

GPNJ STATEWIDE MEETING JULY 22, 2017 - Manchester, NJ

INTRODUCTIONS - name, county, personal pronouns, prefer cats or dogs?

Present: Heather (Co-Chair), Geoff, Nate, Mike (Co-Chair), Pamela, Sharon, Denise (Secretary), Steve, Nicole, Lael, Gary, Victoria, Carole, Al (Treasurer), Jessica, Tom Cannavo, Barry, Rina, Brian, Aaron (Co-Chair), Theo, Kim, Cyrus, Ludovic, Amanda.
Online: Tom Violett.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Mike Mangels) -

The committee is re-forming. There is a Zoom (online) meeting tomorrow (7/23) at 8 pm; contact Mike Mangels if you want to participate.

Treasurer's report (Al Clayton) -

- As of June meeting we had \$16,134. During the month we had \$169 in contributions. Subtracting this month's many expenses leaves a balance of \$14,864.
- We are now in full compliance with Elections law (filed forms D3 and C3). Steve reported that the current answer for "Can GPNJ give money to the SKD campaign?" is Yes.

Policy (Mike for Gerald Martin) -

The committee has finished voting on changes to last section of platform. Now committee has to incorporate all the changes! Soon we will have the complete platform to vote up or down.

Communications (Laura Genna provided by email) -

- The Communications Committee will be having an organizational meeting, most likely via Zoom conference call, date & time TBD. Please email communications@gpnj.org if you need to join the Facebook organizing group and/or listserv.
- If you have photos, videos, thoughts about the Annual National Meeting that you would like to be considered for possible posting on GPNJ social media, please email them to communications@gpnj.org.
- We plan to release a statement about the GPUS Steering Committee election, what happened at the Saturday night fundraiser, etc. - with respect for what needs to be a primarily internal process. If you were present and would like to submit a quote for possible inclusion in the statement, please email it to communications@gpnj.org.
- Please also be sure to like and share content from our Facebook page www.facebook.com/GreenPartyofNJ/, Twitter [@GreenPartyofNJ](https://twitter.com/GreenPartyofNJ), and Instagram [gpnjsecretary](https://www.instagram.com/gpnjsecretary).

Elections (Aaron Hyndman reported in person and provided by email) -

- **Elections Committee Status and Reorganization** - Temporary re-organizing as an ad-hoc committee is complete; formal reorganization will take place in November; Committee Officer Elections will happen in December. In need of additional at-Large members not affiliated with campaigns!

- **Statewide Candidates Report** - Starting a Campaign Seed Money Program - Loan program to help jump start campaign initiatives/fundraisers; Will go to Green Council for approval on Monday, July 24th. Onel Martinez, a Green running for state assembly, was endorsed by ElecCom for full GPNJ support; Green Council vetting to take place on Monday, July 24th.
- **Open Discussion on Non-Partisan Municipal Elections and GPNJ Support** - Aaron asked those present for views on whether GP should be able to endorse candidates for nonpartisan municipal elections? In many cases everyone knows which candidates are affiliated with corporate parties - just check who funded them! Various people spoke on either side of the issue; we realized we should announce results of bylaws amendments. Brian said decision should be 100% up to the local Green party.
- **Kaper-Dale Campaign Update** - push for 900 events in 90 days is still going strong. There will be a Lt. Gov. announcement on July 25th! Key endorsements at last weekend's ANM included Jill Stein, Ajamu Baraka, and Kenneth Mejia. Treasurer Report: Fundraising email blast sent out by Jill Stein; #DollarForDemocracy hashtag.
- **Report from Nate and Geoff (SKD campaign)** - saw a lot of interest in and money for Seth coming out of ANM. They now have PayPal on website. Volunteer base is growing. New flyers (print) are available. Focus on actually talking to people and getting their contact information, not getting out the most flyers. Geoff submitted articles to Common Dreams and Alternet, also got op-eds in nj.com and local media. People need to focus on raising the \$430K, only 6 weeks left (to 8/31)! Lael noted that municipalities are legally allowed to restrict residents from putting up political signs (even on own property) more than 60 days before election.

Bylaws amendment results - the 2-week online voting process ended Sunday July 9.

Amendment 1 (mandate membership dues) - FAILED

Amendment 2 (prohibit affiliation/endorsement of corporate parties) - FAILED

Amendment 3 (protect our ballot slogan) - FAILED

Amendment 4 (clarify treasurer duties) - PASSED

Amendment 5 (recognize caucuses & campus Greens) - PASSED

Membership (Brian Powers) -

- This month he saw a 2.3% increase in new contacts in Action Network but he wants more. Next committee meeting is July 30 at 6 pm on Zoom. Let Brian know if you can't make it. There will be a special guest from Ohio to talk about #GreenEnter events.
- Brian plans to hire a part-time staffer to do fundraising on a 12 week trial basis; position will end early if person is unsuccessful in raising money. We would prefer to hire a Green so you or your friends are welcome to apply. Job has been posted on Indeed.com (the only free job site) and GPNJ listserv, Facebook, Twitter. Already have 130 applicants, about 30 qualified to be considered. Will do phone interviews, then in-person interview.
- GPNJ has endorsed a series of cannabis awareness events focused on local decriminalization at municipality level. Brian pointed out current legislation being considered doesn't allow individuals to grow cannabis, only businesses. Trenton event on August 12 needs volunteers for tabling, see Brian if interested.

