

GPUS ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING MINUTES- PLENARY 2006
SATURDAY MORNING, 7/29/06
FACILITATORS: Olivia Cadaval/DC; Dave Bosserman/DC

- I. Agenda Review and Discussion
- II. State party and Caucus Reports
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. Candidate Speeches
- V. General Business

GPUS is comprised of 47 affiliate state parties and caucuses
Present were representatives from 34 states/caucuses, with 77 potential votes, 18 potential proxies.

10:30 a.m. Plenary begins 1/2 hour late
Roll Call
States/caucuses present: 34; 33 needed for quorum.

AZ - 2V
ARK - 2V
CA - 8V, 5P
CO - 2V
CT - 2V
DE - 1V, 1P
DC - 2V
FLA - 4V
GA - 1V, 1P
ILL - 4V
IN - 2V
IA - 2V
LC - 1V
ME - 1V, 1P
MD - 2V
MA - 1V, 1P
MI - 4V
MN - 1V, 1P
MS - 2V
NV - 2V
NJ - 2V
NM - 2V
NY - 3V, 3P
NC - 1V, 1P
OH - 1V, 1P
OK - 2V
PA - 2V, 2P

RI - 1V, 1P
TN - 2V
TX - 7V
UT - 2V
VA - 2V
WA - 2V
WI - 2V
NWC - 1V

I. AGENDA REVIEW

A. REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

Cat Woods/CA: brought a question on the situation in Utah. GPCA requested that the facts of this matter be presented at this meeting. GPCA proposed a special committee to perform a thorough investigation, which the Accreditation Committee has not performed in the past 2 years. When those invested with decision-making power overstep their authority, they are not respecting. Green Party of Utah has had their materials taken down, been prevented from speaking at the press conference. GPCA asks for agenda time, for proposal to to NC for committee to do full investigation.

Nan Garret/GA: asked that the agenda be suspended, and that Claudia Ellquist be brought into plenary to present her workshop; issues of immigration are extremely important

??/CA: there may be other situations where there are 2 Green Party's per state, we may come up with generic policy.

Falsavi/WA: wants to address the Utah situation; heard there was an attempted mediation this morning, which failed.

Beardall, from Utah: is one of the parties, is ok with mediator, so will allow mediator to speak

Fleitas/MS (mediator): he cannot and will not make any comment on what took place; violation of his responsibility in role as mediator. Nothing should be drawn from the fact that no resolution resulted from this mediation. This was a short meeting on a complicated issue that's been going on for almost 2 years. Henceforth, he will not be participating in any votes or actions regarding this issue.

Laiti/CA: supports amendment to agenda. Didn't receive this agenda 'til yesterday. A case where the AC chose to recognize a party with the Green Party of Utah, now another party is recognized with no application process and a different name (Desert Greens).

Mato Ska/NMx: Clarification, concerning the writing of the proposal, request it be

written down.

Switzer/TN; propose we don't do this at this time, has not enough mediation, process in the state to deal with this right now.

Yager/VA: should not be on the agenda.

Facilitators sum up 3 PROPOSALS:

First, Investigation of Utah situation

Second, substitute Border Immigration presentation

Third, postpone Utah Discussion

Rubin/CA: What are we being asked to vote on? Supports substituting plenary time for Border Issue, could still include other things, as well.

Clarification is that the plenary would substitute Utah [and everything else] w/ Border Issue. Rubin - asks for amendment that we do both.

??/?: Would like to hear both sides to express their points

Gillis/WA: postponing will make this worse, at least we need to get this out on the table, there are many strong emotions.

Huckelberry/ILL: 2 CLARIFYING QUESTIONS:

1) Has this matter been brought up before the NC in advance or are we being cold-cooked this morning; 2) has a complaint been filed with AC, and is it going through proper channels?

ANSWERS: 1) No, it hasn't and Yes, we are; 2) Yes, it has, as of about a week ago.

Woods/CA - GPCA requested a full investigation and report, and got nothing.

Mesplay/CA: concern that in order for our proposal to create an independent committee to help resolve this and cases where there are two state parties, this has greater chance of passing today if we can air little of the background on this.

Herzfeld/CO: border Immigration issue; any chance of getting videotape of workshop? We could watch this on our own.

Grage/SC: AC report was done and came to a conclusion a year ago. This new complaint was received last week, and will be taken up at the AC's next meeting, August 6.

Garret/GA: the AC must have complaints in front of us, investigation needs time; we need to follow process, we cannot do it this morning.

Gerritt/RI: how many would like to continue with agenda - committees, reports, etc.

STRAW POLL to approve agenda, as is (including 1/2 hour discussion on Utah) Call for recount to clarify proxies. Yes, proxies are allowed.

RESULT:

42, as is.

