

Green Party of Michigan State Membership Meeting
Saturday, November 15, 2003 — Lawrence Township Community Building — Lawrence, MI

Meeting Agenda/Timeline

[9:00 - 9:45 am] officers' reports & discussions; SCC reports

Lou N welcomes at 9:21 . . . Randym volunteers to help John LaP keep "notes" (for minutes)
goes over agenda packet – some last-minute additions to proposals, etc

Membership Secretary: Lynn M (Lou N)

report lost last time, so 2 here . . . both say 388 members

Clearinghouse Co-ordinator: Elliott Smith (Lou N)

note this is the office being vacated (need to replace)

Platform Committee: Art Myatt

no activity – if it's not going to be active, we should dissolve it

Paul E asks if purpose of committee was to "straighten" language

David S – was to hold discussions down to 5 or 10 people instead of 50 (also notes he had to "poke" people to get them involved)
should he go on?

Art also thinks we'd do well to have a position on Iraq (even in state, though it's "not strictly a state issue")

Paul F interested in privatization

Art: who wants to be on platform committee? hands?

John LaP, David Spitzley, Randym Jones, Paul Felton from Detroit

any women to propose feminism? Linda Myatt volunteers

Jim Wilber asks if it's just another Yahoo group to sign up on

David S asks about history of feminism-plank gap; what was the 2000 language on Gender Equity vs. Feminism?

Randym says there was language, but voted down; Qs re: title (among other points)

LMMMyatt: some thought "Gender Equity" was ungrammatical

answering a question, David S says adopting the GPMI platform is a rolling/continuing process so we keep what we have & go on

David S: "process: committee or SCC starts 'plank' process"

AMyatt: "happy to accept new proposals"

SCC or SMM can give final approval to changes

maybe we'll discuss Art's privatization-plank proposal this afternoon

(Lou N notes national call for statements on privatization, "particularly around water and other public resources")

Jim Wilber . . . is there a Microsoft Word version of the platform? Art says there's an RTF file . . .

David S adds comments: "Craig could speak to the Mlgreens version"

maybe only an HTML version on migreens.org; the latest RTF version is available on the Yahoo group site; so's the summary
there has been unhappiness with Microsoft software

(John LaP: we are trying to get non-proprietary version)

Lou N says national platform is going through revision (with online forum)

ideas? go thru Lou N, Marc R, &/or Carolyn D by 12/31/03; see gp.org

Elections Co-ordinator: John LaP

John LaP: "1 committee and 1 officer report"

4-page foldout of election news: 9 members of GPMI ran; 7 non-partisan, 2 partisan (in Ann Arbor); 3 members won

Rick S adds comments on Kalamazoo race:

12% turnout (normal in Kalamazoo)

Cooney had really been Green in all but name before

placed 5th, not 6th or 7th; top vote-getter is mayor

Cooney has been long-time activist, teaches Social Work

Juarez got talked into it; 1st Hispanic, also a representative of blue-collar issues

important that there's a second now to force discussion

anything proposed before a Council meeting needs a second to continue discussion; also, "those 6-1 votes got old"

Jim Wilber – both Don & David at NAACP/Kalamazoo, can't be here . . . send their regrets

thanks to everyone who sent donations, support, etc. – Huron Valley Greens named – "it *did* help"

next year we'll have candidates in Kalamazoo County (he wants to see 3 or 4 next time)

also sneaks in note about dinner directions, \$8 cost

John LaP continues with comments on plans for the future, including village, city, & school-board elections; explains report:

1st page on bottom, Ferndale results:

Craig Covey re-elected . . . joined Greens

Green House worked hard; note from Tom Ness: working toward IRV – Covey to propose IRV in all Ferndale elections

anybody here live in a village? file for elections: 11/25 deadline

city elections in spring; school board in June . . . it doesn't stop

got listings of active PACs, planning to write to PACs:

say: "we *don't* want your money" – but ask them to let their sponsoring organizations know that *we* have candidates

talk to us, we'll talk to them – we want to be in surveys, debates . . . we are here, and we *are* a political party!

if you're not on the ballot as candidates, then try working as election inspectors

Ray adds . . . conservation districts . . . non-partisan ("you need 5 signatures from local county")

Carolyn D suggests getting on organization endorsement committees

David S notes Greens' Matt Gonzalez currently in contention for mayor of SF; ways of getting support to him were discussed

. . .
Ray notes East Lansing canceled local primaries (had just "2 write-in [candidates] and one incumbent"); may be primed for IRV

Media Committee: John LaP

Lou N notes John LaP letter to editor re: water in GR *Press*

also published in 11/13/03 Battle Creek *Enquirer* (and *AWOG*, adds Linda M)

Art M & Paul E . . . how many e-mails, addresses do we have on media list?

John LaP: 800 total outlets, 500-600 actual addresses; other places to send as well

mailing hasn't gone out to members yet . . . so why not combine lists?

(Q: How many copies available? Art Myatt: "50 cents each – how much do you want to spend?")

Lou N proposes same

Chuck: could we cut expenses by sending members e-mail copies only? ("2/3 of membership have e-mail")

big file . . . and hard copy is a good recruitment tool

we haven't sent *AWOG* via e-mail in the past (there is a PDF on the Web site)

Ted would prefer to mail to the unconverted: "send postcard telling how to access on the Web"

Paul E – good to have for members when not meeting

"people who didn't show up at meeting: worth it to remind them they're party members"

Jim W – what is *AWOG*? a party periodical (for members)? is it also meant for people outside the party?

"we have a need for an internal party mag"

sending to news outlets at random may be wasteful . . .

Linda M – need to send to members; not all on e-mail . . . this issue may be more internal

Laura (VBCC): "I send it on to local libraries, local hospitals; others can pick it up"

Eric B: converted are the ones who can pass it on . . . and it would do good for . . .

tabled until this afternoon

John LaP finishes review of media activity in the past quarter, suggestions for future:

useful to have individual members send to media, and keep media coverage of Greens

Media Committee needs to be more active, more locally done

people like hard copy; if people in each town fax a press release locally, it's a free call (rather than all being faxed from Marshall)

carry by hand, contact local political reporters

get on Citizens' Media Board if your paper/etc. has one

reminder – one big opportunity before next SMM: response to State of the State end of January

remind people that we're around so that we can get into debates

Art M goes back and notes he does have platform & could provide it on diskette

Treasurer: Ted Hentchel /figures not yet confirmed/

originally, there was only one signatory on account – now there are three: him, Marc R, & Adrianna B

\$2,273.08 starting balance; since then \$275.84 out, \$305 in . . . \$2,372.24

PayPal

\$2,723.03 . . . available

some problem with the last meeting – he's talked with Priscilla – re: who paid how much for what

for those of you making PayPal payments . . . don't!

they take \$1.75 handling out of \$50

if you pay \$60 in \$5/mo members . . . they charge 45¢ each time (\$10 = 69¢, \$20 = 88¢)

he's got the whole chart of charges . . .

