

GPMI State Membership Meeting * Lapeer * February 27-28, 2010

Saturday, February 27

- 10:00am Tour: Willows Environmental Center / 231 Lake Drive (strawbale building with solar panels, etc.)
- 1:00pm Lapeer Ctr / 425 County Center St: Business Meeting, 2010 election planning (BOX LUNCHES available for purchase)
- 4:00pm Eagles Club / 3565 Davison Road: Goat Races, Chili & Beer
- 6:00pm resume meeting at Lapeer Center / 425 County Center St.

<* I wasn't there yet . . . Art M took notes for these sessions *>

Lapeer SMM Feb 27, 2010

10:00-12:00 Tour of Willows Educational Center straw bale building

Lunch at Lapeer County Center

Attending at the beginning of the meeting:

1. Lynn M.
2. Derek G. (& grand-daughter Kalise)
3. George C.
4. Doug C.
5. Harley M.
6. Merry M.
7. Candace C.
8. Desi. C.
9. Bruce McG.
10. Lloyd C.
11. Fred V.
12. Rev. P.
13. Dorothy P.
14. Aimee S.
15. Chuck L.
16. Art M.
17. Dorr (bldg manager, not GP Member)

Fred - nominate and elect officers and be clear about our convention date/place.

Save time for Rev. Pinkney to update on BH activities.

Lynn has merchandise for locals if people from those locals are present to take it.

Chuck L. Has put membership spreadsheet on SCC Yahoo group files.

Mr. Dorr building manager and on Lapeer Center Board. Speaking on environmental activities. Building in existence since 1950s. Original purpose for 4-H group. Recent work on energy costs \$30-35K per year. 16K square ft. building. \$110 K was cost of project to improve. Lighting replacement for quickest return New fixtures use 25% of energy compared to old fixtures. Did very little with gas consumption - just one large room. Did put in new thermostats throughout building. Seven different heating units in the building. Kitchen refrigeration units (2 kitchens) also replaced. ~ 400 events per year, 30K people per year. New air conditioner and new dropped ceiling in the meeting room which gets most use. Community foundation grant covered 20K of costs, 17K savings, rest borrowed. County center is a non-profit corporation; land is leased from the city for \$1 per year; otherwise, no government support. May Day 60th anniversary celebration for the building. Buy a block for a dollar, \$42K original cost of building.

Nominations for officers

Chair - Fred

Vice-chair SCC - Art

Vice-chair Committee Manager - Open

Treasurer - Lou

Record Keeper - John

Locals Liaison - Harley (comments that web site needs updating) Aimee suggests a conditional willingness to continue, if site is updated). Currently depends on server in California.

Membership secretary - Chuck does not want to continue. Derek will take.

Clearinghouse coordinator - Lynn is picking up mail, so the remainder of the job consists of picking up phone messages. Richard will not be able to continue. Lloyd will volunteer.

Meeting Manager - Lynn

Elections Coordinator - John

national reps

Doug C

Linda Cree

Linda Myatt

Derek G

Lou N

Priscilla D

Fred (Alternate)

Harley (Alternate)

2:00 nominations closed - move to accept list as it stands. Passed by consensus.

Web site master; proposal from Chuck to create a new position, which will be in the bylaws. Chuck is authorized to take the lead in reorganizing the web site.

2010 elections and nominating convention.

Fred stresses importance of this coming election, possible opportunities to advance our agenda.

Current plan is middle of May in Lansing for nominating convention.

Doug advocates filing with SOS to allow media access and publicity. You are on a list at the SOS site and can be contacted by journalists.

Aimee S has sense of party decline since 2000. Would prefer not to have the national party overspend its budget. Wants focus on building local level, not candidates for governor, etc.

George - surprised to learn about May convention. Thinks the date is too early because most people do not actually get interested until several months later. Media will not pay attention to us whether we are early or late, but we can get more candidates by going for last weekend in July.

Harley - Bay City member who should have been here by now wants to run for Governor. Media is corporate controlled and has a policy of ignoring GP candidates. Favors later convention. Questions about who is this candidate - not Tony America., is pretty green and is presentable but Harley does not know the person well.

Rev. P. - Once Dems and R's announce their candidates, we will not get great publicity.

Lynn - Would like to see prospective candidates here at this meeting.

Harley - Maybe hold just before or after USSF

Aimee - Question for Rev. P. Did your candidacy help your case and have a positive effect?

