

Green Party of Michigan – State Membership Meeting (Marygrove College/Detroit • February 8-9, 2003)
Saturday 2/8/03

Opening Remarks (Dawn Wolfe) [9:30]

Goes thru standard intro, half-hour late start is right on schedule for us . . . agenda, consensus.
Thanks Detroit Greens; especially Lou, Priscilla, Paul, and Sylvia (all four local co-chairs).

Officer Reports & Questions (facilitator: Sylvia Inwood (Detroit Greens))

A. Chair/Treasurer (Marc Reichardt): . . . Still pretty steady stream of communications, calls from media, etc.

Treasurer's stuff? Well, money is . . . stable. Just did a mailing to about 1,600 people (one of Tom Ness's lists); trying to organize a couple of locals in the northern part of state – UpNorth Greens (Ellis Boal) involved with nurses there. Contact from the UP – during election time . . . mailed stuff; since then, only talked to him once . . . might be a really good idea to have May meeting in Petoskey to reach out to the north.

There's a bit more labor involved in the Treasurer job now; with FEC recognition comes reporting – every penny. Dunno how close they're going to be looking at it – we're a state branch of a minor party – but the fines are stiffer. Other than that, not a whole lot of action in the post-election period.

Q (David Spitzley): More of a note – SCC to meet at lunch today on de-centralizing Marc's labor; should be helpful to the party. Marc: yes, everyone could use help; Lynn Meadows, for one, does a lot too. Lots of opportunities – not necessarily to be a leader, but it's a good idea to keep in contact with individuals & groups who will be our natural electoral base. Speaking with Ben Burgis, will speak at the anti-war gathering next Saturday.

B. Membership Secretary (Lynn Meadows): [not here]

C. Clearinghouse Co-ordinator (Elliott Smith): Goes thru printed report (with agenda); most of phone inquiries he receives are from Detroit area – some from Lansing, too. Schools/groups ask for Green presence – need someone for school north of Detroit on Earth Day April 15.

Q (David Spitzley): How much advance notice? Elliott: Usually pretty good – a month or so; if it's shorter, they usually contact Marc. *Maybe you could post invitations to biz list every week.* Elliott: Good idea; thanks.

Q (Craig Harvey): Anything happened to posting speakers' bureau link/list on Web site? Haven't heard from her.

D. Locals Liaison (John Anthony La Pietra): Preparing for the November meeting, I tried to make contact with all the locals, update their contact info and paperwork, etc. But, at the meeting itself, I heard several things I'd never heard before . . . (*sigh*). . . .

Anyway, I've been trying not to focus so much this quarter on the documentation requirements. Haven't gotten many new petitions or by-laws . . . but then, that's not much different from last time. [JW & GP of K]

I can report some movement. There are people working to start and/or revive locals in Macomb, Ottawa, Calhoun, Van Buren, Kalamazoo (& WMU); if I've missed anyone, please speak up now – and get me that paperwork, too! [Elliott says Ypsi Greens being started – we'll be in touch]

Still, there is too little contact, too seldom . . . so, in the spirit of some recent SCC discussion, I plan to try to contact all locals regularly (and get them to contact the LL – and “Green Updater” David Palmer). Also, what does anyone think of taking on part of the state to be an Assistant LL, or better yet a Local LL? . . .

In conclusion, I'm still hoping for all the locals to turn in their homework . . . but I do give extra credit for activity.

E. Meeting Manager (Dawn Wolfe): Voting members ought all to have numbered folders. If we get into a need to stack, use 'em; that's why we have big #s on the folders. Please stand up, give name/etc before speaking

Hoped to have final location for May meeting (her last as MM) – hoped for Petoskey, etc. If you know someone willing to do the legwork, Tradition is to spread out across state during a year.

Date for next meeting is 5/16-17? 5/17-18.

Only 9:53, far ahead of schedule.

Dave Spitzley suggests adding National Reps to report list. Dawn volunteers him to start.

One of the main things last quarter was discussion of budget – some dispute, more on policies than on dollar amounts; small minority resisting stipends for officers (some putting in 30-40 hours a week as well as

Format/etc. problems caused budget to take a month; Dave's working on format, also on Personnel Committee (establishing policies/etc.)

Marc's on By-Laws, Budget, Policy, & Procedure Committee[? check name]; Juscha's on Presidential Exploratory Committee . . . so Michigan is involved.

Endorsing/joining United for Peace went through pretty much without a hitch.

Another topic of discussion is whether to move from . . .

Marc – budget was a typical snafu.

DC Greens organized response to State of Union.

Q (Randym): Ball-park bottom line for budget? Probably about a million; if things continue, especially in foreign policy, there may be a spike . . . but he'd rather steady growth.

Juscha on Presidential Exploratory Committee: We used discretion to throw out some folks (including Hillary Clinton!); the list hasn't been made public, but she'll leak it sometime in a week or so – top 3: Nader, McKinney, Medea Benjamin. We've written them all, looking . . . some states need to know a candidate by end of year.

Q: will cmte reduce to one person? No – just vet candidates to make sure they're green, and present names to July 2004 nominating convention.

Q (JWilber): What can we do as locals/individuals to encourage Nader (or other attention-boosting candidates) to run? Contact them. *Any committee trying to organize this?* A push-committee, no . . . some individuals, but. . .

Q (CDulai): Would any groups/individuals with money give/raise more to one candidate than another? Committee is only empowered to solicit/vet candidates – we're working now on what to expect from candidate, how to transition to supporting ultimate candidate .

Q (___): You've read Nader's book on how different states have different rules for getting on the ballot. . . . That's good stuff, too – another part of my life is as one of co-chairs of Co-ordinated Campaign Committee. Has a ballot-access o___ group (BOG); working with some states already having to work on it. MI has access already, so we may be solicited to help . As for debates, as above; note also Independent Political Party Network – sentiment at NYC meeting was the Green Party is it, we all need to support Greens . . . and getting all . . .

“Democracy in 2004” campaign

Q (Elliott Smith): Nader was on “Crossfire”, sounded like he's running again. The wind right now is that he does want it – his handlers have hinted he might run as an independent if we don't let him do what he wants to do. Some want him back, some want to move on – it'll be an exciting process; if you're interested, get involved now.

