

GPMI State Membership Meeting – October 22, 2005 – Kulick Community Center, Ferndale

**8:30 to 9:30** Setup, registration, coffee, bagels, donuts. Chairs rearranged into circle.

**9:30 to 10:00** Fundraising: Silent auction, bumper stickers, “Wage Peace” bracelets, tee shirts, etc. (Introductions start during discussion of fundraising ideas.):

**Art Myatt** (moderating) talks about “Wage Peace” bracelets \$2.40 each for batches of 50, also suggests realtor-like information-sign posts ... and introduces next

**Carl Bunin** has been making peace items since about a month after 9/11 ... Offers products to locals; profits go back into expanding the product line, helping promote Peace buttons with history; 3-way peace symbol signs; now includes T-shirts and other clothing items.

Also has weekly “Peace History” ... sign-up list passed around. (Subscribe at [www.peacebuttons.info](http://www.peacebuttons.info))

**Lynn Meadows** running silent auction; points out items available.

**Jonh Anthony La Pietra** adds Green program videotapes; Austin Murphy offers bumper stickers, headbands.

**Jim Moreno** mentions MI Municipal League brochures available for free at front table. Jim Moreno wants to investigate having a group of players offer a politically-motivated mystery dinner theatre.

**Lou Novak** says George Corsetti will be bringing bumper stickers with Detroit Greens billboard art & GPMI on it. They sold about 80 in DC during 9/24 protest there. The billboard has been up for about a year now, and is apparently well-respected as it has not been marked with graffiti. It is in a very visible location.

**Helen McDonald** from Detroit Greens noted their idea to hold a film festival for the 3-county metro area.

**David Spitzley** notes the idea had been floated before, companies wanted money for public viewing if not to be limited only to people we can contact “internally” ... could be done, but would cost money.

**Priscilla Dziubek** suggests contacting producer of independent films directly.

Carl B says he’s seen a sort of “independent-film book club.”

Art M says Sierra Club is showing *The High Cost of Low Price* (on Wal-Mart) at Lake Orion Community Ctr 11/17.

Jim M says CMU Dems have a film series .

**Fred Vitale** suggests ads in AWOOG, though we’d have to distribute first, and have a distribution list to show.

David S notes past concerns, but also suggests info from *Jam Rag* database may be useful.

Helen discusses lunch offer: plan is to do a buffet from nearby, well-recommended China Ruby (all MSG-free). Won’t have a final cost until we put in the order, but we’ll have three dishes (and a few eggrolls at a per piece charge).

Round of introductions finished.

**10:00 to 10:30** National issues; impeachment,

factionalism, etc. [10:02]

Presentation by national reps, questions, discussion (screaming and obscene gestures not allowed).

**National reps Karen Shelley, Fred V, and Linda Manning Myatt** report on National Committee. (*handout*)

Proposal 170: new election on disputed seat; vote failed, but Steering Committee scheduled an election anyway.

Some efforts to recall SC members; voting now on whether to cancel the election.

Stacking begins ...

David S asks if anyone has posted the official text of the affiliation agreement; several versions were around in 2004.

Fred V notes proportional voting (done in previous round) wouldn’t apply if only one seat in special election. Also couldn’t see any mention of affiliation agreement in national by-laws.

**Ted Hentchel**: Did all other seats get filled OK under both methods of proportional-representation counting?

Why not have another election? That’s what everyone else does... .

**Alan Kaufman**: Ted’s Q is both simple and not simple ... Problem with PR is that you’re trying to get majority winners but you get some other problems like here.

Kenneth Arrow (past economics Nobel) proved that no voting system is perfect. In this situation, IRV properly solved all problems for everyone down to the 6th seat. The result varied for the 7th seat depending on which counting mechanism was used.

The first count was done the same way we always have ... but that method wasn’t mandated anywhere. The second count was also consistent with the by-laws ... but didn’t match what had been done.

One principle in Arrow’s theorem is that you can’t be sure of preserving the order by eliminating one choice.

The IRV method argued for in Ferndale has its own flaws, too.

Fred V notes that the two “winners” tried to resolve the situation themselves; Prop 188 would give that time, he says.

The list shows how much of NC’s time has been taken up with internal activities. He’d like to propose splitting into two lists, internal and external business.

