

Notes from SMM 5-15-10

Agenda approved by consensus with flexibility to discuss what we want to discuss.

We now have 7 national delegates. We need to elect or select delegates to the Annual national meeting.

Treasurer's Report by LN

As of April 30, we have a balance of \$7,425.68, of which \$909.77 is administrative funds.

National Committee Report by LN and Derek also spoke on the IC. British Parliament elected first Green MP.

Local Liaison – Harley M. collected updated information from locals, asks for any additional updates.

Clearinghouse Coordinator – Mailings from JayCees, Prison issues organization and

Chair – outreach/advertising continues, including letter to membership; Green Light published; in Detroit working with ex-prisoners and prisoners to develop membership and candidates. Yusef Shakur, author and owner of Urban Books, will be running for Wayne County Commissioner.

Charlie Shick of Grand Rapids, US House District 3 candidate, current office holder retiring. Wants to see GP candidates on the ballot, little Green activity in area, calling for 10% yearly reduction in defense budget more at “Charlie Shick For Congress” on Facebook. GPMI donated \$100 to his campaign.

Matt de Heus is working to revive the Green Party in Bay County. Published story in The Review magazine. Is hoping to run 9 candidates for County Commission in November. Matt will be running for the Commission in the 9th district.

Pat Foster, election challengers in Alleghen County 2 years ago. Request for recount in SOS race was ignored by Clerk. 2 candidates in Benton Harbor were elected to City Council with backing from the Green Party, which is being recognized as working for the people against Whirlpool's domination of the political process. FOIA requests for absentee ballots showed larger counts for Green Party and other candidates than were reported. The MI Election Reform Alliance will be filing a case on the issue and asks GPMI to join the federal complaint against MI State Bureau of Elections and Alleghen County officials.

Lou Novak reminds the body of Detroit's experience with voting irregularities and recommends that GPMI join the complaint. Lynn Meadows also encourages Green Party members to become election workers, to get trained and gain experience with the election process.

The membership decides by consensus to join the Federal complaint filed by the MI Election Reform Alliance.

Break

USSF – Introduction to the US Social, to be held in Detroit June 22 – 26 at Cobo Hall, Hart Plaza and Wayne State University. Over 17000 are registered and over 1000 workshops are planned. Many attending this SMM are already registered to attend.

The Annual National Meeting of the Green Party of the US will also be held in Detroit at that time. Registration for the ANM will also include registration for the USSF.

Lou Novak makes a proposal to set up a committee of 5 people, to include the Chair and the Treasurer and up to 3 others, to spend up to \$1000 at the ANM and USSF. These monies will be used to put an ad in the program, pay for a welcome reception and fundraiser, as well as other expenses. Lynn Meadows volunteers to sit on the committee. The proposal is passed by consensus.

John Anthony asks for guidance and approval to represent the Socialist Party of MI as counsel in their suit to gain ballot access. Approved by consensus.

Due to illness, Art Myatt did not attend and the draft GPMI party platform is not available. It will be put online and opened to review.

A call for a boycott of BP was raised on the State Central Committee. Discussion raised concern over negatively impacting local non-franchise station owners as well as the effectiveness of a boycott. Call for more investigation into current GP position on the issue and the state of boycott efforts. Proposal tabled.

Lunch

Review agenda and decide how to use the afternoon. Want to cover the elections, either particular races as represented by candidates in the room or more generally with respect to targeted races and issues.

Discussion of upcoming events in Ann Arbor, Lansing, Bay City, Benton Harbor and Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day. Need for volunteers to step up and organize for the events.

Annual National Meeting, Detroit, June 24-27

Fourth of July events, statewide

Bay City GP County Commissioner Fundraiser, Bay City, July 11

Lansing Folk Festival, Lansing, Aug 13-15

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, Aug

Port Huron Green Gathering, Aug

Oakland County Green Cruise, Aug

Mackinac Bridge Walk, Mackinac, Labor Day

Break up into two groups. One to address Bay City and other particular elections, the other to address larger, broader election issues such as targeted races, media/web presence, etc.

Report Out from media/web discussion:

Need a broader media strategy to include updating the GPMI web site.

Actions:

1. review web sites, hvgreens.org, detroitgreens.org, a2politico.com for ideas on web site look, features etc
2. Make a decision on how to proceed with new website by May 31st
3. .Develop job description & criteria for hiring media coordinator
4. Develop content for web site using materials from gp.org, the Green Institute and other green sources.

Chuck Altman of Royal Oak made a proposal to approach Gary Peters D MI 9th District, and offer to not run a Green candidate against him in November if he would vote NO of the \$33 billion package to continue funding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Proposal was seconded and discussed. At call for consensus a blocking concern was raised. A friendly amendment to change language to say that GPMI would 'consider' not running a candidate if he voted NO was not accepted. The vote was 7 YES, 5 NO, and 1 Abstain. The proposal failed.

Thanks to Ray Ziarno for reserving the facilities for the SMM and to chair Fred Vitale for a donation of \$527 to offset costs for the Green Light printing and mailing.