PayPal gets 5% or more of what people give . . . it's also a pain in the butt

PayPal stinks! – but if you want to do it, go ahead (but it does help with cash flow. . . .)

[Sept.]	month 1	\$105 (-5%)	[Oct.]	month 2	\$110 (-5%)	[Nov.]	month 3	\$175 (-5%)
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over 3 months, we lost \$20 to them . . .

see Ted for past year PayPal records

new memberships: 13 through PayPal

he's making a motion – he gave full membership to those who had paid \$60 even though we didn't get it all

moving it to be this time only

Alan G has, not a question, but a frank disagreement – the service charge is the recipient's responsibility
unhappy that it's causing you distress . . . but are we netting more than we would have gotten without PayPal?

[??: "If we didn't have PayPal we'd lose *all* that money"]

Ted H: "I'm just advising you; speaking as treasurer, my job is to get money"

Paul E: "if you need help with the PayPal part of it, I could do it . . . it's a business decision"

if someone gives the money to PayPal, they should get the full credit of payment

Jim W just signed up by PayPal – \$5 a month . . . would have been \$20 in one lump sum

checking . . . are you saying everyone who just signed up by PayPal should have to pay more?

twinkled on leaving it as is

Ted H could get prepaid mailers at the post office – less cost to pay directly

___??_ – if you get this passionate over PayPal, you shouldn't be treasurer . . . but Pres of GPMI

Eric?: agree we should let people know those concerns with PayPal . . . can set it up and forget it

Paul E: even though I don't agree with this, you're doing exactly what you should be, and thanks! (applause)

John LaP: if we knew the cost of PayPal charges, we might think it's cheaper to use our own stamps

Harley M asks if we're getting money back thru the GPUS "1000 x \$1,000" campaign

Ted H doesn't know; Lou N notes we're entitled to half of that money

Meeting Manager – Lou Novak

defer to later (after break; fill vacant officer position: Clearinghouse Co-ordinator)

National Reps – Carolyn Dulai and David Spitzley

Carolyn D's report:

15-20 people from the national list sent out a contentious letter on the "safe states" strategy

there's a split in the Lavender Greens caucus:

too much time spent on non-gay issues

5 different kinds of non-heterosexuality

breakaway group purely for non-straight / non-gay

Black Caucus doing well; may pay \$25,000 to a consultant to contact notable blacks on campus

Latino Caucus hasn't gotten off the ground

Atheists/Humanists/Naturalists Caucus struggling to find a name

Polyamorous? Carolyn doesn't know how they are

Disability? must have Green membership

Diversity Committee says you have to be self-identified as a member of the group

she'd prefer issue-oriented caucuses

_____ and husband were active in Greens 10 years ago . . .

maybe it's not the structure, but people attracted by the opportunity to get their issue out there (which leads to nit-picking)

nothing eventually happens except frustration

Rick: spitting is self-destructive . . . diversity; focus on ultimate unity < spitting or splitting? >

Carolyn D was in Dems a long time . . . they're top-down . . . that's no fun; even in self-identity you need consensus

George C: auxiliary for non-self-identified?

David Spitzley's report:

lots of in-fighting re: Pres candidate, etc. [Run in strategic states?]

partly because we keep getting new reps from states, there's some distrust about proposals

there's a lot of confusion, but we are making some progress

Karen S – I don't really understand what's going on

I was elected as national rep . . . and somebody should tell me what I should be doing. . . . (David S, Carolyn D will talk to her)

Paul F reacts to Carolyn's report: if that's what our national reps are doing, isn't there something more important they could be doing?

"there's more important things, like Presidential issues, than diversity hairsplitting"

Lou N notes that the letter Carolyn mentioned is in main agenda handout (starting at page 6)

break at 10:35 am

[9:45 - 10:30 am] officer/rep elections to fill any open positions

Clearinghouse Co-ordinator

job description on page 5; most of the stuff is in Ann Arbor, so it would help if the person was there

Lou N nominates Randym Jones

statement: member for ten years, list owner, platform-maker, etc.

works about 2 blocks away from the office, so it's easy for him to do . . . but he'd take any

David S seconds; no other nominations or blocking concerns – he's in (should touch base with Elliott)

no-locals members

David S moves that SCC accept up to 2 volunteers for those positions until the next SMM (this one time)

John LaP seconds – no problems

John LaP nominated . . . but he already is one, and has volunteered to give it up once we find 2 more

state party officers in general

Lou N notes officer corps in flux . . . cf. Marc & Adrianna; calls for people to “step up and be officers”

Eric might be interested in Media Co-ordinator – John LaP and he will talk

Ray Z asks what Marc’s intentions are; Lou N says Marc’s on a leave of absence; intends to return (likewise for Adrianna)

Lou N says Marc & Adrianna might still be interested in coming back later

Linda M: didn’t someone suggest idea of co-chairs?

yes, on SCC list, but no proposals submitted for this meeting

discussion of shadow/trainee officers concept (to move up, if necessary)

Doug C: MI election law requires one chair of record, but we could divide up tasks (chair and footstool)

Linda M: officer elections in May (Lou N: in Traverse City); maybe we talk in February and she’ll have a concrete proposal

Chuck L: are chair’s responsibilities too broad? Lou N wonders: is it chair’s position or just Marc doing too much?

on every committee, chair, national rep, helps run the SCC list, media liaison, etc.; per by-laws, the face/voice of the party [Pete?]: better to leave seats empty?

Chuck L would like to see a rule regarding too many roles

Ted H: being on SCC, he’s seen the Web site in the last 3 months . . . he’s averaging 8 msgs a day

urge that we terminate this discussion here/for now and move on thru agenda

Alan: re: multiplicity of tasks/functions . . . at Dryden meeting, he was the only one who voted against Marc doing both significant problem facing party – chair’s tasks need to be done; we can’t ignore them

(*maybe* Marc & Adrianna are returning . . . recordkeeper’s not as visibly important, but still key)

I don’t think ostrich’s-head-in-the-sand is the right approach; we can’t wait 3 months

Ken: party chairperson has only three responsibilities in the by-laws (Jan 2003) . . .

1) responding to media; 2) co-ordinating needed tasks on SCC; and 3) maintaining the SCC e-mail list

Matt [Abel] expressed reservations about the party’s situation of party

but it’s not acceptable to have a leave of absence without someone stepping in

we don’t know when either Marc or Adrianna is coming back – it’s for us to grab the ball . . .

maybe we need a vice-chair to take over SCC management, leave spokesperson

he’s approached several persons about running for Chair, but no-one has jumped at the opportunity

Chuck L: we should just break up the job

Marc would be great as spokesperson of the party, but not the right person for organizing the party, co-ordinating . . .

Lou N: absent a proposal . . .

