

State Membership Meeting, Pittsfield Township Hall, November 18, 2006

Greetings 9:38

Agenda discussion

Move paid staff discussion and vote up to 2nd and 3rd items? 9 yes, 4 no, 8 abstain

Motion carries

MM report don't know where, probably Detroit area

Platform committee summary made

RK nothing to report, convention minutes not done yet

MS see handout

LL New local in Hillsdale? Per Doug Baker Novi, Livonia, Royal Oak to be pursued.

T Not broke \$5542.98 896 paypal 130.55 political 6570.05 total 7768.02 to pete no debt, need written report (per member request), will be on lists

CC Phones, but not mail more interest over election period only 1 call a week

Sylvia and she supervising Pete, not functional, no plan for supervising, no job description as planned, how to get collective action together on projects, met with Pete a few times, get info, need more coherent planning

CoC need to discussion issues of SCC, queue? Priorities are fundraising, fundraising and office, need to discuss them soon

Need to not let Green Card and job description discussions lapse

Nat reps Fred, Linda, Lou, Aimee

3 proposals, 1 for voting, 2 discussing

Voting issue formation of outreach committee "democracy is coming" handout will help state parties recruit members 8 pages large p&p lou voted unusual vote patterns so far

Proposal: amend sc p&p when into exec session

Proposal: approve sc election from nat meeting

National press release, candidate listings who won (65) ballot status won in Illinois first since 1920 Pat LaMarche 10% Portland City Council held lost CN, AK, MD ballot status, John Eder lost Gail McLaughlin won Richmond, CA Mayor 36% white, 36% black, rest Latino and Asian Senate candidates consistent results across country WDC

Republicans dropped effort, Greens 2nd 8 advisory positions, including former Michigander Alex Hogan what is metric to show progress? Ballot status, number of wins ask brent mcmillan to chart this this election WAS a referendum on the war 8 mil voted for ending war and impeachment across nation in communities PAX pledge to sign onto still voting for people who don't oppose war Media run by paid staff very capable, but not very grassroots should not be the spokesperson, have elected spokespeople was on CSPAN recently, did well did not propose it well should be transparent, fair, by the process chosen q: newspaper clipping service to get Green media exposure including LTE used to have Green Line, trying to revive it q: why did nat party turn up broke in election cycle? Reps will try to find answer may be able to revive state sharing soon media coordinator not paid well, national staff took 10% pay cut q: 40000 ted on fincom at beginning of year no contributions accrual accounting as opposed to cash accounting feb negative balance October large donation 10-20000 coming in in the black, but hand to mouth, suspended payments to states q:

membership nationally? Each state measures differently delegate allocation committee

working on proportionality followup lost some ballot status 2000 big wave, been sliding a bit members waning q: why no balance sheet? Please push can get it from national through Ted

Break

Paid organizer report: Pete Schermerhorn

11am

Hired Pete in May as a contractor

Started 2nd week of June

Packet contains breakdown of hours spent

Made report every week to Randym, treasurer

Not every week added up to 30 hours

Being candidate at the same time at times cut into work

Made up media packs for Doug Campbell at 1st debate

Attitude was ask me and you will get

Office search: new process for me

Most commercial property owners wanted 3-5 year lease

Unfortunately not able to find an office that met our needs

Refocused to helping candidates

Large time spent on communications, sifting through email to figure out where to plug in

Decided to send fundraising letter to 4500 member data base

Didn't realize that bulk mail would not give returns for incorrect address

Didn't raise as much as we hoped, still could follow up on phone contacting

Question: what about David Sole's office offer

Pete: we should talk about it

Question: how much spent on mailing

Pete: about what we spent

Question: any feedback indicating success of mailing?

Pete: some did write back offering to volunteer

Question: commend you for undertaking that task, did you have help?

Pete: yes, had some help

Lloyd: spending for my own campaign, so I didn't respond to letter

Better to send the letter when there is less activity

Pete: timing was not ideal

Lynn: I don't like robocalls, but if someone I know calls, it is ok.

Question: what conclusion do you draw about continuing with staff member?