**Chuck Jordan** wonders

**Kurt Wheelock** surprised that 2 different counting systems were used; Linda M says nothing was settled beforehand.

**Doug Campbell** says everyone agreed there would be transferable votes – nobody agreed if whole or fractional votes.

Doug C wants detail about Prop 168 & Presidential nominating process.

Linda M says Prop 168 was to bind Presidential convention delegates to their states’ votes for the first round.

Doug C thinks we decided at last SMM to put a priority on Presidential nominating rules.

Fred V says national committee on that is disbanded at Tulsa; now there are other proposals to reach same result.

Doug C notes having clear rules in place before next convention; embarrassing not to have fixed this in 1½ years.

Karen S concerned with basic essential [issue] of “is this a democratically-run organization or not?” Steering Committee just making decisions and announcing them.

**Sylvia Inwood** asks if Fred V wants formal support from GPMI for his proposal; he would like that. Kurt W seconds.

**Matt Abel** (in late) notes there are separate NC voting & discussion lists; any member can ghost them, he thinks.

Some people think there should be discussion of voting on the voting list.

Doesn't think delegate apportionment in 2004 is/was unfair; some people want to change it.

Art M notes there's time at the end of the meeting for other things.

Lou Novak suggests giving 5 more minutes for the one more person on the stack; \*TWINKLE\*

David S suggests Fred V's idea might still be a good one.

General \*TWINKLE\* on idea ... Matt A wants to see it written up, but not against the idea.

**10:30 to 11:00 Officer reports:** Presentation by elected officers; questions, discussion. [10:32]

**Chair & Co-Chairs: Sylvia I, Doug C, David S**

Sylvia I has no printed/prepared report; mentions National Conference to Reclaim Our Cities Nov. 11-13 at Wayne State U. Detroit Greens sponsoring, has a table; GPMI also sponsoring. [www.reclaimourcities.org](http://www.reclaimourcities.org)

Doug C going to represent GPMI at Canton HS. This is only happening because they came to us ... we need to be better organized with “Speakers' Bureau.” That way we can be the initiators, go out to schools & groups.

Karen S agrees, volunteers to be on a committee to do this ... suggests developing a standard presentation.

Helen McD suggests putting speakers' bureau information on trifolds (maybe with a stamp).

David S hands out report on SCC activities: Information available on his Web site. Thinks we're getting some things done – but we should ask other members; he's biased. Some suggestions about improvements, including no-brainers. Report also lists how active SCC members have or haven't been.

**Other Officers**

**Pete Schermerhorn** not here, never filed a report:

Discussion on membership; Randym says 289 members on his list.

Sylvia's sure .

**Art M (Platform Committee)** We now actually have a plank on feminism; suggests platform and summary need revision before the 2006 elections.

**Rebekah Mikkelsen** volunteers to help incorporate feminism into the summary. There's a group/list if you want to join the Platform Committee.

**Randym Jones (Treasurer)**

\$8,008.77 in two accounts ... recommends putting money into 3 parts to get more interest (using a 6-month CD).

Linda M also notes idea of switching to a credit union.

Ted H asks about penalty for early withdrawal.

JALP wants to make sure we keep tracking funds for separate purposes separately.

Alan K not sure we can get a credit union for a political account; also worried about tying up money pre-election.

Kurt W asks about getting back checks; banks need to provide either checks or images. If we need copies later on, they get expensive.

Sylvia I would support a credit union if we can do it (better our money there than in a big corporate bank).

Fred V also concerned about not having money available in the run-up to an election.

not sure about how best to spend the money we have (note our worries about publishing AWOOG).

Randym J says there is a Finance group/list developing a budget.

Linda M says you can open a business account at a credit union now, and there are credit-union service centers.

Jim M has his campaign committee's account at a credit union; also agrees with Alan K & Fred V on tying up \$\$.

Ted H agrees too – but, more importantly, we've been get about \$12-15 ... if we start coming up with \$150 interest in a year, the IRS may be looming up.

Randym agrees if interest gets high enough, we'd need to file taxes on them.

Doug C: we're not a business, we're a non-profit political organization, only if we're up to \$25,000 in non-contribution income will IRS worry about it. We're talking about Bank of Ann Arbor, right? not Bank of America? Not worth this much time for \$7 a month.

