

Green Party of Michigan (GPMI) State Membership Meeting
February 21-22, 2004 * Ramada Inn & Convention Center, Flint

Saturday, Feb. 21

start 9:33am; Lou N starts round of self-introductions

(Kent Mesplay among those here at the start)

9:00 - 9:45am Officer's reports & discussions; SCC reports

John LaP (Elections Co-ordinator & Media Committee) [reports: text below]

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Elections Coördinator's Rept/Flint SMM, Feb'04

Accomplishments include:

- * By-laws update to reflect real-world process and what we want to do (approval announced); more work to do to polish the process.
- * Rules for selecting delegates to GPUS convention approved; applicable here today, in locals later.
- * Article in new issue of *AWOG* on "How to Be(come) a Green Party Candidate".
- * Gathering information on candidates already run-ning, interested in running, considering running, etc. **If you have leads, please contact me!**
- * Recruiting more candidates – Ted's excellent postcard; preparing packet to send all possibles.
- * Preparing to contact interest groups to ask them to include Greens in surveys, debates, etc. (Using PAC list to reach PAC sponsors, send *AWOG*.) **If you have contacts, use 'em – and tell me!**
- * Tomorrow's campaign school is a furthering of the effort to prepare candidates **AND** campaign managers and other workers. Join in, please!

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Media Committee Report / Flint SMM – Feb '04

Accomplishments include:

- * GPMI had a video response to the "State of the State" speech; on MGTV, cable-access stations.
- * Issued various press releases & media advisories:
 - 11/19/03: Post-SMM wrap-up.
 - 11/21/03: Opposing dove-hunting (HB 5029).
 - 11/26/03: Thankful for MCWC win v. Nestle.
 - 12/04/03: Rebecca Shelley/Peaceway plaque.
 - 12/14/03: Notice for W Bloomfield Greens.
 - 01/12/04: [BANCO meeting, Benton Harbor.]
 - 01/20/04: Announcing "State of State" reply.
 - 01/26/04: Green comments on ^^ available.
 - 02/12/04: Pre-SMM advisories (including
 - 02/18/04: Presidential candidate forum).
- * Many pending releases on various issues: GLBT, anti-choice, & anti-AA ballot questions; peace forum 3/20; Earth Day in K'zoo; etc. And folks stepping up to write them, too! (Why not you?)
- * Mailing *AWOG* to media again. (Need help with update of mailing-address info in database.)

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added to report: Oakland Co directory from Art M; school-bd vacancy in Flint (from newspaper)

comments: how/when contact possible candidates? try locally first; use *AWOG* article?

Ted Hentchel (Treasurer)

explains new form – has Fed & state requirements; purpose of donation is almost meaningless
\$20 is cash limit, but he wants all by check; over \$100 (\$120), need employer info (state wants address, too)
Fed report filed 2/17 (due 1/31, but some info not received until 2/4)
plans to triple last year's income (note: to \$50,000)
can't stand behind expenses as absolute
no complaints from FEC; state wants the missing addresses, etc.
Harley M: any \$\$ from national party? supposedly reimbursement for memberships thru GPUS
our Fed # is C00384040 (Jim Moreno et alia suggest rubber stamp)
Jim(?) _: are you filing electronically? paper still OK unless \$50,000 (Fed) / \$20,000? (state)
it's really easy if you have the information, not if you don't

Pete Schermerhorn (Locals Liaison)

handout – 1 page of statistics: members, past members, contacts by Congressional district
need a new unaffiliated SCC rep (his best guess is unaffiliated = more than half the membership)
Carolyn interrupts to say front desk has heard from Marc – accident; Adrianna to Emergency but not hurt

at least 9 campus groups have formed, are forming, or were formed
none have SCC reps (most can't by school charter); Pete will push for a student caucus
list of county co-ordinators from Web site . . . not particularly up-to-date
Pete also wants to get this system up and running
we're going to have to form county committees everywhere we're active
Washtenaw, Oakland County have three locals each (and interest in more places)
starter kits (Pete's sent out 12 so far); his goal is 100 locals statewide
pass-around sheet of county-by-county members, past members, contacts (like CD stats handed out)
CD info was much easier to sort out than he'd thought
CD 09 (Oakland Co), CD 15 (Ann Arbor & Downriver) have most contacts . . . but how good is the info?
wants help reaching 2,600 contacts with e-mails; has maps for checking your CD
various questions about problems with Campus Greens vs Campus Democrats & Republicans
national Campus Greens has had problems, too
can do voter drives, can act as instruments of party, but can't act as part of structure of party
Bill O: Mary & I aren't in a local; can I be SCC rep? no objections from unaffiliateds or the floor; twinkled in

Art Myatt (Platform Committee)

passed a plank on privatization (added sentences on privatization as union-busting at SCC)
but that took about 5 months . . . and that's too slow
proposed position paper on "Kilpatrick Hall" (replacement for Cobo Hall)
we probably ought to update the platform in general for the developments of the past few years
a lot to do before Labor Day, but Art thinks we ought to [. . .]
Rebekah M: are you working on national party platform, too? no; maybe Lou will speak on it in a few minutes

Lou covers reports from Clearinghouse Co-ordinator, Membership Secretary (membership up to 407 before today)
but notes Lynn Meadows is stepping down as Membership Secretary

Ted reviews what the Membership Secretary does
he doesn't want the mailings, but he wants the membership; not asking for [. . .]

Craig H: if you renew membership via Web site, both Ted and Membership Secretary get the info

Lou N: Casey Paine of new Ypsi local has volunteered; she'll be here tomorrow
twinkle on deferring this office until tomorrow

Lou on national platform

currently committee is reviewing submissions thru end of last year from state parties
not clear yet whether convention will vote on platform all at once or piecewise
he & David Spitzley are MI reps to national committee; he's stepping down

Margaret Guttshall (new member for Detroit) has volunteered to replace him; she speaks:

if you want a wishy-washy platform, you don't want me on that committee

Bill O asked if she would be willing to identify herself to the press; she's been a candidate . . .

twinkled

Pete asks if we're entitled to three as with other committees; Lou didn't know . . . talk about it tomorrow

Karen S, Carolyn D on national committee: today or tomorrow?

Carolyn can report a bit on restructuring

Karen speaks on controversy about [Mark Loveless?] (cf Black Caucus)

Carolyn talked about Black Caucus [not accredited yet] outreach program

Steering Committee first gave approval (if not \$\$) for diversity program, then said don't do it
maybe because they aren't an official caucus? (but they'd already hired someone)

Anita Rios (the Latina on the Steering Committee) had resigned

Mark wants a vote of confidence rather than a recall, now

also suggests a minority vice-chair's seat; if it's empty, that says something

re-structuring of SC: 11 members, each with a portfolio

some fear that might add a higher level of hierarchy; others think it would help with co-ordinating/liaison

she's sure it passed; can't say more . . . Marc usually makes most of the report

Lou starts stacking

when Anita resigned, SC appointed the next vote-getter

Linda M says *Green Pages* special issue never got out because of money

Pete S has had long series of relations with Mark Loveless, whose original proposal was 1/3 vote of **no** confidence
thinks someone may have to help Mark L see it through

Mark L was also very disappointed at Greens not drafting Cynthia McKinney

Steering Committee got about 1% of what they expected (cf. Nader not giving GPUS his contact list, etc.)