Rev. P Yes and it was also good for getting the word out about the Green Party because the media was following the campaign. He will need to check with his att'y before finding if he can run.

George - After the social forum will give us a chance to meet a wider range of people and more potential candidates. What commitments have been made already. (May 15-16 in Lansing)

F red - Agrees that local electoral action is a good thing. Mentions coalition actions not electoral such as people's water board, demonstrations against shutoffs which have had some success. Favors the mid-July date but does not wish to undermine work people have put in.

Derek - Grass-roots organizing people need to stay involved, not just periodic flare-ups.
(Typos caused missing some comments.)

Doug - Top-down and bottom up are not incompatible and votes for July convention.

Lynn - may not be available personally in July.

Art - no need to cancel May venue in Lansing; can still have SMM.

Aimee - We did not have a lot of support for top of the ballot efforts because we do not have good local organization. That's why we need more focus on local organization..

Bruce - Greens should consider also being an educational organization. Greens can support other organizations around the state.

Doug comments league of conservation voters and so on of being openly hostile to the GP.

Aimee- a local can organize itself in many ways, some of which are non-political. .

Fred - agrees that locals do not have same restrictions.

Bruce - what about GP gardening in Detroit; Candace, Hantz (sp?) farms contract for \$8M as sponsors of activities. Derek - there are other organizations; Aimee - limitations on how much time people have.

Fred - calls for break talk and finish registration.

3:25 meeting resumes with drawing by Kalise

No call back from John on the question of July convention

Doug - League of Conservation Voters in May in Wednesday. Governor's forum of D's and R's. How should we respond.? Appears that they will be excluding GP. We need filed candidates.

Rev. Pinkney talk on Benton Harbor: Thanks to what Green Party has done. Last year at this time he was in jail, and then in prison in June. Threatened Judge by quoting Deuteronomy. The food was the worst - dog food would be better. Diseases inside the prison system - comes from, among other things, only one square of toilet paper a day and no soap. \$200 a month from outside would barely be enough to survive.

Muslim Brotherhood (6'5") wanted Rev. P. To do something about the food. He talked to the Aryan Nation leader, also a large man. "You don't even have to like me, but we can still work together." to boycott the food. Skinheads, Mexicans, Christian brothers are all represented in the system. All discussed not eating "buck-naked fish" the prison makes 100 pieces for 1400 people. Plan was everyone asked for this dish. They were scrambling to come up with some kind of food to serve. Warden, etc. were waiting at the end of the line on this particular Saturday; didn't know what is going on. Prisoners tell the authorities that they do not want anything. Next day for buck-naked fish, they will cook 800 pieces of this amazingly smelly fish. Lunchtime comes - nobody shows up. Pinkney has to leave the prison. This was a strike inside the prison system, and all the factions can work together. Even though they made Pinkney move on, they stopped serving this particular crappy fish, and even the Aryan Brotherhood leader was not happy to see him go.

At Marquette, Rev. P. Asked the warden if he had a microwave - and this was somehow a reason to get him to move on to another prison. 8 locations in 5 months, because they were more afraid of having him there than he was afraid of being there.

In Benton Harbor, the population was not in control of the city commission; Whirlpool was. Now, after several election victories, even though some elected officials have flipped, the people are getting control. The governor is now planning to put the city into receivership.

A protest march is being planned. Evidence to support that Judge Butzbaugh was responsible for saving Granholm's law license. Green Party should be in front of the movement to make big changes.

Fred proposes press release to be ready about GP being opposed to this receivership.

Formal consensus on having mid-July nominating convention.

Will adjourn for the day, resume at Best Western in the morning.

Lynn has basic package of merchandise for locals to take ~\$150 at cost.
10 tees, 50 bumpers & 50 pins.

<* end of Art M's day of minute-taking *>

Sunday, February 28 . . . Best Western / 770 West St

9:00am - 3:00pm breakfast and meeting: Campaign Planning, Update on Detroit USSF

9:30am unfinished <& new?> business; draft of convention rules (jalp) [10:22]

Fred V lists items:

- rerun election for recordkeeper (JALP doesn't want to hold 2 offices)
- convention date & place
- officer reports
- convention rules(?)
- platform of GPMI
- GPMI/USSF
- 2010 elections (Lynn M thinks candidates should announce now)

start with administrative things . . .

