

GPNJ Annual Convention 2017 - Mara's Continental Cuisine, South Amboy, April 8-9.
There were 63 active Greens in attendance Saturday. Dues paying members were issued a GPNJ Membership Card for voting purposes.

April 8 Morning events:

Party business.

- Introductory remarks from Julie Saporito-Acuna, Chair.
- Elections Committee Chair Aaron Hyndman invited each county liaison to introduce their candidates, then took a photo of all the 2017 candidates.
- Communications Committee Vice-Chair Laura Genna reported on plans and organization for the committee and encouraged each local to make sure at least one member joins.
- Membership Committee Chair Brian Powers reported on the committee's success in organizing nine local affiliates (Monmouth, Ocean, Bergen, Atlantic, Camden, Gloucester, Union, Warren/Morris/Sussex, Essex) during the past year.
- Policy Committee Chair Gerald Martin reported on the committee's progress in reviewing and updating the GPNJ Platform.
- Finance Committee Chair Juan Silva reported on fundraising efforts.
- Black Caucus liaison Jake Jones, and Lavender Caucus liaison Theresa Markila, spoke about their new caucuses which were formed in the past few months.
- Brian Tholl spoke representing the Campus Greens. Several universities in the state now have Campus Green chapters.
- There was a brief anti-war rally outside with photos taken.

Panel: Human Rights and the Green Road Forward

- Panel members: Ajamu Baraka, Miko Peled, and Seth Kaper-Dale spoke eloquently on the subject of human rights at state, national, and global levels.
- Jim Brash (Communications Chair) facilitated Q&A from the membership.

April 8 Afternoon events:

Aaron Hyndman, Elections Chair, facilitated the voting on bylaws amendments.

- Bylaw amendment 1 - part 1 - replace Chair and two Vice Chairs with three Co-Chairs
 - After caucusing, each side had 2 speakers speak for one minute each: Al Clayton and Mike Mangels spoke For, Gary Frazier and Gerald Martin spoke Against.
 - Quorum count: two-thirds of registered Greens present is 42.
 - Hand vote counted by Daily Millard (designated by Aaron Hyndman as parliamentarian).
 - The motion passed with more than 42 votes in favor.
- Bylaw amendment 1 - part 2 - diversity conditions on the three Co-Chairs
 - After caucusing made it clear that the Against side was much larger, the For side decided to decline the opportunity to speak and agreed to go directly to a voice vote.
 - The motion failed.

Brian Powers, Membership, facilitated the voting for GPNJ officers.

- Co-Chair elections (Bylaw amendment 1 stated that if passed, it would take effect immediately, not on June 1)
 - Brian explained the rules for voting when a position was contested.

- Co-chair candidates nominated were: Gary Frazier, Heather Warburton, Mike Mangels, & Aaron Hydman. Each candidate spoke about their qualifications.
- Voting was conducted by paper ballot. Brian read out each vote and it was tallied on a flip chart.
- Winners were: Heather, Aaron, & Mike.

April 9 morning events:

Party business left over from yesterday.

- Treasurer election:
 - Al Clayton was nominated for Treasurer.
 - No one else was nominated.
 - Brian declared Al the new Treasurer by acclamation.
- Secretary election:
 - Denise Brush was nominated for Secretary.
 - No one else was nominated.
 - Brian declared Denise the re-elected Secretary by acclamation.

Workshop session 1:

- Labor & Politics - Debra Lamego and Brian Powers
- Safe Zone Training Part 1 - Mico Lucide

Workshop session 2:

- Socialism 101 - Mason Bliss
- Safe Zone Training Part 2 - Mico Lucide

Speaker: Justice Rountree, followed by Q & A

April 9 afternoon events:

Campaign School facilitated by GPUS Coordinated Campaign Committee

Overcoming Runaway Inequality (Heather Warburton, Atlantic County)
 Pipelines (Matt Smith, Food & Water Watch)

Meeting (and convention) adjourned at 4pm.