotted time, the facilitator will ask for a show of hands to extend discussion for 10 minutes; the motion to extend will take a simple majority. Likewise, if the allotted time for discussion ends before the stack ends, the facilitator will ask at that point for a vote to extend for

10 minutes, again with a simple majority required to make a decision. The group will be empowered at that point to close discussion regardless of the number of people left on the stack. The facilitator is empowered to interrupt any speaker who goes over his/her allotted time.

3. Stacking will work like this: People who have not spoken about an issue will be placed in the stack ahead of those who have already spoken. Likewise, an attempt will be made to ensure that people who have not yet participated will be invited to do so. The facilitator is empowered to ask "Does anyone who hasn't spoken yet wish to address this issue?" periodically to invite broader participation.

4. Time keeping. The Time Keeper is empowered to interrupt with reminders of the amount of time left in any discussion, to assist the facilitator in keeping track.

5. The facilitators are encouraged to keep track of the discussion to help further it; for example, if person X makes the same point twice, during the second time the facilitator is to ask, "This seems similar to what you had said before. Is there something new you would like to add?", etc.

6. Facilitators may call for mini-breaks at any time during the meeting without asking participants' permission; likewise the facilitators may call for longer breaks if the established break times are not adhered to.

Officer reports

Treasurer report (copy available): Currently \$1060 in GPMI account. The debt stands at \$10,256.

GPUSA report: Marc Reichardt reports on GPUSA Congress at Carbondale, and gives recommendation for disaffiliation with GPUSA.. His recommendation is based on events occurring over the past year in which the GPUSA coordinating committee refused to follow the GPUSA bylaws in an effort to prevent the Boston Proposal (a mutually created, mediated proposal for making GPUSA an activist organization to work in conjunction with ASGP which would become Green Party of the US) from coming to a vote, and when it seemed that the proposal would pass, maneuvering to prevent the vote from reflecting the desires of the affiliating state and local parties. This was never more apparent than in Carbondale, where the Credentialing Committee, who were 4 to 2 against the Boston Proposal, decided that members who had a dues waiver (that is, low-income members) should not count in the numbers used to determine each state and local's votes. Due to this, Michigan lost a total of 3 votes, 2 for the state and 1 for HV Greens, the only affiliated local.

ASGP report: Marc Reichardt gives report on national meeting in Santa Barbara and on ASGP's filing of Request for Advisory Opinion, i.e. filing as the Green Party of the United States.

Clearinghouse Coordinator report

Locals Liaison report (handouts): Kevin Henahan presents his idea about a contest among locals for best activities, which results in a prize that is the sum of \$15 contributed to the jackpot by each participating local, among other activities.

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Bylaws and Platform Committee Reports: David Spizley reports that he plans to resign due to school and other obligations.

AWOG (new editor Linda Myatt): The new AWOG is here.

Break

Alma Wheeler Smith, democratic candidate for Governor gives a talk and takes questions. She is pressured to give up being a Democrat and become a Green.

Business:

Proposal to disaffiliate from GPUSA . blocking concern, VOTE:24 in favor, 10 opposed, 5 abstentions

Discussion of whether abstentions count as part of total from which 2/3 is calculated. Pete says we have to count the abstentions. discussion, look at bylaw, more discussion, someone suggests a re-vote since those who abstained didn't know that their abstentions were going to impact the outcome..

Re-vote 29 for , 8 against, 2 abstentions Passes Michigan will disaffiliate with GPUSA.

Discussions of Bylaws proposals (copy available)

The following bylaws amendments were passed by vote (ballot:

In Article IV:

Section 8: National Representatives (Adopted August 11 2001):

- A) Each representative will be an active participant on the e-mail work lists of the appropriate national body.
- B) Each representative will strive to present the views of GPMI as a whole and/or as decided by voting, position paper, et al, on topics that require GPMI's position to be established by vote within the appropriate national organization.
- C) Each representative will strive to attend the national gatherings of the appropriate national organization. If party finances allow it, GPMI will compensate reps for reasonable costs incurred in attending such gatherings, or, pending available cash flow, forward funds for use by reps to attend such gatherings.
- D) In the event that only one representative is able to attend said gatherings, each representative will attempt to work with their corresponding partner to the appropriate organization by agreeing to proxy the appropriate number of votes so that Michigan maintains its proper representation in any vote that may be called.
- E) Each representative will be responsible for providing detailed report on all activities of the national groups and disseminating them among the membership of GPMI at each SQM or convention. Each rep will also relate critical or time-sensitive information to the appropriate state officer for dissemination to locals or GPMI membership between SQMs as needed.
- F) National reps will be chosen by election in the manner of other officer selections.