Karen S thought Mark L expressed himself very well; she understood his complaint & thought it was justified she's tired of people being put down as "just" angry, etc.; we need to pay attention to people
Anita Rios wrote a letter on her difficulties, and she didn't get much appreciation, either
Paul F would suggest that we have further discussion later on this weekend when Marc R is here (both Carolyn & Karen think they'll be here tomorrow)
he thinks it's more complex than some people do want people of color in the Greens & some don't
Margaret G lives in Detroit; 80% there are African Americans . . . but she'll pick Ralph Nader over John Conyers
Eric B: we have to have an affirmative position on these minority issues (& women, too)
supports position for minorities & women on committees
as a party, we can collect money and send it to the national party FOR these caucuses

Carolyn & Paul F move (at Lou's suggestion) to put this discussion in the slot vacated by the shadow-cabinet proposal

Karen S: at 10:45? yes

9:45 - 10:30am Officer/Rep Elections to fill open positions [also delayed to tomorrow]

10:30 - 10:45am BREAK [10:55]

10:45 - 11:45am GPMI National Delegate Selection (part I: introduction of potential delegates)

Pete S takes up reviewing the process, how we got to 32 delegates, etc.

16 allocated to active locals (by April 15 to meet May 10 deadline), 16 general here

Suzie Zick, Rebekah Mikkelson, David Newland want to add on . . .

Paul F: alternates can go to convention, too

add-ons speak:

Rebekah Mikkelson (unbound, yes to alternate)

Kris Miner (unbound, alt OK)

Candace Collins (__, __)

Desmond Collins (__, __)

Karen Shelley (unbound, __)

David Newland (__, __) needs to talk to his wife first

Suzie Zick (sort-of-unbound [won't vote for a non-Green, yes])

Jan Mathenia (__, __)

Bob Bucholtz (unbound, alt OK)

Art Myatt (sort-of-unbound [vigorous all-states campaign a requirement]; alt **ONLY**)

Merry Mikkelson (unbound, alt OK)

then a review (and addition of detail) by candidates who are both here and on the grid:

Matt Abel here . . . yes, he's willing to be an alternate

Penny Adrian knows people in Milwaukee who can provide a place to stay

Doug Campbell (refers to statement K; no "safe-states")

George Corsetti (alt OK; unbound)

Carolyn Dulai (not alt [only there Saturday, around family reunion])

& would never ever vote for Lorna Salzman, David Cobb at least is campaigning vigorously

Paul Felton (most of week there, be a Labor rep; pref is RNader as GPUS nominee,

not for anyone-but-Shrub dodging Democrats' toes stuff)

Margaret G agrees with Paul

won't vote for anyone who won't bring troops home now, etc.

RNader & PCamejo only candidates I've heard who've said they would; if anyone else has, let me know; alt OK

Sylvia Inwood: alt OK; PCamejo/RNader almost like running unbound,

but don't want to be unbound & forced to vote for someone. . . .

John LaP: [explained my info from the grid a bit . . . lots of choices, want to be there for the whole thing, etc.]

Ken Mathenia: a little uncomfortable about unbound, but more comfortable that way than naming candidate; alt OK

Harley Mikkelson: have a real problem declaring now who I'd vote for, though don't want to be unbound

he's urged Michigan folks to run, nobody would . . . so he's going to vote for himself first

even by the time our delegates go, we may not know the candidates enough to vote for them

he'd rather make his best judgment at the convention

Jim Moreno: has met PCamejo (& DCobb)

important to reach out to people of color

no support to less-than-full-out campaign . . . and I'll never vote for someone I don't believe in . . . alt OK

Linda Manning Myatt: I wrote K, so you know where I stand

won't vote for anyone who's not a member of the Green Party

Lou Novak: trying to draft Nader, but willing to be unbound (and alt OK)

Pete Ponzetti: preference right now from this list is only Peter Camejo

I'd prefer not voting for Saint Ralph; he's abandoned this party

any of these candidates from this list, depending on how the local decides, I'll vote for

Pete S plugs John Porter as our man on the Accreditations Committee, got us from 22 to 32

(also points out John LaP helped with last four)

Pete S for himself: he'll work for any candidate

wants attention to platform, will work & vote for section-by-section (last time a mess; "Frankenfoods" flap)

wants as much of 2000 delegation together as possible (8 of 9 of 18)

discussion

Carolyn D: was Marc R co-ordinating a campaign? Lou N says no

Karen S willing to be a delegate (going as national rep), willing to serve

Doug C has question for Harley M: if nominated as Pres or VP, would you run vigorously in all states?

as vigorously as I could with money, in as many states as possible, but focus on swing states

Linda M: so you mean "unsafe-states" strategy? . . .

11:45am-1:00pm LUNCH [12:00 noon]

motel restaurant slow; didn't expect us to break for lunch(!)

Daniel Sturm here; talks with Christian Vannier, Lou Novak, John LaP [others too?]

Ron Fonger from Flint *Journal* also shows up for the next item on the agenda:

1:00 - 2:45pm GPUS Presidential Candidate Forum [starting up again 1:31pm]

Candidates: David Cobb (DC), Kent Mesplay (KM) Moderator: Matt Abel (MA)

2-min introductions

KM: rank-and-file Green [3:15 long]

DC: originally from Texas, but don't hold that against me [4:00 long]

MA asks about our three top issues (one is war); would you commit to bringing troops home now?

KM: throws in bits of his overview (Web site, no safe- or smart-states)

DC and I are of like mind re: USC debate; I'm for as rapid a withdrawal from Iraq as possible

a few caveats: some representation (diplomats, medical personnel, etc.)

also make the presence a female one, not ignore gender-equity issues

DC: proud that GP is only party with Pres cand (whoever) who'll say current US foreign policy is one of empire

not sure immediate withdrawal now does anything; if troops gone tomorrow, not a satisfactory solution

not in interests of peace & justice & all our shared values

work in conjunction with UN, etc. . . . that may not be an answer

other top GPMI issues: water (Ice Mountain/Nestle/Perrier) & instant-runoff voting

KM: is Ice Mountain's operation for the public good? that ought to be the bottom line, not profit

Greens believe in the public good (which is how he linked this to IRV as well)

reads some of his prepared statement on Ds & Rs: it's okay with him if Green Pres candidacy hurts Ds &/or Rs

a good R would be against energy bill, etc, etc; a good D would be a Green

been gentle, now he's firm . . . neither safe nor smart; he'd rather vote for NOTA

no more inspiring, but more direct

DC: one side of his handout has his strategy . . . but have to talk about goals first (objective, measurable, concrete)

first/primary goal is to build & grow the Green Party (the only [. . .])

create state party where none yet exists; maintain ballot line

increase registration, membership, etc.; boost infrastructure/communication . . .

secondary goal is to do all that & beat G

the words "safe states" are a red herring; he's never used them

for example, Iowa is a so-called battleground state

he knows Greens there need 2% to maintain ballot line, he'll work for that

"all-out" is unfair, misleading, and ultimately flawed; Greens know resources are not unlimited