Pete: I fell down in a number of ways, if it had been someone else, would they have done better? I don't know. The position is a good idea. I am not sure we are ready to do it now. We need to have fundraising in place before we commit to hiring someone. If we hadn't had a large chunk of change in the bank as a cushion I wouldn't have agreed to do it. Would I continue this position? Probably not right now. Not till we do more fundraising. This sort of position absolutely has to happen at some point. Not sure which comes first, having an office so we can do better outreach, having fundraising so we can get a staff person, or get the staff person first to raise the funds and get an office.

Candace: glad we could have someone within the party take on this job.

Don: how does membership differ from fundraising with merchandising?

Pete: merchandising is tabling, membership is tracking membership, fundraising is mainly the letter that was sent out. More as paid organizer for membership than had been doing as membership director.

Don: 14 hours spent on locals

Pete: went to Macolm local organizing meeting to be there as a resource

Lynn: I think you are hard on yourself, you did a good job, it would have been hard for anyone.

Pete: it was an invention, the reason I was comfortable doing it is b/c I knew I would be my own harshest critic to better understand the role when we hire someone we don't know to do it.

Comment: if you didn't start until June you couldn't have had adequate lead time to do the work.

Pete: couldn't hit the ground running, that was one of the criticisms raised.

Harley: are you available to continue this job

Pete: not at this time. Health other demands on my time now

Chuck: we should start with fundraising

Pete: agree – need war chest in place before beginning of year. Lot better at working together, lot of infighting after 2004 and now we seem to realize we are on the same side. Part of what I envisioned was that this position would allow the scc to make decisions and allow me to follow through on some of these decisions.

Harley: one of the reason I ask about your time now is b/c I think the time is now to do some fundraising.

Pete: I am already sending out members on a regular basis reminding people to renew. One of things that got dropped between Randym and me is that no one was thanking people for donations.

Karen: why don't you pass the need for thank yous out to us and we can help you.

Pete: volunteers: Karen, Lynn, Chuck (vchair), Matt, Richard K

Chuck: should be answered by people in region

Matt: the real issue rather than fundraising is building membership. I like the regional approach Chuck was talking about?

County clerk elected official and Green member

Robert: Membership. Foundationcenter.org

Pete: want to become a professional and learn these skills

Richard: fundraising is important, marxists were very committed to working to raise money to support their orgs. We give money to groups that work against this. We need to rethink this. Sierra Club, public tv, aclu – give minimum to keep membership and not a nickel more.

Aimee: how can we make the party functional? Locals driven?

Pete: many other state parties are driven by locals. We have the best state fundraising in the party because we have dues and we take the money in centrally.

Chuck L.: how we count our membership has a very high standard. We should track three categories, not just activist cores. We should have supporters – support ten key values. Contacts, people who have contact us. Track all three of those categories.

Pete: we used to have a separate database from membership and contacts – I folded them together. 4600 names in database.

Fred: question of locals is really important. Need reports from locals, submissions to Green Light. Can't build member by member, but need to build coalitions locally. Not be afraid of alliances.

Doug: agree with Fred, but we need to do outreach. Don't other parties raise more money?

Candace: there are people that throw money at things. People who work their butts off but don't have money to contribute. And people doing research on a term paper. Have to discriminate between who we are dealing with.

Comment: media doesn't cover candidacies. Between elections we need to be pursuing a lawsuit against public broadcasting. Can't ignore the fact that we are being discriminated against.

Pete: I got coverage via local cable channel.

Bill: we aren't interesting, we aren't doing anything. How about a Green Woodstock?

Don: be careful a little bit, don't get it too funny. Make sure we aren't perceived as unserious or comic relief.

Matt: off topic. Are we just going to thank Pete for a job well done?

Group twinkles.

We need to make plans today. Are we going to move our convention forward?

I like Michelle's proposal for running lots of local candidates.

Comment: fundraising and membership work should be done by different people.

Chuck L: we do better in odd years for local races.

Pete: we need to get experience from city boards where we can get on them to prepare for running for local office.

Richard: ideally get someone on board by March of this year.