Karen S / Bill O moves creation of vice-chair

Carolyn D suggests John LaP if Eric takes over some of media . . .

after some discussion, Lou N takes Randym’s suggestion of deferring this to 4pm

[10:45 - 11:45 am] “GPMI Strategy and Planning”

one year to the election

long-delayed item . . . two points

call for national discussion re: Presidential campaign . . . should we run someone for President?

short article on scheduling 2004 SMMs & nominating conventions

Ken M thinks run Pres in 2004, no “safe states” strategy [‘Avoid close states. Each state should decide’] . . .

also opposes state convention in May (couldn’t be sure to name right Presidential candidate for ballot)

Susan F: Nader is forming a Presidential exploratory committee; the guy who set up the survey is Nader’s secretary

if you want to share thoughts about this idea (or fill out the Nader survey), see her . . .

Rick S: could someone give an overview of the situation?

Eric has half-hour video (tried to run it during lunch, but couldn’t get both TV & VCR to work)

David S: views range the spectrum from:

1) “Greens shouldn’t run anybody” (which would lose/give up ballot status in some states) to

2) a “safe states” strategy (focus on one-sided states; important strategic point is 5% threshold for matching funds thereafter) to

3) a “smart states” strategy (concentrate on states where we could pull in lots of votes, aim for 5%; might be opposite to “safe”) to

4) “run flat out” (now all 50 states have some Green presence, though not all under USGP aegis)

the other question is whom to run (Nader or anybody but)

many feel Nader’s the only one with enough stature

many feel 1996 & 2000 show lack of co-operation with state parties; “he’s used his ticket and is done with the ride”

this led to the statement (which he posted on the Business list; that’s probably where Lou N got it)

the “we call for” section seems innocuous, but the rest of the letter focuses on beating Bush . . .

a poor letter: polarized national membership

read two ways: debate, respect opinions or “We *must* dis-select Bush, run no one”
and the vast majority of Greens out there probably don’t know what’s going on . . .

you’ve all probably heard/read various opinions

we seem to be closer to smart-states or full-out strategies than some other states

Linda M: from what she’s seen, MI wouldn’t be a state where USGP would run hard under “safe states” . . . ironic, given our position

Rick: strategy I didn’t hear articulated . . . coalition or threat to the Dems: if you run X, we’ll run someone; if you run Y, we won’t
that should be in the mix

Paul F doesn’t think Dems care what we say – or that Kucinich has a chance to get their nomination . . . agrees with running all out
understands that lots of people are alarmed at what Shrub’s done . . . but the Dems haven’t seriously opposed that direction
war on terrorism used as a cover for lots of other things . . .

it’s important that *we* have a voice out there to put out a real response to 9/11

unfortunately, ever since 9-11 there’s been a lot of pressure on Greens from other progressives

if I thought it was important to be careful to let Dems win, I wouldn’t be here – I’d join the Dems

we need to build a movement in the streets

feels Nader is Greens’ best bet, but is open to other candidates

Ray: tend to agree with Paul F, but has also seen *Wash Post* article on Greens & Libertarians as threat to Ds & Rs

(if you want to see it, let him know; he’ll send a copy)

have to make this point, not supporting or opposing it – neither Dean or Kucinich are the Dem party

we have national reps . . . who goes to the national convention to vote for President?

David S answers: we’ll have a number of delegates; we have to fill the positions by May, might want to do by Feb

how many delegates? based on electoral votes, membership, etc. (about 22 now)

Ray Z: and there’ll be IRV, which will make it harder; I don’t know if we can direct our delegates based on IRV

Barb [O?]: some of you have read latest *Nation* – article on pros & cons of Nader running

she’s leaning toward their position (not yet convinced) that we could hurt ourselves if fewer vote for Nader in 2004 than before
at this point, running a Presidential candidate is most important to get a position out

we’re building locally, it’s what we *should* do

should it be a lesser-known person who could still get Green values out there, or Ralph due to name recognition? think about it

Carolyn: Peter Camejo may want to run in CA as a favorite son (let him)

Matt: probably run all out, but we probably won’t resolve this here; focus on how & when to pick delegates

whether we run a Presidential candidate isn’t top priority for us

we need to talk about 15 Congressional districts and 110 State Rep races; let’s move on

David S: Rick’s threat-driven strategy has been discussed; it wouldn’t be talked about publicly, and he doesn’t think anything’s moving
Greens’ biggest influence now is in joining with the Dems backing Kucinich or Dean (or others)

is it “us” to negotiate away elections for goodies? he’s not sure, either . . . but Dems and Reps are reaping what they sow

the reason the third parties are so strong is that the big parties are so close together – we can tip the balance more easily

specific strategy open to debate:

David S: suggests we close the stack on the Presidential race, open a stack on delegates

Carolyn needs to know now, so national reps can [represent GPMI properly on this issue]

John LaP: run and we can move the dialogue

not opposed to Nader, wants an open convention, but thinks someone else would show we’re not just the Nader party

mentions McKinney as an example of a candidate who would broaden people’s perception of Greens

describes Dems’ “proportional voting” at conventions, asks if Michigan will lose votes if we don’t send 22 delegates

David S answers that proxy voting not allowed

Karen S: thinks Kucinich is the most Green candidate she’s seen, we should get him to run as one . . .

Ted H: Kucinich should quit the Dems and join us today

as far as national reps, our position is as voted before (two SMMs ago) – we want a Green Presidential candidate

no matter what we decide and whom we send, the delegates will decide for themselves then

regarding a deal . . . if you don’t think it’ll get out, you don’t know the Dems . . . they’d put it out, and we’d die

if there were a difference, Dems wouldn’t have let Roosevelt’s Taft-Hartley pass, or Glass-Steagall [get repealed]

we are repeating the 1920s

Doug C: Greens aren’t noticing . . . we have a lot of power and we need to use it

there’s more than *one* way to beat Bush

nobody’s asking Constitution Party not to run a candidate for President

there are two distinctly different seasons: before and after Dems select

now, there’s no Dem candidate to run against; once they’re nominated, we could have a different strategy

he’s from Chicago . . . now we’re hearing “vote early, often, and for the Dem of your choice” nationally

defeating Shrub and un-corrupting the system are good goals, but he doesn’t think the way the Dems are going about it works

if we keep our mouths shut, say we’re waiting for someone who stands up for our issues, would vote for an anti-war candidate . . .