George W. Bush is a big problem . . .

and we need to understand everyone who could be attracted to Greens is in a dilemma

non-violent social revolutionary, in it to win it (deep structural change)

if we're not careful, Greens might implode in this election cycle

I was actually a paid consultant with the Center for Voting and Democracy, which helped invent the term IRV

totally believe in "strategic spoiling", but Presidential election is not such a race; it's 50 separate races

quick tie-in with water . . . his work on corporate democracy (water is a perfect example)

current legal structure is enshrining corporate spoiling of democracy

the last issue is Ralph Nader . . . I'm a lawyer because of Ralph Nader (and Atticus Finch, but Ralph's real)

thankful for what he did in 1996 and 2000, but don't believe he's the best nominee for 2004

we need a party member, we need someone who'll go into pool halls and bowling alleys to talk up Greens

but I'll support whoever wins the nomination in Milwaukee . . . including Nader . . . or no candidate.

we know that by the time people watch this, Ralph will announce on Meet the Press
if he wants to run, I respectfully ask him to respect the process of the party
if he wins, he won't have a more vital campaigner than David Cobb
but an independent run by anyone doesn't build the Green Party

Qs start with a double question:

what good to beat Bush if you just get Kerry in? / are you for stopping US aid to unjust regimes, particularly Israel?

KM: Kerry can't excite the young

couldn't support Kerry, would be willing to debate him

yes, we have limited resources . . . but our personal energy is our most [important]

one of my most important goals is to get into debates

on US aid, I'm really opposed to the strings we put on it; most countries would be better off without it

we don't export democracy (don't even have it here, do we?)

DC & I are the two main candidates (I'll keep reminding you of that)

young people get it, and they don't want us to be afraid (which happens when we overthink)

PCamejo has said the best way to defeat Bush is to run against him

both DC & I have encouraged him to run, he hasn't yet

DC: agree it's unfortunate to spend so much time on strategy, but I know it's what a lot of Greens want to hear

if any battleground state catches fire, my nimble nuanced strategy would say put more resources there

I'd run as enthusiastically, intelligently, and realistically as possible

in his past work on D campaigns, he's learned D primary process is where progressive politics goes to die

John Kerry is a corporatist, pure and simple . . . no better than Bush on NAFTA/GATT, war, PATRIOT Act

there's an elite consensus to build & continue transnational corporate empire

my concern is not [. . .]

question of Israel is really a question of the Middle East

agree with Said & Chomsky that the only solution is one country with pluralistic society/politics

"aid" is really bribes

at the end of the day, I want to be part of a process broad and deep enough to change that system. . . .

MA combines three questions into one:

what are the biggest differences between you two?

what should we know about your rivals?

who do you want as your running mate? how about your Cabinet/administration?

KM: DC has put a lot into building the party, so I don't feel I'm running against him

I realized in 2000 that something special was going on in Texas

it's precisely because of his work and those of others like him that I'm doing my best for Greens (by running)

anyone who's been a candidate would agree: we never really do feel fully ready

do want to emphasize that it helps build the Green Party if we run (and hard, as if we can win)

tap into energy/anger/disgust/etc (cf. Matt Gonzalez in SF); not unreasonable to double CA party registration

he's like a brother to me . . . and we keep running into each other

Lorna S is running where she can . . . but I can understand how she ruffles feathers

only woman he's met who's running

thinks Ralph is out, PCamejo might be swayed into running

respects favorite-daughter/-son efforts (boosting party) . . . cf PA stepping [. . .]

thought about VP, but rather not announce who he has in mind; we might win (there really is that possibility)

likes the idea of a shadow cabinet; has given some thought to it:

Leonard Peltier for Interior; DC mentioned Noam Chomsky . . . for Defense?; wants at least 2/3 to be women

DC: first on differences: KM & I have developed genuine friendship even though we disagree, sometimes strongly

I have a demonstrated history as skilled strategist & organizer . . .

manifesting itself in several ways; this is my 30th state visited, I think

KM & I are the only two traveling, but I think it's objectively fair to say I'm traveling much more

campaign is operating as a genuine collective (has to get on phone-conf stack to take part in his own travel plans)

PCamejo has told me & KM he absolutely won't be the GPUS candidate (I think he's a placeholder for Nader)

Carol Miller running only in New Mexico, she wants Nader too – as does Lorna Salzman

Paul Glover wants to run only an Internet campaign, will only travel by human power or mass transportation

cabinet? Chomsky for Secy of State Nader for AG, I like Peltier for Interior; Hightower for Agriculture

Molly Ivins for press secretary

David Korten (?) _____

Amory Lovins Secy of Transportation

Ron Daniels for US Civil Rights Commission

committed to a woman running mate, ideally woman of color & Green

"I am a Presidential candidate almost as a testament to my failure to get Cynthia McKinney,

Medea Benjamin, and Karen Kubby to run."

MA got comments for always having/making KM answer first, so switching starting with:
how do you feel about punitive vs. restorative justice & prison-industrial complex [P-IC]?

DC wants to centralize race

ending empire, bringing troops home, UHC, living wage, public funding of elections, & corporate . . .

KM couldn't agree more that the war on drugs is a war against humanity; need to redo P-IC
we're in fierce agreement on this one

blue-collar workers support Bush (anyway); how do you appeal to them, win their support?

DC: that's my background . . . & when I ran for Texas AG, I ran in [small-town/etc] areas

as a skilled organizer and campaigner, I know you've got to speak people's language for them to hear you

KM: Bush knows how to play the game (key words, buttons to push) . . . he's very, very, very, very dangerous
when my candidacy was announced by my plane seatmate, he was talking up my issues so I didn't have to
RNader was right, our issues are majoritarian issues

I'm a member of SEIU Local 2028 (so I have to wear steel-toed shoes on the job)

great-grandfather, grandfather

grandfather died the day before he'd have retired, grandmother lost the entire pension

MA: we don't have as much time as we might want to interview candidates, but we appreciate both of you for coming
one reason we want a strong candidate is to help boost the rest of the ticket

Michigan may be a battleground state, and any holding back might hurt chances further down the ticket

even though we are a battleground state, would you run hard here and help us get 170k votes/major-party status?

