

Green Party of California
in General Assembly at Stanford
January 11-12, 2003

Decisions made:

1. Napa County moves from Emerald to North Bay region
2. Jan 24-26, 2002 minutes from LA Plenary approved
3. The GP of California's delegation to the Green Party of the United States (GP-US) will approve (or not) the GP of Cal Platform Committee's contributions (language) to the GP-US' Platform Committee, but only this time so we can make the April 1 deadline.
4. Many positions (delegates, alternates, WG coordinators...) filled by consensus.

Saturday session Start: 9:18am

Facilitating: Magali Offerman and Michael Borenstein
Parliamentarian: Beth Moore Haines
Timekeeper: Ray Glock-Grueneich
Vibes: Tish Anderson, Forrest Hill
Note taker: Cameron Spitzer

Opening Ceremony: Mitchel Smith reads a poem, "Mother Earth her Whales" from Turtle Island by Gary Snyder.

Agenda changes: Only the L.A. (Jan 24-26 2002) Minutes will be considered for ratification, as the Fresno minutes are not ready yet.
L.A. Minutes approved.

Coordinating Committee stands up and introduces themselves.

Consent Calendar: Move Napa County from Emerald to North Bay region.
Approved.

Treasurer's report by Mike Wyman:

Net worth of GP of Cal is about \$58K. Roughly \$45K income from Nader rally in Berkeley.

Subscription revenues from Green Focus still small, under \$1K.

Sustainer program grew from 80 to 120 people.

Susan King's election campaigning seminar made money, accounted under SF contributions,

expenses under Campaigns and Candidates WG and elsewhere.

Groups should submit budget requests for video and other projects.

Counties reminded of voluntary dues to GP of Cal, \$5/month or 10% of net fundraising. In exchange your party gets the donor list for your area.

Mike offers Fair Political Practices Commission reporting help to county parties, 415-785-3448.

Coordinating Committee December retreat report: Peggy Lewis.

The CC set goals for the year. This is the CC's job, not the assembly's.

- #1. Become known as the party for peace.
- #2. Double the registrant count.

Others as reported in the agenda packet.

Working Groups asked to look for opportunities to do these things.

Concerns: Why weren't WG co-chairs invited? How were the goals derived, did it really take only eight minutes as reported? Many complaints about inadequate notice, participation, and reporting, and why is minority participation (diversity) so low priority.

CC has not decided whether to include co-chairs next time.

Service Employees International Union: Seeking to endorse more Green candidates. Contact organizer Claudia Smyczek, 313-965-2553, fax 313-965-3219 to participate.

Afternoon session: John-Marc Chandonia and Beth Moore Haines facilitating.

Candidates' evaluation of the 2002 campaign.

Peter Camejo:

1. Congratulate Matt Gonzalez.
2. The greatest achievement was establishing that state campaigns help build the party and build locals.
3. Helped local candidates win, make friends with disappointed Democrats, broaden the base.
4. Major breakthrough to the Latino community. We got 8% among Latinos. That's twice the anglo percentage. More Latinos with graduate degrees voted Green than Dem. We have an all Latino local in East LA. Centro Azteca is urging Green registration, and pushing affiliates in NM and TX. We broke through in the Latino media.
5. It was because of our platform more than our Latino candidate.
6. We are still very weak at getting onto the campuses but sympathy is there anyway.
7. Running a full slate was very useful.
8. Larry Shoup convinced Peter to run, also Medea Benjamin. Larry made the down slate campaign real. recruited campaign staff. Kenny Mostern. Donna Warren responsible for getting East LA going. Laura Wells gave great speeches all over the state. Also Jeanne and David Sheidlower. Thanks to Tyler and Greg.

Weaknesses:

1. We had full time staff doing media for a year, but no full time fundraiser until the last few months.
2. Nobody working on endorsements, never published a list.
3. Smaller counties were often better organized than larger ones.

Other observations:

Meetings are to create activists, not just get votes.

Gray Davis and Bill Simon did all they could to build the Greens, now Bush is doing the same.

Laura Wells:

The unusual thing about this slate campaign was nobody burned out, we all still like each other. It was so much fun getting more votes than Nader. It was Larry Shoup's idea to do the newspaper. Only 1 of the 7 Dems got 50%. Laura got 5.4%, we need more women candidates. People are tired of going backwards. We need words from women in print. Women are trained to stop ourselves, we need encouragement and support.

Larry Shoup:

We are on the verge of something big, because the world is in crisis. Bring voter registration cards everywhere you go. We need to be more aggressive about running candidates and registering.