Aimee: who would help craft job description? Richard K, Pete, Aimee to have it ready by Feb SMM

Pete: Fred was willing to do outreach if he could be reimbursed for expenses.

Chuck: We probably can't afford a full time, but how about part time?

Pete: without a budget it is impossible to know?

Fred: envisioned working much more on the organizing side. Need bigger effort on campuses. Tour now that elections are over, try to get in to as many campuses as possible. Willing to do it and just would recoup minimal travel costs, not income.

Matt: would like to see that on a regional basis – couple of people in UP, people doing that job across state. Is county coordinator role still functioning?

Pete: not really functioning now.

Restate proposal: put business to have paid organizer on Feb agenda for SMM. Job description would be developed to be presented at that meeting. If hiring is agreed to, hiring committee to be appointed at Feb SMM and final list of candidates to be sent to SCC or next SMM as time dictates.

Fred: asks if proposal for his position is included

Doug asks if this proposal means we will hire at Feb SMM

Richard says no, we decide then.

Pete asks if the idea Fred has could work as a reimbursed officer.

Linda: state organizer is a lot like a locals liason position that already exists.

Matt: take Fred up on his offer betwn now and Feb to get regional coordinators in place.

Bill: No one has ever defined the job, but five people came up to me today and asked if I would continue on as locals liaison. Use outreach local of Dr. Bob's as a resource. Want to reach the kids? Have to reach the kids.

Richard: need to reach out to other groups, not wait until election time. Letter translated into Spanish to reach out to Latinos never got done. Ask to make presentations to different groups. We are not diverse in this room.

Harley: we are becoming rather unfocused. Stop rambling on here.

Al: need half a day strategy planning session. Sometime, some where. What goals are we going to reach for, etc. As for being exciting: plan and carrying out an action related to an issue. One I have is concentrated animal feeding operations.

After lunch:

Motion from Fred: Any Green member can go out and do work, submit a proposal for reimbursement to the SCC ahead of time, and get reimbursed. The SCC must act expeditiously. Cost variation no more than 10%. Opens up the process for every member. Passes.

Motion from Fred: Next issue of Green Light dedicated to party direction, how to go forward, articles solicited from members, results of elections, reflections from candidates. Responses: make sure distributed to all members (Chuck J. did not get one), should be recruiting tool, printed in Arabic and Spanish, better distribution system in general, listing of where given out, so that can be done again. Passes.

Values discussion: (Aimee)

A values based party, what makes us unique, what commonalities do we have with other parties. Need dialogue about shared values, at next SMM. Are all Greens Socialist? Can Greens be in favor of capitalism? What do we have in common with Worker's World Party? Libertarians? Socialists? Dedicate a whole SMM or a half of one to values discussion? Huron Valley Greens starting a philosophy discussion group; Outreach local starting roundtables; Values and issues differ, start discussion on particular issues, one at a time; Worker's World and Greens did not merge, would take a larger process of evaluation, Stop the War slate ran as individuals, how did slate work with party and election as whole? Not a witch hunt, but trying to get at our own understanding of our shared values. Third party synergy movements don't tend to work, should be back-channel efforts to work in cooperation without talk of merging. Varying views merging in a political party effort should have no difficulties. Concerns about exclusionary, neither left or right, but forward. Still have dual party affiliation? Is that a problem? No, but want to clarify that values of one party are not fully values of another.

Sylvia's remarks (added to agenda):

Quote: (curator of art exhibit at gallery) "Afraid to confront a world that is annihilating itself, we cling to worn out strategies."

Quote: "It is in the moment when you know you will not win, but choose to act anyway that the structures of control can no longer hold."

Elections discussion:

2002 first Guv, on TV a dozen times, covered by network affiliates in the north. Physically unable to crash debates this time, carefully away from the public. Frozen out by media, intentionally. Fewer votes for Greens, but more third party votes overall. Still more people turning to Dems. Battered liberal syndrome. Need to have division of labor. Richard K. worked hard doing everything for Guv campaign. Must break through to the media (spoiling put us back before the media). Spoiling Andy Levin was not a bad thing. Spent a million to get the election, as a carpetbagger. We must get organized and get smarter, think in terms of anticipating what our 'enemies' are doing. Must understand that the Democrats as an organization are our enemy.