Matt A says GPUS has a tiered budget (essentials / what we'd do if we had more / what we'd do with dream \$). Maybe we should invest in the party. ME Greens hired a pollster.

**Bill Opalicky (Locals Liaison)** if you're fighting the champion, you have to take the fight to the champion. He's been trying to take himself to all the political events he could manage. There is an Oakland County local for Ferndale folks.

Dr. Bob will allow any kind of political activities at his office near Seven Mile and Woodward; we're trying that.

He & 3 others handed out 300 Green flyers in Royal Oak recently. Any Qs/ideas? Get them to him at ([localsliaison@migreens.org](mailto:localsliaison@migreens.org)).

Nov 10 at Dr. Bob's there'll be a discussion of anti-war efforts. There's been lots of good ideas.

**Harley Mikkelsen** wonders how many locals are actually active.

Bill doesn't know; he's heard some meetings.

Chuck J notes Van Buren Greens are having an alternative-energy forum.

Nov 3-4 there's a hearing in South Haven before a judge

for the AEC on the re-licensing of Palisades?

David S wants to work with Bill on getting a realistic list of active locals.

Harley M was going to say before ... any active, meeting local should have its meeting place & time on GPMI Web site

Karen S notes AWOG has list of locals; are they active?/do any others exist? Is Jason Seagraves still around? he moved to Hillsdale in March to go back to school.

Fred V asks which of our lists has the most people on it?  
**JALP (Elections Co-ordinator / Media Committee)** (handout)

Sylvia I notes Maureen Taylor's now running as a write-in in Detroit. Scott Klein & Rob Cedar running for Hamtramck City Council re-election (non-partisan but) Scott Klein may run for state legislature.

Jim M offers suggestion for relatively cheap message ... NPR (Karen S: did Jim M mean day sponsor? yes). Suggests emphasizing township supervisor/trustee positions (twps often say yes to developments where cities say no) Other important positions to get are on Planning Commission, county posts.

**Pete Ponzetti III** has an announcement on MEA petitions ... later.

**11:00 to 11:30** Break, final lunch orders & set parameters for strategic planning. [11:15]

lunch cost is \$7 for basic lunch, +\$1 for egg roll

**11:30 to 12:30** Strategic planning session: Recruiting members and candidates, using media, goals, etc. [11:35]

Time limits on speakers will be required.

**David S (moderating)** starts with GPMI mission:

Advance the Ten Key Values of the Greens through non-political and political activities.

½ hour to come up with goals, vote over lunch, then move on to what tasks/resources are needed to do this, then the other ½ hour to shoot them down. Goals are things people from outside would see

Art M: run 300-400 candidates on GPMI ballot, standing if not running; maybe people would take us more seriously if we had more slots filled; people should stand if not run

Kurt W: focus on local (township & village) offices also likes polling idea for recruiting new members. (Maybe as a task, asks David S.)

Jim M: using our database & other resources we already have (doesn't think we have been, at least not efficiently).

**Kat Bruner:** allocating resources/attention, too ... including our experience.

Alan K: at least 2 times we've done some planning – ballot access and water/IRV/peace themes from Dryden meeting. It's not that we don't have experience – we do, and when we do it we do better ... pick both issues and races to focus and work on, e.g., defend our turf (seats we have Greens in) ... we should heed the experience of elected Greens. We've elected school-board members; why aren't we sending them around MI talking about Greens &

education?

Fred V: by end of next year, we should be known as the anti-war party & the party standing behind 10s of 1,000s of workers who are about to lose their jobs.

**Arthur Young:** reach other communities (communities of color, etc.) – some people think Greens are just for white people

JALP: keep ballot status, take stand on all ballot Qs, address issues.

**Dorothy Coyne:** Greens are getting known as the Peace Party (cf. DC 9/24). We should continue doing that now, but link it now to all domestic issues – we also oppose “the war against us at home.” Voting Rts Act.

David S: one key element of a goal is being able to tell whether we've achieved it (hopes to add measurables to list) get 10 new officials elected.

Doug C: #1 priority is getting US troops home from Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. We also need to recognize that we only have 3% support ... so let's get 3 US Senators & 13 US reps elected.

Linda M: office & staff person (all of this stuff would be easier if we had someone answering the phones all the time). Would also make co-ordinating efforts across the state easier.