Jeanne Rosenmeier:

(Peter's accountant) Got the campaign bug, running for Walnut Creek city council.

David Sheidlower:

We're more qualified than the Dems who won. Everywhere we went, everybody said "I'm not a green but I'm gonna vote for you." People still don't know us yet. 400,000 people voted for Laura.

Questions and comments for candidates:

What are you doing next? Laura: I'm gonna run until I win. Peter: we're all doing a lot of things.

William Underbaggage from the National Congress of American Indians: Have you reached out to the people of color? You're mostly white. Would appreciate us getting on native issues, tree cutting,

horrific mining. Email [1]IndigenousNationsNetwork@Lakota.cc

Armashultz:

Latino community is diverse in age, religion. How to appeal to older Latinos?

Peter: another group we broke into was the Islamic community. We have to be very sensitive to religious feelings. You have to stay away from insulting anyone.

Bylaws presentation by Jeff Eisenger and Jon Lundell:

We are trying to make bylaws less burdensome and more streamlined.

Color of name badges doesn't belong in the bylaws, etc. At the same time, there are meaningful bylaws which are being ignored, for example the CCWG has an endorsement procedure nobody follows. We need bylaws committee volunteers.

Comment from Dave Heller, Learn from the Pacifica fiasco, bylaws

protect us from takeover.

Miscellaneous announcements.

1. Karine: Green Focus has great tabling materials.
2. Arlen Comfort has buttons, other items for tabling. 650-366-6603
3. Larry Shoup: Alameda County will be organizing trips to Cuba, get a leaflet, join the candidates there.
4. Erica McDonald SF: peace rally Jan 18. meet at Justin Herman, at the Hyatt Regency at 10am.
5. Starlene: peace pennants available at the rally and otherwise.
6. Jim Stauffer: The Communications Committee has an announcements list, everyone please subscribe.
7. Stefanie Schaff: civil rights sing along tonight.
8. William Underbaggage: needs help drafting a Sacred Lands protection Bill.
9. C Spitzer: free software available on CD.

Sunday Morning, January 12

Facilitators: Sharon Peterson, Jeff Eisenger

Timekeeper: Sola Sarmiento

Vibes watchers: Beth Moore Haines and Michael Wyman.

Notes: Cameron Spitzer

Announcements:

Alameda County meets 5 PM today at the Telegraph Avenue office to discuss 2004 presidential candidacy.

Two-for-one sale on Green Focus by the bundle.

Rodney Robinson (Yolo County):

The resolution on depleted uranium, took a year to develop and they are disseminating it more widely for comment.

William Underbaggage presentation on legislative issues and how the party can become effective at reaching out to native North Americans.

You need to speak our language. Too much of the communication from (white) progressive organizations is loaded with jargon unknown to and alienating to outsiders.

We have made treaties with the US Gov't, we are a family of war veterans, our ancestors fought at Little Bighorn. And yet, Ronald Reagan thought native Americans are not citizens of the US, that belief is pervasive. Bush is preparing to sign into law nation to nation status for native nations. At a national conference of native Americans last month, I was asked (by white representatives of those parties) to sign up in political parties that don't reach out to us. It exemplified an ineffective "outreach" strategy: you don't address and demand that other groups join you, if you want to be effective you have to get involved in those groups' struggles, join us. The largest political group affecting native Americans in California is the gaming commission . Its power reaches into native nations' governments and distorts their internal process. Other issues: federal recognition, many nations including the Ohlones are unrecognized. A sacred lands protection Bill would expand recognition of scared lands to ecosystem size. The issue here is "sacred sites." Currently, the legal concept of a "site" is grossly misused; protected "sites" one inch square can

be designated in order to authorize destruction of the actual area in question. The Ketzan area on the Yumas river being decimated by a mine, many other significant areas being destroyed due to trivialized "sacred sites." BIA misuse, misappropriation of trust fund. You may have noticed 70% didn't vote in the last election; that was the minorities and it was because political parties are not addressing our issues and concerns in any meaningful way

Morning announcements:

The Green Issues working group is still in need of coordinators.

Emerald Region and others propose a "Peace Holiday" for the day after the shooting war against Iraq is relaunched: skip work or school, buy nothing, spend the day leafleting and protesting.

Yolo County Green Party has just caused its city to pass a resolution opposing the USA PATRIOT Act. Offers guidance to others to do the same, this is a practical vehicle to promote your party and its values.