JALP didn't volunteer to be recordkeeper . . . for now, let's leave it open until the convention

convention date & place . . . yesterday's general consensus was to move the convention to July sometime

but left finally to today to let JALP have his say

Lynn M thinks we can get the same place in some date

Doug C moves to delegate location entirely to Lynn M

JALP . . . <my usual rant, as from the convention

Candice C wonders whether there are Libertarians wanting to try to run as Greens

Doug C doesn't think carpetbagging has any influence on the scheduling of the convention

and we don't need to have candidates nominated to speak at the USSF – just filed

Art M asks if JALP's is a blocking concern

Qs about whether we'd still meet in May . . . & can we stop re-deciding things?

after several rounds . . . JALP still thinks it's a mistake, but he'll stand aside

mention urging people to file to be a candidate in the *Green Light*

still hold meeting in May? Art M suggests polling membership on that – not via by-laws, but an actual mailing (reply online is OK)

along with reminding folks to renew to be delegates; can we reach a convention date by then? Lynn M thinks so

TWINKLE

also mention in the letter where the convention rules are posted

Fred V wants a one-paragraph summary; Lynn M thinks most people need mainly to know their voting responsibilities

Art M thinks something can be posted (with revisions, JALP notes, since dates were based on May 15 start)

it's given to the two of them to handle on line

Fred V moves on to officer reports (noting that when we hand them out, we often don't discuss them much)

he talks about lodging & other arrangements for USSF (lots of it at Wayne St U) . . .

Lou N had suggested workshops on people's platform?

JALP asks if MERA has asked about holding an election monitoring workshop?

Fred V says no – but USSF sign-in Website just up now; maybe they've been waiting for that

Lynn M wonders if we should discuss a national platform, since it's a national meeting

Doug C says national platform committee is working on revisions

Art M adds that a revision has to come from a state party

Art M suggests starting from scratch with the GPMI platform – but when he did, everybody shut up (he says, exaggerating)

so he wants the SMM to direct the committee to rewrite – and hold to 4,000 words

Harley M wants to limit the whole platform to 500 words

JALP notes the current platform is 12,902 words; the 2006 summary is 788 words

Harley M wonders what we need to say more than that we're against expanding nuclear power?

Doug C says we need to explain a bit of why, and so on

Fred V suggests he's not sure putting the SMM's weight behind a requirement is the best idea

Art M points out focus on current issues; Fred V adds brevity, and Doug C adds understandability

Doug C asks if Harley M's blocking Art M's proposal to

shorten, update, and make more available – and encourage people to join the cmte or its work

he says no . . . so *consensus*

Lloyd C asks how USSF and GPUS "convention" line up . . . it's clarified that GPUS's activity is an annual national meeting

USSF at Wayne State Tu-Sa 6/22-26 . . . GPUS at Cobo Hall Th-Su 6/24-27 (half-days on the bookends)

Fred V notes USSF meeting fee will be \$10; can be combined with \$75 GPUS meeting fee on one form

\$35/night for WSU dorm rooms . . . and wherever people are lodging, there will also be some workshops & social events

and everyone's happy the USSF is coming to Detroit to give business

some things are still up in the air, but . . . Lloyd C is less confused

Art M goes over his report – in spreadsheet form; asks if anybody else would prefer another format

Fred V thinks deliberations have gone better on the SCC of late . . . JALP thinks stabilized procedures may have helped

Fred V thinks conference calls may be a thing to look further into

JALP goes over his EC & Media Cmte reports

Fred V / George C / Art M talk about tri-county caucus

George C wonders if it's a philosophical issue having locals

Harley M says Tuscola Co wants to hold a caucus, too

Candice C wants to have caucus authority for Lapeer, Huron, Sanilac, and St. Clair Counties

some question about whether a county committee is necessary to hold a caucus

Candice C talks

mentions the Media Cmte's request (Lloyd C brought info for Saginaw Co)

Fred V asks about last note on JALP's report . . . some discussion of liaison with MTPC

or maybe showing up at a meeting if the board/commission is

JALP will gather the info again & send it to SCC (&

Candice C notes every county & twp clerk runs a test of the voting machines – and we can observe them

causes a little stir when a GPMI candidate does that, she notes

the testing company was glad to have our one candidate each for education boards, so talked about Greens

Lynn M also encourages people to be election inspectors

BREAK while Fred V checks out [11:44am]

Candice C asks if we want sandwiches/etc from yesterday brought in; *consensus*

Lynn M calls for a round of thanks to her & the other hosts

<* evolves into lunch break *>

back to active meeting business [12:38pm]

Art M thinks the Wiki is a good tool for drafting the letter for the poll . . . there is a "Draft Statement" workshop