**Eric Borregard:** fundraising ... focus on one race across the state: governor (& Lt gov). Schedule events across the state.

Randym J: one reason people don't vote for Greens is that they don't hear about us; we need to raise media profile The ultra-low-cost way is L2E's (letters to editors) and op-eds specifically mentioning the Greens. The low-cost way is radio ads.

Harley M: so many problems here in MI are caused by the Federal government (trade problems, etc.). We need people speaking on national issues – so we need candidates for all 16 Congressional seats.

Karen S: Detroit is ripe for plucking ... we're still lily-white, and we shouldn't be that way; asks \*\*\* #26 to head a committee to work on this. We should run lots of candidates in Detroit next year.

Austin M: one more specific goal – have thousands of buttons & bumper stickers all over MI: “make love, not war / Green Party” ... green & white has exclusionary overtones, so how about green & black? Next step – review these; figure out which ones are tasks (discuss after lunch); and prioritize by voting over lunch.

Chuck J: impossible to do all these things ...

Aly Sager: can we combine some of them? Recruiting & electing candidates, issues, central/co-ordinating effort for party fundraising.

Kat B: include allocation of a fund that locals can apply for.

Art M: some of these things are not at all incompatible (e.g., 300-400 candidates, 100 black, 50+ in Detroit). Volunteers are good, but we may need to hire a staff person to do what we want.

David S: aren't necessarily in conflict, but ... different aspects of similar things will still require different tasks.

Harley: thinks we have our goals pretty well set here: find candidates, run them, and raise funds for them.

Jim M: wants to quantify his suggestion; list our resources for all members to see. (Ted H suggests maybe he's referring to the member packet.) Also inventory our people resources (skills bank & commitment).

Kurt W: thoroughly believes we do need a staff person; suggests also hiring a fundraiser along about March or April, when the election heats up.

Rebekah M: going along with Jim M ... and she has skills. Usable equipment/etc. (e.g., microphones) should also be inventoried. Find candidates from among (about-to-be)displaced workers (GM, Delphi, etc.).

Fred V: state meetings are bigger, make it look like there's more available – in some ways yes, in some ways no concerned about “my way or highway” approach ... We should focus on what we all can agree to do, and otherwise (just) support the locals in what they want to do — Bottom-up, not top-down.

David S isn't seeing this as binding on locals, but as a priority list for the state party. Which we should do (out of myriad things we can do) depends on what we want to accomplish.

(Unidentified #23? #24?): impossible for this group to work with this whole list now; let's let a smaller group try organizing it first.

Kurt W: it boils down to: more candidates, more members, more awareness of Green views, more money ... we'd be amazed at how much we could accomplish.

Linda M: pretty much the same

Helen McD: new to Greens, but Arthur Young agreed to head up a statewide task force; maybe we could create others. Budget is allied with fundraising, and then to any hiring we could do.

Sylvia I: could combine some items – e.g., P (raise media profile) & S (flood with buttons/bumper stickers), also H (reach out to black/etc. communities) & R (recruit Detroit candidates).

Aly S: echoing other people ... committee for each of about 5 goals? – H, J, K, & L all involve reaching out.

Fred V: would like to make it a formal proposal to appoint a small committee to meet during lunch to organize all this.

Art M: not sure trying to work this out over lunch is adequate. After deciding water was a priority, we held a “Water Warriors” weekend retreat to go into more detail (with some non-Greens involved, too). All-day meetings with task forces of 8-10 could do that.

JALP: proposal seems to be to organize/consolidate the goals; if so, he'll support – and volunteer.

Rebekah M: could gather by issues now or during lunch (food in about 10-15 minutes).

Ted H: agrees with consolidation idea; at least

lunchtime could be taken for that.

Fred V: thinks we all feel the same way; don't want to end discussion/development of ideas. We can't leave with 25 things on the wall to do sometime between now and end of 2006.

George Corsetti: billboard has helped build party, promote candidates. Maureen Taylor was sort of the ideal person for us to support. Two-pronged effort: party-building and supporting a particular candidate.

David S: he'd hoped for a small group when he proposed this kind of strategy session. Volunteers for it are:

Kat B, JALP, Rebekah M, Jim M, Aly S,

David S, Fred V, Kurt W.