Jo Chamberlain presenting on the Platform Committee's item which was pulled from the consent calendar yesterday:

San Mateo delegation wanted it pulled and proposes friendly amendment adding oversight language.

"All platform language will be approved by the national delegation prior to submitting it to the national platform committee." The change is the state Platform Committee should not bypass oversight and send language directly to the national Platform Committee.

Questions and concerns: Supermajority or simple? Who are the national delegates and how are they selected? Can the national delegation approve platform language (or disapprove) before the plenary when there is time? General Assembly should have the final say, not the national delegates.

At this point the assembly decided on a new agenda item, needed to move the one about platform process which started in the consent calendar: the GP of California's delegation to the Green Party of the United States introduced themselves.

Ginny Case and Bill Myers are the current leaders of this delegation.

There are 13 delegates, 13 alternates.

We have been operating without bylaws, look for them at the next plenary.

The delegation's decision process is the same as the General Assembly's, consensus-seeking with fallback to supermajority vote. some proposals are no brainers, others need more consultation.

What is the GP-US? It was formed from the grassroots; it's less than 2 years old. GP of Cal is bigger and older than all of the other state Green parties combined. GP-US is more of a mutual aid society than a controlling body. Spending lots of time these days trying to join peace groups and coalitions. The national budget is over \$1M this year. Your delegation needs alternates because some delegates can't always make the meetings. A large delegation gives us more influence.

Most decisions are made by email. The process to apply is, send a biography to Ginny and Bill. The next nominating convention is in 2004, next GP-US mtg is June this year in DC. We also need GP-US committee members. You don't have to be a delegate. GP-US committees include fundraising, finance, international, diversity, accreditation, bylaws, communications, media spokespeople, coordinated campaign, presidential exploratory, lavender caucus.

Answers to questions about the GP-US and our delegation.

1. (Ginny) The Lavender caucus is still provisional, conditions are not fixed yet. [Notetaker's comment, my impression is GP-US caucuses have to document a structure and a hundred members. This requirement prevents phony caucuses of only a few individuals from exerting inordinate influence.] There are no other identity caucuses yet.
2. (Ginny) The delegation uses teleconferences and the minutes are not available on line. The mailing list is archived in public.
3. (Bill) Letters are going to the GP of Cal 2002 candidates recruiting them as GP-US delegates.
4. (Bill) There are 34 accredited state Green Parties in GP-US (including the District of Columbia Statehood Green Party) and 13 more in process.
5. (Ginny) Delegates' biographies go in the plenary packet and delegates get affirmed by the General Assembly.

At this point, Budd Dickenson returned to complete the platform committee's agenda item.

(Budd) Budd has copies of the GP-US platform or you can get it on line. Phase 1 of the current cycle ends in April, and a revised draft comes out in July. Comment time then opens.

Friendly amendment to the proposal: this proposal is only for this phase 1 deadline and the process will be revisited. (Motivation, If we don't approve this proposal today, we get no input to phase 1.) Accepted.

Concern (Ginny) this isn't sufficiently transparent, standing aside.
Consensus at 10:25 AM.

Break into Working Group sessions.

Sunday afternoon session.

Facilitators: Jo Chamberlain and Forrest Hill
Notetaker: Cameron Spitzer
Time keeper Tom Dickerman
Vibes Ginny Case and Michael Borenstein

Presidential Search Committee presentation by John Strawn.

John Strawn is a cochair, was a member in 2000. Jane Hunter (NJ) is the other cochair.

Susan King and Ross Mirkirimi are advisors, also Annie Goecke (PA), Dean Myerson (DC), Steve Welzer (NJ) and Yucha Robin.

Starlene Rankin is on the committee, also folks from OH TX RI MN ME WI DC PA MD.

Committee takes in info from around the country, who do we think would be good reps of us, what would they bring, whether to run. Makes advise and surveys, not

decisions.

Susan King and Magali surveyed CA.

The usual suspects are:

Susan: Nader, Cynthia McK, Medea, Jim Hightower, Michael Moore, Noam Chomsky, Barbara Lee, Winona Ryder, Jello Biafra, Manning Marable, Angela Davis, Peter Camejo, Dennis Kucinich, David Cobb, Jesse Ventura, Erin Brokovich, Cornel West, Danny Glover, Phil Donahue, Robert Redford, Lani Guinier, John Robbins, Amy Goodman, Barbara Erinreich

Questions:

(Thomas Leavitt): can one state nominate anybody?

(Strawn), Yes, it's state by state.