Q (Paul Felton): I was surprised to hear that Nader was considering run in Dem primaries; I'd be disappointed – we're trying to get out of that trap Dems are caught in. It's a rumor at this point. *What about McKinney?* Last I heard, she was still a Democrat. There is a draft-McKinney group, but my understanding is they've had [meetings with her] and she may want to run for Senate (as a Dem? yes).

[Marc: her ofc in DC dissolved, GA ofc extremely uncommunicative, even for people who worked on her primary; she canceled on MI Human Rts Coalition & something with DC Greens . . . granted, her life took a turn for the worse in summer, but the impression I got was that she welcomed the approach of the Greens but was weighing her options; it's hard to get out of a structure you've been in . . . sizes of fishes and sizes of ponds.]

Q (Ted Hentchel): When deciding? Next six months. *Can we put up a candidate now, to start campaigning now and having someone to [publicize?]* Not precluded; someone could independently say they're running. David Cobb from Texas is talking about running. . . . *Let's get one in Michigan!*

Q (David Spitzley): Dems getting coverage for “invisible primary” now – do we have any way of creating buzz without a primary system? That's certainly something, too – Media Committee is getting its act together. Media want sensationalism, not substance. A month or two, they were coming to the PEC, wanting the short list . . . our effort boils down to the grass roots. *It'd be nice to have state committees/*

*Q (Bill [Opalicky?]): That's a great idea – I've been speaking out at meetings, written up in papers **almost** as I write it . . . so can't Michigan have its own Presidential primary/caucus (straw poll, says DSpitzley)? Reporter told me, “You guys aren't doing anything.” Yeah, a great idea, but it has to come from states, not PEC . . . but (& I think Marc will back me up on this) if Michigan moves, the rest of the party will follow. *I meant an active and open debate.**

Q (James Wilber): Without Nader running, our national attention will drop; if we encourage a local candidate to run, could it be conditional? & could we announce support for not-yet-in candidate? Could – it's chancy, but. . .

Q (Lou Novak): In our discussions around organizing this meeting, we hit Bill's point – people not in the party can't say what we're doing . . . maybe we could put together a workshop tomorrow on this issue.

Q (Paul Emery): I've been sitting in Lansing, wondering what national people were going to do about national candidates . . . today it occurs to me, why am I waiting? What we ought to do is have one of the next party functions be who are we going to support, what are we going to do, etc.?

Q (Bob _____ from Mount Pleasant): Unified Independent Party based in New York, had enough to show up in Mt. Pleasant, seem to have funding. . . . Wonder where the \$\$\$ comes from.

Marc: Committee for the UIP, has e-newsletter; I get messages from them. *Not selling them, looking at them as a possible \$\$ source.* Cautious of anything coming from NY – the name Fulani comes to mind . . . and the message sounds a little idyllic. We've worked with other parties before, often enough it's come to nothing.

Juscha: Apropos of Greens for Greens, money is pretty good; budget \$50,000 (\$18,000 for fundraising); we hope to have \$100,000 next year.

Q (___): *On a Nader candidacy – we can't depend on Nader or any one individual for the fortunes of our party.*

Q (CDulai): *Who is our biggest contributor and how much? Dunno. Limit just upped from \$10k to \$20k, but \$10k*

Q (Chris [M] from Mio): *May be asking you to speculate – but what might be the point of departure? What does Nader want? As book says, he claims to know a lot more about the process. But there is some resentment from both sides – from ours, he's not great at the grassroots thing, holds rallies with his people. After negotiations, he's agreed to rent us his contributors list. I think he realizes it's not a foregone conclusion this time . . . she's not as close to it as some others, but she thinks it's a mild threat . . . is it about the Green Party or is it about Nader?*

Did want to talk about one more thing . . . quick blurb: developing a matching fund for campaign staff – Q'aire for campaigns, use it to decide where our money can be used best for winning, diversity, etc. Match up to \$750 for a campaign staffer. If there's interest in doing a campaign training here in MI (or with OH), please talk with her . . .

GP.org has a link to the committee, and resources for campaigns that don't have state parties to support them.

B. Membership Secretary (Lynn Meadows): [*now* here] We have the written report, she doesn't have anything prepared for speaking. The biggest thing is that she purged the membership list; now about 350. Did get a lot of activity after the [election?].

She's getting better with the database. If you have ideas, we could sure use a membership recruitment Committee.

Q (Craig Harvey): *Is big update list coming into contact? Queries go to LL & contact database. So I should ask Dave Spitzley? I'm just adding to that list; he adds when we get a list from national party, etc. And personally, I have a list of people I send e-mails which has never been put into the list. (Paul E has one for Capital Area Greens, too)*

Dave Spitzley goes over the contact list – hasn't updated for a while, last semester very busy, but will.

Paul E: *Web-based list is leads? Lynn: Members are in it, but yes. Just sent out a mailing to 1,600 on a Tom Ness list; my next goal is the leads list.*

Paul E: *So now there are three lists? Ideally, I've . . .*

Paul E: *One last thing – I sent my money in and I got a letter back! And we have membership cards, too. . . .*

Kurt: *couldn't we put a new field into the list saying member or not?*

Grateful to David Palmer, who came to her house and pulled the info he needed from her computer.

Q (Priscilla): *Do our mailings go out on recycled paper? No – but I've recently found a source . . . right now, Kurt donates paper . . . but, if we do want to be more Green, we have to put out the green.*

David Spitzley: *I presume we're tracking that as a donation? (*sigh*)*

Did bring a hard copy of membership list . . .

Lunch

GPMI Diversity in Recruitment: Panel Discussion

Anita Rios (GPUS); Jim Moreno (GPMI); Scott Heinzman (for Maureen Taylor), Hillard Williams • facilitator, Dawn Wolfe (GPMI)

Focus: *How can GPMI do a better job of reaching out to and recruiting members of diverse populations?*

Groups to think about include people of different sexual orientations; [how] did you hear about the Green Party and how did you join?