KM: committed to running as hard as I can, especially in Michigan

happy to return here as soon as I can, meet with press, etc

all I can say is we really need not to be ashamed of being Green

DC: if GPMI can show it has the capacity to use a Presidential-candidate visit to build the party, great

but I put it to you to justify that; just presuming a Presidential-candidate visit [. . .]

find me an occasion to speak to a bunch of folks who are not committed Greens and I'll be there

Ted H asks how many people? 50, says DC; no problem, says Ted H; K'zoo Greens have Earth Day
great; help get me funded to do it & I'm there

2:45 - 3:00pm BREAK [2:41]

3:00 - 4:30pm GPMI National Delegate Selection (part II: votes on blocking concerns; approval voting) [3:11]
any blocking concerns? no

any changes of Statements of Intent/etc after the forum?

a few more questions/clarifications (several say if Camejo not running, then they won't support him)

Carolyn Dulai asks if gender equity to be considered? not strict rule, but to be considered (especially in case of ties)

voting: Ray Ziarno & Ted H to count

straw poll . . . John LaP describes/moderates

concerns about people wanting to be more informed before voting; why not vote at May? [need names?]

eventual twinkle on holding a non-binding straw poll now, serious votes at locals or in May unless can't be there

while votes being counted, Sylvia I comes up to describe Camejo visit 3/29 to Detroit

he'll speak about running a strong Green candidate; we're passing the hat for him

Ray Ziarno re Chad Kister of Athens, OH . . . traveling through ANWR

wants to come to SE Michigan; has book - he'll be in area 4/8-15, wants places to show his slide show

other announcements

Carolyn re Rev. Pinkney . . . would like to have been here today, will come to the next meeting near Benton Harbor

George C giving a plug for DGP's "no blood for oil" billboard (& bumper sticker) campaign

reality is that 3-4 corporations control most of the speech people are exposed to

cf Dean (beginning of end came after he called for breaking up media conglomerates)

Pete S has an example of a good local meeting (Traverse Bay Watershed Greens report)

Margaret G reminds us about global day of demonstration 3/20 (Michigan still against the war)

Fred was a delegate to World Social Forum in Mumbai, can give slide show on that

[popular slogan: "When Bush Comes to Shove, Resist"]

Art M re Michigan Legal Services lawsuit that health care is a right (handout)

Jim Moreno on county's Health & Human Services Collaborative Council, thinks they'd support this
maybe other counties' councils could sign on, too

Art wants a press release ready for when the lawsuit is filed (not yet)
Matt Abel re Detroit Coalition for Compassionate Care . . .
has signatures for a ballot question on the August primary supporting medical marijuana
that group and MI NORML having a bowling fundraiser

5-minute BREAK; back 4:25pm

results of delegate selection (Lou announces, Jim Moreno writes) – 39 votes cast:

delegates:

Jim Moreno
Lou Novak
Sylvia Inwood
Matt Abel
Priscilla Dziubek
Harley Mikkelson
Margaret Guttshall
Rebekah Mikkelson

Doug Campbell
Paul Felton
Ken Mathenia
George Corsetti
John La Pietra
Pete Schermerhorn
Candace Collins
Pete Ponzetti

alternates:

Linda Manning Myatt
Adrianna Buonarroti
Jan Mathenia
Suzie Zick
Susan Fawcett
Penny Adrian
Kris Miner
Desmond Collins

Art Myatt
Carolyn Dulai
Lynn Meadows
Merry Mikkelson
Marc Reichardt
John Porter
David Palmer
Karen Shelley
David Spitzley
David Newland
[details to be added later]

Priscilla proposes, Eric seconds to balance gender by taking top 8 women & men each (now 11M, 5F)

lotsa discussion, some highlights:

top vote-getter got 34, bottom 14

Ken M volunteers to become alternate instead of delegate

Paul F suggests having locals not elect folks

George C also willing to be an alternate here, maybe run for local seat; that would make 9M, 7F

Fred: democracy is also a work in process

Kris M: with withdrawals, we're close; maybe let that stand and go forward after

Bill O: why don't more ladies participate in the Green Party?

Ray Z, Bill O raise blocking concern to motion as it is (coulda changed before the vote, but after. . .)

Priscilla doesn't want to withdraw or accept friendly amendment

John LaP offers a third withdrawal, but Priscilla still wants a vote on principle

more discussion, vote: 25 yes - 9 no - 1 abstention

so L Myatt, A Buonarroti, J Mathenia promoted to delegates;

J. La Pietra, P Schermerhorn, P Ponzetti demoted to alternates

(John LaP didn't want to be an alternate, P Ponzetti drops out)

Kris Minor moves that replacements be still in vote-getting order but of the same gender

Paul F proposes making sure to fill unfilled local slots to keep balance, too (Kris accepts as friendly amendment)

Bill O raises blocking concern: "democracy has just died here today"

vote again: 26 yes - 4 no - 3 abstentions

straw poll:

8 just voted for one (4 Nader; 1 each Cobb, Mesplay, Mikkelson; + 1 not enough info)

2 approval (Cobb 2; Mesplay, Bilyeu, Salzman, Nader 1 each)

IRV: Cobb edges Nader in finals (last round; Camejo, Mesplay tied for 3rd; Harley M 5th)

[note: these were figured by Ken M, based on effectively counting approval ballots as multiple votes;

fractional votes for those two ballots (1/4 for each of four named on one ballot, 1/2 for each of two on the other)?

might be fairer way to include the intent of those two ballots . . . or could toss them out . . .]

→ end of day 1 ←

Sunday, Feb. 22

9:30 - 9:45am Opening and Agenda Review
start at 9:35; welcome to Marc, Adrianna, & David S

announcements:

Ted H thanks folks for filling out; Lou N has volunteer database form

officer position: Membership Secretary

but David Palmer & Casey Paine not here yet, so put it off

may want to break at 10am to see what Ralph Nader will announce (or maybe just have some people look)

changes to agenda

Carolyn & Karen's diversity issues; David Newland to speak; David S announces re: Green Stuff

9:45 - 10:30am Water Warriors Update and Call to Action

Priscilla Dziubek leads presentation; starts with brief background

GPMI started with water issues by working with Sweetwater Alliance on Ice Mountain

MI has 20% of world's fresh water, so it's a high priority here

people are being denied access to fresh, clean water in Detroit/Highland Park and elsewhere across the state

Jim Moreno update on Nestle/Perrier/Ice Mountain

first time we got involved [. . .]

breakthrough when Judge Lawrence Root ruled for MCWC in their lawsuit vs Nestle, said Ice Mountain had to stop but Granholm's DEQ and Labor and Economic [Growth Coalition?] asked Appeals Court to stay the order

and DEQ met with Nestle lawyers behind closed doors beforehand

Jim's heard both Ds & Rs were freaked out by her doing this . . . Engler-like

Jim called assistant director of DEQ about Friend of Court briefs

stay may mean Nestle can keep pumping 250 gallons/minute while appeals go on (maybe 5 years, Jim's heard)

bill passed would increase fees, but Granholm upset because it would take power away from DEQ

latest court development: Judge Root denied Nestle's request for a new trial

MEPA allows any citizen to report environmental problems and sue . . . but you can't recover legal costs

so MCWC has to raise funds even though they won

find out more at waterissweet.org

Terry Swier of MCWC is going all around to get support (& money)

as a result of this case, three Native American tribes joined in the suit . . .

but Fed Ct in GR told the tribes they had no right

Sanctuary Springs (extraction) site zoning changed from agricultural to commercial

locals got petition drive going, but govt ruled the wording was wrong and rejected the initiative

we've become more aware of general water issues

how ridiculous it is that Highland Park people are getting shut off with high bills

and at the same time the government is also giving Nestle free water

we have information that Perrier has 32 other sites in Michigan it's looking at developing

we've done lots of things:

gone to Meijer's because it sells Ice Mountain; group also has T-shirts, etc., etc.

but many people are disillusioned because of what Granholm has (& hasn't) done

she told Jim (when he asked at a rally) yeah, she was gonna shut Ice Mountain down

so we should run for office, get in their faces, do everything we can to show how schizophrenic is MI's water policy

Priscilla adds: not only have governor & DEQ sided with corporation via Friend of the Court brief

but two prominent water activists in Detroit area have been subpoenaed by grand jury

to submit to DNA testing, palmprints etc

intimidation & suppression are part of it, too

update on subpoena situation in *AWOG*: attempt to quash subpoena denied, so activists had to submit (Jan 20)

and there's been no action . . . so where's the urgency of purported bioterrorism concern?