(Thomas Leavitt): Nader and Kovel were not treated equally , will that change?

(Strawn): We can't guarantee it.

(Jim Barton): What about nobody for president?

(Strawn): we're discussing it

(Susan King): ballot access WG says the presidential race is the best vehicle

(Jeff Eisenger): Run for VP only?

(Strawn): We haven't considered that.

(Tian Harter): Is the door open for others,

(Strawn): yes.

Burrell's media contact service demonstration by Beth.

It can generate press contact lists with many target criteria. Contact beth@greens.org Beth Moore Haines 530-274-0360 for access for your organization.

Reports and affirmations of regional reps and co-coordinators of Working Groups.

Campaigns and Candidates, Forrest Hill reporting: Campaigns and Candidates decided to put in an interim steering committee of four co-coordinators.

Susan King, Forrest, Magali Offerman, Larry Shoup, alternate Craig Peterson from alameda.

Also liason positions.

Craig will revamp c+c web pages.

Larry will be collecting candidate experience database.

Next teleconference is Feb 6.

Don Eichelberger, Green Issues WG, Starlene Rankin is new co-co , Michelle is retiring, Tom Dickerman, and Serge Bakelian alternates. Monthly conference calls, reactivating list servers.

Jim Stauffer, IT group: we have a new system for tracking requests, with job numbers, Jim will report to

official contact list.

Jeff Eisenger, fresno, bylaws Standing Committee filled all its positions.

Robin Oetinger, coco of GROW, big meeting, lots of projects, video production,

supporting ccouncils, diversity, campus greens buildups, prioritization.

Diversity outreach seen as high priority, then campus.

Robin Oetinger, International Protocol: Committee has been unfocused, will stay in contact.

Bill Pietz, Electoral Reform Working Group: Continuing same co-cos (Susan King and Bill, Gerry Gras is new liason. Mark Leno is introducing IRV bills in the state legislature, we have to support. There's a new, dangerous initiative for a fully open primary, will kill our party. IRV coming up in Riverside. A clean money campaign bill gives money to the GOP/Dems, but not us, Jo Chamberlain is working on an alternative. "California Clean Money" is for the two major parties only. We are resisting and creating an alternative organization. The committee set up a sub group to move our election code section.

Mike Wyman and Magali, FundraisingWG: New plan by Tyler and Peter for a GP affinity credit card.

Worked on what to do with over and under utilized budgets.

Campaign support fund was used for local and state candidates last cycle.

May use it for startup loans instead of grants, a revolving fund. Considered what it takes to hire staff. Local fundrasing devices. San Mateo did a prize winning county fair booth. Alameda County has a voter guide.

Contra Costa uses a newsletter. San Fernando Greens have a "green reel" film festival. Paypal is not working for most locals, too difficult to pay once.

Peggy Lewis and Paul Franklin, Platform WG. Picked cochairs Peggy and David Sheidlower, platform is being reconstituted. There are five planks of interest: immigration (Dennis Keim), AIDS/HIV (LA Greens, not present to report on it), Water (John Klopff), Nuclear contamination (Paul Franklin), Intelligence agencies (Stuart Bechman).

Beth Haines, Media WG, a subcommittee of Communications: Starlene is now managing the Clearinghouse, media, also developing relations with other committees, building press relationships, dealing with-ers(?). Subject area experts on energy, stats, Rebecca Kaplan on transit, John Klopff on sustainable energy and architecture. Mike Ficetti on universal health coverage, William Underbaggage on native american issues.

Ken Adams on Clearinghouse: Restructured by Starlene, also planning next plenary. You should order stuff from the Clearinghouse.

Chris Page (Ventura county): South-central coast, regional caucus selected, alternate is Dennis Keim from San Luis Obispo.

All coordinators, delegates, and alternates confirmed by consensus, 2:36 pm.

Mike Borenstein: Thanks for stepping up. we now have a full coordinating committee with alternates.

Peggy Lewis: Last year campaigns took all energy, now we're reconstituted.

Final announcements:

Ken Adams: The next plenary is the 1st weekend in May in Sacramento.

Starlene lots: of merchandise on sale.

Orange county in December (?).

Closing ceremony outside.

(Notes by Cameron Spitzer. Special thanks to Mitchell Smith, advisor to the Stanford Greens. Not only did Mitchell move large boulders to get us reasonable infrastructure, but he maintained a Green attitude the whole time.)

References

1. <mailto:IndigenousNationsNetwork@Lakota.cc>