Anita Rios: As part of the doubling of the Green Party in 2000, but she stays in the Green Party because we are trying to make real democracy happen. The biggest issue that we can address is how our political system works or how it doesn't work. I stay because I as a citizen feel that this is a piece of my hopeful actions for a better tomorrow. The only people of color in this room are the people on this panel and the people who served us lunch today.

Jim Moreno: I like Anita came in to the GP during the 2000 campaign. I stay in because it had been some of the things that I was already involved in which other political organizations are just not dealing with.

Hillard Williams: The party has a good opportunity of building itself if we can focus on issues of interest in communities.

Scott Heinzman: Environmental issues Involved in 1998. Was involved in petitions. Founded PLAID, People of Livonia Against Issues of Discrimination. In disability circles, we have issues of health care and representation.

Can you specify one aspect of the Green message (either platform, leaflets, [or] by-laws) that speaks to you as a member of your identity group – and is there anything that pushes you away about the Green message?

Dawn: Stays because we are a party that says we're going to do our darnedest to do it differently than it's been done.

Scott: A turn-off is assisted suicide because the fear is that disabled people will not have the choice.

Hillard: There is not much in the platform that would be a draw to people of color, but the potential is there.

Dawn: The fact that we approve same-sex marriage in our platform, women's rights. I think we need more emphasis on hearing from more women, a more feminine style of communication.

Jim: I like the idea that everyone gets to express their views. Then I found out you better talk. (laughs) Mt. Pleasant area diversity group, sex, race, age, disability groups get together and become friends, find out what our similarity about.

Anita: I am going to digress. As a woman, as a person of color, being in the highest leadership position in this party, I want to give you a little bit of background about where I am coming from. As I was listening to the others on the panel, I was thinking that sounds wonderful and I want to know more about this person. So I thought I would tell you more about myself. As a woman it's sometimes [hard] to speak out, as a person of color. We struggle for gender equity. Parents very poor. I have a ninth-grade education and I am largely self-educated. I was a mental-health educator with homeless people who need a lot of care. This gives me a sense of self, that I offer something, so that by the time I became a Green, I was ready to speak up.

To answer the questions, specifically, I think the whole Green message is wonderful. I am really proud that someone took the time to write this message out, but as a person of color that is totally meaningless to me. It is not about the words, it's about the actions. We live in a segregated society, as Greens we need to deal with all the structures that serve to keep us away from each other, we have to be sincere and respectful of each other as human beings first and I would never presume that I have answers better than the answers that you come up with but I would give you that piece of advice: whatever answers you come up with make sure that they are from a place of respect.

What are the views of people that you know about the Greens – do they know about them?

Anita: As a Latina, most of the members of my community – we are not even on their radar. We do lots of good things in our communities, but we aren't seen as Greens. So I wear these buttons everywhere I go; I think everything we do, we do as Greens. We must address our own orthodoxy – which is a dependence on Ralph Nader. But Ralph Nader is not going to take us into minority communities. We have to consider what tools are going to take us out of our Presidential campaign that will give us the tools to do that.

Jim: Family etc, don't know that much about the Green Party. I think they are curious. I interact a lot with Native Americans. Saginaw Chippewa tribe, and some of them are Greens. They tease me about it. Where I live there are not too many Latino organizations. When you try to reach out and join with other people, you have to try and understand where they are coming from, what's meaningful to them. I also go to the campus a lot, African American community minority students documenting discrimination. We need to have a dialogue about racism in America. People don't like to talk about stuff like that. People get really emotional, they don't like to talk about it, there's repressed feelings, people get really angry. But we have to – the Green Party has to save our country.

[. . .] Association, vice president for institutional diversity, documenting d. . .]

Dawn: One thing I know is not to assume anything. Someone I know is gay and votes Republican because he is anti-choice. We should never assume that because someone is African American or gay that they are one of [our natural] constituents. People make their own political decisions, based on a number of factors.

Hillard: Most people in the black community are not interested in learning more about the Green Party. The only group I have seen was one that was working on prison reform. They see the Green Party as a European vision not an Africa-centered vision.

Scott: The constituency group I am working with right now is too concerned with surviving to really be able to get actively involved in the Green Party. The more radical disability group – I have been arrested 7 or 8 times. It's a very uncomfortable situation for the authorities to be hauling off people in electric wheelchairs and on respirators. 45 to 50 million people have disabilities but we are not well organized and we are very fractionalized. The Green Party of course [likare] very reflective of what most people would like. But then there's the other side that were very much against the Green Party because they didn't want Gore. I can tell you that there's not a lot of difference but the rhetoric has the [ar apart]. Democrats and Republicans [way fe] there's not a lot of respect.

Being that most members of GPMI are Caucasian male able-bodied persons, what can we do to attract more members of diversity groups? Be brutally honest.

Scott: Political correctness. I grew up thinking that we had freedom of speech in this country and I thought we would respect that, but I grew up in a contorted view that has nothing to do with reality. Language-people first language-is the way to go.

Hillard: There is no way that you are going to learn the politically correct words. Admit ignorance and that you have a lot to learn and that will give you a lot of freedom. If you express a desire to understand, that would go a long way.

Dawn: Women's group, assertive tone among our discussions. To make sure that the language we are using is not confrontational but inclusive even when we disagree. Spiritual statements – Ten Key Values. Don't discriminate against people because they come to the same conclusions but from a different route.

Jim: Trained as trainer in these workshops; it's not our differences that separate us, it's our inability to appreciate those differences. Some things hurt people and how can we know what they are unless we get to know them. The electronic stuff hurts us because some people don't have access and you can't actually meet people. We can do things. We are the hope, we are the joy, we are the power.