Moseley Braun & Sharpton clearly anti-war candidates; Kucinich voted for war and wants us there but with UN

we want something

the threat strategy is underway in IL, where Dems control the governorship & both houses of the legislature

they've been pushing election reform but not getting it; we need to say you could have done it, but it didn't happen
all elections are polarizing – get used to it

good to work with Dem campaigns (and support Kucinich's principles) . . .

but there's no way to get Kucinich or supporters before he loses as a Dem candidate

still, get names, numbers for *afterward*

as for the two larger goals, the best thing we can do is to run a vigorous Green campaign to make the Dems act like Dems again
without us, they'll run toward the muddy middle . . . with the rallying cry "I'm not George W. Bush!"

seen in 2000: Gore showed up, everybody yawned; Nader showed up, everyone excited!

best way to un-corrupt elections is by spoiling every election until they fix it, we get in, or the next Big Bang, whichever comes first

Harley: we need candidates for local office, too . . . but not just 1 or 2: more!

we must run as a team, from the township board to Congressional candidates; plan media events where we appear together

[We need the Presidential candidate to come to Michigan-- work with us.]

most times you speak to groups of 5, 6, 8 people at a time

we need a Pres candidate who can draw attention to come to Michigan . . . and work with us

for example, Nader came in, but had no interaction with the locals

he's not going to support Nader again until he joins the Green Party

we *do* need to search for candidates

maybe we can convince Kucinich to join after he loses the Dem nomination (discussion of when that will be)

Art M: we tell the world we're in favor of grassroots democracy . . .

the only way to do that is run your own candidates, promote your own platform, get out the vote, & trust results (if halfway honest)

that may piss off some Dems (& Reps) in Pres race, but so what? 50M or so will vote each way, if we follow the pattern of 2000

3M or so voted Green . . . not bad, considering 100M of voting age didn't vote; we should be giving them a reason to vote

Ken M: we won't decide the Presidential nominee today, so I want to propose:

try to select delegates in February (could review in May if changes necessary)

June 24-27 national convention in Milwaukee

state nominating convention July 10-11; "we have to nominate state candidates all the way down"

John LaP: from the county level on down, nomination is by county caucus

Karen: concern as a candidate last year . . . nominated in August, but teachers' union had already endorsed candidate months before

we need to have earlier nominations so our candidates can get endorsements

you can be a candidate before you're nominated

Alan [G?]: if they're going to have endorsed candidates before you were a candidate . . . they weren't being honest with you

they decided to vote for *the* Democrat

seems to him the really important question is . . .

this arose under the agenda item of strategy –

Abel campaign helped bring Nader in, also distributed a leaflet to labor

he also went to Boyne City (forerunner of Charlevoix, which brought us Joanne Beemon) & told them GPMI wants a local

even though he wasn't a GPMI member at that time

with that as background, he's concerned – membership is still 388 . . . he wants to build the Green Party

Kalamazoo didn't have a local a few months ago, now they elected two people

if we had more time to talk strategy, we'd have some focus on strategizing to build the party

Ted H: just a thought re: membership . . . somewhat involved in Kalamazoo elections, and one thing became apparent:

although candidates joined the Green Party, they were the only new members . . . their followers didn't join

we need to find out what we're going to get back –

nothing prohibits anyone from filing as a candidate NOW . . . he'll help; just contact him: "announce now, beat the rush . . ."

Art M: in terms of endorsements, we're probably not going to get a lot . . .

but anyone who's giving out an endorsement in April was giving it to someone who wasn't yet on the November ballot

the other thing you need to do is the paperwork with the Secretary of State (or the county clerk):

do this as early as January, and you're an official candidate; raise money and campaign

that will give you status at nomination time

John LaP: you can file now with [state or] county; I have forms

George C:

people in this room running for office nice, but better to identify people in the community and recruit them to run as Greens

"I'm not concerned they don't come to meetings. Look outside this group."

in Detroit, we tried to put together a little project on billboards . . . oil angle for "bring the troops home"

if you get a billboard out, that's a message in the community that says "Green Party" on it

and it helps identify support in community for candidates later – you identify people who are progressive

when you are a candidate, you can go back later

some billboards cost only a few hundred dollars a month: a tactic to raise money, identify potential Green Party members

Ray Z: billboards are cheap now; they'll be more expensive next year

has some campaign-school material to hand out (he doesn't plan to use it) . . . *if* you are running

Art Toy: come visit our cherry farm with 10kW wind generator, or Maynard's farm entirely off the grid

Ken M: addressing Karen's concerns about earlier nominations . . . Pres & VP candidates
mention made that Pete Ponzetti is already filed for state Board of Education

12:10 pm Lou N says Paul E (who went to get lunch) delayed by an accident, will be in here in 20 minutes or so

____: does strategy include fundraising? Lou N scheduled sessions for that and membership

Lou N: let's focus on Ken's proposal on the floor

Barb: many people say they're Green but aren't closer to becoming GPMI members

David S asks how often we talk to people like that (many raise hands) . . . and how often we offer pamphlets? (fewer hands)
he suggests keeping a pile of membership flyers in your coat pocket

Chuck: vote for lesser of two evils is still evil

stacking starts specifically for Ken's proposal to:

select national convention Presidential nomination delegates in February, revisit in May before the national convention in June
and hold our state nominating convention July 10-11

Ted H proposes a friendly amendment separating them for purposes of decision

Paul F: some ambiguity in proposal . . . choose primarily in February, fill holes etc. in May [need more delegates?] < ? >

. . .

David S suggests deciding in February what we'll ask delegates to do with instructions in May

Ken agrees to this as a friendly amendment, after clearing up that it would mean taking up the issue at the February SMM
nominating delegates in February . . .

Carolyn D is confused about the proposal

David S explains the two separate processes: 1) delegates to 2004 Presidential nominating convention; 2) candidates in 2004

Ken M: in 2000, we polled in April among Jello Biafra, Stephen Gaskin, & Ralph Nader

Paul F: we have options as to how detailed are the directions we give our delegates

David S wants to have instructions adopted before we select people

Harley: same general question . . . (also confused re: the friendly amendment of David S)

David S says we would need a process *for* instructing delegates in February, and give the instructions themselves in May

Lou N: maybe the phrase "instructions to the delegates" is the sticking point

he wants to run as a delegate for Nader . . . we could just let members at the May convention select people they want

____: if we run IRV, we will apportion our votes; that way we can select delegates on their views

Ted: friendly amendment of IRV in February? could solve the process right now

Linda M: do you think we'll really get 40 people in Flint saying they want to be delegates?

just ask people to submit statements; we should ask anyone interested

Carolyn: make instructions only good for first ballot? then vote conscience?

Ken notes that too would be part of process to be decided

LUNCH BREAK 12:33 pm (to 1:15 pm)

Lou N notes Reverend Pinkney has another meeting to get to, so his speech is moved up to now

1:15 pm Rev. Pinkney – Benton Harbor update

John LaP introduces: a founder of BANCO, bringing jobs, justice, and education to Benton Harbor
helped pass first millage in how many years? . . . and . . .

Rev. Pinkney's remarks

a pleasure to be here today . . .

we believe in social justice – and I believe in the Green Party . . . and your ideals

we have learned not to put the mask on the wrong face

e.g., Bush as President

yesterday was a very big day for everyone

filed a \$1B lawsuit against Dept of Corrections – they can't wiggle out of it . . . Sprint telephone contract a form of monopoly

Parole Bd answers only to the Governor – we named her in the lawsuit, so now she's upset . . .

her rep came to ask if they could negotiate . . . but can't compromise

have to have \$50 in your account to call home . . . or be a Sprint

Dept of Corrections got \$25M check from Sprint

by filing lawsuit, we can now look at the books . . .

but back to Wednesday . . . Maurice Carter, in jail 28 years for a crime he couldn't have committed (even an eyewitness says so)

he believes governor stepped in to bring about a hearing – but Judge Hammond has a history:

he decided he didn't want a court inside Benton Harbor, so he personally had the court moved

Carter dying of liver disease . . . doctors say 6 months left or so . . . but judge said everybody has to die
Herald-Palladium wouldn't publish anything upsetting, but GR *Press* ran a history of him . . .
he said it's up to the Governor to release him

this is an opportunity for the Green Party to stand tall . . . got to start mobilizing, put everyone together to fight as a team
BAMN calls him . . . he told them they need to get together with us . . .
"I'll be with you. . . ."

