

**State Membership Meeting
December 11, 2004
Lansing**

Officer Reports:

Ted Hentchel, Treasurer

Spoke of the biggest expenses of the quarter. See hand-out for more information.

David Spitzley, National Representative to Coordinated Committee

Spoke of the firing of the National Fundraiser and the 2 other officers in DC. He informed the attendees of his leaving the National Representative position.

Carolyn Dulai, National Representative to Coordinated Committee

“We’re all friends.” Spoke of the deep division in the national party as a result of the general election. She praised the efforts of the Green Party, and presidential candidate, David Cobb, concerning the Ohio recount. She thought the CC should be given more power.

Karen Shelly, National Representative to Coordinated Committee

Claimed that the women’s caucus is running roughshod over the CC and not following the rules as laid out by the bylaws. Gave hand-out.

Randym Jones, Clearinghouse Coordinator (gave report by proxy)

Working on capturing volunteers effectively

Phone usage still very high for outgoing volume (inexplicably)

Gave numbers for incoming phone and mail

Lou Novak, Meeting Manager

Winter meeting scheduled for Kalamazoo Feb. 18 & 19

David Palmer, Locals Liaison (report deferred for arrival)

Casey Paine, Membership Secretary (report deferred for arrival of proxy; resigning position)

John LaPietra, Elections Coordinator

No written report; effectively report given in this issue of AWOG

No Chair or Record Keeper/Secretary reports, as positions vacant.

Discussion and vote on Bylaw changes:

See hand-out. Discussed proposal changing the Chair position into three positions by adding two Vice-Chairs and designating each with respective responsibilities, along with the necessary changes to the bylaws language to correct all references accordingly, as decided by the bylaws committee.

Other ways of organization mentioned.

Chair’s duties mentioned.

Bylaws changed by consensus.

Nominations for open office positions:

Seven open positions—chair, vice-chair1, vice-chair2, membership secretary, record keeper, and two national representatives.

Chair: Sylvia Inwood, nominated. Jim Moreno, Art Myatt, and Lou Novak, passed nominations.

Vice-Chair (SCC mgr): Pete Schermerhorn, nominated.

Vice-Chair (c. mgr): Roger McClary, nominated. Harley Mikkelson, passed.

Membership Secretary: Jason Seagraves, and Jessica Owens, nominated.

Record Keeper: Priscilla Dziubek, nominated.

National Representatives: Art Myatt, Dana Cunningham, Pete Schermerhorn, and Matt Abel, nominated.

Harley Mikkelson, passed nomination.

Election Review Panel and Discussion:

A four member panel of 2004 GPMI candidates shared their experience and advise. The panel featured, Art Myatt, Oakland County Executive, Ellis Boal, Charleviox County Prosecutor, Jason Seagraves, US Congress 7th, and Jim Moreno, Mt. Pleasant City Commissioner.

Lunch – guitar and voice talent by Stacie Trescott (thanks!)

Officer Reports, continued:

Membership Secretary, as presented by David Palmer
Membership down. See hand-out.

David Palmer, Locals Liaison

Told attendees there were no new locals formed since last state meeting. He traveled to Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo this quarter. See hand-out.

Future Focus moderated discussion:

Brainstorming, labeling and grouping activity. The main topics of discussion were the state party's logistics/communications, and future elections. The discussion was moderated by David Palmer and David Spitzley. The five most agreed upon administrative/policy goals were:

- open a central state office space with staff
- hold regional meetings
- form partnerships with local non-profit/ interest groups (suggested: sublet from Green House for state office)
- utilize volunteers more
- form a fundraising committee

The five most agreed upon electoral goals were:

- support a ballot initiative for an upcoming election
- have year-long candidate development
- target our resources at specific races to win
- goal driven fundraising
- regional coordination of candidates

Other administrative ideas that were put out there that did not meet the top five criteria:

- have more in-person meetings, especially the SCC
- improve communication through conference calls, Web meetings, instant messaging, other message forums
- have interactive decision making tools, such as at www.webmine.biz
- have a non-voting moderator of decision making discussions
- improve accountability
- utilize the contact list
- keep party phone message and website up to date
- direct message linking for contacts on the website
- mail-in ballot for party membership
- have an 800 number
- stagger mailings to portions of our contacts, so cost does not run high in any month
- bulk mailing permit (note: have one, but suggested to “move it around”)
- flowchart the party structure
- obtain pre-paid postage return mailer (estimated ~\$1 per)
- have a murder mystery dinner fundraiser

Other electoral ideas:

- lobbying
- issue development program (make issues relevant to Michigan voters)
- take advantage of AFL-CIO and Democrat crises to recruit more labor and African American members
- revive Elections Committee (note: elections@yahoogleroups.com is de facto elections committee)
- update platform, make concise
- volunteer for local boards, commissions and committees, try for appointments to same if needed
- use AWOG better, especially in how it is paid for (see Art Myatt on this)
- spend ~\$250 per quarter to send Green Pages to every GPMI member
- improve publicity
- candidate school every election cycle
- recruit experienced candidates and officeholders (raid the Dems)
- recast 10KV for policy points
- approach celebrities for possible candidacy/financial support
- keep state convention early, possibly earlier than late May (our last convention)
- target races that are unopposed by one of the two 'major' parties; target races where there are no candidates filed at all
- challenge 'minor' party label as unconstitutional; possible coalition/class action with other 'minor' parties
- phone bank at every SMM (or at other times) for renewal of membership
- letter writing campaign for electoral reform
- thank C-Span and other outlets for Greens coverage every time

Discussion of so-called "Micro-Angelo Strategy" by David Spitzley (see [hand-out](#))

- larger, otherwise token or issues races build ability/experience for more local races
- it was argued that a system was in place already to keep the number of 'big' races down: NOTA as a possibility on every ballot
- personal initiative, issues that resonate seem to do best
- we need not just experienced office-seekers, but office-holders
- it is important to learn what office-holders *do* so that we are ready to hold office when the time comes
- get a list of county election dates and offices open from local county clerk (is it too early for this? perhaps not)
- keep involved with other organizations
- keep tabs on local government, know the local issues and foibles of local politics and politicians
- don't forget appeal to largest bloc of voters – the middle class

Election of officers:

Chair: Consensus for Sylvia Inwood

Vice-Chair (SCC mgr): Nomination of Doug Campbell. Vote: Schermerhorn=4, Campbell=26, Abstain=1.

Vice-Chair (c. mgr): Consensus for Roger McClary.

Record Keeper: Consensus for Priscilla Dziubek

Membership Secretary: Vote: Owens=13, Seagraves=16, Abstain=1.

National Representative (2): Nomination of Fred Vitale. Elected by ranked choice voting: Vitale=16 and Abel=8.

Proposals:

To sponsor the MECAWI and MHRC MLK march on Jan. 17th. Consensus.

Proposal to ask the CC to act on behalf of a GPMI member who was denied membership to national women's caucus. Vote: Yes=9, No=14, Abstained=7.

Proposal for GPMI SCC to investigate the matter of why the GPMI member had not been granted membership to national women's caucus, and delegating the facilitation of the investigation to Karen Shelley and Sylvia Inwood. Consensus.

Adjourned, round-about 5PM.

minutes volunteered by Aaron Seagraves and Pete Schermerhorn