Section 13: Concentration of Positions (Adopted August 11 2001)

- A) A list of who holds each position listed in Article IV (Officers), each SCC seat, and each Committee Chair will be presented at each SQM.
- B) In the event that a single member holds two or more of the positions listed in A) above (excluding shared Committee Chairs and National Representative posts), all posts they hold,

except one of their choice, must be opened to re-election under the applicable rules; the current office holder may participate as normal. In the event that no nominations are made and/or accepted for a post, the member may retain that post without need for an election. This does not alter the regular election schedule for the affected posts.

Article VI - Candidates and Officeholders (Adopted August 11 2001)

Section 1: Nomination of candidates for President, U.S. Senate, and Michigan statewide offices.

A) The Green Party of Michigan may nominate candidates for President, U.S. Senate and statewide office at a statewide convention on or before the Tuesday following the first Monday of August in election years, in accordance with state law.

Section 2: Reserved for rights and responsibilities of persons nominated or elected to public office as candidates of the Green Party of Michigan.

Section 3: Nomination of candidates for U.S. House of Representatives, State Legislature, County, City and Township offices

A) The Green Party of Michigan may nominate candidates for U.S. House of Representatives, State Legislature, County, City and Township offices at district and county caucuses as required by state law. Such caucuses shall be open to any and all Green Party of Michigan members as defined in Article II of these Bylaws that live in the district or county for which the caucus is called.

B) One or more Green Party Local(s) operating under Article III of these Bylaws and formally recognized by the Green Party of Michigan may request and obtain permission from the Green Party of Michigan at any statewide membership meeting to convene a county and district caucus for the purpose of nominating candidates for state legislative, county, city and township offices as provided by state law. Such request shall be made at a statewide membership meeting no earlier than 190 and no later than 110 days before the statewide convention held in accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of these Bylaws and Section 3A above..

C) The State Central Committee may convene county and district caucuses for districts and counties in which no Local has requested permission under Article VI, Section 3, Subsection A) of these Bylaws. In the case of nominations for general election candidates, the SCC will request and obtain permission to convene such a caucus from the Green Party of Michigan at a statewide membership meeting no earlier than 190 and no later than 110 days before the statewide convention held in accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of these Bylaws. The SCC may convene such caucuses to nominate candidates for special elections without obtaining permission from a statewide meeting if there is full consensus on the committee.

D) Caucuses held under this section shall be convened no earlier than 60 days before and no later than 15 days before the statewide convention held in accordance with Article VI, Section 1 of these Bylaws.

E) The body convening a caucus under this section shall notify, by U.S. mail or E-mail, all Green Party of Michigan members eligible to participate in the caucus of the time and place at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the caucus.

F) No caucus held by a local Green Party shall nominate a general election candidate for an office that will supplant the GPMI's choice for the "Top of Party Column" on the Ballot as defined by MCL Section 168.685 and clarified by Attorney General's opinion No. 5306, May 8, 1978, or the most recent applicable legislation and decisions.

Section 4: The State Central Committee may convene a special district or county caucus to nominate candidates for special elections. The State Central Committee shall notify, by U.S. mail or E-mail, all Green Party of Michigan members eligible to participate in the caucus, of the time and place at least 14 days prior to the beginning of the caucus.

John Gear's highly informative, interactive presentation about voting methods.

Officer elections:

Meeting Manager-Doug Cambell, unopposed, by consensus

National Rep to ASGP

Nominees: Juscha Vanier , Dawn McClain (Juscha was attending the Campus Greens meeting, Dawn was asked to leave the room for the vote. Her vote for herself was counted.)