I live in Benton Harbor, I know what's going on there – we need to tell people what's going on. . . .

(Sprint contract signed under Engler – but we gotta shake up Granholm too, "let her know business is not as usual")

only place I won't fight is in church – if you hit me there, I'll have to wait until we get outside. . . .

Green Party can be the strongest party in the state – this is something we can do!

Judge Hammond is retiring . . . but we can't let him retire in peace. . . .

(David S: will you be running to replace him? – Doug C: Pinkney for Prosecutor!)

BANCO has a candidate-in-preparation (Greg Cleveland) . . . but waiting to make sure we're all on the same page. . . .

judges can go bad . . . dunno why

one of the things Benton Harbor schools lack is money

Hart School (at-risk kids get dumped there, then \$ taken out)

caused by school bd or admin? combination of both

St Joseph schools get about \$13,000 per student; Benton Harbor gets about \$7,000

but we need to do for ourselves . . . don't want to depend on others

Barb is from Berrien County – glad someone's doing something about courts there; was a teacher at Jordan College

people were trying to do something about an arts district . . . but then there were the riots, etc.

there are people from St Joe and the rest of the area who would like to be part of a more open Benton Harbor

but infighting among segments of the community

BANCO (of which he's executive director) is working on that

we helped decide who's going to be mayor and city commissioners – over 400 members . . . candidates have to come through us

in-house fighting is [about to end – we're trying to eliminate it]

also, it was a way to drain resources from Benton Harbor (exactly, says Barb)

sometimes it takes conflict to generate an opportunity for change – now everyone wants to be part of that

he wasn't surprised that Governor's task force didn't do anything, but it got the movement inside the courthouse

he has an office, and can get information collected for him

Paul E asks Rev P's perspective of "anybody but Bush" position

Rev P wouldn't run as a Dem . . . the way you get to tough-to-reach people (like college students) is when they have a problem

Paul F: if everyone in Berrien's Republican, no point in running as a Democrat; might as well run as a Green & spread philosophy

the new mayor's Republican . . . but it was him or the old mayor, and this person will work with us

first get a kid to vote, then we'll steer him on whom to vote for

Karen S: if someone popular like you ran as a Green, would you set the trend? . . .

George C: so what are the prospects for Benton Harbor?

hope we're moving forward – everyone on the city council now we can work with

problems are education, jobs, health care, that sort of thing?

yes – for education, solutions will take money (for example, actually certified teachers)

at least now we have people who care . . .

Bob G: how's the Governor?

she says we've got a direct line to her office

Barb: you were talking about education; I used to be a substitute teacher in Berrien County/Benton Harbor, lucky I got out with my life
part of the solution has to be order in the schools (and here I am a gray-haired white lady! . . .) psychiatrists, counselors, etc

agreed – but to do that we need money

my main question . . . churches tend to be conservative regarding a lot of issues on which Greens are liberal; needs to be addressed

you're right

capital punishment, abortion, women's rights, etc. – we'd have to work with people who have quite different positions on these

Rick S: you clearly have strength at operating in a tough position; any hints for Greens on acting?

three years ago, he started by picketing the courthouse 9-10am every Tuesday – we've been doing it for three years

be persistent and consistent . . . you'll get a lot of people who'll say you're nuts – but you don't have to disagree with them & argue

focus on what you're trying to accomplish . . . don't disagree – it just starts arguments

don't get sidetracked . . . (especially by any negative messages) . . . don't let nobody turn you around

Carolyn: have you said anything about relations with the police?

good question – ready to fire the chief of police?

Governor promised us \$5M – may not give us that . . . but that saves his job until it comes

during the riot period, he put a rifle on his back (doesn't have a license to carry)

frequently on TV – and his words were always fighting words (she believed that he had helped stop the riots)

Matt: attorney in Oakland County . . . is there a court-/Gov-appointed receiver for the city?

and are you satisfied with your Congressman, and if not would you run to replace him?

read about suit . . . do you think that motorcycle "accident" was an accident?

no, not at all . . . nothing we can do about it right now, but a lawsuit has been filed

(Doug C: have the police killed anyone since? [no] so relations are improved!)

and no police beatings, either

they haven't arrested the two officers involved in strangling Arthur Partee in March . . .

Benton Township 20-24 police officers, 1 African American

Barb asks about *The Other Side of the River* . . . did anything happen after that?

now we've got this so-called riot, and national focus from it . . .

when McGuinness was murdered at that time, the man who did it was promoted – to the head of the Parole Board

(and he's been promoted again since)

now it's a different time . . . our time . . .

Matt moves that we formally approve a resolution of support for Rev P's efforts in Benton Harbor; mass consensus for it . . . passed

(also working on suits vs Coors Beer and Whirlpool [who are also located in Benton Harbor] – they've got to get better)

Lou N calls for passing the hat

break 2:15 - 2:30 pm

Ted H notes some checks come with directions (they say "only for X"); wants to know if by-laws say anything about how to use such

Art M: for AWOs, it's probably a payment for goods received

Doug C notes you can't earmark GPMI donations for ballot-question or candidate committees

David S says nothing in by-laws on this . . .

admin is general, so OK . . . and Doug C says OK as long as we actually spend that much on the indicated item

David S: but if we get a *lot* of earmarking, we have to trace it

Ted H wonders if allocation isn't up to the SCC

Randym asks how \$ is allocated; we need an actual down-to-earth budget . . .

Alan suggests asking for volunteers to work on a budget committee:

Randym Jones, Linda Myatt, Chuck Loucks, Art Myatt, Ray Ziarno, Ken Mathenia

Ken: there is a Finance group on Yahoo

back to the agenda . . . friendly amendments over lunch to Ken's proposal; as it stands now:

delegate selection at February meeting; selection/instruction process before that . . . and follow-up (& final instructions) in May

Lou N asks where the proposal will come from – at the SMM or from discussions by SCC

John LaP: go to SCC direct or Elections/By-Laws first?

Paul F: SMM needs to rule ultimately, but important to go to SCC and have discussion; more political than by-laws-oriented

Paul E suggests specifically asking SCC to come back to the next SMM in February with a proposal; Ken says okay

Ray Z liked Lou's idea of delegate candidates making presentations . . . (but David S says need to get it all written out & to SCC)

Lou N: someone made a good point – IRV at national convention; we could use instructions to tell delegates how to vote 2nd, 3rd, etc.