**12:30 to 1:30 Lunch: Eat, make bids on auction, buy stuff, etc. [12:38]**

**1:30 to 2:30 Strategic planning session (continued)**

Back after lunch, **Fred V** presents results of small group's condensation of goal ideas:

Lots of goals/issues important ... but what we need to decide is what we want to do in the 2006 elections

Mark dots on a chart on a whiteboard with two axes ... (David S will photograph it)

left to right: lots of candidates vs. few races or key races  
top to bottom: focus on top-level candidates vs. focus on bottom-level candidates

TedH: could we support filling the ballot but only allocating

money allocation is a separate issue – anything we do will take resources

could we have separate colors for pure numbers of candidates and money for candidates?

money may depend on how good the candidates are  
let's try green for money; black for numbers

**P**People vote ... Ted H adds counts to dots.

David S takes digital photo & talks thru the results: we have clusters, but a big majority says lots of candidates (lots of black dots). As for money/resources, there's a fair spread ... perhaps some focus on higher races; 2nd focus on a few key races. Important races, partly races we can win. This is progress – now on to implementation.

Matt A: one part of targeting is figuring out where to target. (Who's the biggest idiot that most needs to be replaced?)

Ted H: suggests the following ... getting GPMI names of local-but-not-state members; considers big towns as key races. Also suggests: interlocking committees so they stay in touch; “speakers to speak for ...,” regional co-chairs to help get surrogate speakers ads in local papers. Have everyone help raise \$\$ for governor's race and get matching funds universal signs.

Chuck J: find out what having an office would take.

Austin M: bumper stickers & buttons saying “Green Party” & more.

Fred V: election-strategy proposal in packet. War's

wide-ranging impacts; need a serious response to what's happened at Delphi [also vs PATRIOT Act].

George C: 2 ways to get candidates; Maureen Taylor example – Priscilla was working on water issues, ran into her there. We need to keep working with community groups; that's one place where candidates come from. Go to clerks' offices and get names of anyone who's run for office in the past 10 (or X) years; try them. From 1,000 letters we may only get back 50-100 responses, but we can go through them based on our own criteria. People may have run as Ds (or Rs) only because there wasn't a Green Party then.

Art M: there already is a candidate-vetting questionnaire. He's estimated costs for an office before ... roughly \$10,000 a year (rent, utilities, everything – but not a paid staffer). Candidates should not be regional coordinators, party officers, etc. Unless you're standing rather than running, being a candidate is enough work.

Harley M: identify alternative papers in the state, put ads in them – & get to know them; they may print articles about us. Also need to survey ourselves to find out what people are able and willing to do/give.

JALP: describes matching-funds process

Kat B: if we want to recruit lots of candidates, we should have a how-to-be-a-candidate document widely available, and we should be talking about recruiting/training candidates over and over; and there is something to be said for just going and asking people to run

JALP, Art M, David S note the documents exist

Chuck J notes the same kind of information is needed on campaign finances

Randym, JALP talk about campaign-finance thresholds

Ted H: as big as the war is health care (going up 8-15% a year). Health care is causing everyone over the age of 60 to look at SocSec (& Medicare). It's the one issue that will appeal to everyone over the age of 28, we need to do something about it ... "socialized medicine."

**2:30 to 3:00:** Petitioning, ballot issues: IRV; universal health; affirmative action.

Chuck Loucks suggested UHC; Art M touting IRV; there's also the 50/50 jury proposal, and now K-16 funding

Jim M urges state minimum wage campaign.

Art M: takes ¼ million signatures by May 31 for initiative legislation to get on the ballot; after signatures are certified, Legislature has 40 days to pass it; otherwise, it goes on the ballot. It takes over 300k for Constitutional amendment, can be collected by mid-July. All signatures are only presumed good for 180 days. This is for statewide issues; may be possible to have advisory local initiatives.

Aly S asks how GPMI would be involved?

A political ballot-question committee is formed ...

Of course, these numbers of signatures are higher than GPMI could collect ourselves ... we might have to work with lots of other groups – and the name Greens wouldn't be on the committee or the petitions.

Fred V: we're not going to be the leaders – we don't have the resources to initiate them.

Bill O: reads off the text of a previous act (PA 323 of 1978) ... if we have a law already, do we need a Constitutional amendment.