Bob B[?]: AG Granholm had written a brief against Perrier

Doug: when you're bucking for governor, you oppose the current governor

Priscilla: water-grabbing corporations are transnational, not just in Michigan

turning water into a commodity

cf GATS and attempts to put water-delivery services under it

so if any part of the system is privatized, it opens up all of it

now she'll bring up Fred who was at World Social Forum

Fred _____ (Detroit) on international water crisis

World Social Forum held in Mumbai Jan 16-21 (4th one, held in response to World Economic Forum [Davos?])

two slogans: "Our world is not for sale." / "Another world is possible."

it's hard to believe how big a problem this is internationally

Bechtel in Cochabamba, Bolivia raised rates so high water cost became 25% of take-home pay

dams have been created in India to divert people's water for corporations

in particular, there's been quite a lot of conflicts in India

Enron imposed a huge hydroelectric dam on the people (with Indian government & World Bank)

now it's gone belly-up and the people have to pay Enron for it

World People's Water Forum in Delhi the week before

Maria and Nia both from Detroit, and Blair Stevenson [M] from Mount Pleasant, were there

water easier to sell than air (but they're working on that)

. . . and people around the world can't believe thousands of people in Detroit don't have fresh water
this gives a lot of people hope that US will [. . .]

Priscilla gives update on Highland Park

we've been concentrating here, there's a lot of citizen input

Highland Park is surrounded by Detroit

used to be 60,000 people but now 16,000 or so . . . mostly seniors/retirees, etc

when Engler appointed emergency financial manager to run Highland Park,

she brought in a city manager to handle the water situation

Highland Park has its own reservoir, doesn't get water from Detroit as other suburbs do

but sewerage does come from Detroit

9-month bills with astronomical rates (and claimed usage volumes) sent to people on fixed incomes

some of the things we've done:

gone to City Council (newly-elected, but not much power)

we put forward a resolution October 20 to address the water situation; it's been tabled ever since

with the new members (some of whom we supported as a water coalition), we have hope

Council meets at 7pm on 3rd Mondays

contacting governor about situation in Highland Park

tried to get her to come . . . "Jenny Roasts" in summer

took resolutions, educational info door-to-door, have filled Council chambers on a number of nights

got a special session called to address the issue (but old Council's resolution didn't resolve anything)

now planning a trip to Lansing

held a press conference at HPCC

organized with others from around state (Mount Pleasant, Traverse City, etc)

to lobby; 5 demands:

- * immediate moratorium (exec order or Leg action) against utility shut-offs in winter (light, gas, water)
[some agencies don't count water as a utility] & reinstate people who have been shut off

- * pass permanent laws declaring water a human right

- * Nestle permit be revoked and pass laws to block any other corporate profiteering on public water

- * three Engler appointees (Mercer Group privatizers) be terminated

 - & give control back to the people of Highland Park

- * Victor Mercado's contract be terminated

 - he has privatization background, too, and has admitted he's doing it now

also met with SE Michigan governor's aides (as part of the checklist of things we can say we've tried)

Granholtz did come to Highland Park – governor's office arranged the visit . . . public, but not publicly invited

Highland Park Human Rights Coalition, one of the most active community organizations, was not invited

but we organized and got people out to the meetings

the meeting on water issues by far was the largest one

and the message coming out of it was that we needed the governor to come

so she came last Wednesday for a couple of hours

initially the meeting was going to be at Michigan Works! office

but that office wouldn't even hold our group today . . . so we asked governor's aides to find a bigger space

they moved it to the Atrium at the CC, and we had over 300 people there

she listened while people told of her lack of action on Ice Mountain, Highland Park issues

but listening doesn't mean any action (at least not yet)

at least she knows the water coalition across the state stands against violations of human rights

& everyone's for shutting down Ice Mountain

going forward . . . we have actions to be taken

we don't know where else water shut-offs and privatization steps are being taken

a unity statement for local, national, and international groups [Priscilla read it out; she has a copy of the text]
want people willing to follow up with the legislators

Bill McConico (State Rep for Highland Park) introduced us while we were in the gallery
prepare letters & send them to legislators; track responses; and schedule visits – find out where they stand
put the issue more in the public eye: letters to editors, talking with people . . . get dialogue going
boycott: not just Perrier/Nestle products, but ask them [. . .]

picketing Meijer's stores throughout the state
but we want to expand that
stop buying all bottled water

(Bob B[?] says every bottle you buy and drink means you've just privatized that water)
assure quality of water in municipal systems (and access for all)
you should be able to call your local water board, find out how many in your community are being shut off
Valerie Johnson: brought it to the attention of the Highland Park faith-based community, but no [response?]
so she suggests talking with neighbors and faith communities

David: person (strong GOP) connecting water to his business in Bellaire has a well but can't use it
his view: "they want that minimum bill, even if we don't use the water"

it's a profit center . . . for cities, and corporations
85% of people in US get water from public utilities . . . an untapped market, especially poor communities
lots more privatization in Europe & Asia

we had a picket in October or November at the Flint Meijer's store (Grand Blanc)
they won't let us talk to people in the parking lot or pass out literature
so we printed up T-shirts saying "Ask Me About Ice Mountain"
but we didn't even make it past the pushcarts
they arrested Marie Mason; she's asking for a jury trial as freedom of speech
we want people to come to the trial
no dates yet for jury selection, etc . . . but Priscilla will put the info out on the list

Paul F says Jobs with Justice (most active wing of AFL-CIO) might help; he'll talk with their organizers

Carolyn: not a solution, but could they have quarterly bills?

. . . and any city losing 2/3 of its people is going to be hurting financially

Valerie: claimed reduction of deficit from \$30-something M to \$12M, but nothing in writing
two trucks come to shut off water: one to do the shutting off, the other armed(!)

John LaP : have we signed onto this? (PD: no) do you want us to? (yes) so we did (twinkles)

Margaret G could take it to writers' union and student committee, too

have we considered running someone for office there?

Priscilla says Valerie has suggested Wayne Co Treasurer

he's proposed to apply water-bill debts to property taxes (so you could lose your house)

Valerie (Johnson) agrees to run! she's introduced:

longtime businesswoman who had to give it up; a co-chair of the Highland Park Human Rights Coalition

Jim M has approached a couple of people (another woman _____ has declined, no word on Terry Swier)

lots of the local-group founders were GOP, but are disillusioned with "both" parties . . .

Bob B jumps in to say Ralph Nader is running as an independent

[another ___] mentions Inland Seas sailing-ship program to teach kids (of all ages?) about the Great Lakes

there's a Sweetwater group in Traverse City

also understand Coke and Pepsi are both controlling and wasting water in India

and John Kerry [. . .]