STATE CAUCUS DEVELOPMENTS & THE ANNUAL NATIONAL MEETING (7/13-7/16)

Lavender (LGBTQ) Caucus - no one was here to report. Jessica mentioned there is a pride event in Jersey City on August 26, and they are working on creating a banner.

LatinX (Latino/Latina) Caucus - is currently forming.

Black Caucus - Gary Frazier & Aaron Hyndman recapped the ANM events led by GPNJ and GPUS Black Caucus members.

During the course of the meeting, members of many of the caucuses and committees (Aaron is on Coordinated Campaign Committee, Jim Brash is on Diversity Committee) identified significant issues with the GPUS Steering Committee and the way business is done at the national level. GPNJ took the lead in bringing this to the attention of the national delegates who were voting on Steering Committee members during the ANM. This resulted in the Black, Indigenous, Youth, and LatinX caucuses holding a protest at the Saturday night ANM fundraiser.

Initially the concern expressed was that none of the three black candidates to the SC had been elected. Additionally, many caucus members were angry that there were apparently two groups behind the scenes each pushing for their candidates on Steering Committee, with some poor behavior that did not reflect well on the Green Party. There were significant issues raised about the online voting process, and about the “meet and greet forums” for candidates.

As a result of hearing their concerns, all of the newly elected Steering Committee members volunteered to step down and nullify the election, and called for a new election. Gary was nominated to run for Steering Committee, and Kim Meudt stepped down as national committee alternate so Gary could be one of our delegates and thus have “standing” to be on the SC. Kim was nominated to be on a five member election monitoring group. The process is still ongoing, and specifically addressing the diversity issue seems to be getting lost.

National Committee seats - The GPNJ co-chairs (Mike, Aaron, and Heather) are in the process of compiling a list of the open National Committee openings, which will be posted soon. GPNJ needs to get more involved in GPUS so please consider running. Terms will be June 1- May 31.

DISCUSSIONS

Anti-BDS Bill - Mike Mangels

A bill is being considered in both houses of Congress which would criminalize BDS activity. BDS stands for boycott, divestment, and sanctions of Israel and its products. Israel has been illegally occupying Palestinian lands since 1967. There is now a major humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and children are dying. GP has been involved with Palestinian rights movement for a long time. The UN passed a resolution favoring BDS last year and is working on a list of companies to boycott. Legislation would criminalize organizations that boycott these companies. Bill has support in both houses with major Democratic support (including our Senator Menendez) as well as Republicans.

Mike wants GPNJ to openly support BDS and put out publicity about it (motion coming soon). This may make GPNJ a target. Not a free speech issue, but an imperialism issue. We will do it because it is the right thing to support Palestine. Israel is also closely connected to big business and oil interests. Discussion ensued. Carole volunteered to visit Menendez personally. Jessica said the Hasidic community in Ocean

County will be OK with this. It was proposed that we change the narrative and say that we oppose “settler colonialism” (or “apartheid”), not “zionism”. Jess suggested including a video with a press release. We need to make clear this action is against the state of Israel, not the Israeli people or the Jews.

Mike is creating a committee to work on this action, starting with Carole Gay, Jessica Clayton, and Barry Bendar. Contact Mike if you want to join.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jessica announced plans for a voter registration drive in Point Pleasant on the boardwalk on August 12. However they need insurance or they can't be there. Township gave them a permit but requires \$3 million insurance coverage. Hopefully they can buy insurance from some company for a few hundred - waiting for quotes. Jessica proposed they split the cost with GPNJ. This will require a Green Council vote once we have the quote.

Next statewide meeting will also be August 12, in Jefferson Township in Morris County. Check with Theresa Markila or the GPNJ Facebook page for details. Theresa has booked a speaker (Wind of the Spirit) already.

Rina announced that Greg Auriemma, head of the Ocean County Sierra Club, was found dead. We had a moment of silence. He will be missed in the environmental movement.

Carole announced Monday July 24 will be the action “Millions March for Medicare for All” which GPNJ endorsed. It will be in New Brunswick. Meet at 6769 Church St. (Congressman Frank Pallone's office) at 4:00. Seth Kaper-Dale will be speaking.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Denise Brush
Secretary, GPNJ