

Ohio Green Party Convention 2012

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Maynard United Methodist Church

---- Indianola Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 432--

1. **Present:** Bob Fittrakis, Connie Gadell-Newton, Anita Rios, Sean Nestor, Elaine Mastro Matteo, Don Rucknagel, Vaughn Stull, Sandar Salino, Jack Salina, Howard Marquardt, Peggy Casserick, Terry Stark, Jill Stein, Brian Cummins, David Ellison, Mary DeMare, Joe Demarr, Rich Bougeous, Mark Balliot, Suzanne Patzer, Mike Mesdemadio, Rich Stevenson, Katrina Bacon, Toledo, Stacy Jurich, Dale Beguchi, Dennis Lambert, Sylvia Arthur, Roberta Kettler, Susan Miller, Tekla Lewin, Bob Hart, Cruz Bonlarron, Connie Hammond, Tim Kettler, Kim Wise, Eric Wise, Dorsey Stebbens, Brian Harris, Renaldo Gates, Jim Villani, Tadit Anderson, Tim Bruce, Phil Mohorich, Logan Martinez, Glenis Reyes, Gwen Marshall, Josh Krekeler. (Sorry, lots of misspellings).
2. **Review of Party Activities**
 - (a) **We submitted a new Party Plan** (Bob Fittrakis) We sent the new party plan to the Secretary of State.
 - (b) **Ballot Status-**Since we are a brand new party it was difficult to get everyone on the ballot. It depended on the County whether our candidates were allowed on. In Ohio, the rules are inconsistent and constantly in flux.
 - (c) **State and County Central Committee Elections-** The candidates for State Central Committee are elected based on their School Board District. Candidates for County Central Committees are elected in each County. Some candidates may be write-ins, so please be aware of this and check the website.
 - (d) **Write-in Candidates need to get 500 votes!!**
3. **Review of Proposals:** These are proposals passed in the past year by the Ohio Central Committee.
 - (a) **Proposal to organize to block re-licensing of Davis Besse Power Plant.**
 - (b) **Proposal to oppose Senate Bill 5.**
 - (c) **Proposal to oppose Hydraulic Fracking.**
4. **Presidential Candidate Presentations-** In Ohio we have a lot of nominating power. We have official party status in Ohio which is very significant. We talked to all of the candidates and we invited them to our convention. Today we welcome Jill Stein, a Presidential Candidate.
 - (a) **Jill Stein-** The Green Party is necessary to stand up against oppression because Democrats sure aren't doing it. First, Stein started looking for a candidate to run; then found herself running for office. Even where there is no strong Republican Party, people will still say Greens are a spoiler to the Democrats. She was happily surprised that so many people were supportive of her as a Green Party candidate. Her focus is on healthcare, the environment and a Green economy. It is also incredibly important to use the campaign to build the party. Democratic groups have supported Green candidates in her state, partly because the Democratic candidate was carrying the agenda of the Republicans. This is the perfect storm, and the need has never been greater. There are major social and economic justice

issues we need to address in the United States.

▪ **A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR AMERICA-**

- Green Economy: Public jobs, end Bush-Obama recession, re-make the economy and don't go back to the old economy that got us here, move into the Green Economy and solve the climate crisis.
 - Instead of bailing out the banks, **bail out the students!**
 - Provide health care as a human right (applause). The growing cost of health care is hurting the economy and costing us money.
 - Provide a welcoming path to citizenship for immigrants.
 - Bring home the troops!
 - Legalize Marijuana. Criminalization is a public health threat because it leads to a large demographic of men of color being incarcerated. She feels Marijuana is much less harmful than other recreational drugs.
- Let's build a peaceful, just, Green future!
- Comments and Questions- Stein's response:
- Fracking is contrary to the public interest. It shows just how corrupt our system is.
 - We need economic liberty in order to confront racism.
 - On party building: They are looking for contacts at colleges and universities.
 - Obama's drone warfare is dangerous and needs to be stopped. This technology violates human rights. Our foreign policy needs to be revisited and based on international law, not military might.

5. Voting Procedures: Explained by Gwen and Logan.

- (a) Vote on whether to instruct the delegates now or later after lunch **Now: 13, Later: 21**. Later wins.

6. **Adjourn for lunch.**

7. US Senate Write in candidates:

- (a) Joe DeMare and Anita Rios presentations – important to get 500 votes for the candidate to appear on the ballot. Background (

David): This is a “contested” write in – because there was no way to get on the ballot basically in order to force the state into dealing with the problem.

This was a strategic decision because without a form there is no guarantee that state would count the votes. There was only a week or two gather signatures.