David Newland notes Inland Seas isn't political, but educational – but may be useful; also notes Maritime Academy

Fred notes no Coke or Pepsi at World Social Forum

10:30 - 10:45am BREAK [off 10:45]

10:45 - 11:45am Michigan Shadow Cabinet Proposal (withdrawn; other business instead) [back 11:06]

Carolyn presents her resolution [text available]

the one Latina on the GPUS Steering Committee has resigned

proposal: have no more than 75% of seats filled by white women & men; leave a position empty if not

John LaP: how many on committee? 7-11, if restructuring

Margaret requests two stacks (M & F)

Bill O & Carolyn object/block; Lou notes this came out of previous SMM, & discussion

Carolyn likes better keeping track; Matt A supports trying that

Ted H asks if this means some people on one stack won't get to talk when other stack ends (no)

Paul F suggests OKing Margaret's proposal with modification of continuing to the end of stack

19-4-3 to try it this way

Margaret G supports resolution

Marc R . . . pardon me if I pontificate a bit

on Carolyn's proposal, there's a certain problem with national level and all levels of Green Party: population balance

I was trying to lead Coordinating Committee [. . .]

currently, it doesn't do a damn thing . . . the Steering Committee does it all, and people are overwhelmed

until that situation changes, leaving empty positions on the committee may not be a good idea

potentially, we could be leaving entire areas of issue/discussion unstaffed

GPMI & GPUS don't have enough [. . .]

re Margaret's proposal, we used to leave this problem at the recognition of the stacker

as I've said lots on the SCC list, often our process overwhelms our intent

if we trust each other to share our values, it's not necessary to build such a rigid structure (body without soul)

Adrianna: while extremely supportive of equity & Affirmative Action

[minutes-taker out for a time, looking for a solution to the sound problem . . . (changed [microphones?])]

Ted: leaving seats open could paralyze the committee

Priscilla: thinks people will be found to fill the seats

Harley: change 75% to a specific number? fill with qualified people? try to avoid causing problem with quorum?

Karen: insulting to imply aren't qualified

women don't have equality even yet

I for one can't belong to an organization that's only white males

Lou closes stack (5 men left on it)

Bill O (trying to be less of a booming white male)

believes in equality, but democracy is often a hard thing to practice; he's kind of a half-assed Buddhist

David S

a few philosophical statements, but I have problems on implementation grounds

we've had trouble getting people to run for the seats available on other committees

we have about a dozen minority members on the CC (Carolyn thinks four)

and some aren't qualified to be on the Steering Committee . . . I'm not, for one . . . it's basically a full-time job

don't have a philosophical problem with the idea, but the people don't exist (Karen: we *get* the people to exist)

"immediately" impossible

[stack re-balanced at group's consensus]

Paul F: basically in favor, though sensitive to concerns

something like this is always somewhat artificial and imperfect

and I think we all agree this is our goal, to get equity – but sometimes something is necessary (cf. yesterday)

sensitive to Adrianna's points, don't want to be putting pressure on people to fill positions they don't want

but thinks we could pass it and thereby send a message, push national level to take some favorable action

Rebekah: if CC is most important body, wouldn't equity there be more important?

Carolyn: SC is small; easier to change, more visible . . . and not pulling from there (at least doesn't have to)

Ken M: we have to support diversity, but I'd rather do something at the state level and then request GPUS to follow suit

Karen S: agrees that we need to do this in both the state and national Green Parties

I've been raising this issue for two years' worth of SMMs

maybe this will get us off our butts and working to feel [. . .]

Valerie doesn't feel uncomfortable . . . because environmental issues touch all of us, black or white

5 neighbors & myself kept medical-waste incinerator out of Highland Park

blacks keep blacks out, too

Karen asks would she recommend that her friends come? yes

we're a poor community; we don't have time to come to meetings, just trying to survive

good! . . . but Greens need to make participation more possible for poor people

I dunno what budget priorities CC & SC have had, but I think this ought to be a priority

Fred: new to the party, so just sharing impressions

support it as a "sense of the body" resolution (GPMI can't tell GPUS what to do)

Michigan has a history of progressive leadership on issues

Labor Party had the same problems (I was on the national committee); they went out and recruited people to fill seats

sense of the motion is to put some effort into this . . . and doing it will bring you results

Adrianna: just want to say I think I could support this proposal if . . .

GPMI decided to form & actually formed a committee/group for outreach to communities of color

Jim Moreno: supports proposal, understands some of its practical limitations

what I also heard was that we've been struggling with this issue for a long time (and putting it off)

what if we don't send a message to the national? that'd be a bad thing for us all here

an issue that lets loose such emotions has [. . .]

Margaret: both Adrianna & Ken made some good points

it's really important that Carolyn's proposal came out of a very specific situation

(Latina Anita Rios resigned, replaced by a white man)

Carolyn wanted to see replacement preserve a [. . .]

likes Adrianna's suggestion to come together here and focus on how to
my opinion is that it doesn't begin with recruitment of membership (at least not in Detroit) . . .

but with getting them to support our candidates

alternating stacks wasn't cooked up by Priscilla to annoy people, it's a worldwide movement
we saw it at Porto Alegre

share an observation: yesterday, nobody interrupted the two guys at the front of the room

today, several interrupted Priscilla, nobody interrupted Jim & Fred

Valerie throws in observations on diversity (thought up during her drive)

Highland Park 93% African-American

was HPHRC not invited because we "weren't qualified"?

what are the qualifications to join something to help humanity

David N: this is non-binding, right? we can't force

blocking concerns from Bill O & Ted H; vote: 20 yes - 4 no - 6 abstentions . . . passes

11:45am-1:00pm LUNCH [12:11pm]

back at 1:17pm, with David Newland (seeking nomination for 1st District seat in Congress)

47 yrs old, married 24 yrs, 3 kids

now work at nuclear power plants for a living (have done anything from shoveling shit on up)

for part of my life I lived in a single-parent family

joined the Navy for something to do to earn money; joined Navy nuclear program

worked in until 1994 – chose to make \$15k instead of \$60k, but make every one of kids' games, meets, etc.

learned a lot about the tax system, too

the rest is something I wrote last year before invasions, or any thoughts I had of Greens

I'll read some of it

orthodoxy would rather be denounced than questioned (Horace _____ [Throxtton or so?])

US folks are selfish, self-serving, wasteful

baby-boomers picked as an example because they're biggest group, drive trends

I believe there is a great deal of idealism out there, but nobody who wants to lead

hey, Ds, Rs, & Reformers, it isn't about the economy, or the military, etc. . . . it's about the country

racism is ugly, and doesn't belong in the land of the free . . .

so why can't we stamp it out? we don't think about what it means

[Lou asks about some of the issues]

the Family Marriage amendment is why I finally decided to get involved

I believe everyone in the family deserves the same rights

amendment would be first time Constitution was used to take away rights

what if gays formed a church? this amendment would violate freedom of religion

and if they're first, who gets turned on next?

[Candace: any particular incident in your area or life that inspired the treatise on racism?]

no . . . he grew up in [Hartland?], near Benton Harbor

when I was growing up, we called it "Benton Harlem"

dad grew up in S Ohio & Kentucky. . . .

[Paul F: concern about N-word, even in sensitive story]

[you come across with a lot of integrity and emotion (people like that), . . .]

