

GPMI State Membership Meeting
November 2~3, 2013 * Cambria Suites; 255 Munson Ave, Traverse City

Saturday, November 2

9:00 - 10:00 am Registration and Welcome (coffee and tea only at this time) [9:xx]

[Joe Connelly (sp?)]
Candace Caveny
Margaret Guttshall
Paul Hommerich (sp?)
John Anthony La Pietra
Jennifer La Pietra
Tom Mair
[Susan Odgers]
Lou Novak
[Pat Timmons]
Fred Vitale

Fred V presents video of Detroit rallies for Oakwood Orthopedic Elementary School
and photos of rally 10/23 against Detroit bankruptcy & emergency manager Kevyn Orr (around bankruptcy hearing)
Lou N was there the next Monday when Orr & Gov Snyder testified
Tom M asked about which unions were there – the ones who cover city workers (UAW, SEIU)
Fred V says at least 4 coalitions are now working against the emergency manager law
Detroit Is Resisting Emergency Management (Grace Boggs & Boggs Center, GPMI, MWRO, etc)
Moratorium Now Coalition (Wkrs' World)
Change Agent Consortium
National Action Network (Al Sharpton nationally; local branch led by Charles Williams)
Paul H points out small attendance so far, suggests that a top priority should be to gather more people . . .

10:00 - 10:10 am Agenda and Delegate Approval [10:22]

Fred V reviews the proposed agenda, asks for approval

10:15 am -12:30 pm Officer Reports; National Committee Delegate Reports; Follow-Up on Open Items from SCC [xx:xx]

JALP reports as Elections Co-ordinator:

- * new petitioning requirements (for primaries, mostly, but cities may change to match so we need to know local requirements)
- * candidates: Kevin Graves wants to be our candidate for governor; Tim Johnson for SH042 (Brighton area)
- * need to discuss (& maybe decide) where & when to hold 2014 convention (& the SMM before then)
 general okay to spring convention; JALP reminds that local caucuses can be before or after
- * reviews the Jeremy Royer situation
- * we need to update the platform for 2014 (Lou N suggests not starting with a blank slate)

[some pause for lunch ordering]

Lou N goes over Art M's report on business done on the SCC list [paste in] . . . including:

- * Occupy national meeting in K'zoo – proposal to support met with some resistance due to some boycotters
- * news releases against involvement in Syria, Detroit bankruptcy
- * articles/etc on various issues posted to SCC list

review of who's in which offices now – Fred V notes Derek G is unsure of his health/ability

Paul H asks if anyone has worked on updating the Website, etc; not much yet; platforms discussed

Tom M, Lou N note that the national site still links to our old Website

Paul H volunteers to work on revamping the Website, send it to Lou N to look at before posting; he's welcomed/encouraged

Fred V points out we still need more content, too

Tom M suggests a Twitter account; Lou N says there is one (migrreenparty) – a few people have access to it
another problem is that the old site is still fuller in content . . .

Fred V agrees with Paul H's comments on how to better track the results of old decisions – maybe send gentle reminders?

Art M has done well at keeping SCC-list business going, but not at this

Lou N notes that one way to encourage volunteers is to have things for them to do – a task list?

Paul H thinking of two “call to action” pages, one for individuals and one for the party

Lou N hands out a half-sheet treasurer's report

our support of the Committee to Ban Fracking in MI was the subject of some reporting controversy for a moment

total funds in hand has hovered around \$6,000~7,000 for the past several year

reviews some major sources of funding – PayPal, meetings, etc

Margaret G asks when to discuss Sherry Wells for Ferndal Mayor campaign; we agree it would be good (maybe after lunch)

Lou discusses possible improvements for 2014 . . .

Fred V hasn't gotten much membership in lately . . . maybe it's time for a serious membership drive

hard to say exactly how many members we have – maybe 300 still on (5,000+ list)

no SMM postcards sent this time because post office didn't have them

in these Facebook/etc days, “membership” is a hard-to-define paradigm

. . .

Fred V uses the National Committee Report slot to bring in the topic of the 2012 Presidential election report . . . <* see e-mail *>

(cf also the results since then from the Green Shadow Cabinet)

they spent the whole summer doing fundraising, then getting to ballot access, and only then campaigning

maybe we should revisit having a GPMI organizer – maybe a campus Green somewhere?

