

**Green Party of Michigan State Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 19, 2008**  
**Central Methodist Church \* 23 E. Adams \* Detroit, MI 48226**

**Welcome & Approval of Agenda**

Fred Vitale **\*\*called the meeting to order\*\*** at 9:35am.

Maureen Taylor, for Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO), welcomed us.

Agenda approved without changes.

**Officer Reports**

Ken Mathenia (Chair)

\* Not present to report.

Harley Mikkelson (Vice Chair/Committees)

\* Not present to report.

Aimee Smith (Vice Chair/SCC Whip)

\* Reviewed proposals passed by SCC.

\* SCC is now voting on amending platform to spell out we favor single-payer universal health care.

\* Talked about SCC representation, inactive locals.

Randym Jones (Treasurer)

\* Reported \$12,108.45 in the bank:

+ \$2,584.92 in the administrative account.

+ \$9,523.53 in the political account.

\* Planning fundraiser for April, postcard to everyone who donated last year.

John A. La Pietra (Elections Co-ordinator; Media Committee)

\* Reviewed national/state-level offices to be elected in 2008:

+ Asked those present to check about county/local offices.

\* Media Committee now has vetted members & posted e-mail list:

+ Asked for help updating the list with best local contacts.

+ Wants SMM/SCC guidance on how to handle GPUS, other-state releases.

\* Asked the SMM to give SCC local caucusing authority statewide:

+ So local groups can come to SCC to get that authority.

**==> [CONSENSUS]**

Art Myatt (Lobbying Committee)

\* Reported on GPMI members lobbying as Greens:

+ Lansing hearings on sulfide mining in UP (Art Myatt, John La Pietra).

+ Sierra Club lobbying day (Art Myatt, Lou Novak).

+ Fred Vitale reported on further lobbying by Detroit Greens.

Matt Abel, Aimee Smith, Fred Vitale (GPUS Representatives)

\* Reported on GPUS convention in Chicago 7/10-13:

+ Nomination vote will probably happen Sa 7/12.

+ GPMI will have 24 delegates.

\* Reported on the surviving lawsuit vs the Presidential primary:

+ Case filed in Federal District Court; GPMI is lead plaintiff.

+ Issue: protesting voter lists going only to the Ds & Rs.

**Election of Officers**

\* After considerable discussion, nominations gathered; election deferred.

+ Rev. Pinkney nominated as honorary chair:

**==> [CONSENSUS]**

**Discussion of Problems and Solutions**

Maureen Taylor proposes agreement on a few survival issues:

\* GPMI should work with MWRO, Call 'Em Out (not NAACP).

General discussion of various issues:

\* Finding & helping victims of raids on accused illegals who are being rounded up & dispersed in prisons/jails around MI.

\* Foreclosure problems.

\* Treatment of Rev. Pinkney.

\* Linda Cree proposes to adopt specific issues for statewide focus:

+ Ending the Iraq war.

+ Universal health care.

+ The global environment.

+ The economy.

+ The energy crunch.

\* Huron Valley Greens are focusing locally on police brutality:

+ A recent case went the right way (Dr. Catherine Wilkerson).

\* There will be a medical-marijuana proposal on the 2008 MI ballot.

\* Various proposals on health care (single-payer or otherwise).

Two resolutions proposed by Dianne Feeley:

\* Inform all GPMI lists about Rev. Pinkney's treatment:

+ Encourage everyone to complain in letters, etc.

+ Have a delegation urge Conyers to investigate Rev P's jail conditions.

+ Have Chuck Loucks draft voter fraud/voter ID position paper.

\* Urge Gov. Granholm to declare an economic moratorium:

+ Permitted by state law.

+ Would stop foreclosures and utility shut-offs.

+ Propose 5 years; be willing to negotiate on how long.

**==> [CONSENSUS]**

Another resolution proposed by Art Myatt:

\* Call anyone in the country without papers refugees, not criminals:

+ Art Myatt comments: "Human beings aren't illegal."

\* Linda Cree has a blocking concern:

+ Would "refugee" would be used for all immigrants?

+ Understands we're trying to avoid "criminalizing" them.

+ But "refugee" might offend some (disparage their homeland).

\* Art's idea is to treat them all as innocent unless proven criminal.

\* Consensus not reached.

**\*\* Lunch \*\***

Fred Vitale thanked lunch organizers Lou Novak & Priscilla Dziubek:

\* Suggested \$50-100 donation to MWRO for using the space.

\* MWRO is organizing a truth commission on water cut-off issues:

+ Scheduled for May 3 in Detroit.

**==> [CONSENSUS] on \$100 donation**

**Candidate Forum**

\* Planned: 5-minute speeches, then Q & A; Matt Abel to emcee.

Fred Vitale suggested showing January 13 San Francisco debate:

\* Proposal: Show the candidates' introductory speeches only.

**==> [CONSENSUS]**

\* More video available on the mfeinsteintube channel on YouTube.

One possible candidate was represented by a GPMI member:

\* Lou Novak spoke for the Draft Nader campaign.

One candidate had arranged to give a speech via the Internet link:

\* Instead, Paul Kangas suggested showing SMM a YouTube video.

\* Eventually, Fred Vitale suggested Kangas forward the link to us.

One candidate had reported he would attend:

\* However, Joe Schriener did not show up.