[but you'll also have to think of the voters you're trying to reach and what's important to them]

[this is one good issue, but you'll need more]

my 137-page book has positions on any issues anyone would care to discuss

[Candace: traveled with Ray Ziarno; suggests having someone in the audience to signal to you:

[speak up louder, running long, etc]

[Lou: how contact if interested in helping?]

northstar@torchlake.com

doesn't want to presume he'll get the nomination, but in case he does he wants as many contacts as he can get

and he's changed . . . thought he was just going to run to be a spoiler, but now he kinda wants to win the thing

1:00 - 1:45pm GPMI Campaign School: Recruitment and Organization

Jim Moreno

Doug Campbell

Adrianna Buonarroti

Matt Abel

Matt suggests David Palmer to join; Lou says David P has his own presentation for later

R to L, 5 minutes or so each:

Jim Moreno: ran based on his involvement in Green/etc. actions; so glad he did
people in an Arab-American conference were excited about running, getting their concerns heard
he says: “the party that first recognizes and rewards [the upcoming groups] will survive and thrive”
also appreciates connections to worldwide movements that the Greens offer
if you’re mad about stuff, want to change things, feel your voice isn’t being heard . . .
best thing to do is run for office, get involved in a campaign, speak to elected officials, & persevere
people ask him to speak; he’s involved with the C of C (never thought he would be)
going to DC (to meet the Hispanic Caucus) . . . he’s excited, wants it to happen to/for others!

Adrianna Buonarroti: Doug’s running mate (Lieutenant Governor) in 2002
he campaigned around the state, I was more support person . . . but felt amazingly supported when I did speak/etc
felt like I was standing on all of your shoulders
I would go to forums, and Ds & Rs weren’t saying anything meaningful (afraid it would stop their being elected)
and people talked to me afterward and thanked me for what I’d said
that’s our strong suit: what we say is what we really mean; we have nothing to lose
one of my goals is to elect 6 new Greens in the state this year (though she’s not running herself)
also on the national Co-ordinated Campaign Committee
what I see as the things that need to happen:
figure out how to focus our efforts, find resources and put them with campaigns
if you’re not planning to run, think about what you could contribute to a campaign
I’m going to be out there trying to get people to help our candidates win

Doug Campbell: I’d like to be campaign manager for 12th CD this year
2 years ago I came to this body feeling very strongly that we must put someone in the top slot
in this game, that’s where half the publicity and attention are
I presented this idea forcefully, and people said OK, go do it
starting out on this campaign, I felt uncertain about qualifications
went to my first event (MI Press Assn debate in GR) feeling like an outsider
by the end of that day I felt I was the 7th most qualified out of 12 (1 didn’t show up)
I met Jim Blanchard, got to see how he responded to face-to-face Qs (that makes me feel more qualified)
and Dick Posthumus is a really nice guy
a credible candidate from Day One
the second event, the next day (MEA), I got a standing ovation
very little experience in education (other than being in school)
in Q+A, we got into energy; other candidates’ answers were mediocre
I put out a more rational position (hemp oil)
vote total wasn’t tremendous, but it was possible
some wise person courage not absence of fear, but going ahead anyway
you are more qualified than you know

Matt Abel: run for office 5 times, all losses; dunno what I’m doing here. . . .
talk about this election season upon us now, and strategic considerations
15 Congressional districts; do we want to contest all of them?
Libertarians say bring your cell phones, we’ll call people and urge them to be candidates; we could do that
I think we need to run in 15 Congressional districts (maybe not all full-out)
county races: sheriff, prosecutor, county clerk, [drain commissioner, etc.]
I’m thinking of running on the township level
I think we should focus on partisan races (non-partisan races divert our resources)
we should be involved in ballot initiatives: anti-Affirmative Action, medical marijuana in Detroit, etc
other groups are doing things, we need to be aware

opened for questions; Margaret wants to speak as a candidate

I was State House 006 candidate; one thing I want to say is that we were totally right to run Doug & Adrianna
lots of conflict about it at the time: “we need to be getting rid of Engler”, etc.
Michigan is a lesson for the country: we were told, “just get rid of Engler” . . . but no better with Granholm
same thing with “anybody but Bush”
one difference I’ve noticed with Greens: the first point of running is to build a mass movement of millions
even after you get elected, the goal is to build the movement (cf Workers’ Party in Brazil)
never give people the illusion that electing one person, no matter how honest, can make a difference
we should also encourage labor movement, people of color to put up their own candidates

Art Myatt: also ran in the same election; I think it's important for candidates to run for the whole party
last time, we failed to do that . . . several candidates did little for us
sent out 34,000 pieces of mail;
most of it said "vote for me", but I added applicable part of slate card, said why people should vote for them
we need to find more ways for candidates
also want to speak in favor of people who just stand for election
if you have a choice of a stander and a vigorous runner, the runner is an obvious choice
but we don't always have that choice
I figure 10-15% of people may know before they come to the voting booth there's a Green candidate
but 100% of the time when they see us on the ballot, they know it then . . . that's a lot to do
better to have somebody doing a little than nobody doing nothing

Jim Q for Margaret: lots of Detroit districts are one-party . . . did anyone in your district argue against your running?
most of my district is black, but it includes Wayne State; both the R and the D were African-American; no incumbent
I'm sure some were uncomfortable with a white person running against two blacks, but nobody said anything
many people were supportive

Lou to panel: how would you recommend addressing "spoiler" accusations?

Matt: yeah, we're going to spoil them as much [as we can?]

Doug: I just point to Granholm's record (I was told if I didn't vote Democratic, bad things would happen; they did)

Adrianna: 1) talk about IRV as a way to avoid spoiling;

2) say, "I know there's this issue out there, but here's what I believe in . . . if you believe in them, take a chance"

Jim: I've been approached a lot recently; the first thing that comes to mind is Granholm's environmental record
no Ice Mountain shutdown, govt on the side of corporations
our issues (HC, war, etc.) are not being addressed; if we don't have the right to address them, what do we have?

David N: could you talk about your experiences with fundraising?

Matt: I raised/spent \$5,000 or so & got 57,000 votes; maybe a Const amendment to count votes per dollar . . .
find a couple Green millionaires? need to find ways to ask, get the message out there
also work for public financing, get as much free media as you can

Doug: two things were extremely painful: getting beaten up by police & fundraising
we won't get public funding until after we get a strong Green presence in
a couple of weeks ago I met Kent Mesplay in Ohio; "we talked for an hour and he didn't hit me up for money"
in the governor's race, there are matching funds available if we reach \$75,000 from at least 750 donors
some people do look at that as the measure of seriousness in candidates

I dunno what's the answer except that I did a lousy job before [Matt agrees with the matching-funds goal]

Adrianna: what I learned about fundraising during our campaign was that I suck at it
but I've learned more since; there are campaign-training videotapes that focus on fundraising
at GPUS meeting 2 yrs ago, a former D fundraiser spoke: "this is hard, but you just have to suck it up"
candidate is the best, next best is someone connected with the candidate
also suggests aiming slightly higher than you think people will give (won't lose what they might have given)
also the national CCC can provide info on fundraising (a section on it in the manual)

Jim: first I'll talk about the specifics of my campaign for City Council (maybe \$100)
got on TV through City Council meetings
the main thing is that you'll have to encapsulate what you want to do and make it clear-cut
people are giving money as a symbol of what they want to happen
since being elected, I've done a lot of fundraising
it takes a lot of creativity to get your message out . . . and money, too . . . but the more we do that, the better
example: CMU canceled a concert series; I went around to people and raised money to restore it

Doug: two more comments . . .

people really believe in the spoiler idea, so maybe we could ask Republicans to contribute to Greens . . .