David S: NOTA is going to be on the ballot

this version is finally **approved**

Ken: 1st go to SCC to create process; approve process at Feb. SMM; elect delegates at Feb. SMM; revisit at May SMM just in case

second part: hold nominating convention July 10-11

Karen S has blocking concern: "What if I get endorsement, then don't get nomination?"

Lou N (passes); David S stacks himself to respond, then defers to John LaP re: naming Pres candidate for ballot (vs electors)

issue: if we put in our national candidate in June, but another candidate is nominated, then what?

John LaP: "Nothing in law says we have to name a Presidential candidate at our state convention, just Presidential electors"

Ted H: if you show up at convention with backing of a group, you'll get GPML nomination

Paul B: Libertarians only adjourn, don't close (nominations)

George C doesn't see how this is any different than Ds & Rs do it . . .
you can announce any time; you may ask for endorsement, but that doesn't guarantee nomination

John LaP: one advantage of having no primary is that there is a window later in May *after* the Ds & Rs file
we can hold our convention then (after seeing the opponents in particular districts); help to fill holes, encourage candidates
knowing our schedule now still gives us lots of time to recruit candidates < **more time or lots of time?** >
anybody who is a candidate, file *now* – but there is that window of opportunity;
get our slate out early, and it's harder to ignore

Alan: two things to respond to Karen . . .
when Doug ran for governor, he came to an SMM & invited people to run against him to build media coverage, but it didn't happen
filing put him in position to go to primary events: "You can't evict me; I'm a registered candidate"
he got to stand in front of that forum and claim a rightful position – shouldn't be treated differently
we don't have a primary, restricted to convention, but that doesn't prevent us from running
George is right, the tactical question just doesn't obtain . . . and Ted raises another good strategic point
if a person is endorsed by a major union, we're likely to nominate
also wants to reinforce John LaP's tactical point: there are 5 or 6 places in Oakland County where this could happen
rise money, Party profile . . . and impact issues
We need to make tactical and strategic decisions to show that we *are* the opposition party
but he concludes with more reasons to wait: "There are times when we *do* want to run vs. Dems and Reps"

Paul E: remembers *State Journal* looking only at candidates **on the ballot** (which isn't true for us before convention)

Karen: I agree with John LaP re: early slate

Art M: pretty strongly in favor of having convention as late as possible (for Alan's reasons)
what John LaP was saying for advantages of doing it earlier must be weighed against disadvantage of lost recruiting time . . .
but later we would have a whole slate of candidates
it's a good to have an occasional candidate standing, not running, for election:
not too active but willing to put name on ballot . . . just to *be* on the the ballot

Eric: as far as Presidential . . . it's a few days after the national committee that the candidate's name has to be submitted
scheduling of state convention should be on a totally independent track

Paul F: need to find out more information before we make a final decision
if there is no way to hold the convention in May, it would be a disaster to have the wrong (Presidential candidate's) name
Karen has raised some real considerations, but we need to check
if there's a way to nominate the President in July but hold the state convention in May, we should look at that

Ted: move to hold candidate conventions in February & May, nominating convention in August

Harley: I really believe we need as many candidates as possible, & we won't have as many candidates if we have an early convention
he wouldn't have been able to run in 2002 if convention had been in May (he was still a state employee)
maybe Ken's idea is a good compromise between May and August

Karen: thinks quality is more important than quantity
I was begged by John Lytle to run for office, and I did it. I'm glad I did it . . . and I want to see us **WIN**

Doug C: let me respond to Paul [E]'s comment re: *LSJ* policy – they didn't really cover us **after** we nominated folks either. . . .
re Art's comment on endorsing groups . . . hey do look at SOS site, and their policy of posting puts us at a disadvantage
major candidates are posted before minor candidates; early **IS** important
lawsuit re: "separate but equal"? we need to find a way to overcome that unfair treatment, even getting SOS to change policy
we demand interviews with endorsement organizations

John LaP: good to have lots of candidates; if nominations are in May, we have time to get candidates
I want to see more *and* better candidates . . .
those potential candidates are looking at the SOS website; we should be recruiting, developing and finding people all the time!
the more we do that, the less it matters *when* the convention is

Ken: picked those dates because national convention is end of June, then after that 4th of July
the next weekend after those, we might get media attention – and it's as early as possible after the national convention
these dates are the next available after we find out what comes out of the national convention; that's why that weekend, not later
if we can nominate for President after state convention, he might support somewhat earlier . . . June, maybe

David S: interested in Ted's idea of extended nominations; can we sign off on candidates before the official nominating convention?
probably not enough info this year to do that

Susan F thinks we run too many candidates . . . a question of resources – 36 candidates in 2002, no wins . . .
3 in Ann Arbor this yr, 0 wins . . . candidates not serious, so not effective
if 1 candidate had managed another's campaign, we'd have done better (could've elected Scott T)
we need to get candidates *and* campaign managers; we got candidates out there, then gave them no support
her running mate for U of M Regents ended up not supporting Affirmative Action
need a better screening process (questionnaire for each position)

I don't buy into a spoiler argument, but we need better picking of races . . . U of M
another thing is image – it does more harm than good to always get 12% . . .

people get used to Libertarians and Greens failing; it does us more harm to be failing, just because there's a name on ballot
we know what to do . . . there are two kinds of campaigns: running to get across a message & running to win

Sylvia: state membership meeting in May, national meeting in June, maybe state convention in July (& county caucuses too)
if there's too much happening every month, it's hard to attend all of these . . . too busy?

John LaP: caucuses must be held by the date of the primary election

disadvantage of April is that deadline for primary filing is mid-May; we'd lose the possibility of strategically picking races
but April not impossible

Eric: as far as state convention, we're choosing state candidates, not so much local folks . . .

May 15 is the key date – the optimal date to get into forums

gives candidates more momentum to challenge exclusion from primary forums

to be credible and get into forums, you need to be **the** Green candidate

Harley: if he had not run for Congress last year, there are 5,000 people who wouldn't have voted for a Green candidate for Congress

"I don't agree with Susan – more *is* better

"his is how the Democrats and Republicans work it – they support each other"

the more people running, the more volunteers; "I should have worked more with Ray and Doug"

we're running for more than just ourselves . . . we need lots of candidates

he'll serve as manager for local candidates

Ray notes few statewide races: no US Senator, governor, etc.; top statewide office is Board of Education

Matt: we should probably have one candidate in each of the University-board races

we discussed this on SCC; on this & that, he's been bouncing back & forth; "the important thing is, we need to *make* a decision"

if we say now we're going to do it in May, that's enough lead time to decide how to do things

yes, some [potential candidates] will be left out -- but doing it early gives finality

when the candidate[']s on the SOS website, better legal challenge when nominated

an advantage worth having an open convention, until midnight; watch the races come in; can't have . . .

he did go to the Libertarian meeting . . . their party was split 50-50 on swapping races, probably blocking concerns

they're looking at 17 State-Rep seats, will probably field 7-10 candidates for those (we might "trade races" if we knew which)

it's a screwed[-up] system; we have to deal with it

there was some support from Libertarians for joining with Greens to fight the primary system

we should pass a resolution to talk with the Libertarians about this

wants to set a convention date *now*; he won't be unhappy whatever it is

Art M: let's say we nominate a slate in May . . . will the state put our candidates up immediately or wait until August?

