

Green Party State Quarterly Meeting

Feb. 10th, 2001 Kalamazoo, MI

Meeting start postponed until 9:30 to allow time for people to arrive late.
Call to order at 9:35 by Ray Ziarno.

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Introduction

Volunteers needed for cleanup

Recognition of all involved in setup/organization of meeting.

Lunch served in facility @ 12:30. Fund-raising seminar during lunch w/ Dawn McClain and Lynn Meadows.

Next meeting: Traverse City, possibly 2 days, possibly May 20th.

However, million voter march in Washington D.C. on same day...

Opening Comments (9:42)

David Spitzley

Call to Business (9:50)

Review of Green Decision Making by Ray Ziarno.

Dawn McClain timekeeper, Marc Reichardt stacker

Recognition of local chapters

Ken Mathenia speaking (9:56)

GPMI Local Contact list and Petition for Recognition of a GPMI Local entered into the minutes.

Review of active locals.

Turned over to Juscha Vannier, chair of outreach committee. (10:00)

Outreach committee has put together packets for locals: how to build a group/local, copy of AWOOG, guide to consensus, press release guide, how to pick an issue/campaign, IRS forms, and citizen's guide to g'ment. Limit one packet per local. Talk to outreach committee for further information.

Steve Herrick (10:05)

Talk of AWOOG, need locals to help finance it, would like to make it self sustaining and need a managing editor to handle advertisement and distribution. Need ideas for statewide businesses that can be approached for advertising.

Rick Stahlhut (10:08)

Kalamazoo green effort. John Speire, longtime Kzoo green. Kalamazoo greens presentation and talk.

Treasurer/Budget Committee Report (10:17)

Debt: \$14,157 to Craig Harvey, underwriter

Cash: \$1,200 in checking + AWOOG money; \$1,000 in Savings account.

We have not dispersed any funds to any locals which they are entitled to. ½ of all dues per year to be exact. HVG have done very small scale fundraising very successfully through co-op cash and sales of goods at local farmer's market.

We don't have a budget: no recurring expenses. We can count on AWOOG, postage costs.

Money earned going toward debt repayment (half of all revenue according to rules laid down by SCC).

Pete and Kevin Johnson are Budget Committee

MSU debt: Ralph Nader event Sept. 21st; \$1,400 owed to university that's holding up some student records.

Current efforts are to assist in fundraising.

Idea to put money into a SRI (mutual fund or something), postponed for further discussion.

Dawn McClain closes stack, postpones break, executes 2 people for dissension.

Structure/SCC (10:42)

SCC will need to conform to Secretary of State "official" structure. We will need eventually 64 members on SCC, 2 men and 2 women from each congressional district.

Paul Emery: Need a chairperson and a secretary, need consensus on idea for change for By-Laws Committee to propose for adoption at next quarterly meeting. Election law and campaign finance law do not agree or even mention each other. We need to nominate county candidates or lower at a County Caucus, higher candidates at a congressional district caucus, county caucus can file to be a county committee. At next election, how do we satisfy Sec. of State?

Craig Harvey: SCC laws are different for major parties and minor parties.
Major parties need 4 people from every cong. district.

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Pete Schermerhorn . . .

David Spitzley: don't need to change now, but need to start working towards a change to major party structure as a goal of organization for our party.

Questions:

Caucus: initiated by somebody to make nominations, caucus can then make a committee, caucus has a chairperson, etc.

Chair and Secretary needs to be nominated at caucus, caucus needs to file w/ Sec. of State, not the committee.

Vote to extend discussion for another 5 minutes put to vote: 21 for; 13 against

Juscha Vannier motions for John Gear's idea to put to By-Laws Committee for discussion.

Vote to extend another 5 minutes: defeated

Paul Emery amends motion to at this time to change name of two SCC positions to Chairperson and Secretary.

1st proposal: Discussion tabled to By-Laws Committee to come back to group at next quarterly meeting: Consensus

2nd proposal: Change the name of two SCC members, Committee Manager becomes Chairperson and Record Keeper becomes Secretary.

SCC Introductions (11:20)

At-large positions open
Kevin Henehan resigning

Nominations

Darren Wilkinson
Elizabeth Forest
Robert the Bruce
Rick Stahlhut
Lynn Meadows

Consented. All 5 above are now at-large members

Party Structure (11:37)

Marc Reichardt

6 committees (technically)

All are not active except for Outreach committee (pitch by Juscha for membership)

By-Laws Committee is semi-active and need members

All questions about committees steer towards Marc Reichardt at 734-668-9628 or dystopia@wwnet.com

Media Committee

communication among members horrible, state to different in different areas

idea is to break down Media Committee into small groups in geographical areas across the state.

Platform Committee Report (11:55)

Randym Jones

Need to familiarize people with the platform and vote on amendments.

Amendments, platform and voting sheet distributed

Break

Platform Committee Cont'd (12:17)

Platform voting sheet explained

ranjo@ic.net

If no email (you won't get these minutes! Ha! Ha! Ha!) then send Platform changes to Platform Modifications

attn: platform, 548 S. Main; Ann Arbor, MI; 48104

The point is to walk away from this meeting with a platform of **some** planks. It will take a 2/3 vote to reject or accept, any other vote will result in a modified plank.