Anita: On the national level, we have a diversity committee. putting resources to level the playing field. Affinity caucuses, 100 people in 15 states from a traditionally disenfranchised groups, you qualify for a seat on the national CC. But we are failing at all of these things. A piece of this comes from the fact that the structures in the GP are classist, and when you say classist you have to say racist, and you have to say sexist as well. Because when you look at who is poor in our country, they are women, too. A lot of the leaders don't have access to computers, or long-distance phone service. We have a Steering Committee member who doesn't have long-distance service. We have members of our Steering Committee who can't afford travel. Right now we are talking about stipends. Last year we ate a lot of costs and we are not affluent. But there is still access to technology. People who have access can do well in terms of follow-through and people who don't – can't – so it makes them look sloppy but in reality it means that you are a poor person. Someone told me that the Michigan Greens came to a black community and said we need your help. Which is not offensive, but if you are going into a community that is desperate and ask for help – that reverberated for a long time in that community and was used to denigrate the Green Party because it was seen as insensitive. WE need to be cognizant of youth, too. When we have young people in our group let's presume that they know something. It takes time, it will take time. Expect it to be some work.

GP conducts most recruitments on line. Is this a strength or a weakness in terms of recruiting members of your groups?

Anita: It's a doubled-edged sword.

Jim: Yes, I agree. It's good for overcoming distances but it's bad for people who don't have access.

Dawn: It's not only an access issue. It's an attitude issue. What about people who aren't literate enough to go to the library? But to give people a voice to speak instead of speaking for them.

Hillard: Greens protesting with welfare-rights people.

Scott: Disability community are arguably the poorest constituency. They often have disabilities that make using the Internet a problem. About 60% don't have any access. If you say go to the library, it's offensive. This causes disaffection. We are excluding an awful lot of people with this mindset. Don't come in as the great fixer. Listen to them. Town-hall meetings in places where the people are. We hear what is going on. We say how we can support what you are doing? As a disabled person, I try not to stick to disability issues. I lost on the vote about assisted suicide, but I didn't take my ball and go home because I didn't get my way. And I think that's another important thing in growing the party.

Should we have affinity groups in GPMI? The majority of people are not political at all. Those that are already political are firmly entrenched. We need to reach.

Hillard: I would like to see the Green Party start with the people and move it upwards through them rather than responding to people with a few large donations.

Dawn: I've only become more aware of feminism recently, I don't know how to institutionalize this. But I think we need to make conversations like this a regular part of our discussion. If we had been doing this all along the people on this panel. . . .

Jim: Affinity caucuses.

Anita: Whatever exists at the national level is not real unless it exists in the states. How to make it happen? Resources into regions? Crying? Chicago her sons don't own any longer that they are half-white which made her cry. That is how strong she is, how real she is.

Carolyn: Asks about prioritizing with groups.

Hillard: Lead poisoning; 40,000 residences that do not have all utilities. The people that fought for the defense of this country are the ones that everything belongs to. The political system has lost sight of that vision but the GP have an opportunity to re-establish that vision.

Dawn: . . .

Paul Felton: We need to take up issues. We need to develop a critique of the Democratic Party. We have to be sensitive in terms of how we present it. We need to talk to people one on one. It is not about specific and tangible, it is about the [e]itons of race politics. It doesn't matter what you are selling. If it is not respectful, no one is going to buy it. The Cass Corridor food co-op. The black and Hispanic student unions.

Hillard: Shut the incinerator down. Greens could propose a tax on those communities that aren't willing to recycle. Ann Arbor has cut down on its waste by 50% by recycling. Talk is meaningless. What needs to be seen is a change.

Scott: We can't worry so much about whether Ralph Nader is our Presidential candidate. We need to create an identity. We need to get members on the local level.

GPMI and the Movements: Breakout Discussions

Water Issues – facilitator: Priscilla Dziubiek (Detroit Greens); note-taker: Rebekah Mikkelson

IRV – facilitator: Craig Harvey (Huron Valley Greens); note-taker: Patti Smith

Peace Movement – facilitator: Paul Felton (Detroit Greens); note-taker: ???

Paul Felton (introducing these sessions): The Detroit local originally envisioned the theme of this meeting to be growing through activism. What we have to focus our energy on is real movements. What we need to talk about is how does the Green Party grow and recruit through our involvement in these movements. We don't usually do that, we are loyal foot soldiers. . . .

— back from breakouts —

Craig Harvey explains why we should delay tomorrow's agenda to provide 1-2 minutes of silence for peace . . . at noon tomorrow ET, 100-200k people will be praying/etc. silently for peace throughout world

Carolyn has blocking concern [based on diversity] . . . no necessity for Green Party to sponsor it, & it's doing nothing discussion vote: 29 for, 6 against, 1 abstention

Reports from Breakout Sessions – facilitator: Matt Abel

IRV – facilitator: Craig Harvey (Huron Valley Greens); note-taker/presenter: Patti Smith

- * tested with poll on ice-cream flavors
- * #1 concern was education – we had trouble defining it among ourselves
- * talk to schools, different groups of people
- * get everything down in a concise little package for people
- * try to reach a critical mass – we have a problem getting media attention, maybe IRV can help us get that
- * we can go out individually too
- * we were thinking of making it not a Green issue (seems self-serving)
- * don't jump too far too fast, need to work on the grassroots level
- * lots of discussion of IRV vs. PR (& Clean Money/Clean Elections [CM/CE])
- * some people during our session didn't understand the process, either – need to understand it ourselves first
- * keeping the issue on a local level?
- * get a legislator (maybe a Democrat) to introduce a bill so we have something to talk about
- * have a mock/model proposal for change (for local government, too)
- * work with M-FORE
- * discussed some problems/limitations:
 - need to educate voters, maybe upgrade equipment; not a perfect solution, may have some winners we don't [. . . .]
- * we hope less negative campaigns, majority winners, no expensive/messy run-offs
- * will build Green Party in a back-door way

Q (JMoreno) Didn't Ann Arbor have IRV once? Yes – for one year; Ds won (Alma Wheeler Smith's father), Rs lost due to it – so Rs got it voted back out the next year.

Q (CDulai) Why did it fail in Alaska? Not enough voter education about how it really works, so Dems worried about loss of power were able to [defeat it.]

Q (___) More coverage because of it? More coverage after the fact . . .

Q (___) Howard Dean came out in favor of IRV.

Q (___) Try getting it into high schools – maybe in school elections? Good idea.

Q (___) Have any info on IRV? [Craig explains it quickly.]