I want to put a motion forward to establish a Congressional campaigns committee for fundraising for all 15

Marc: will you head it? (Ted will if Doug won't)

Margaret concerned that D machine is trying to tar us as agents of the white racist Rs; we can make it easy or hard
I want to eliminate irony, jokes, any sound bite that could be picked out to help Ds make that case
we had some problems making effective campaigning difficult in Detroit; one was differing issue positions/priorities
this is one of the few times I'll say "I told you so"
I wasn't even well-informed about Greens, but we still managed to get groups to recommend straight-Green vote
I think it's a mistake to put a pre-condition on candidates to say they need to support building the Green Party
build support for causes

Harley wants to urge everyone here to run for something . . . you're the most political, active people in the party!
it's fun running for office: we all enjoy talking about politics, and this gives you an excuse (Doug: people listen too)

I'll be a lot more serious this time if I decide to run
it doesn't take a lot of money, but the more serious you are the more it takes
you can ask for it . . . and people will give it if you do
you'll get chances to speak (though maybe not when you want to . . . we are Greens)
as Margaret brought up, raise issues . . . now we can say "I told you so", and that's fun too

Candace: I live in 10th CD, we had no Green candidate, Carl Marlinga won
he said the most effective campaign tool is a bumper sticker (seen by 25,000 people)
I've seen lots of money spent by well-meaning candidates
let's see more stickers used that can be "recycled"

Paul F: on top of Adrianna's ask-for-more point, people who give more are more invested in your campaign
re Doug's comment, it does political harm if we're seen seriously as doing that (not just black Detroit vs white R)
[Doug was serious, but asking for small donations from individuals in your area who might be leaning R]
Paul F still concerned about it
re Margaret's point, it is important to build the movement (membership), but that can be alongside party & issues
Matt: I was explicitly running to build the party
maybe we should focus on open seats, education boards (& I think 1 each rather than 2)

Carl: conversation's moved from where I was going to jump in
about the spoiler issue . . . Eugene Debs had a good answer
"I'd rather vote for what I want and not get than vote for what I don't want and get it"
Green candidates' votes might not be votes at all if no Green candidates
re campaign financing, candidates should identify their constituencies
and not be ashamed to ask for \$\$ from those you represent

Rev. Happy
running for SH084 (may have to cash checks this year)
the best advice I've gotten: "they're going to put a bullet in your head"
sad to say, but it's money that elects people, not votes
the R is term-limited, so [. . .]
I didn't get elected, but the school buses run on a hemp-oil mixture

Art Myatt
let's pause to thank Kent Mesplay (hat passed for individuals to chip in)
MichUHCAN has successful fundraisers: for example, potluck dinner (\$25 a head & 50-50 raffle), etc.
another thing that works is buying out an afternoon of the Detroit Repertory Theater
& selling tickets at premium to support you and them
Second City effort was a flop: only raised \$1,000 (instead of \$2-3,000)

1:45 - 2:00pm BREAK [out 2:56; back 3:02]

Lou introduces Casey Paine of new Ypsi local, who's interested in taking Lynn Meadows' place as Membership Sec'y
she worked on some campaigns in Maine
Paul F nominates, no blocking concerns, passed

2:00 - 2:45pm GPMI Campaign School: Planning and Strategy [3:05 or so]

David Palmer
worked on Eder campaign in Maine, was at Racine campaign school; his presentation is partly pirated from that
he doesn't agree with everything in the GPUS manual, but it's good
advocates for the power of the list (strong on voter history for the past 5-6 years)
many Greens haven't given themselves permission to win (or lose) . . . and lose a bunch of privacy along either way
media kit was something the campaign school made me think a lot about
bio of who/why/what you are; photo (preferably digital) for papers to use (get it to them within a few weeks)
another huge pet peeve is fliers with flaws (e.g., thousands of trifolds that fold over sentences)
find a treasurer who knows how to use a calendar and get things filed by the right date
don't have people at meetings who don't need to be there (they could be doing something else worthwhile)
[he's working on Keith Agdanowski's impending City Council campaign, they're already planning kick-off event]
[Lou N says Pete S has a list of the kinds of information he has on our database]
[and David S says by May he may have a turnkey database application available for us on CD]
Great Lakes campaign school had a panel of real media people who told us what they looked for

more than half the people who'd like to support you don't have any time to give, but can give money
so if you don't ask you're denying them their last chance to support
I haven't known any Green campaign to pick up & drop off voters
. . . . (see slides)

Qs & As

[Adrianna: are you still willing to help with campaigns despite your ankle injury?]

don't want to travel more than 1 hour or so

Lynn Meadows said Chelsea is running a full slate of candidates for Village Council

[John LaP re other uses for big map . . . precincts or other pieces for walking, etc.]

[Jim M: in my case when I was running for City Council, a friend advised me to get on TV by coming to City Council]

[also, for \$200 you could sponsor a day on your PBS affiliate]

right . . . don't have to focus on big-bucks advertising

done 3:48

[note: Fox 66 had set up for a few crowd shots; during the break, reporter interviews Doug C]

2:45 - 3:00pm BREAK [?]

3:00 - 3:45pm GPMI Campaign School: Fundraising

Lou notes we have a professional fundraiser here: Bob Bucholtz

people lucky; you get to hear the most important fact about fundraising again

Jim Moreno pointed out one very important fact in fundraising

initially, he spent/raised \$100

the next figure he gave us he'd raised was? \$2,000

the \$100 was for himself; the \$2,000 was for a really important program

one of the most key points in fundraising: you're selling the Greens, then you're selling yourself

can be hard to put yourself out of it and keep your vision in front of you

we're in the position of being focused on the message, having the organization be bigger than the name on the ballot

we should have GPMI business cards (with space for personal information)

common goal, common/like-minded people, common view

you just happen to be a functionary of the party/movement/system

he's "been knocking doors for half a century" . . .

[Matt asks if he'd head a fundraising effort]

he'd like to ask

[running for sheriff? (Q from Matt)]

wants to run somewhere (somebody named Abel is pushing him to run for CD04 . . .)

3:45 - 4:00pm Closing [4:03pm]

any closing remarks/announcements?

John LaP on by-laws, caucusing, etc.

Adrianna to Lou to Marc on vetting questionnaire

Margaret asks if there'll be any discussion of 2004 GPMI platform?

Rev. Happy questions whether the questionnaire aims at worship of the Green Party

discussion of what the questionnaire is for and what it wants

good words toward Lou, Flint Greens for a good meeting

reminder: next time May 22-23 in Traverse City!

[after the meeting, we find out WWMT Ch 3 K'zoo has left a message; Marc calls back, talks about Nader etc.]