Floor opened to discuss certain planks (12:40)

David Spitzley:

- Part II, Section 1 Needs further examination and modification
- Part III Section e Animal Rights Needs changes
- Part III-B Economic Sustainability Needs Changes

John La Pietra's changes (handout)

Discussion.

Other recommended changes.

Lunch (1:05)

Resume (2:15) Marc Reichardt facilitator

Kalamazoo greens introductions (part II)

Carolyn Dulai (2:18)

State Senate candidate, special election – speech

Resume platform discussion (2:28)

Discussion

Move by David Spitzley to close discussion (2:42)

Move by Pete to continue discussion by 20 minutes. (2:45)

Discussion of Indian affairs

Move to end discussion for people to read this and think it over.

Move by Craig to get this shit to Randym later. 1 week. Postmarked by Feb. 17th.

Seconded by Paul Emery.

Consensus. (2:57)

Move by Ray Ziarno to end discussion and get this shit to Randym later. (3:03)

Consensus (again) (3:04)

By-Laws Committee Report (3:05)

By-laws change proposals entered into the minutes by Ken Mathenia.

Purpose is to address local structure that is very loosely defined in the present by-laws.

Need to make by-laws more definite to prevent local and state party takeover.

Locals need to stay in contact with state party, need to supply a reliable contact person and number.

Changes proposed are to REPLACE exiting by-laws.

Explanation of changes by John Gear, By-Laws Committee.

Floor opens for questions (3:21)

Amendments to amendments by Randym, Lou Novak

Clarifications by Steve Herrick

People forming a “green group” or such can do whatever they want. If people want to form a “Green Party local” and have voting rights in Green Party state business then they need to be started by three Green Party members as stated in the by-laws.

Jim Nicita with strong opposition to the SCC being able to dissolve locals at will.

Pete comes through with opposition to SCC power.

Dawn motions giving the power to the SCC to suspend a local (i.e. not recognize) until next quarterly meeting when the voting members will vote to dissolve local. (3:51). Quickly forgotten.

John Gear concludes. (3:55)

Marc attempts to close stack. Mass chaos.

Dawn reads La Pietra proposal.

Paul Emery suggests accepting first 4 by-laws amendments.

Finally, we vote on the first proposal to accept by-laws as they are. 29 for, 13 against, 1 abstention.

Break (4:20)

National Scene (4:38)

Marc Reichardt

Rundown of ASGP and GPUSA; meeting of Green National Congress in St. Louis next weekend and the Boston proposal (for more information see Marc, Juscha Vannier, or Steve Herrick).

Revolving Memberships (4:46)

Pete Schermerhorn proposes revolving memberships (you join in November, you pay again next November for example). Purpose is to keep funds coming in throughout the year instead of a huge chunk in January). Passed with consensus.

Pete Schermerhorn proposes recognizing nine people for lifetime membership: Craig Harvey, Harold Stokes, John McCartney for the large sums of money they donated to the party. Those who deserve lifetime memberships through hard work and dedication: Steve Herrick, Tom and Sue Ness, Jim Nicita, Mark Seldon, Ken and Jan Mathenia, Kevin Henehan, Dr. Eugene Debbs-Parin (sp?), Pete Schermerhorn, and Dawn McClain.

Candidate Stuff (4:57)

Plea by Matt Abel to help in Dulai's campaign for campaign experience and the good of the party.

Resolutions (5:03)

Kevin Henehan's Bylaws proposal (see handout in Meeting folder).

Discussion/review of procedure

Pete Schermerhorn calls it to a vote @ 5:20

Further discussion

Pete calls it to a vote (5:23)

12 for, 20 against, 7 abstentions: Does not pass.

Ken Mathenia's proposal (on same page as Henehan's) withdrawn earlier.

John La Pietra's resolutions (back pages of John's platform ideas) and Ray Ziarno's resolutions.

La Pietra's (Page 3 bottom)

First one: GPMI supports joint resolutions in the Michigan legislature to force both houses to vote, and approve of raises before they come into effect. Additionally, GPMI supports the abolition of the MI State Officers Compensation Committee which produces these pay-raise proposals.

Passed with consensus.

Second one: Significant blocking concern.

Proposal to table until more information is produced. Passed.

Third one: Proposal to table until further discussion.

Amendment to strike supreme court stuff but pass State Board of Education. Amendment passed.

Fourth one (Death penalty): Passed with consensus

Fifth one (Affirmative action): Passed with consensus

Sixth one (Election reform):

Proposal to strike second sentence of second paragraph

Proposal to strike HB4161 and HB4105. Striking 4161 passed.

Proposal to strike funny little bill numbers. Passed.

Seventh one: Passed

Eighth one: Proposal to strike John McCain stuff. Passed.

Ninth one: Passed

Jim Nicita proposes exploring an initiative question for a ballot proposal in 2002 for Instant Runoff Voting. Proposes a committee to explore possibilities and have a report by next quarterly meeting (May)

Proposal to close Meeting (6:10)