Q (Paul Felton) We were asked to report on how this could build Greens – to be fair, some thought we shouldn't use that for this, but instead push for PR and CM/CE. Yes, one person in particular was interested in pushing PR.

Q (Dan Karam) I think the gentleman who said he just wants to see Greens running for local office said it because of the spoiler issue – with IRV in, you wouldn't have that problem . . . but in local elections, you know the people, so it might give a better chance. Also, it's like recycling – used to be nobody knew about that, either; IRV can become associated with Greens.

Q (Elliott Smith) SCC decided we were going to focus on these three issues this year.

Q (___) Canadian hearing on elections was focused on PR; when she brought up IRV, they took it down – hadn't been thinking of it.

Q (___) I think Greens need to go for IRV and PR. Also should be emphasizing getting dirty money, corporate money out of elections. And we need to be getting things done through a movement – Gandhi, King had the right idea. I want to cross the finish line, not be diverted by what the Rs & Ds want.

Q (Adrianna) Ireland has IRV – she knows someone from there, but he thought it was PR – they have both, in fact, and don't think of IRV as a separate thing . . . convinced her IRV is a step on the way to PR.

Peace Movement – facilitator: Paul Felton (Detroit Greens); note-taker: [??] so Paul gives report

- * whole issue of war on Iraq is a tremendous opportunity for Green recruitment:
 - > lots of people are against it, and it goes to the heart of politics
- * around the room with everyone's efforts to organize anti-war activity (lots of it)
- * when we were finished, one thing that was missing was how to use it to build the Green Party; some ideas on how:
 - > carry the national statement with us everywhere
 - > sponsor public event/forum/etc. explaining Green position on the war (speaking tour?)
 - > everyone here think of one person involved but not a Green, try to recruit them
- * talk up/about the Green Party in a couple of activities coming up
 - > Lansing in particular next Saturday – GP marching with a banner, so good to build the very visible presence
 - > Labor Committee for Peace and Justice – public forum 2/22 with prominent labor folks

Q (CDulai) Going to war to try to keep Cheney out of jail.

Q (AKaufman) politely disagrees – from the moment after shock wore off, Shrub et al saw 9/11 as chance to push their agenda; war on terrorism = USA-PATRIOT Act, tax cut, etc . . . yesterday, ambassador from France held press conference, said they opposed the war (implied would veto UN resolution), said SHussein is in a box as long as the inspections go on, and can't do anything Shrub says he wants to do . . . they have their own agenda; he's not saying they're pure – but it's a real issue . . . I'd like you to win the argument – I'd rather we weren't going to war . . . but if US doesn't have a strong peace movement, we will go. . . .

Water Issues – facilitator: Priscilla Dziubiek (Detroit Greens); note-taker: Rebekah Mikkelson

- * talked about two water crises (time short, so skipping that)
 - * go to legislature, try to get legislation/bills written
 - * take advantage of Granholm's open office to push anti-privatization
 - * vocal boycott
 - * start it as a campaign issue right now
 - * check water quality, survey well drilling in area (loss of pressure)
 - * form water-issues committee/task force . . . chair Tim _____
 - * research the UN resolution
- [stick in more]

Q (Dan Karam) I've heard education come up in all these – there's a point of ideology . . . we have to come clear on our own, and those of Rs & Ds, then confront them . . . an ideological struggle is what we want: "here's our principles, here's theirs, here's why ours are superior"

Q (___) Bad droughts are related to pollution, etc. Wars will worsen that (cf. depleted uranium as a reason why we're not as involved in Afghanistan anymore?).

Q (Paul Felton) Work Priscilla et al are doing with MI Welfare Rights Organization on Detroit shut-offs etc. is a great example of linking work with poor people in the community,

Priscilla: There is another march this coming Monday – Board of Water, 735 Randolph

Q (Elliott) Also guerrilla tactics – stickers, etc.; concentrate on Meijer's – send in lots of comment trifolds on same issue. . . .

Q (___) Need to work on stopping privatization.

Adrianna points out lots of info on both water issues in AWOG.

Sunday 2/9/03

Business Session – facilitator: Lou Novak (Detroit Greens)

approve/amend agenda

Proposals

Start now discussing possible candidates for 2004 (proposed by Harley Mikkelson):

Create and implement a candidate-training program some time before November (proposed by Juscha Robinson):

Proposers have asked to combine these two – and 10 minutes allocated for Richard Wunsch to discuss 65th State House special election. No objection to any of that.

Harley M: watching TV, saw lots of Dems running already . . . I know candidates need to start running early . . . if we believe in grassroots democracy, we need candidates – at all levels . . . full slate helps with co-ordinated campaigning (handing out each others' literature, etc.). By the beginning of next year, we should have as many people as possible running for as many offices as possible. I was in DC 1/18, and the only candidate I saw there was McKinney. I just want people to start focusing on it now – I know we can't get

Juscha: So what we need to think about in this session is how to get candidates ready to run, etc., and how do we do outreach to should-be-Greens in our areas?

Harley: . . . yes, we do need to focus on some offices, but I think we should get candidates for every race we can.

Juscha: I'm not saying we should run fewer, I say candidates should be well-supported . . . not only money . . . maybe we should start[. . .]

James Wilber (K'zoo): Some people won't want to run for any office . . . but anyone who's not running for office could train to be campaign managers, etc. More than party literature – books (*Winning a Local Election*), etc.

Harley: Anyone who can speak in front of a group this big can run for office. I think people don't vote/get involved because [. . .] ignore us[. . .]

Carl Archambeau (): What do county commissioners (for example) do?

Juscha: Second half of this hour should be thinking about training . . . not only in being a candidate, but picking an office, designing literature, media, etc.

David Spitzley: get past results to identify “oh, this is a 300-vote race; I can campaign 300 votes' worth”.

Juscha: We also need to identify opportunities.

Dan Brown (Brooklyn): Green Party needs more presence in between elections: events, activities.

Paul F (): Following up on that, I think we need to build up more local support for candidates. Without money, we need more active people; to get those people, we need locals and local people engaged in local issues/activities . . . that will bring some to see they can be involved through GPMI.

