

GPUS ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING MINUTES- PLENARY 2006
SATURDAY AFTERNOON 7/29/06
FACILITATORS: George Martin/WI; Lori Burton/OR

- I. State party and Caucus Reports
- II. Committee Reports
- III. ETC (Elections Facilitation Committee)
- IV. Media Committee Presentation
- V. General Business

GPUS is comprised of 47 affiliate state parties and caucuses. Present were representatives from 34 states/caucuses, with 77 potential votes, 20 potential proxies.

Roll Call

AZ - 1V, 1P

ARK - 2V

CA - 8V, 5P

CO - 2V

CT - 2V

DE - 1V, 1P

DC - 1V, 1P

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 -

PA - 1V, 1P//second delegate joined during plenary (?)

RI - 1V, 1P

TN - 2V

TX - 6V, 1P

UT - 2V

VA - 2V

WA - 2V
WI - 2V
NWC - 1V

Agenda Review - Approved by Consensus

I. STATE & CAUCUS REPORTS

VA - Yager, now running for office

ILL - Rodgers; ballot signatures w/ volunteers; under legal attack; quintupled fundraising

MD - Jennings; update on races

MA - McLaughlin; Owen Broadhurst's statements

FLA - Lawrence, election misconduct, clean energy (stopping cola-fired plant); first Green elected in 2006

TN - Miglietta; TN running more candidates than ever before at one time; radio program

MN - Oldfather; GPMN currently has minor party status, successful petition drives now have full slate of state candidates

TX - Holloway; didn't get ballot access (some of the worst in the country), moving ahead anyway; write-in indy candidates, planning for 2007 - 2008

AZ - Torres; ZGP was on the ballot in 1992, have ca. 4500 registered Greens, need more to re-gain ballot status (hinges on no. of registered Greens); will pursue ballot status in 2008 with petition signatures; working in Scottsdale on proportional voting systems.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. CCC - Greg Gerritt/RI, co-chair; spoke about CCC services for Green candidates, new Congressional Campaign Committees.

B. Platcom - Howard Switzer/TN, co-chair; announced the Platform Timeline/Process for 2008 [in delegate packets, soon to be on the Platform page on the web].

Platform Summaries: offering a convention special price; announced new Platcom officers

C. BRPP - Hugh Esco/GA, Jason Nabewaniec/NY, co--chairs; spoke about work BRPP had been doing, recommendations for internal policy, use of wiki.

D. BAC - Phil Huckelberry/ILL, co-chair:

report for potential ballot access gains: MN, MO, ARK (currently in court, looks like a win)

short were IND, TX with their petition drives

legislative approach recommended for: NC, OK

ILL is up against challenge by Democratic Party operatives, even though ILL Greens got enough signatures. There is a past history of challenges, this time involving the infamous binder check. ILL is doing this w/ no substantial outside help. A few out of staters helped to collect signatures.

Ballot Access needs to be a priority leading into the 2008 presidential process. Quotes Camejo - responsibility to "create an environment where people never vote for these people [parties] again." So we need Greens on the ballot on all of these states. Must state as NC before 2008 that we will run a "full-out" presidential ticket in 2008; if we don't make that commitment up-front, we will not get the volunteers.

Mike Feinstein/CA - drew attention to the webpage: greens.org/stats - history of how all state gp's have qualified for the ballot; WRITE to mfeinstein@feinstein.org with UPDATES and CORRECTIONS

E. AC - Brent White/WA, member; reviewed complaint process for challenging accreditation of affiliate state parties or caucuses. AC has been dealing with various complaints, noted confidentiality policy. Issued report on NWC regarding accreditation on agreements that NWC was asked to keep working on (sic); received complaint by and individual and several other Green Women in the party, asked for input from all sides, issued recommendation regarding status of NWC.

F. IC -announcement, Mike Feinstein/CA

Global Greens: January 2008, Nairobi, Kenya, where Green Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai works and will host the meeting.

Julia Willebrand/NY- mission statement. IC does not make policy for GPUS, but works to support policy that Greens make. Mention of Proposal 190 (resolution calling for divestment in Israel). The IC develops position papers; hosts international Green guests. Julia Willebrand represents GPUS in the Global Greens Network. Committee has ca. 50 people from 23 states.