Lou N: agrees with Fred V.

Kat B: she's been involved in a local ballot-question committee. Greens couldn't initiate on our own, but we should be able to facilitate – let members know who else is working on these issues, how to get involved locally.

Art M: thinks it would be a good thing if we got involved in efforts going on – a good way to campaign before candidates, meet politically-involved people who aren't necessarily Green. One reason he's been working on IRV because he's been talking with legislators about a bill; and the Sierra Club had a call for IRV in its national magazine.

Austin M: maybe we can set up a list of things we're interested in, and use that as a recruiting tool. Maybe we *can* initiate.

Matt A: it does take a lot of time & effort going door to door. If there's a MI HC Initiative, for example, we should sign on ... but our pushing as a party should be focused on electoral reform.

David S suggests we don't know what's (*really*) out there ... or what would we be willing to do for each/any of them?

Hillard Williams: MichUHCAN & Grey Panthers of Detroit working for support of Conyers' single-payer bill (HR676).

Art M notes that that's not something that could be on the Michigan ballot

\*\*\*Yes, but there are some people talking about putting in single-payer here.

Austin M: re-states his view that we should put out a bunch of issues.

**3:00 to 3:30:** Set SMM schedule for 2006 elections:

Nominate in May; nominate in August; county caucuses schedule to coordinate.

Art M announcing he's planning to be the Meeting Manager up until the election (post-election SMM won't take much). Wants to know what kinds of meetings to schedule for when.

Jane Jarlsberg looking to select a venue (probably in GR, Muskegon isn't happening) for February – doesn't look like there's going to be another meeting this year. The real question is whether May is going to be a nominating convention or an issues meeting.

Art would like to wait as long as possible to nominate.

Karen S: we've had this debate several times – some prefer August for getting more candidates. As a past candidate, she prefers earlier conventions. Lots of groups consider/endorse candidates before August

Chuck J: we've also discussed location (to Art M, location follows function).

David S: what if we were to establish an official policy that GPMI endorses candidates in May, nominates in August?

JALP: wouldn't be on any official lists anyway.

Ted H: who cares?

JALP: the groups would.

Fred V: the fundamental issue, it seems to him, is intervening with independent voices as soon as possible. The process was designed by Ds & Rs to maintain control ... we can't let them decide it all for us. We should have candidates talking about being candidates now. It's in our interest to be running and getting attention for our message now. He's going to run for some office, not sure which – probably local

Matt A: before, we had to wait because we weren't organized ... Now it's crunch time and we have to keep doing better. Could we adjourn the convention in May and re-open it in August? maybe ... but being on official lists is important. If there are people here who know they're going to run, we could help announce it now and maybe get some press.

Harley M: doesn't know if endorsements mean much now – may be too late. Talked with a UAW person; they're already set to endorse Stabenow; Sierra Clubs are going for Dems, too. Only endorsements we're going to get are from newspapers, and they come late. Feels compelled to run for something because he has the time – not sure what; but his candidacy will be in name only unless there's a support structure in place. We need campaign managers, county coordinators. He's arguing for late because he's not sure yet

Doug C comments on David S's suggestion: one can file a candidate committee with the MI Secretary of State any time, and then you're officially a candidate. There really isn't any reason to be endorsing within the party – nobody outside the party is going to know about it unless we have hot contests

David S asks if the problem is that we're not in the primary ... partly.

Art M: the problem as he sees it with nominating people in May in order to get endorsements is that we tried it and got a big, fat 0 endorsements for 40 candidates. He was nominated in July, didn't get real publicity until a week or so before the election. Did anyone on our 2004 slot get any benefit from nomination in May?

Sylvia I: another possible advantage of August would be if counties had to caucus first (JALP: they don't)

Kurt W: puzzled about how anyone in any party can announce candidacy for any office, and then the party maybe doesn't nominate them. That's what the primaries are for in the big parties.

Margaret Guttshall: doesn't think when the convention is is very important; what's more important is having candidates out speaking on our issues.

George C: favors August convention ... we shouldn't be shooting for group endorsements, don't work on timing.

Karen S: doesn't think we should be so pessimistic about endorsements; how hard have we tried so far? If we get in early and talk it up for a while, we can convince the rank-&-file. We're talking about how to get our message out. We have to make the news happen (lesson from the

biography of Huey Long).