Juscha: And we can't just run just anyone – e.g., John Eder in ME, an activist in the community he now represents. But we do need to be prepared to run real/serious candidates, or risk becoming a paper party. Not that that should take 100% of our energy.

Harley: You're both right; we need to find candidates who really believe in Green values.

Doug C (Ferndale?): Need to build both members and public presence/image. [Harley: Right . . .]

Ted Hentchel (Battle Creek): When running for prosecutor, I ran a series of articles in the *Shopper*. You can take those out . . . it's a money issue, but people read them. As for candidate events, you can have a Green tag, but people are there not for the general politics but for their own thing . . . still, combined with these 2" notices and you may recruit someone. Also, different media outlets have different audiences – but people will read them (didn't know how many until after the election).

Juscha: My premise is there are that a lot of groups who do issues . . . but the Green Party has a political element. (I agree that it's possible to push Green-ness gently through activities.

Marc R (Ann Arbor): I agree that we need to get involved in issues – but a lot of people come to locals looking for a political party. We're restricted by money, etc. – but it's good to have them get the idea that they can participate in the political system. Emphasize Greenness when you can in the midst of activities, get people participating every single day.

Lynn M (): After years and years of activism on the streets/elsewhere, it finally dawned on her that she couldn't make any changes[. . .]

Dan (): Candidates have to live by these 10KV, agree to them . . .and need to live by those rules.

David S (): One thing we need is a standard packet of info for each local/area – races coming up, members, media outlets & costs, results, high Green results . . .

Chris (Mio): Joined Green Party in November just for the reasons Juscha & Harley are mentioning – wanted to participate in the political system because that's how things can get done. We need to stress that to people.

Doug C: Get tri-folds saying “GP is the only party for peace” and pass them out at big rallies next weekend.

???: Good to know what races are coming up, etc. – but also good to know what issues are coming up (and to know ahead of time, cf. suburbs of Boston[?]). Need to push Green issues (e.g., IRV to counter “spoiler” perception). So what if we pretend we have power now? – what would we do, how would we manage the finances, etc.; this would show people we have a different vision. . . .there is a Web site for Law Commission of Canada, where they've been looking at what the people want in terms of elections and proportional representation. (PR took ten years to phase in in Scotland.) On some things, Canada (Greens and otherwise) are more advanced than we are; we should work with them, too.

Bill Opalicky: When he joined last July, a number of people wanted to be candidates – where did they go? I like the idea of focusing in on some offices, but scattershot isn't a bad idea . . . and we should democratize the GP by having a sort of primary method for selecting Presidential candidates.

Bob ????? (Mt. Pleasant): I have to say hooray somebody mentioned Canadian NDP; more should watch CBC . . . don't like label clothing (or signs of just any kind), but put “No War / Not In My Name” button on jacket and wore it everywhere. Maybe we could put out buttons for specific issues/situations.

JALP: Too bad Pete not here – he could say better than I that we had some of the info discussed here. (True, some we don't have, and some that we do have needs to be updated.)

Juscha wants to re-activate what she sees as “dormant” Elections Committee, gather resources. National is preparing cookie-cutter Web sites for candidates; matching fund for campaign staff; she'd help smaller group set up training as long as she's here – she graduates this spring. National had campaign hotline for advice. Template press releases. Talking about Presidential race, feelers to get candidates in. (Medea Benjamin is her woman.) Etc., etc., etc.

Priscilla: For recruiting candidates, it's a good thing to get prelim stuff set up (analysis of previous elections, what positions are going to be open) before talking to people – lets them know some work has already been done, gives

Carl Archambeau: Agenda said we were going to discuss who we had running. Has WLaDuke been asked?

Juscha: Yes, but not interested – other stuff to do, including young children.

JWilber: #1: If you're a local co-chair, campaign manager, etc., don't be a candidate – we need them, but we need your support too. #2: If you're going to have local campaigns, you need local issues – and people scanning the papers to find/track them.

Eric Borregard: I view GPMI as an educational vehicle: e.g., IRV. Education means we need to be involved in media . . . and cable access is free. We have some clips of Medea Benjamin, started embryonics of IRV petition drive
Mary Ann (K'zoo): Focus on turnout (pretty pathetic in this country). We've volunteered to drive people to the polls no matter whether they're green.

Frank Borey: We all have issues, and the best way to effect change on those issues is winning a voice in the legislative process. I also agree with Juscha that this large a group can't go thru everything, need to

Matt Abel: Maybe next proposal of less interest to non-lawyers, needs less time. . . . [shifted 15? 30? minutes from it to this] We need a long-term plan . . . since we're an electoral group, that needs to be the focus. Media & marketing (billboard?! building wall sign?) a focus. Maybe we should make Election Day a national holiday. No gov, US Sen, State Sen – so 15 US Reps, 110 St Reps, state bds, local folks (& Pres/VP) . . . I need to organize West Oakland . . .

Lou: Just to build on that, we should take advantage of 2002 Election Committee; also, we created Wayne County Green Committee . . . Matt missed maybe 1 or 2 counties in his Senate race; maybe county is the unit that has critical mass to run a campaign.

Harley: Start our own media, and run it in a certain way to reward our current/new members & our candidates. Look at what local newspapers do. Get as many names & pictures in AWOG, on Web as we can; they'll show their friends.

10 minutes for Richard Wunsch

Head of Hillsdale/Jackson party, active for many years. Got 40% in County Commission race.

I think our mission as Green Party is to take power thru the electoral process.

Campaigning is a training exercise, and a recruiting tool.

Special elections in off-years are an opportunity.

I need two things: a campaign manager (probably most everyone in here could do it) and a treasurer.

I want a couple more things: a press manager and . . .

I want canvassers for the district (from one township in Lenawee to Eaton Rapids).

In it to win, but if not 51% . . . even 15-20% is a win.

4 issues: peace (I think it *is* a local issue – and Granholm is in \$\$ straits because of all the money spent on war);

socialized medicine in this state (that's how it started in Canada); criminal justice/drug wars; Toronto trash.

Makes no sense to go to all township meetings in front of rock-ribbed Rs – but to churches, peace rallies, etc., okay.

May be able to get CAP Council endorsement . . . did when I ran for Congress.