Juscha 19 to 13

Dawn as alternate (if we ever include an alternate in our rules)

At Large members , no other candidates offered:

Linda Myatt

John LaPietra

Ray Ziarno

Accepted by consensus

Open Space Breakout session discussion
The following groups were proposed:

Restructuring corporations

Labor greens

Feminism

Clean water/mass transportation

Diversity/Committee for the Political Resurrection of Detroit

Election strategy for 2002

Election reform

Public relations

Bylaws voting results

Modification to bylaw (voted modify)

Individual proposals (Pete Schermerhorn)

Proposed Membership Secretary as Officer of the state party:

- Closely tracks memberships, including voting local declarations of members
- Explains member rights and responsibilities
- Sends out renewal notices
- Reports membership figures
- Maintains and updates the GPMI trifold brochure for recruiting
- Encourages unaffiliated members to form or join locals, in conjunction with the Locals Liaison

May take on extra duties if a direct voting system is developed:

- Announces and tallies votes, ensuring only qualified voting members are counted

Explanations:

Tracking memberships: Membership Secretary is responsible for maintaining the database of current and past members, prompting renewal notices when needed, reporting dues figures to the Treasurer and the Budget Committee for their use, providing

other officers with usable lists of current members, and being able to report total current members and voting member totals when asked.

Explaining rights and responsibilities: New members need to have an idea of what they are joining when they join the party, and need more than just what they read on the trifold brochure as a guide to their rights and responsibilities. The Membership Secretary would make available to each member the Bylaws and Platform (sending by mail only when necessary), as well as keep each member informed of voting methods, format of statewide membership meetings, and the structure of the party (committees / locals / caucuses).

Maintaining direct contact with members: There is every reason to suspect that some locals are not going to (or currently do) pass on information about what is happening at the state or national level. There needs to be some direct contact between the state party and its individual members, if only to let them know when something has changed. Many people in locals know nothing about state party politics (and may not care), but don't have a very good way of finding out. A membership gazette might be a useful tool (but perhaps not published by the Membership Secretary).

As the State Central Committee will need to continue to expand to come into compliance with what state law will call for when our party reaches 'major' status, the Membership Secretary should be added as an officer position without removing an At-large position.

Specific changes:

Add Article IV, Section 8 (the title and bullets above, exclusive of the last)

Renumber Article IV, Section 8 - 11 to 9 – 12

Submitted by Peter Schermerhorn, Huron Valley Greens

This proposal sent to Bylaws Committee
Committees Proposal – Bylaws

The Green Party of Michigan needs to conserve its resources and efforts to better sustain a vigorous presence in the state. Therefore, the following proposal is offered:

(Existing language of Article V, Section 1): All committee members other than the State Central Committee are self-selected. The State Central Committee with up to six at-large members are elected as in Article IV, Section 2. No at-large members may be selected for the State Central Committee while there is an empty officer position.

Add to Article V, Section 1:

- i) All committees other than the State Central Committee are open to any member of the party. There is no upper limit on the size of committees, but any committee may limit its voting membership for purposes of feasible working size. The lower limit of members to keep a committee active is three.
- ii) All committees must make written or oral presentation at every statewide membership meeting. Those committees other than the SCC that cannot are to be considered inactive and are disbanded.
- iii) Standing committees may be formed only at a statewide membership meeting by a vote of 2/3 of the membership. Ad hoc committees may be formed as needed, and do not have the rights or restrictions of standing committees.
- iv) Committees other than the SCC may be disbanded at a statewide membership meeting by the membership, by a vote of 2/3.
- v) Standing committee rules and Chairs are selected in committee, and documentation of such will be forwarded to the Committee Manager.

Remove Sections 5 and 6 from Article V (eliminating Media and Budget Committees), renumber Section 7 as Section 5.

Submitted by Peter Schermerhorn, Huron Valley Greens

This proposal passed by consensus.

Sunday, August 12th.

Craig facilitating-

First order of business: discussion of how abstentions will be counted for duration of meeting.

There were blocking concerns. Vote taken.. Abstentions don't count for this meeting toward the number of total votes from which 2/3 is counted and the problem will be sent to the bylaws committee.