Paul H thinks creating a strategic marketing plan first would be better (who we want to attract & why)

Margaret G suggests Wayne St U as a good place to hire an organizer

says Fred has proposed an “anti-EM slate”

Tom M thinks raising money goes along with building/rebuilding locals, etc, etc

also not sure it would be good to hire someone who doesn't have a history with GPMI & this kind of work

Fred V says maybe we should split off fundraising and organizing into two positions (have two people)

Lou N says report on Presidential campaign was the leading topic at the national meeting in Iowa, too

on the list, lately, we're getting into the 2014 election cycle – discussing the new process for updating the GPUS platform

update opportunities are getting more frequent (every 1-2 years, not every 4 years)

Fred V notes the link between a (slow-changing but) firm platform and quick-response news releases

JALP says GPMI has also considered having white papers as another kind of intermediate step

Paul H has worked for years with an all-volunteer crisis response center in the Lansing area

Lou N suggests finding a position on SCC for Paul H to co-ordinate volunteers

Fred V mentions updating the trifold, too

Paul H says good job descriptions would be helpful

Lou N, Fred V remember the work of the

JALP asks (speaking of giving people things to do) if anyone wants to declare for a race yet?

Lou N has a new next-door neighbor who's declared for the SH006 race Lou's run for before; maybe that would be a good story

Margaret G willing to run again for Wayne St U Board of Governors

Fred V recalls the “Stop the War” ticket of 2006; maybe next year a “Stop the EM”/anti-anti-democracy slate?

we have a special role to play as a statewide organization

JALP notes the handout from Maureen Taylor (MWRO) Fred V had distributed . . . wishes Kevin Graves were here

also revives the idea of matching funds – good to mention to Maureen?

Jennifer points out that anyone we nominate has to adhere to the 10KV

Lou N notes that Elena Herrada (who's had GPMI support in the past) has decided to run as a D for State House

Fred V says she's in SH006; Lou's in City District 6 now, not SH006

Fred V's going to be her treasurer – not her campaign manager; just to keep her out of jail by reporting accurately

Tom M would rather encourage people to run on more local levels/tiers; hopes to find some races we can win

Candace C [just in] agrees that, now we've had some state-level recognition, we can run more people

Lapeer City Council seats are being elected Tuesday . . . nominally non-partisan

one incumbent D wasn't going to run, so another D got on the ballot

then the incumbent changed her mind and tried to get on as a write-in

then came a 3rd candidate (Jamie Fricke) as a write-in; marijuana advocate – and Candace thinks she may win

Candace wishes she'd known Jamie Fricke before; could have encouraged her to self-ID as Green, not D

she's been hassled, etc . . . has a Website: JamieFricke.com

meanwhile, she's also trying to get a fellow in Huntington Woods to run/stand

he's active in the Peace & Justice Council there

Fred V says Wayne Co Community College district reps are partisan – nobody runs, Ds win by default

Paul H asks what besides adherence to 10KV we're looking for in a winnable candidate? (different from winnable races)

Lou N comments:

previous experience/activism/involvement in the community [whether in elective office or not]

ability to present themselves and the issues well

Paul H suggests:

willingness to call a spade a spade – and to use it to do something, too

speaking skills, etc

Candace C points out we've exposed some Ds as anti-choice (e.g., Henry Yanez)

Fred V notes Jill S has pointed out any FDR Ds would have to be Greens by now . . .

also tells Paul H about the two types of GPMI candidates (running and standing)

Candace C mentions John Philo

he was invited last month to speak to the Women's Officials Network (which she was invited to join)

at the end of the meeting, the videotape pans around the meeting to let people in the audience identify themselves

his eyes lit up when Candace mentioned she was with the Green Party

Tom M asks if everyone here is going to run in 2014 – he's going to run for Co Comm'r again

Paul H is committed to running; not sure what for yet, though

Fred V asks what Tom M needs to win – some support, maybe some more people knocking on doors

he thinks he missed out on some absentee voters from not starting early enough

wants to be able to mail postcard to all absentees, etc

JALP notes his old continuing CoClk billboard

says he's willing to run for something else next yr, but what? SOS? SH063?

Margaret G doesn't want us to run against a progressive gay D with all the anti-gay stuff going on here

Candace C thinks we should be careful in asking about such issues

Paul H adds as a concern that, if it's a choice between a progressive D and a Green, the D will win

Candace C brings up the case of Jim Moreno – and Lapeer school board

Fred V gets a call from Chris Silva (with the Keep Michigan Wolves Protected campaign) – he's here (with Ellie Hayes, campaign mgr)

Ellie H will show a PowerPoint presentation as we have . . .

12:30 - 1:30 pm lunch

[12:30]

SB1350 of 2012 to authorize 1st MI open season for wolf => signed 2012/12/28, PA 520 of 2012; first referendum petition blocked that 2 wks after 225k signatures submitted, Casperson submitted SB288 of 2013 (2013/04/09)

to let Natural Resources Commission (7 political appointees, only 1 with any background) to add animals to the list of game species

Lou N notes this "contemptuous end-run around the KMWP referendum" fits into anti-democracy framework with EM law, etc

passed both houses in 21 days . . .