Want to use letters to the editor to identify constituency; these are people who care/think enough to write letters.

Want to decide today or soon, to get working on CAP Council endorsement.

I'll be here all day.

JALP/Marc confirm that SMM can nominate; David S suggests . . .

Susan Fawcett volunteers to be Richard's treasurer if time schedule fits in (leaves in April).

back to Juscha – is it now time to move to specific things?

JWilber: could we set up a Web site with basic material on how to be a manager/treasurer/etc.?

Juscha: There are lots of materials available. . . .

THentchel: Don't post anything about media . . . if we come up with anything novel, people will steal it.

Juscha: Basically basic stuff – and, after all, they are tapping our phones. :)

Lynn M: Is there a way to say pages are members-only? And is there a speakers' bureau list?

Karen S described her efforts from the previous meeting

David S noted the outcome of yesterday's lunch meeting (5-6 speakers as part of Media Committee with writers)

CDulai: At November wrap-up, we heard from some candidates who spent some thousands . . . maybe we could hire college students. . . .

Frank Borey (GR): What would the Election Committee's responsibilities be? Suggestions: candidate training, nominating process, developing/maintaining potential-candidate lists, fundraising, media contacts.

Karen S: We need to get over our problem of asking for money – it's necessary. We should have house parties with \$5 maximum contribution; at least we'd get something.

Richard Wunsch: Almost precisely what I was thinking of; political army marches on its stomach, too. Need to be careful with paid staff; can undercut volunteers.

Juscha: Agrees both the past two points are reasonable; suggests getting a training session ready for next SMM.

Jodi: Likes Karen's idea, but the day will come (may be here already) when country will wake up and see we're the only left-wing party . . . we need to be ready for

Elliott Smith: Need also to identify what races are coming up, get people starting to make commitments to run a year ahead of time.

scheduling . . . we decide to push on briefly with this, close stack, then go on

#23: \$10,000 dinner vs. \$1 diner

JALP: County clerk is equivalent of Sec'y of State – hits a Green issue, elections/CFR (cf. Drain Commissioner).

Ted Hentchel: Open the floor for announcements of (potential) candidates.

Juscha: I say let's do lunch. . . .

Form a "Green Bar Association" (proposed by Donnelly Hadden): he's not here, so Matt Abel will talk on a similar proposal floated 2-3 years ago . . . started a YahooGroup, been dormant, but now 6-8 lawyers so maybe time to revive it.

Maybe this came from Doug's arrest, etc.

Thought of lawyers-only group to preserve confidentiality . . .

Some room for lawsuits to promote electoral reform, maybe.

Q (JALP) confidentiality means no shadowing, but proposals could come out of it – also, what about day-to-day?

Q (Karen S) how would candidates/etc. get help? [DavidS notes could create send-only address]

Q (David S) what would SCC/SMM need to do? couldn't this start as an ad hoc group? Sure – mostly, needs "publicity" in the group.

Q (George C) don't think it's a good idea – when candidate was challenged for being out of district, we addressed it on ad-hoc basis; also, we consult with some good folks in area, National Lawyers' Guild re arrests/etc. – we might not need to duplicate that. . . .

Q (CDulai) Doug went through a lot of hassle – would you have done anything differently? Not in that case, but in some similar ones I could see a use for the service. You'd have to be an expert in election law, right? I've taught a seminar on it, but it's kind of hit-and-miss (and the party in power interprets it as they want). Think it's a good idea to have this for comfort level.

[other #42]: Would we need help in other areas than election law? Do our people have knowledge of those fields as well? You're right, there are other areas . . . Donnelly's expertise is environmental law; maybe we could

Q (JWilber) to GeorgeC: I don't know who our lawyers are, I don't know who to turn to or where organizations are; good to have someone who is Green . . . really basic contact information.

Q (THentchel) Proposal just says contact all lawyers in the party, gather info . . . as for K'zoo, I'm in the phoen book in Battle Creek, and I'm a civil-rights lawyer; call me

Q (CCollins) mom of two lawyers! . . . Donnelly's proposal just said to gather info & list those who want to participate. . . another issue is signs; Ray Ziarno notes local ordinances all over the place, state law

Q (PaulF) was for it, then wavered on hearing GeorgeC; would like to preserve our resources for electoral efforts if other folks are doing this . . . but a scaled-down informal network should be done on a tentative basis. Shouldn't go too far beyond that, though.

Q (RichardW) Good idea – all due respect for guild, but they have their own work to do . . . besides, this is a recruiting tool, too. What this appears to ask for is encouragement for them to go ahead.

Q (GeorgeC) been a lawyer for about 30 years, done legislation, testifying in Lansing; also suing police departments, etc., representing groups (busting them out of jail, etc.) . . . groups tend to think of lawyers as a solution to their problems; we need to focus more on local/volunteer efforts . . . nothing wrong with lawyers talking with each other, but that's already being done – and it's not a substitute for what we really have to do

David S: There already is a group . . . nothing required for us to do to establish it.

Lou N suggests taking the first sentence. Quotes added around "Green Bar Association"; consensus.

LUNCH [back in session 12:41]

Myatts out sick, so solar-cell tour canceled

report from election-committee group luncheon (Frank):

Richard has treasurer (Susan F), willing to run – wants to clarify a few stands on issues (shortly); we went through them

we'll get schedules for filing dates/etc for elections this year and next year (JALP)

David S suggested getting lists of voters, precinct results, etc.

some info might be available on line; CDulai suggests Grebner

Marc mentioned Sierra Club forum 3/15 on water issues, focusing on Drain Commissioner position; he'll go there, nudzh them about inviting Green Party candidates (we do have an incumbent)

what races to target?

Drain Commissioner should go on that list – touches on our issues, as does County Clerk
conference call to work on this (to be scheduled/arranged via e-mail)

devote one day at the next SMM to election training/etc.

picking races / fundraising / media / staff & volunteers / nomination & legal issues /
demographics & strategy / GOTV / issue research

Sylvia was talking with Tim yesterday – found out he's legislative director for SE Mich [Sierra Club?]

he said one reason they left us out was that our candidates were nominated so late . . .