III. ETC (ELECTIONS TABULATION COMMITTEE) for GPUS officers, CCC elections
Members explain the election process, note that candidates will appear in random order on different ballots.

IV. MDIA COMMITTEE PRESENTATION; Scott McLarty/DC & Starlene Rankin/CA/LC, co-chairs

Video of Fox News local coverage and report of committee work
Ann Link/NY - clip of video of state of the union rebuttals; video of web ad

V. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Speeches

1 - George Martin/WI//UFPJ - No More War! - exhortation to work in local areas, use mid-term elections to differentiate through our wonderful candidates that we are the Party of Peace. Bring Our Troops Home Now!

2 - Faith Edman, Non Violent Peace Force, Tucson chapter; offered brochures and spoke about their work
GPUS has officially endorsed the NVPF, first political party to do so. Now they just need the Dems and Repubs....

B. IT Report - Steve Kramer, acting chair

IT group has had a couple of meetings; identifying assets (technology and personnel)
Challenges - lack of money
Asks for volunteers with some technical expertise to help out

C. PCSC - Gerritt/RI, member

Held workshop yesterday. Result: people want a really good candidate and really good campaign.

Questions: do we want a Green, celebrity?

"If you want a good presidential campaign in 2008, get your butt onto the PCSC," currently are 4 people on the committee. Need people to help with their survey. PCSC will advise on primary/caucus selection process. PCSC will do things really differently next time, better [than in 2003-4].

Greg also recommends Greens buy his book!

D. Proposal "190" - Divestment from Israel; Ruth Weill/WI

20 minutes of open discussion, chance to air opinions, 1 minute/per person

Aimee Smith/MI - MI has largest Arab population outside Arab world. Passage of 190 has already gotten us a lot of support and interest in MI. GPAX was charged with implementing 190, if people have questions, let her know.

??/? - Israel is engaging in apartheid; earlier, did not encourage friends to join the GP. Is glad that 190 passed and supports it.

Audrey Clement/VA - problem of person being heckled by member of GRP or MA. Someone is disseminating images on the web of demonstrators saying "Victory to Hezbollah." Concerns for image.

Jamie McLuaghlin/MA - Broadhurst statement: fully supports 190 and opposes any attempt to pull back.

Aram Falsafi/WA: echoes Aimee Smith; outreach to Muslim community with Senate campaign, a strong suit, seeing positive benefits. "Do what's right, not what is political. Why are we having this discussion, we don't usually re-visit other things. Is there a massive revolt in your state?" - heard of LA "hemorrhage" - one person left.

Steve Kramer/MD - in addition to supporting this, be careful because this has drawn passionate rhetoric - we are the party of peace. Prepare to speak forcefully in favor of peaceful solutions, resist hate speech on either side.

Jeff Sutter/IND - supports 190

Michael Rubin/CA - supports 190 100%

Sanda Everett/CA - doesn't "get" 190. Concerned that a boycott is against a whole people, feels like what US did to Cuba and Iraq, doesn't feel right. When 190 came up, there were only 7 emails during discussion period. This is 'way beyond what we usually do on NC, should have been brought back to local constituency.

Fred Hosea/CA - lived on kibbutz for years, supports 190. GP of Alameda County is sponsoring Arabic film festival, 10KV in Arabic and Farsi, white paper on how to deal with regional conflicts, Muslim outreach committee in CA.

Daryl Northrop/IA - note of debate about criticizing policies of state of Israel; if you are critical of Israel, you are labeled anti-Semitic. "If I had \$1 for every time, I could fly in here in my own private jet." Will listen to such concerns from wife and her family, who are Jewish.

Anne Wilcox/DC; GPAX member - in support of 190.

Jjustine McCabe/CT, IC co-chair - brought resolution on recent trip to Palestine; giving hope and encouragement to those who want to resist nonviolently, but who feel forgotten. Land is being taken, it won't stop til the world says No.

ADJOURN - invitation to fundraiser and silent auction tonight.

7/29/06

Holly Hart
Secretary, GPUS