JALP: we'll be more swamped in August ... most important is to have candidates out early, but we need to be visible/ongoing to get that done.

**Vote:** 8 votes for May – 17 votes for Aug

Art has one other straw poll: general support for possibly having May SMM in UP. (Some strong objections to this suggestion voiced from the floor.)

**3:30 to 4:00:** Break, finish auction, announcements of upcoming events. [3:34]

**4:00 to 4:30:** Resolutions, proposals: [4:01]

but first ... **Ellis Boal:** a few Greens organized good rally in Petoskey 9/24 ... Emmet Co Dems played a part, Charlevoix Dems didn't. He ran in 2004 for prosecutor; got 18% (23-24% in his home Co Commission district); spoke at Co Bd of Commrs meeting in favor of new prosecutor's salary – as a joke, he said "Ellis for Co Commr." Then the Commr for his district suddenly quit (& moved to Las Vegas) ... they wound up appointing her father. There's a GOP primary 11/8/05 before a general election 2/28/06 – another Republican bloodbath and another empty Democratic ballot

so maybe there's an opportunity.

11/8 evening caucus ... scheduled for 7pm; primary polls close 8pm, one of the townships having a referendum on an ordinance re: big-box stores too. Ellis asked the two candidates; one doesn't care but is anti-union, the other is against the ordinance. Ellis also called the prosecutor and asked if he remembered saying "Ellis for Co Commr." Prosecutor remembered saying it, gave permission to repeat it (even if he may endorse the R candidate).

Lynn M(?): what kind of help do you need? (moral support ... and ... ..)

www.ellisboal.org (ellisboal.com is his UAW textbook); has PayPal.

Jim M: do you have QVF list? (can get from the Co Clerk) ... and your contributors campaign name is Friends of Ellis Boal.

David S: if you get nominated, please tell SCC how much you need and what for.

Lynn M: she's had problems with PayPal. Some talk of endorsing him, but that would be top-down.

Back to proposals: 50/50 juries; buttons & slogan (Austin Murphy); N'west strike support, others?

Austin Murphy on slogan: “Make Love, Not War / Green Party” or something close to it. Cites Wilhelm Reich’s book on how Nazis did what Republicans are trying to do now. Buttons with male & female symbols, etc.; also bumper stickers.

Sylvia I would leave out the symbols unless we could do multiple combinations (text not symbols is fine with Austin M).

Linda M thinks it’s too outdated.

Jim M likes it ... in his area, Ku Klux Klan is on cable-access (and Nazis have a campus group[?])

Chuck J reminds of another book, *Brave New World*

**Vote** on buttons and/or bumper stickers with “Make Love, Not War / Green Party”

14 yes — 4 no

On the alternative message “Republicans Are a Perverted Cult”:

Kurt W suggests other wording might be better; Austin M withdraws that one.

JALP: [addresses 50/50, answers asstd Qs]. If we like the idea behind this proposal but think it may not be feasible, could we look later at figuring out other ways to address the issue? ... general agreement to that.

**Vote** on supporting:

5 yes — 7 no — 11 abstain

Fred V proposal on AWOOG *handout*: schedule; change name to *Michigan Green Pages*; encourage members to write for it. Not so much as a firm proposal as a way of raising discussion

Doug C wants it printed on paper and distributed at least 2x/year; suggests name change, if at all, to *Green Pages of Michigan* instead ... to match our party name.

Linda M supports name change, suggests calling people to hound them to write (and borrowing stuff from lists)

Art M notes we have several ideas of places to go for filler (e.g., of the last 2½ of 24 pages): Union of Concerned Scientists, Earth Policy Institute, etc. He’d like to see a single issue covering where GPMI stands on issues A, B, C, D, etc. – an “issues issue” is different from a “candidates issue.”

Helen McD asks how many printed this time and what did it cost?

Just went to Kinko’s this time, so that’s about \$1 a copy

Linda M says # of pages was the big factor in determining cost; quality of paper, too (newsprint ½ of regular paper). Once you have the plates, running a few more doesn’t cost that much more. Total annual cost is more important for budgeting than on issue-by-issue basis. We also wanted to stay with a recycling union shop.