Doug C: in 2002, SOS put us on the Web site after the primary; we didn't get on beforehand because our convention was in August

but we should pressure the SOS to do it differently this year

John LaP: Libertarians and Natural Law got listed; they had conventions in May

the listing was on a separate page, with no visible link to it from the primary page everyone was watching

"I have talked to Mr. Wittman about this"

Lou N has clarifying Q: what are the legal requirements on county caucuses re: primaries?

state convention allowed to fill delegate slots unfilled by county caucuses; what about the other way around?

John LaP: state law says pick state convention delegates at county caucuses, but lets members fill vacancies at convention

our by-laws say all members are delegates, so that's okay . . .

the only problem with convention before caucus would be our by-law saying hold caucus at convention or 15-60 days before

George C doesn't believe the convention should fill *local* [nomination] slots . . . as happened last year

stack closed; any blocking concerns?

Ted H still does . . . then doesn't, but Art does

Ted H: "all people have to do is show up in February – good; that's your spot; these people are now running"

Lou N declares *all* attendees at the SMM are eligible to vote

so there's a vote . . . state nominating convention on July 10-11 (2nd weekend after national convention)

yes 10

no 12

"no" wins, 12 to 10, so clearly no 2/3 majority for "yes" and convention is *not* on that date

straw poll on when to have the convention instead

earlier 4

later 15

uncertain 5

Lou N suggests a lack of consensus for changing the traditional date . . .

Rick suggests looking further into Libertarian before-and-after option; Harley wants to pick a date now:

Matt says latest weekend is July 31-August 1 . . .

Rick S & Karen S, who both voted no before, move to "reconsider" (go back & vote again on July 10-11)

vote on reconsidering

yes 12

no 9

still not 2/3, so we won't reconsider

Lou N drags us back to the agenda (and sends the convention-schedule issue to SCC)

3:58 pm (start) fundraising

George C on Detroit billboard project:

find a mechanism to find people to contribute to the Party; also raises awareness of the Green Party

a healthy exercise in democracy, and raises money to put it up

engaged people, and gathered refinements in the final selected billboard

4 possibilities taken to Dally in the Alley; "Bring the troops home now!" had the widest support

get billboards for \$100 - 5,000 per month; our buying exposure: 14' x 48' . . . some are paper, some are canvas and polyethylene newspaper company offers backs of mailer postcards; 586,000 households, can cover one ZIP code (18,000 or so) for about \$800

good for candidates

Karen: could state party do this?

LouN: synergy between letters and billboards

GeorgeC: synergy of 2 issues: Green Party and "Bring the troops home now"; also do press release

Ted H (as state Treasurer) notes it's a great idea, but needs to push the whole state Green Party . . .

"we can't be a local and *we* need the money" . . . earmarked contributions: designate for the billboard . . .

"if we can't win across the whole state, we can't get representatives"

George C disagrees: they're a county committee, they can be independent; he'd like to see people across the state do the same

"we raised money from our people, GPMI should be able to raise money at the grassroots"

"people from all over drive the state . . . every county should do this"

(long stack)

Chuck: following what Susan said about winning . . . we can be raising issues

we should look at billboards on a statewide initiative (single-payer health care, etc); "we could be the spearhead"

"Democrats and Republicans aren't doing this; I want to see this organization get up, go out and do something"

George: that's a much larger campaign . . . 300,000 signatures or so

"this (billboard) is limited; we're trying to ID people on it as an issue they can relate to"

Craig Rossen, brand-new member from Mattawan

earlier this month he was up north at a meeting of a group ['sustainable agricultural non-profit'] with a new development officer;

she had five ideas:

1. detailed fundraising plan

2. focus organization on plan, avoid distractions

3. meaningful recognition, e.g. "Milliken Fund" (former Governor Milliken lent his name to it)

4. staff/board involvement (every single person's responsibility); used several different projects as development opportunities

5. "eight touches" (she contacts major donors 8 times a year)

George: we're trying to recruit you

David S: thanks to Craig for getting us back on the track of fundraising . . .

"what Detroit Greens are doing is excellent . . . [They] are a local party . . . we can clone the idea"

the key thing is this is likely to work, so let's steal it and use it all over

another idea could be replicated by locals (but might not go over well everywhere): Café Press site (delayed by union concerns)

"any ideas for artwork, bumper stickers? I hope to have it up by the end of November"

Sylvia: George & David mostly addressed what I was going to say about Ted's comments: Greens are grassroots-oriented

Bob G: "I think it is money well spent" – George shared his idea with me at Dally in the Alley . . . good for people in rural areas

at Kalamazoo County Fair, I had to chase people down to hand them literature

do you want the state to fund the project, George? (no, we're doing it out of county committee/caucus)

we're a political entity, we can buy advertising; hard to deny us the opportunity

would there be any problem putting a state Web site on it? (billboard expert says max 11 words; already more than enough there)

is there a link to migreens.org? (I think so)

Linda M: you don't actually say "Help us advertise", do you?

Chuck L: billboards may be fine for Detroit, "but to me they are pollution"

doesn't like them in open spaces . . . still, well, if they'll be there, better they have good messages

Rick: any strangenesses with campaign-finance tracking?

the people George checked with – Marc R & Pete – said it might be touchy if candidates were mentioned (cf. "Impeach Bush!")

George sees it as a party-building exercise

Kalamazoo campaigns got tremendous benefit from lead candidate's work with KNOW, standing up against parts of PATRIOT Act

result was that he (Don Cooney) not only had huge base of anti-war support, he also had Muslim-Arab community donating part of fundraising is getting out there and developing the base

(one of the things George has been doing is thinking about the people out there in the community, piggybacking to their lists etc)
Ray: you don't need support from the state party, right? (just sharing idea/technique of fundraising) . . .

some futuristic skinny guy suggested this last year . . .

Paul F: cut remarks short (wanting to make time for other items)

Randym: banner on eCurrent.com pointing to MIGreens.org for three years
snapped up MIGreens.biz & .com, already had .net but these could be for merchandise
links to Powell's books

Carolyn likes the idea . . . people know this war was for oil (but now being pushed as for "Democracy")
get more response if drop out the "oil" and leave the blood drop

Ted H: more ideas:

1) coming from WMU Campus Greens . . . buy tickets to Miller Auditorium and run a raffle . . . is it possible?

2) Ferndale, Kalamazoo won in elections . . . non-partisan . . .