KMWP needs more volunteers – behind their target (of 225k again)

Candace C passes on a suggestion of recruiting signatures at veterinarian's offices

also notes anti-fracking people signed at Gasland showing

Lou N notes we collected signatures on fracking ban; what does Ellie think attracts people to this issue (besides NativeAm view)?

Ellie thinks people recognize wolves as part of our heritage/history (despite fairy-tale bad image & hysteria)

in creation story, wolf is a brother helping man name all things on the Earth
from that story, NativeAms feel that whatever happens to wolves will happen to their culture, too

Lou N proposes [re-]endorsing this new referendum petition
& encouraging all Greens to sign petitions and help gather signatures
Candace C supports – and notes our big publicity in Flint J for donation to anti-fracking
so we agree on \$100 donation here, too . . .
CONSENSUS

Fred V shows a presentation (by SEIU?) on the true situation in Detroit and what the corporate elites want us to believe
[at 1:40pm, we take a break . . .]

1:30 - 2:45 pm Presentation on Protection of Wolves; Updates on Other Campaigns (fracking, anti-EM);
Strategy discussion for 2014 (continued from previous SMMs & list);
Announcements; Conclude Any Official Final SCC or SMM Business [1:50]

[we're already into this, so we go on . . .]

talk about a 3-year strategic plan (2014~2016) . . . five components:

- 1) membership
- 2) platform/issues
- 3) candidates
- 4) fundraising
- 5) outreach/media

goals in each of those areas:

- 1) increase membership – turn voters for GPMI into GPMI members
well, what does having more members get us? maybe the focus should be more on active participants
Lou N puts in locals as part of this point
- 2) completion of platform in a timely way – we want to incorporate the most critical, popular issues
- 3) [fill] every position with a candidate – win some partisan offices & some non-partisan offices
- 4) Paul H thinks GPMI does want to support causes beyond just our own candidates – so:
 - * how to do that strategically? & how much funding for which?
 - * could we say (e.g.) 20% of every dollar we raise will go to causes (in general)?Paul H, Fred V discuss how fundraising companies work as compared with us or organizer
- 5) Candace C thinks that promoting awareness of GPMI itself should come before any other goals
she notes how Bobby Brown's appearance on Tony Truppiano radio show boosted GP visibility (cf JStein too)
Paul H thinks people have heard of us –
but we should promote ourselves as “not what you think we are . . . and less crazy than you've been told”
Lou N suggests “ahead of the curve”, Fred V “the party of the future – today”; we opposed EM (with Pinkney) years ago, etc

Jennifer L stresses the need for candidates who agree with the whole party platform

Paul H thinks most activities fail because of missed opportunities

let's dare to dream that the Green Party gets lots of people into office – could we govern? can we work with other viewpoints/etc?

we all agree that these things are all interrelated and need to be integrated . . .

Paul H would be happy to put together a “white paper” on membership

JALP could get involved in several of these . . . which one[s]? maybe platform & candidates both [for now at least]

Lou N would take on fundraising (as treasurer) – but thinks maybe we would do better to ask people on SCC to jump in on them

Fred V thinks instead start with the people here who've been in on this discussion

he and Candace will work on outreach & media

what would we want people to write? 1-3 pages on:

pros & cons of making each one of these a priority
background and historical data

take a position or not? yes, we decide
strategy & tactics – how to do it (working towards/into some smattering of an action plan)

suggestion: aim to get all the first drafts done by a particular time – 12/9 or at latest 12/13
whatever you have by the date, turn it in

discussion of what parts of which ones are process/abstract and what is specifics/concrete?

final decisions for now:

next meetings – discussion; Fred V proposes SMM in Lansing in late Feb or early March, convention in Detroit in April/May
(alternatives: reverse that, or move to Oakland Co instead of Detroit)
Feb is Black History Month; Mar is Women's History Month

[break at 2:45pm to set up for public meeting]

3:00 - 5:00 pm	Public Meeting – “Government Shutdown, Emergency Managers, Fracking: Why We Need the Green Party” (snacks and beverages for public meeting) [two Green Party speakers (one on national situation one on Michigan) – followed by discussion]	[xx:xx]
6:00 pm	dinner together (?)	[xx:xx]

Sunday, November 3

9:00 - 10:00 am	Registration and Welcome (Sunday brunch available at cost for us)	[xx:xx]
10:00 am	Building the Green Party – new models for growth and influence and internal governance (could be open to local friends of Green Party as well)	[xx:xx]
11:00 am	Concluding Discussion on the 2014 Elections	[xx:xx]
11:45 am	Wrap-Up; Announcements	[xx:xx]
12:00 noon	Meeting Ends	[xx:xx]