[Lou N: yes, we talked about moving our nominating convention up to May]

[Doug: I filed in August 2001 . . . so that doesn't hold water]

Lou cuts off budding debate

Richard announces – with Susan F (treasurer) & Ted H (media) helping, he'll run . . .

wants to alert us re some of his positions . . . gun rights & draft

[various discussion . . . local issue? (David S suggests parallel with “Nicita disclosure”)]

resolution vs. HR3598, gun platform read out; Richard says sounds okay

[good, open discussion . . . and that, I think, is what carries the day]

Richard says he just realized the draft is a tactical issue [and far more anti-professional army than pro-draft]

[Bill O still has an impassioned blocking concern, so vote:] 25 yes, 2 no, 2 abstention

[Susan Fawcett takes over from Lou Novak as facilitator]

Sponsor summer annual summit for Independent Progressive Politics Network (proposed by Juscha Robinson):

IPPN is a network, not just of political parties, but of similar groups . . . left-leaning, fairly favorable to Greens

Juscha was at a steering-committee meeting last month

all interested in open debates, vigorous grassroots democracy, etc.

“Democracy in 2004” campaign/meeting – to plan how do we do these things. . . .

biennial meeting was supposed to happen last November just before elections

Ted Glick (IPPN head) was running for US Senate from NJ (as a Green)

they want to hold a meeting this summer instead; Juscha would like us to hold it here (though she won't be here by then)
panels, workshops, F eve entertainment, etc.; we'd host but agenda would be IPPN staff's to set

Q (Richard W) knows Ted Glick, good stuff – but I also see this as another organizing tool

Q (JALP) when? this summer, but up to us . . . August not an ideal month, but short notice gives us leeway

*Q (Jodi) how much \$\$, time, etc. would we put into it? [usually people arrive F, stay F night, meet Sa, leave Sa night;
venue cost would be covered – we'd be expected to put some of our own money into it, but . . . Juscha sees
this as a chance to tear down anti-Green outlook]*

Q (Doug) could we co-ordinate with or replace an SMM? . . .

*Q (Tim) where does money come from? from IPPN (a dues-paying group) – Juscha could call Ted to get specific
figures; insurance would be eligible to be covered*

Q (Candace Collins) we should ask if any organization interested in doing it, e.g. co-ordinating it with an SMM

*Q (Dan Karam) tell us more about IPPN, how it started, etc. It's a coalition of people who want to break down the
two-party system, trying to co-ordinate efforts (rather than waste them). Note the symbolism of Ralph Nader
excluded from the debates – got support for us on this issue from groups in this coalition even if they didn't
support a Nader candidacy directly. This is a chance to help set strategy for the next few years.*

*Q (John Little) in the absence of a reason not to, we should go ahead [Juscha – it comes down to a question of
energy; this could strengthen us, make us more productive . . . but do we have the energy to put it through?]*

Q (Tim) we need to get all the details down first and then decide – maybe via Web?

*(Richard) agrees with John & Tim – but thinks it’s not much of a commitment; 6-person Hillsdale could almost do it
Q (LynnM) would we be involved in running the event? [Juscha: Not so much.] So, if May SMM is up north, maybe
do it in Ann Arbor or Grand Rapids*

David S – sounds doable, but we either need someone to step up and be Juscha or some local to step up and take it on
Juscha – if someone wants to say okay provisionally (pending more info), she’ll go get that info
she can champion it for start-up

*Jodi asks that we **not** consider GR . . . that local’s re-forming.*

Q (Tim) maybe split \$2 SMM surcharge between local & state parties

Q (John Litle) looks like a strong synergy

(Carl Archambeau willing to withdraw the proposals if time needed.)

(DKaram thinks it’s a wonderful opportunity)

hosting, conditional on details and with a smaller group (deadline for actions: end of month)

CONSENSUS

LynnM willing to co-chair . . . get it rolling if she has a little support (Juscha will do that)

Jodi will help **IF** she’s in Michigan then . . . and to help the next few days

Lou Novak will help if it’s not too much over the next two weeks

John Litle will help, too – sure Ann Arbor’s a logical place (close to airport)

Create and publicize a GPMI legislative agenda (proposed by Marc Reichardt):

didn’t know Dawn was going to put this on the agenda . . . based on ID Greens

(there, attorney drew up legislation)

just wanted to get some idea of interest – don’t have to decide anything today

just a way of making our politics more real to some people

anything more?:

Cindy Darrah re: draft thing – Rangel brought it out as a tactic; can expose Shrub & Rumsfeld as chickenhawks
in the meantime, she hates a professional army [like Richard, she sees “amateurs” as less military-mind-set]

Platform proposal #1 – “The GP[MI] supports government as a means by which individuals can achieve goals by
joint effort that they could not otherwise achieve alone” (proposed by Carl Archambeau):

Platform proposal #2 – “The preamble of the Constitution of the United States [should] be as much a governing
authority as each of the following articles” (proposed by Carl Archambeau):

deferred

Doug proposes an actual business proposal – print trifolds aimed at peace movements

(a bit tricky right now, says Marc – usually don’t pay \$2,000 for SMM)

Elliott has blocking concern if any GPMI \$\$ used . . .

Karen S & Cindy want to make stickers instead . . .

Doug pressed for figure

9 for, 7 against, 3 abstentions . . . so no

Richard moves doing it independently with GPMI blessing/stamp of approval

Doug needs art, Marc says he has it; no (other) blocking concerns . . .

CDulai – we were talking about sending 2 ofcls to LA for biz meeting

it’s been on the SCC list; Marc’s been waiting for figures from Joanne & Jim on what they need . . .

close business; announcements (from Lou)

Michigan Welfare Rights Organization & Sweetwater will hold 3rd or 4th Resurrection Monday at Water Board

2/15 marches for peace – NYC, Lansing, Detroit

2/22 Labor for Peace & Justice

3/ 3 Lysistrata Project

Matt Abel wonders when we’ll meet again . . . Petoskey or somewhere else up north

Priscilla – re water issues: trying to raise money to send 2 people to World Water Forum in Kyôto 3/3

Closing Circle