Fred V adds as long as we have an end date for that process & someone to get it to Chuck and/or Derek to get it mailed out and it's arguably easier to use a commercial mailer (as is done for *Green Light* and was for *AWOG*); Fred V can contact ABC
Lynn M says we let our own mail permit go

Art M doesn't think there is such a thing as a union-shop mailer, but it was recommended to him by a union printer
ABC around 14 Mile Road
(Lynn M thinks there may be one in Ann Arbor)
target 3/10

Fred V raises discussion of CA university students' call for March 4 National Day of Action to fight tuition hikes
we should keep an eye out for actions at our nearby campuses

JALP proposes re-activating County Co-ordinators system for counties not covered by locals
(& volunteers to be official contact for Calhoun Co)

Art M says Chuck L is reviving the Web site and those pages are part of it
agreement that SCC or SMM approval is official designation
TWINKLE on that – and on JALP being/(continuing as)

Harley M announces that Matt de Heus had some kind of medical problem, which is why he's not here today
and he's running for governor (which was news to JALP)

Lynn M gave Fred V some letters:

on NAACP "Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner" . . . 5/3 this year . . . deadline to do something is 3/26
we'll look into what a card-sized ad would cost
Paul Pearson e-mailed her saying he can't come (said Matt Abel is on their board)

2010 elections

should we target any races? 2 kinds, says Fred V: (1) we have a chance to win; (2) we can make a good showing
Fred V says maybe Kilpatrick (CD-13)
George C suggests Stupak (CD-01) . . . we might even get women's repro-rights support for a candidate
Aimee Cree? Bruce McGowan? suggestion that Fred V contact MI NOW
should we solicit for candidates? Fred V put an ad in *Healing Journal* . . . and Tom M did it locally
JALP suggests state legislature may be a
Doug C says there's an open seat in Oakland Co State House . . .
he's also trying to recruit someone for State Board of Education . . . local agitator Mary Woods
George C asks if we have a process for Ds or Rs asking us not to nominate someone
Doug C says not really, but caucuses have time for considering nominations

Fred V suggests looking at this on the lists until about the end of March and then maybe issuing a release about it

Harley M has decided to put his name in for governor

doesn't know if he can support Rev. P until he knows more about views on different issues than Benton Harbor
likewise for Matt de Heus
would prefer to have a woman candidate, too – but for now . . .

and basically that's the end of the business portion of the meeting, says Fred V – now on to the informational/educational portion

1:00pm Clare McClinton will present info re: southern state bu[s]les to USSF

1:30pm Paul Pearson, MIHEMP.org

<* can't come due to work schedule . . . maybe we can have George C talk about medical-marijuana cards? *>

2:00pm Esther Fuchs, Tree Meditation; closing?

Candice C has invited 4 people from this area who are interested in the USSF

they want a canopy there (not a tent; Fred V says tents are regulated)

they voted to take their UAW single-payer committee to the USSF

she also invited Mr. Ganges, but he h

the three who are here:

Clare McClinton, active with UAW

Esther Fuchs, with local D party

Kathleen Thompson, with local D party

Des & Candice are going to a "labor college" in Silver Spring, MD (on single-payer?) . . . Clare McClinton may attend too

Clare McClinton – born & raised in Flint, recently retired from GM

now working with little scattered groups from everywhere on health care (UAW mbrs have been kicked back recently & rapidly)

their health care has been handed off to a trust fund

UAW is on record as supporting single-payer, but we don't see them fighting for it

there are some good things in the plan now in DC, but it's not real reform

let's get rid of the insurance companies and just deliver health care to the people

Labor for Single Payer conference in DC next week . . . and some retirees are going to picket at UAW Solidarity House tomorrow

UAW convention is also going to be around the time of USSF (in June) – & in Detroit, which is rare (usu Las Vegas or some such)

why was retirees' health care sent to a trust fund? corps "retirees are a legacy cost" . . . = too expensive

unions decided to accept the VEBA plan as better than nothing

at the time it was negotiated, the corps were supposed to put \$57B into it – haven't . . . now re-negotiations to come?

the labor movement can't just go to the bargaining table and do what it did in the 1950s and 1960s (when it won retiree HC)

need to find some way to get progress

Candice C says Clare was interviewed on NBC TV-25 up here

VEBA = Voluntary Employee Benefits Association . . . corps have "funded" it by putting in stock

typically, VEBAs go bankrupt in a few years (e.g., Caterpillar – KenM was active in warning about that there)