37, eliminate Utah

II. STATE/CAUCUS REPORTS

WA, Gillis

CT, McKee

RI, Gerritt

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Outreach (Becky Weber/DC) - shows shot of 10 KV on screen
committee's mission is to attract new members to the party

2 new projects:

tabloid introductory to GP;

packet, Spanish and English immigration brochure, sp/eng 10KV cards,
space for local contact info

B. Merchandise (LaVerne Butler/DC), co-chair - hard copy color charts for inventory and sales; Jason Nabewaniec/NY, fashion model for t-shirts and items
Merchandise has updated their bulk mail list; offer some new products
Monthly sales exceeding budget

C. Green Pages

Mike Feinstein/CA, ed board

Nick Mellis/NJ, distribution

Critical for outreach: qualify, accuracy, relevancy

greenpages@greens.org

Need all states to identify articles earlier on, getting drafts to GP as early as possible;
frustration in that campaigns aren't taking responsibility to report on their own elections.
Political currency is to have this early.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

www.greens.org/media - site for press clippings of articles on GP

Functionality has been compromised; seriously spammed from Italy and US. This site

has now gone to a password system. Each state party must designate a person to whom Mike and Brent McMillan will give a password.

D. Online Fundraising - was cut short

Richard Scott/AZ

GreenLine - monthly online newsletter has a "donate" button

Action Alerts - good for online revenue, and in terms of drawing people to webpage and getting them to sign up for GreenLine

7,000 originally, increase of 4,000. Would like to jump 10,000 at a time, but have to crawl before you walk. Great source of revenue and drawing involvement.

DIA (Democracy in Action) - tool that allows us to track donations, so we can set up a donation page for every state that wants to work with national. Can share donations. Nat'l does tracking and book-keeping.

Cindy Sheehan petition got almost 800 signers. Now connected to GPAX.

IV. CANDIDATE SPEECHES

SC Co-chair: Tom King/UT; Echo Steiner/FLA; Jim Copen/IND; Linda Manning-Myatt/MI; Liz Arnone/NJ

Cat Woods for Roger Snyder/NY (not present) (Rebecca Rotzler was going to speak on his behalf)

Treasurer: Jody Grage/WA

CCC: Greg Gerritt/RI, seeking re-election; Nan Garrett/GA
Sally Kim/NY - seeking re-election (not present)

11:45 a.m.

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Utah Green Party, 10 minutes - Jeff Beardall, co-coordinator of GPU, 4 others here, identified delegates

Desert Greens, 10 minutes - Tom King, NC delegate. Would like nothing more for everyone to have the entire perspective of what happened over 2004 election.

Discussion, 10 minutes

Nan Garrett/GA, AC member: membership criteria is up to states; there is due process, opportunity to be heard. AC is set up for this process. If you don't like the current AC, you need to join or recruit for that committee.

Jody Grage/WA, AC member: from 2004 'til the 2005 meeting in Tulsa, no complaint was filed with the AC by anyone. Between the Tulsa meeting and last week, no complaint filed with AC on this matter. AC is meeting on August 6th, will take this up.

Bear in mind that what is done does not affect just Utah; there are two GP's in at least 2 other states (VA and MO), so this has greater ramifications. Also, bear in mind who a Secretary of State recognizes has no bearing on who GPUS recognizes as affiliated with the GPUS.

Craig Thorsen/CA, observer - should be mediation, offers his services to AC

Audrey Clement/VA - only venue where proper decision is to be made is the AC, do not accept arguments as to why this was not addressed in the year between two state meetings.

Jan Arnold?/CA - don't agree with concept that this is merely a matter of accreditation. Weakness, not just about who gets a seat on NC, it's about internal problems in a state. Hard to find out what goes on at the National Committee level, needs more transparency.

Huckelberry/ILL - needs to be more transparent, this body should not have been subjected to this bogus proceeding w/ no advance notice. We suffered through an orchestrated attempt to disrupt the Tulsa meeting last year, exact same thing this year. Why is GPCA doing this to everyone else in the room; is very disgusted with this. ("Ouches" from CA.)

Falsavi/WA: Jody - said last year AC said it's out of their hands, not taking a position on this. Who took a position? Asked four times.

Diana Lee Hirschi, from Utah - talks about her campaign.

Linda Parsons, from Utah - talks about conventions, respect GPUS

[Concerns raised that observers are being allowed at the mic, in violation of the facilitation process.]

Mesplay/CA - this is a conflict that needs to be resolved at nat'l level; more than just this grievance, a broader issue of fair, equitable, proportional representation. The intent of CA' proposal is to lay groundwork for a general process for resolving such conflicts.

Greg Gerritt/RI - GPUS has a long history of multiple parties (NY, MO, VA) - no big deal, we live with it. To Falsavi - we voted last year and made a NC level decision last year, an overwhelming vote of who to seat: Desert Greens, for good reason. If we really wanted to deal with this in different way, this should have come to us 11 months ago.

Echo Steiner/FLA - it's not CA's item, it's the NC's item, we've got to hear, need to keep hearing, every time party is split we are split, we should build these bridges, if you're

upset, you're stuck on one side, stop baiting, stop saying sides it's our side.

Bob Brister, Congressional candidate in Utah - notes earlier conflicts between Social and Deep Ecology were resolved, we can resolve this.

Rubin/CA: in favor of independent investigative committee. History casts doubt on the AC, support independent committee.

Adjourn, 15 minutes over time

7/29/06

Holly Hart

Secretary, GPUS