GPMI could print an ad in the Kalamazoo *Gazette* congratulating members for winning . . .

quarter-page costs \$600, 1/8 page would be \$320 or so

or we could run in *Free Press* or *News* – that would go all across the state . . . cost?

in Ferndale, a bunch of newspapers are about to run an IRV example on ice cream to educate people who may get to vote on IRV
comes out in January 2004; may cost \$600, reaches 75,000 in Ferndale . . . we could run an ad with the Mirror Group
buy at the state level: GPMI supports IRV . . . cost?
resolution to do this

back to the agenda

3:15 - 4:00 pm membership-building
(starts at **4:39pm**)

using issue-based organizing . . . Ferndale has been using IRV as an issue for that; in Detroit, it's been more water issues

Priscilla reports

built a coalition . . . half of 16,000 in Highland Park have either had their water cut off or are in cutoff status

City Council election . . . two candidates endorsed by the local coalition (Highland Park Human Rights Coalition) were elected:

Tablin: with Green Party, Sweetwater Alliance

wouldn't say we have any new members, but a lot of people know GPMI exists and is interested in water issues

also a lot of international organizing – because it's an international catastrophe

4-5 going to Miami for FTAA, 1 at Cancun WTO protest

and we've been invited to support the People's World Water Forum 1/10-13/04 in New Delhi

(a few days before the 1/16-21 People's Social Forum in Mumbai)

[2 from Detroit + 1 from Detroit, 1 from Traverse City]

they want help getting people to Delhi . . . cost of plane tickets projected at \$2,000 per person . . .

trying to get pledges right now (money and/or airline miles) – if giving donations as Christmas presents . . .

Alan: this makes me think I should report on the International Committee (Pete's on it too, but he isn't here)

we've been spending a lot of our time on water, too – the ecological and political questions; "water has no borders"

another thing that's happening . . . in the past few months, travel restricted by financial considerations

[mention of GPMI's role in the founding of the Nicaraguan Green Party]

if people on int'l bodies traveled across country telling about what's happening worldwide, it might be a fundraising opportunity

SCC should look at bringing someone internationally famous to Michigan

with Detroit doing so much on water issues, bringing in someone from the world might help

Eric: the best advertising is a sticker on a car, cheap and very visible

In the Green is still there and available for sharing info (and for other cable systems)

Ken: we need an updated trifold with dues and contact info; a spot for local contact info desirable (so they can stamp or add a sticker)

David S: SCC could handle that

Art: what Ken is asking for is in AWOG . . . but the problem with advertising in AWOG is every issue costs us 50¢ now

2,000 for \$1,000; 5,000 for \$1,500; 10,000 for \$2,500

we could print lots more and make them cheaper by the each . . . but we need to distribute them

on making better use of AWOG in the future: list local contacts, add a check place to subscribe *without* becoming a member

Paul F: I think one of the most important things we can do with AWOG is share one article per issue with one person

we can use this for recruiting . . . the way to recruit is one person at a time; use AWOG to do this

Alan: who'll help distribute?

Eric Borregard, Priscilla Dziubek, Ken Mathenia, Randym Jones, Rick Stahlhut, Chuck Jordan, Gary Dodd

Art: if you have a complaint, write better article

Ted H: a way to use the Detroit Greens' billboard idea – why not take "Oil" out, and add "read AWOG"?

Art: has the Green Party gotten copies of candidate petitions? (not in partisan races, but non-partisan . . .)

[4:00 - 4:20 pm] other business or proposals

Carolyn D: asks GPMI to ask USGP's Co-ordinating Committee to set up formal rules for party election proceedings including campaigning for Committee positions (close, but not quite exact)
the issue is back from SCC . . . Alan will second it

David S: problems with distribution of information for candidates . . . thought we passed this in SCC

CONSENSUS

Susan F: proposes supporting Borders workers vs. Borders Inc.

Ann Arbor living wage is \$9.70 without benefits . . . now, they get \$6.50{?} [with 50-cent raise first 6 months, then annual 3%]. . .

asking for \$7.95 + 4.5% annual raise; want contract [with] vacation time as well as improved wages

corporation has 430 stores, had \$125 million profit last year; has already spent million\$ on union-busting lawyers Jackson Lewis big rallies Fridays at 5pm in downtown Ann Arbor; last Friday, there were 60 people on the picket line

setting a precedent for retail ("the new blue collar")

calling a boycott . . . what's really going to hurt them is not just no sales at store #1, but the publicity

so if you have a Borders elsewhere in Michigan, go between now and Thanksgiving, then and Christmas, with flyers organize other stores

David S asks: "are they actually asking for parallel boycott of WaldenBooks and Amazon.com?"

yes . . . UFCW Local 876 and Borders Readers United (bordersreadersunited.com.org)

Priscilla: at the other stores?

hand out leaflets (Paul F said Jobs with Justice had a picket in Detroit)

Alan adds an amendment . . . forward to national CC and ask them to take action, too

Ted H offers a friendly amendment to send them \$50 and pass the hat again

Sylvia: why WaldenBooks?

same company (& their Web site is done by Amazon)

Paul F plans to suggest bringing to union & challenging Dems & Reps to do the same (but not as part of the resolution)

Susan says Student Dems cooked dinners for the workers

Alan says same union was on strike vs. Kroger[?] a few years ago . . .

possibly, with some encouragement, Borders Readers United could urge contacting other UFCW locals

Rick S: Q about \$50 . . . seems a small number compared to what a strike committee needs; what else can we do?

Susan F: send Greens to stores with buttons & brochures

Art M: this money should go to the striking workers, not a readers group

Susan says BRU is the workers-and-community group (the strike fund, in effect) . . .

\$61 from hat + \$50 from GPMI (make checks out to "Borders Workers")

the following language was **approved by consensus**:

WHEREAS Borders Bookstore in Ann Arbor refuses to negotiate in good faith to pay its employees a living wage; and

WHEREAS Borders management's intransigence has forced its employees out on strike; and

WHEREAS the Green Party stands for social justice and supports labor struggles for a living wage;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Green Party of Michigan (GPMI) stands in support of the Borders workers; and be it further

RESOLVED that GPMI encourages its members to boycott Borders, Waldenbooks, and Amazon.com until this issue is resolved.

Contact: Susan Fawcett votefawcett@yahoo.com 734-994-7460

back to filling officer/rep positions

John LaP has found his notes, and mentions Jim Moreno and (maybe) David Palmer were interested in being no-local reps

Randym says DP may be joining a budding Ypsi local, but could fill the seat until then

both okayed (DP provisionally, since he wanted assurances about the amount of work involved first . . . John LaP to check)

John LaP has two more quick proposals – if they go quickly . . . and they did

consensus on supporting NMH nurses (on the first anniversary of their strike), opposing SOA / WHISC (and FTAA)

announcements

. . . Jim Hightower now on Green Party Radio (via Internet)

Great Lakes Greens training school next month in Racine, WI (12/5-7)

announcement of dedication of monument to peace activist Rebecca Shelley on 12/7 in Battle Creek's Quaker Park

5:10 pm auction of novel *Master and Commander* purchased at Paperbacks Unlimited . . . went for \$8.50 to George C

[4:20 - 4:30 pm] closing circle

5:22 pm adjourn