10th CD 5 counties. More media coverage this year, despite freezeout (as Sylvia said earlier). Flint Journal report (not in district, but did cover it), "I like talking with third party candidates because they know why they're running." Another reporter in Lapeer said the same. Small advertisers, small papers covered the race. Wrote to paper who did not cover her about turbines on Laker School that have been shut down because DTE did not want them in the grid. Other third party candidates contacted the campaign, had differences, but could work together somewhat. Evaluate 'over' amounts for otherwise worthy causes, since many are not backing open democracy, don't support the presence of third parties. LTE's, call in to radios with issues, send JALP the contact info for media contacts. Learned to be more cautious in remarks to the media. Give something to audience that they can benefit from (phone excise tax benefit). WebMD info vaccine against recurrent shingles.

US Senate Thanks on behalf of Stop the War slate. Important experiment, worthwhile and successful, advice, assistance, funds all came in. Votes grow exponentially, not incrementally. When it happens it will be very profound. Message on the war completely on target, with the public opinion polls. Dem voters not to blame for believing that they were voting against the war. Supported Johnson as a pro-peace candidate in 1964, obviously not. Many interviews suppressed. DetNews had photos of David being thrown out of the Economic Club debate, but did not run it. Rich Whitney got 25% of the vote where he had good media coverage (Illinois). Antiwar movement was not behind campaign, could have greatly benefited the campaign. Still shackled to the Dems, may never break free. Michigan Citizen gave endorsement, also Western Herald (WMU student paper). AAPAC did not give any Greens endorsements – supported Bouchard after angry with Stabenow. More interested in struggle than votes, votes show struggle. Struggle greatly with undocumented people. Shift in vote because of Iraqi resistance. Leslie Feinberg (transgender) had tour, 4 -5 meetings in MI, Kzoo College overflow with hundreds. Her book Drag King Dreams, every meeting included the Greens. Meetings very young. Look forward to collaboration with Greens. MLK day war and racism rally, especially important with Prop 2 passing (Jan 15). MECAWI organizing busses to DC Mar 17 anniversary of war. 25,000 Green votes were largest antiwar protest in state ever.

Sec of State 70,000 Could not lead strong campaign because sick and injured. All Green votes, not Meadows, not protest. Some media exposure, including mainstream.

Ad in Traverse City area. Ray Ziarno in 2002 got most votes in north, recommended the same this time. Analysis of where votes came from – Marquette, Traverse City, Washtenaw, Ingham. 70th birthday next year (no more campaigning!), will work for others.

15th CD No repub in race, opportunity for 3rd party. Outpolled Libertarian (3rd time around) and UST, nearly 5%. Lots of door to door in Ann Arbor. Outreach in Dearborn, Arab American community. Not much in Monroe County, but still finished 2nd. Arab Americans very under attack, sense of fear. Careful in reaching out to communities of color and issue groups, very broad spectrum in any group. Still working in Arab American community, working with U of M Dearborn. Set out to get 10,000 votes (9447) and get local in Dearborn area. Bouchard is Arab American, but not good on issues, but still attacked being Arab American. Must be respectful when reaching out. Had planned to stand for election, but ended up doing more work (had a campaign manager who was excited). Ed Morin ran for U of M Regent, many activists for Palestine were on board with this campaign and his, even if they did not join the party.

3rd State House (handout) East side of Detroit. Planned to stand, did more work. Selected candidate did not win primary, Carol Banks as a Dem won. Antiwar people working with her were surprised at win and tried to do more. Tried to work to do more. Two mailings of 6500 and 10000, 25 billboards. Shopping centers. 4 polling places covered for 30% coverage. Money for Detroit, not war resonated. Utility shutoffs, city financial crisis, closing of zoo all issues. Prop 2 was stealth issue, came up finally right at the end, people voted straight party Dem. Felt no hostility being in the race or about Green politics. No hostility over race. Dem machine is corrupt in those neighborhoods, depriving A