

GPNJ Monthly State Meeting, March 12, 2017

Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County, Teaneck – 2 pm

Present: Julie Saporito-Acuna, Mike Mangels, Aaron Hyndman, Laura Genna, Cynthia Lerner, Debra Lamego, Steve Welzer, Diane Moxley, Ted Sanzo, Ed Kideys, Kenny Collins, Tom Violet, Nate Fishman, Daniel Woo, Geoff Herzog, Raoul Mattalieu, Jake Jones, Gerald Martin, Nikwa Yellow-Due, Ed Fanning, Sean Henry, Patricia Alessandrini, Irwin Nack, Phil DeRise, Joe Pezzillo, Peter Schofrel, Craig Cayetano, Troy Knight, Cate Manochio, Lael Brattan, Al Clayton, Don Leach, Melissa ?, Edward Dodson, Michael ?, Kim Meudt, Heather Warburton.

Chair Julie Saporito-Acuna ran the meeting. Treasurer Cynthia Lerner took notes because Secretary Denise Brush was absent.

The meeting opened with introductions: Name, Pronouns, County, Is your county local recognized? and Are you running for office?

1. Committee Reports

- a. Elections – Aaron Hyndman
 - i. GPNJ Convention Planning - Update/report by Aaron Hyndman. Election process at the convention will be facilitated jointly by Aaron Hyndman (Elections) and Brian Powers (Membership). Contact Aaron and/or Brian for complete report and information on Convention Protocol.
 - ii. Gubernatorial update – Geoff Herzog (Seth Kaper-Dale's campaign manager). Brochures and flyers are available. Get involved with SKD and show support thru "focused-community groups."
- b. Policy – Mike Mangels
 - i. Progress on New Jersey specific platform - report to be provided by Mike Mangels.
- c. Finance – Cynthia Lerner
 1. Treasurer's Report-Cynthia Lerner
 - As of 1/1/17 - \$16,962 in bank
 - Expenses include approximately \$800 for t-shirts and \$2300 for Convention.
 - Denise Brush started a working Organizational Budget that we hope to circulate to the committees to review and contribute.
 2. GPNJ Annual Convention fundraiser will be on Saturday, Apr. 8th (5-8pm) at Habiby's restaurant in Parlin. GPNJ is paying \$18 per person. We will be charging \$40 per person for GPNJ Fundraising. A buffet-style meal is included. We will be asking people to buy tickets online ahead of time.
 3. Call for donations: we are prepared to receive donations, dues, and payments for t-shirts at today's meeting. See Julie to make a credit card payment via Swipe.
- d. Communications - Laura Genna
Communications seeks active volunteers to write press releases, generate content to post on Facebook and Twitter, and help promote the GPNJ convention. We need all hands on deck.
- e. Membership – Julie Saporito-Acuna
 1. Convention to be held at Mara's Restaurant in South Amboy weekend of April 8/9 (2 days, all day). Activities will include party business, speakers, workshops, and a campaign school. Speakers will include Mico Peled, Ajamu Baraka, and Seth Kaper-Dale. Breakfast/lunch will be included.
 2. All Executive Committee seats are up for re-election. More information on the election process to be provided by Brian Powers and Aaron Hyndman. Ballots will be counted at the convention. Disputed ballots are

set aside and considered only if they will change the outcome of the election. Per Julie, we are working toward developing a more standardized procedure for voting.

3. Members should all be in communication with their county liaisons.
 1. Bylaws amendments voting will be 4/8
 2. 4/9 Workshops and Candidate School – must attend if you are running for office
 3. Bylaw Amendments need to be submitted to general membership listserv at least 30 days prior to convention date. [View the current bylaws here](#). Questions were raised about how members can vote if they are not present at the Convention. Julie raised the issue that if a member does not have access to information that is shared online and on listservs, then how can one make informed votes at the Convention.
- f. National Committees - Julie Saporito-Acuna
 - a. Monthly Report - Currently being voted on at NC is the issue of voting rights for caucuses. Bylaws amendments being proposed at the State Convention will mirror the efforts of the NC.
2. New State Caucuses
 1. Black Caucus - Jake Jones, Mercer County (already endorsed by Green Council)
 2. Lavender Caucus - Laura Genna, Essex County
 1. Endorsed by GC with unanimous vote - currently 8 members
3. Announcements
 - Essex County GP meeting 3/13 7pm @ Bloomfield Civic Center, 2nd floor
 - No Fear No Hate Rally in Morristown March 18th - Theresa Markila needs volunteers for event
 - Movement for Socialism - March 25th event needs GPNJ rep – see Julie Saporito-Acuna. SKD will speak at 2 pm Rutgers-Newark.
 - Universal Healthcare Coalition report – Kim Meudt
 - Steve Welzer – Mercer local meeting might get cancelled due to weather.
 - Diane – Union county local meeting on Wednesday
 - Ocean County - next meeting is 3/27 at 7pm @ Tom's River Library. All welcome.
 - Kenny Collins: Call to Action – this Wednesday, Delaware River Basin Meeting. Kenny is asking everyone to email paula.schmitt@drbc.nj.gov saying “I want to testify at the 3/15 DRBC Meeting during open public dialogue. Topic: Penn East.” This will aid in showing large interest in opening the discussions to more people.

Meeting adjourned. Following adjournment, groups break out for Aaron's mini-workshop on elections.

Notes: Approximately \$500 was raised in t-shirt sales and Member dues / contributions.