Doug C asks what we can do about UAW backing single-payer opponents, and where does she live?

in CD-05 . . . so Doug C asks if she'll run against Kildee

she says no, but Candice says she'll keep talking to her about standing for office (or finding someone else)

Esther Fuchs originated an idea for national action

she was heartbroken when the public option fell off the table

thought of the AIDS quilt

idea: a similar quilt for people in US who've died for lack of health care/insurance or denial of coverage (101,000/year x 5 yrs)

no party is shouting about this virtual genocide

Victims' Quilt Project or Living Quilt Project . . . a grief effort (therapeutic for their families), not purely political

a friend gave her the idea by making a jacket from her (daughter)'s clothes

this may not be the final name

Kathleen Thompson will carry the project through (with a Website, etc) even if Esther can't manage that big an effort

TWINKLE on support from us – like what, says Doug C?

to spread the word & find people who might want to have squares for their people

Fred V reviews the origins of the US Social Forum (from the World Social Forum responding to Davos's World Economic Forum)

relates it to the Seattle protests in 1999, too

first WSF in Porto de Alegre

it's not just a discussion – it's a liberation of the world's (or the nation's) poor & neglected

at the Website (ussf2010.org), groups can register . . . \$40 gets 3 free admissions and a room workshop
about 200-300 workshops at each time 10-12, 1-3, and 3:30-5:30 on Wed, Thu, or Fri (6/23, 24, or 25)
so you won't be able to pick your time or place, but
also, because we're renting all of Hart Plaza, there are going to be canopies there – not for workshops, but for other gatherings
they may or may not be open to the public
Fred V thinks this group may want a canopy for showing off the quilt they have so far
all workshops are indoors (Wayne St, Cobo Hall, wherever)
Fred V did a workshop on Detroit in India
there will also be:
people's movement assemblies 1:30-5:30pm every day; actions; projects in the
all of these things in the program book
admission is on a sliding scale

Kathleen Thompson is also here wearing another hat – she & Candice C founded the Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance
(back when county commissioners were calling gay people abominations)
another issue they're concerned about is Taserung – she's sort of collecting incidents
these two and local atty Bernie Jokens (sp?) are a sort of ad-hoc LCERA committee on this issue
Candice C asked ACLU-MI if they had anybody tracking it; was told watching in general, but no staff
they're also hoping to find if the local sheriff has a use policy (JALP says use-of-force policies can be hard to get)
cf Texas cop who Tasered homeless bicycle-riding man (& then ran over them)
Lloyd C compares this to police release of dum-dum/hollow-point bullets

and there was recently an assault in the HS involving the Lapeer East JV basketball team (at Clio)
supposedly, the issue returned to the HS and the incident happened in the cafeteria
maybe they were allowed into the school to stay out of the weather until their parents came to pick them up
cameras on but at night, so lighting poor (and lots of pillars and walls that could block view
allegedly, 5 team members assaulted another 1 member (Flint *Journal* said in the genitals)
one of the alleged assaulters was the son of the police chief of the city of Lapeer
but LCERA had an anti-bullying dinner (with a speaker from Detroit?)

Esther Fuchs explains the peace meditation for the trees (every Su 2pm US time, 9pm European time, she says; she didn't start it)
right now trees are being devastated (cf the Christmas tsunami; Haiti too is greatly deforested)
but she's "speaking to the choir" – so she just explains what it is: the force of thought creates vibration, which creates power
Hadley Twp in Lapeer Co has received a grant to cut down trees which could be a danger to drunk drivers who crash into them
but some people have houses behind those trees! . . .
Fred V says some re-planting going on near him & George C
Candice C notes that, at the Willows, there was a birchbark roof on the quonset-hut-type Pottawotami-style house
she mainly sees birch trees up near Frankenmuth; further south, she'd thought, they need
but the trees in Birmingham are mostly imported European versions, which is why they're hard to maintain
OTOH, normally birches are "succession trees" that start up when an area is cleared

so Esther Fuchs goes on to explain the timing/etc – 18/27/36 minutes . . .

Art M suggests a name for the project: "The Uncovered Quilt" . . .
JALP suggests Tom M & Susan O might be good contacts for the project
Kathleen T says they can help people w/o sewing skills; would also like to videotape people with their squares to post on YouTube
Esther F thinks the family of the Obama-campaign person who died recently might be good focal points

informally adjourned about 2:10pm