Kevin's proposals--sent to committee-- the first would have created a Press Secretary as a new party officer, and the second would have provided for unlimited proxy voting at SQMs.

Tom Ness talks about the Green House

Announcements

We agree by consensus to support the following resolution drafted by John Anthony:

Be it resolved that the Green Party of Michigan encourages all recipients of the so-called income-tax "rebate" to use those funds (within the bounds of their own financial circumstances) to support and promote social and economic justice, grassroots democracy, ecological wisdom, and non-violence in their own communities, across Michigan, and throughout the world.

Three candidates for Detroit City Council from CPRD

Maureen

Charles Simmons

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In passing the hat, we contribute \$350 to their campaigns

Discussion of Platform planks

The following platform planks were passed or modified, after discussion, by consensus.

Under Part II: Social Justice--

2c. Abortion Rights and Reproductive Freedom (Adopted 8/12/01)

Women shoulder the burden of pregnancy. The choice to carry to term or terminate a pregnancy is theirs. More generally, all individuals must have the right to choose whether or not to reproduce.

Greens propose:

The right of women to accept or refuse an abortion for themselves.

The availability of abortion services. The legal right to an abortion is irrelevant otherwise.

The identification of so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" whose mission is to have unwanted pregnancies carried to full term via delay and disinformation, and mandatory disclosure, such as, "This facility does not provide abortion services or referrals."

The inclusion of abortion, tubal ligation, vasectomy and contraceptives in all medical insurance policies.

The distribution of contraceptives through public schools, public and private health clinics, armed forces medical facilities and other venues.

b. Public Health/Health Education (Modified 8/12/01)

Lifestyle choices can radically alter the course of a life. As such, the individual's right of access to unbiased health information should not be infringed.

Greens support:

The practice of providing unbiased information about the dangers and benefits of all medical procedures and drugs, and reject the practice of singling out abortion for special treatment.

The distribution of unbiased information about contraception through public schools, public and private health clinics, armed forces medical facilities and other venues.

A broad and positive sex education program in the public schools

Under Part IV: Peace and Non-Violence--

b. Public Health/Health Education (Modified 8/12/01)

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Greens support:

The practice of providing unbiased information about the dangers and benefits of all medical procedures and drugs, and reject the practice of singling out abortion for special treatment.
The distribution of unbiased information about contraception through public schools, public and private health clinics, armed forces medical facilities and other venues.
A broad and positive sex education program in the public schools

An additional question was proposed to the group concerning the direction that the bylaws committee should go on the issue of assisted suicide. A slender majority of votes suggested that we want a plank that supports assisted suicide, while the second largest number of votes were for addressing other death and dying issues and leaving aside the assisted-suicide issue for the time being.

Mike (?) from a group working with BAMN, speaks about the U of M affirmative action case going to the 6th circuit court of appeals

We vote to support their efforts by signing on to the following:

Resolution of Support for the University of Michigan Affirmative Action Cases:

Whereas,

The outcome of the two US supreme Court-bound University of Michigan affirmative action cases will determine whether our society moves forward towards greater equality or backward to resegregation and greater inequality, Mixed Federal District Court rulings in these two cases will be heard by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in late October 2001. An anti-affirmative action decision by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals would result in the immediate resegregation of public and private colleges, universities, and professional schools in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Whereas,

Affirmative action plans are desegregation programs for higher education. They are the only successful method for integrating all of this nation's universities. Our universities must not return to segregation.

Therefore be it resolved,

We Declare:

We support the right of the University of Michigan and every university to maintain and utilize affirmative action programs,

We stand on the two fundamental premises of Brown vs. Board of Education, first that separate can never be equal and second, that integration is necessary democracy, justice and progress,

We are determined to open the doors of higher education to all;

We will try to mobilize chapters of the Green Party for the National Mobilization to Cincinnati to Defend Affirmative Action and Integration that will coincide with the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals hearing in late October;

We will publicize the October National Mobilization to Cincinnati.

Another final speaker

Discussion of State Party office in Lansing. Only 10 or so members remained for this discussion, so that no decision could be made.

Meeting adjourned.