- i. Anita Rios: This is the first time party status for a senate campaign. This is all new stuff for all of us. Previously got almost 30% of vote in Lucas county. Only Hispanic, one of two women running for senate. Anita is not asking for endorsement. As Greens we break the model and work together toward a common goal, not competing. Twitter, internet campaign and continue talking about the issues she has addressed previously. Forward in a resourceful, noncompetitive way.
- ii. Joe DeMare:
Environmental – clean water, fishable, swimmable, etc.
Politically – culture shift – politics people coming together to solve common problems. Has a comprehensive plan and would like to enact with our help. If elected, he will do anything possible to block war with Iran. Also see JoeDeMareforSenate twitter account.

Bob Fittrakis made the point that many times the voting machines may not count write ins- all counties are different. We need to find this out and get it back to the candidates. Joe has started to address this issue and has a handout addressing write in voting. It was asked if one would move their support behind the other in order to make sure that a Green gets on the ballot. Neither candidate agreed.

8. Call for proposals, by-laws amendments, Platform additions or revisions, resolutions or proposals. Proposal must be sponsored by a member of the State Committee or a County committee.
 1. Byan Harris - Green County - moved to establish a Green Co Green Central Committee, Two state committee people moved to establish a Green CC in Green County. It was clarified that there is a process for recall.
 2. Jim Vilanni (sp??) Mahoning County Committee- Section 3 – 3a propose that county central committee members be elected for 4 years (instead of 2) to be consistent with other parties. Also it is possible to stagger election of county committee members to have a ballot every year that there is a primary. Anita suggested tabling this for now because of uncertainty. Jim agreed to withdraw the proposal and submit differently.
 3. Sean - vote on Lucas county central committee to endorse and put before the National committee - National Fukushima observations to expose danger of nuclear power and make sure not to forget the danger of nuclear power. Anita - Need to get this to National ASAP.
 4. Franklin County – Ohio Green Party to sign organizational endorsement for Move to Amend Central Ohio. Richard Bougeis (sp??) and Bob Fittrakis proposed a friendly amendment that we support national legislation and support city and state resolutions and other on-going strategies and interpretation of law by judges, etc. We want to test home rule. The GP of Ohio also endorses national legislation as well as local ordinances and urges the rulings of state and national courts to eliminate corp person and the idea that money is not speech.

8. Presentation of information about Green Party National convention – July 12-15, 2012 - www.gpconvention2012.com in Baltimore, Md – we are not sure how many delegates (probably 6-9) we can send. Some national money available for women and people of color.

Voting Results: Results of the voting 1st choice – Dennis Kucinich – 1 - 1st choice, Roseann Barr 1 -1st choice - Jill Stein 38 - 1st choice votes.

Two proposals on instructions to the delegates -
100 % or proportionate – we don't have enough delegates for proportionate voting to make sense – no vote taken. Agreed to be 100%.

Release of delegates – for this year only – should we bind delegates through all rounds, how many rounds or not until released by the candidate? In the past, they are free after the first round? Logan moved after 2nd or 3rd round. Or binding for 3rd or release by candidate. Majority for binding the delegates unless released by the candidate.

Anita Called for volunteers – hopefully gender balanced. List will go around the room.
Pledges for donations and request for donations. Transportation and \$90 reg fee.

9. Election of Representative – tabled

10. Choosing delegates - Anita Rios, Dale Bogucki, Connie Gaddell-Newton, Sylvia Arthur, Howard Markert, Brian Cummins, Suzanne Patzer, Terry Esarco, Phillip Mohorich, Renaldo Gates, Bryan Harris.

Results: (in order of number of votes)

 - 1) Renaldo Gates, 216-688-7575, 2) Sylvia Arthur, 740-532-2190, sarthur02@gmail.com, 3) Brian Cummins, 216-333-5453, 4) Connie Gaddell-Newton, 614-288-1082,

cgadellnewton@gmail.com 5) Anita Rios, 6) Howard Markert, 330-518-2718, howardinyoungstown@yahoo.com, 7) Dale Boguchi, 419-376-6724, dale.bogucki@gmail.com, 8) Phillip Mohorich, 216-659-5617, phil.mohorich@att.net 9) Terry Esarco, 330-788-1142, terranceescaro@yahoo.com 10) Brian Harris, 937-767-9988, cavy@sbcglobal.net

11. Recommendation on write-in process. Brian Cummins moved that we endorse one of the candidates. Question – how much weight does this give to a candidate? Howard recommended endorsing both – accepted as a friendly amendment. Bob Fitrakis commented that rather than endorse, we could come to understanding to support Joe DeMare. Joe DeMare announced that Cindy Sheehan has endorsed him. Also, press may asked if you are endorsed by the party. Joe has a staff and campaign manager. Anita said that endorsement would be a game changer for her. By vote – both candidates will be endorsed. On any party sponsored literature, website, both Joe and Anita will be equally represented.

Final closing address by endorse candidate – Jill Stein.