Discussion of other candidates:

- \* Cynthia McKinney is also supporting the Reconstruction Party.
- \* Jared Ball has dropped out & thrown his support to McKinney.
- \* Candace Caveny says Kent Mesplay "most improved" from 2004.

Matt Abel asks if we want to approve a forum for the next SMM:

\* Aimee Smith proposes the new Meeting Manager & Elections Coordinator be delegated authority to organize a forum (or tour).  
==> **[CONSENSUS]**

### Officer Elections

- \* Chair: Fred Vitale ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Vice Chair/SCC whip: Art Myatt ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Vice Chair/Committees: Aimee Smith ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Treasurer: Randym Jones ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Recordkeeper: John Anthony La Pietra ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
  - + Provisional/pro tem; office will be open at next SMM.
- \* Meeting Manager: Matt Abel ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Elections Co-ordinator: John La Pietra ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Clearinghouse Co-ordinator:  
Henry Herskovitz ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Membership Secretary: Chuck Loucks ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
- \* Locals Liaison:  
<\* left vacant >
- \* At-Large SCC Representatives:  
Aimee Dunn, Linda Cree ==> **[CONSENSUS]**
  - + Discussion about adding more at-large positions; deferred.
- \* GPUS Representatives: multiple candidates; after votes counted:
  - + 3 women: Aimee Smith, Karen Shelley, & Priscilla Dziubek.
  - + Sandy Williams said no to being an alternate.
  - + Aimee Dunn volunteered Linda Cree as alternate, she'll do it:  
==> **[CONSENSUS]**
  - + 3 men: Matt Abel, Lou Novak, & Fred Vitale.
  - + Male alts: Doug Campbell, Harley Mikkelson, Frank Harden.

### Delegate-Selection Process Proposal

\* Suggestion: Leave it to SCC to decide (target date February 11):  
==> **[CONSENSUS]**

### Committee Work – Separate Sessions; Results

\* Elections:

- + We want to run candidates for all statewide offices.
- + Maybe a candidate/campaign workshop at 1 of next 2 SMMs.
- + We need to do more advance planning, recruiting.

\* Fundraising:

- + As Richard Kuszmar found in 2006, people can raise funds with house parties:
  - > Maybe build some around McKinney or Nader videos.
- + Hierarchy of quality of attention in chances to get support.
- + We should target specific constituencies – for example:
  - > Owners of small bizess threatened by Wal-Mart.
- + Add to last-year-donor postcards a plea for more this year.
- + We're going to put together a budget!
- + Team up with Eric Borregard to make decent radio/TV ads.

\* Media:

- + Replace the Ann Arbor answering machine with a cell phone.
  - > (Still needs someone to answer it.)

- + When we do pay for ads, concentrate on alternative papers.
- + Upgrade the Web site to be more dynamic.

### Other Business

Aimee Smith reads a resolution from the Huron Valley Greens:

- \* Asked for Brent McMillan's resignation, GPUS SC's apology to Elaine Brown.
  - \* Much discussion; various blocking concerns; vote:
    - + 17 yes, 5 no, 3 abstentions
- ==> **[ADOPTED by 2/3 majority vote]**

Further discussion of Maureen Taylor's work-together topics:

- \* Fred Vitale shows a flyer on the water-rights truth commission.
- \* The utility cut-off problem is spreading to more neighborhoods.
- \* Suggestion: Put water bills on property-tax bills, but with a 7-year moratorium before foreclosure (instead of 1½-2 years).

### Future SMMs and Related Issues

Hillsdale should get right of first refusal as host for the next SMM:

\* Target date: Around April 19 or 26.

GPMI convention: before or after the GPUS convention July 10-13?

- \* Aimee Smith notes "endorsed-candidates" list (passed previously):
  - + For group endorsements, etc.
  - + Publish our list by 5/13 (in parallel with the SOS primary list).
  - + Spring SMM is a target for candidates to decide/announce.
- \* Richard Kuszmar asks for convention in Detroit/Ann Arbor area.
- \* Art Myatt notes it's possible to have SMMs both before and after:
  - + One in June (before the GPUS convention).
  - + Another in late July or early August (just before the primary).
- \* Maybe June 21 or 28 for the pre-GPUS-convention SMM.
- \* Latest post-GPUS date would be the Saturday before the primary (August 2) -- or the weekends before? July 26, or 19?
  - + 7/19 conflicts w/ Benton Harbor event unless we meet there.
- \* Location not settled.

### Announcements

Marquette will have an Indigenous Earth Day Summit 4/22-23.

### GPMI Platform -- Health Care

Aimee Dunn notes GPMI universal single-payer health care platform:

\* Proposed platform change got 18 votes on SCC but failed quorum.

Chuck Loucks notes Huron Valley Greens were concerned about decentralization:

\* They agree single-payer is better than what we have now -- but if we're replacing the current system, why not meet all our values?

Lou Novak brought up the proposed GPMI platform change on universal health care here:

- \* There's a petition drive with some language in it that some folks objected to.
- \* But what SCC was considering was adding one sentence to GPMI's platform:
  - + "Therefore, GPMI supports single-payer, publicly-funded universal health care."

Discussion, a few text changes; Chuck Loucks stood aside:

\* He wanted to present HVG's issues, and was glad to have them talked out.

==> **[CONSENSUS]**

*The meeting was **\*\*adjourned\*\*** at 5:11pm.*