Randym: we’ve talked before about whether this is to be used more externally or internally. Maybe we want to do something exclusively internal online? ...

David S understands why this was brought up, but doesn’t want to micromanage AWOOG. To a large extent, Fred should do what seems well to him. We should consider putting a \$10 bounty on articles (paid to the local, perhaps)

Kurt W also likes *Amber Waves of Green* – but would prefer a title that lets people know who/what we are.

Jim M also likes idea of paying for articles ... we need to look at outreach; consider taking in ads for it. Local ads could support local \_\_\_\_\_ while giving a reason for local distribution.

Doug C says keep it on newsprint regardless of cost – that makes it more distinctive.

Chuck J would encourage outward emphasis; would also suggest sending it to places like libraries.

Linda M: one problem we’ve had has been distribution (getting people to take them to their area coffeehouses, progressive bookstores, etc.). How about *Green Light of Michigan*?

Matt A would like to see the advertising – thinks we could do a lot with that. As far as distribution, it is expensive and labor-intensive, but if we bring them to SMMs ... We should build racks – but maybe if they get popular, we’ll need to come out with them more often.

Helen: maybe color on the front page to encourage people to pick it up ...

Fred V: name change seems to be an issue ... do we want to try to deal with it now?

**Consensus** on *Green Light of Michigan*

How about L2Es? if Fred gets them, he’ll print them ... masthead could be in different script from the rest of it; classified-ad page?

4:30 to 5:00 Membership criteria – policy discussion requested by Pete.

How to handle national “Green card”, expired memberships, etc.

Pete not here, so we can’t cover it now ...

5:00 to 5:30: Old business, new business – finish elections for open offices if needed.

Lou N for alternate national delegate (Matt A also suggests Rebekah M). Internates can’t vote, but they can speak on the NC list.

**Consensus** – Doug C will let the NC list know to add them ... we have one more alt seat left.

Randym on what a Clearinghouse Coordinator does – first contact/Welcome Wagon for GPMI, also serves as liaison with other state GPs, etc. Right now, he and Pete S are kind of doing this between them. Does anyone want to do this?

Fred V: if anyone wants to take it over now, maybe they need to be in Ann Arbor, but maybe this is a time when we could switch it to Detroit.

It’s late, says Art M ... so let’s boot it to SCC.

David S notes we already have that on the queue

Fred V would like the sense of the body on the proposal to move it to Detroit – in Ann Arbor, at least we have a free office (basement) ... don’t know yet if that would happen in Detroit.

Matt A says this points out a problem based in our (lack of) budget. We need to be contactable – we have a brand name, and we need to take advantage of it. We’d have to pay but Tier I is getting the phone answered again.

David S – where we are now, most of our calls are hang-ups/calls for cabs/etc.

Karen S says office idea is very important ... we should start now talking about it, how much it's going to cost, etc.

(Art M: so you're suggesting we need a plan?)

Doug C: we could move the function with address/call forwarding, etc. If we have a first office, it should really be in Lansing.

Art M notes that the topic on the floor was Clearinghouse Co-ordinator – but it doesn't seem to be settleable today.

Randym reminds we need to be able to deposit checks within 10 days.

Linda M: anyone can make a deposit (& copy the check if it's over \$50, adds Randym).

**Consensus** on booting this to SCC.

Art M to continue as meeting manager? Maybe appointed by SCC, but he'd rather get it confirmed.

**Consensus**

Matt A slides in issue of 2006 national meeting – GPUS wants an urban airline hub ... do we want to offer to host? They're seeking letters of interest now – packets due in by January, decision by February or March, he thinks. CA may want to host in 2008.

Art M thinks it might interfere with our running candidates in Detroit.

Helen McD wanted to bring back the speakers' bureau for a moment. All we need for that, said David S, is someone to organize it. She'll do that – and Karen S will join.

### **Announcements**

Lynn M announces she & Rebekah will be going to School Oof theAmericas rally 11/19-20

Helen McD says lots of leftover food (& doggie-bag boxes)

Chuck J notes 11/3-4 hearing on nuclear-power plant; who can speak for GPMI?

Jim M offers list of politician phones & addresses.

Doug C announces benefit dinner for locked-out union wkrs of Local 174 Hercules Steel.

**5:30 to 6:00** Clean up & vacate the premises.