

Michigan Green Party Nominating Convention, July 30th, 2016, Hannah Community Center, East Lansing, Michigan

Welcome and Opening – Sherry Wells

- Registration is continuing
- You should have a packet with election info and minutes from state meeting

Fred Vitale – Chairperson of Party

- What an extraordinary time
- 2014 was last time Greens had nominating convention
- Moment of Silence for victims of police brutality since 2014
- Black Lives Matter and movement around Bernie Sanders commended
- US voting rules deemed oppressive and arcane
- Easy to be cynical about chances for change in America
- Lots of anger in the country
- But also a lot of hope, lots of resistance, not everything is bad
- Water as a human right
- People think “Where’s all the stuff?” when they come to political events
- But all these fancy mailers and memorabilia are EXPENSIVE
- We live in an extraordinarily money driven system
- But we don’t have that kind of money to give, don’t accept any money from any corporate entities
- People driven campaign, always
- We want lots of ideas on how to change the world
- The challenges are unprecedented, we’ve been fighting someone in the world my whole life
- Very hopeful about the future

Sherry Wells

- Next on agenda is officer introductions
- What a huge effort it’s been to form the Green Party, get it on the ballot, and keep it there

Officers

- Paul Homeniuk – Was gov. candidate, was membership manager, now treasurer
- Rita Jacobs– Membership manager
- John LaPietra – Election Coordinator
- Art Myatt – Committee Manager
- Locals Liaison – Joe Jordan, Tom Mayer (Takes three people in a county to form a local)

Adoption of Agenda

- Proposed additions – New member (Marijayne Renny) who wants to be merchandise manager, Anita Bell wants to speak on reparations, someone wants to run for office in Ypsilanti area but can't be here until this afternoon
- Is there support for these additions?
- Any blocking concerns?
- No
- Passed by consensus

Adopting Rules of Convention

- On back page of nominating/election info
- Any blocking concerns?
- Clarifying question (Art Myatt) – We're allowed to cast votes in accordance with number of members in county, are those numbers available?
- Yes, they can be given to you, but they're not available off the top of anyone's head
- Motion put in play – Motion to strike that rule from the rules and allow everyone here today to vote.
- Seconded
- John LaPietra – Actually, everyone here can, it's further down in the rules
- Motion withdrawn
- Rules passed by consensus (spirit fingers)

Credentials Report

- How many were Green members before May 30th? *raise hands*
- Enough of a majority to “worry” about an influx of people trying to mess up our system (ha!)
- Motion regarding people who have joined since May 30th David Smokler, in support Lou Novak, and John LaPietra

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes get mailed out to people at the meetings for corrections and refreshers
- Any additions or corrections?
- Move to approve minutes with addition of location of meeting added
- Any blocking concerns?
- Approved by consensus (spirit fingers)

Merchandise Manager Info

- Wear your Green Party buttons, people!
- Does anyone have any ideas for good promotional material? Keep that in mind.

- Motion to elect Marijayne Renny as merchandise manager - Eric Siegel, seconded, Marcia Squire
- Passed by consensus

Membership Manager Report

- 827 members
- Probably 175 joined this month (about 15 that came in overnight, not logged yet)
- Has voting numbers to hand out, Lou Novak's working on that
- Have increased membership by over 200 by March
- Members in 65 counties in MI

Treasurer Report

- You have some reports at every table
- Were seven years behind on state reports
- As of last night, only down by one
- Once caught up, will be working with State to get fines waived
- Now have financial software
- Overview of what is in reports on tables
- All money is now in one account in EL, started a treasurer's manual
- First snail mail mailing in long time done in April, bylaws require one yearly, missed last year
- About a 7% response rate
- Reports will be published to website (many unaccounted for expenses and income in past)
- Lots of in-kind gifts, now being documented in their own section (apparently Fred pays the phone bill)
- Would like to appoint a three person finance committee at the end of each year to make sure State reports are properly handled
- Question – Does PayPal actually donate? Yes, but access is tricky at the moment due to person on account being inactive, working on it, some subscriptions are coming in regularly
- Lou – Former Treasurer – Apologies for making a mess, thanks to Paul for cleaning it up

Election Coordinator Report

- There is now a possibility of a state-wide ballot question on earned sick leave (petition filed)
- Working Class Party may be on ballot
- About 25 candidates for office that I know of right now
- Can propose self to “stand” or run
- We do have to nominate presidential electors

- Could consider appointing election challengers to go in to polls and observe process
 - Do those have to be appointed?
 - Yes, lists must be submitted 20-30 days in advance for organizations, no notice for political parties
 - During nomination process, everyone has the chance to speak and be questioned
 - Will there be opportunity to review open positions?
 - No US Senate seats open, all House open, one special election for senate, one or two for partial House terms, two board of Ed, UM Regents, Trustees, governors (Ed), supreme court, county and township level, a few cities, if you know of a city election that's partisan, let us know
 - If interested in non-partisan, we can't nominate, but can endorse
 - Dylan Calewerts– Question – Straight ticket voting has been struck down, do we plan on challenging that? Answer – Fed. District judge has issued injunction, Sec of State will appeal in sixth circuit (have been asked if we'd like to be involved in that)
- Sherry – Standing for election means you provide your name to be on the ticket next to the Green Party designation, but it's different from outright running. It's an effort thing. More symbolic v. full throttle run.
- Resolution from Rita, read by Sherry – Resolved, that a list of locals, recognized by party be listed on website, the name, the counties in it, site url, Facebook, contact info for contact people, shall be submitted to Paul by appropriate locals liaison for addition to website
- Questions? Fran Schor -- With influx of new membership, should there be someone in charge of new membership in particular? For management and outreach.
- Answer – We strongly encourage local liaisons to have help – that's kind of like having the new membership manager. Please let us know if you know of new members who aren't in system in your locality. A committee is certainly something to talk about at next meeting.
- Facebook is very effective in St. Claire and Macomb counties for outreach and new membership
 - No blocking concerns
 - Approved by consensus
- If you don't have a voting number, go see Rita at table
- Ellis Boal – I have a printed copy of Houston's proposed program

Break – 10:51-11:09

Nominations (John)

- Statewide (all approved by consensus)**
- State Board of Ed – Sherry Wells, Maureen Sims
- Latham Redding – U of M Regents

MSU Trustees – Will Tyler White

Wayne State Board of Governors – Margaret Guttshall, and Fran Shor, Derek Griggsby

Words from Candidates

Sherry – Ran for board of ed. two years ago, interesting experience, didn't win, but did okay, emphasis on Greens not being single issue, noted how Emergency Managed districts are primarily low-income, minority districts, words against common core, not much pattern to the votes she got last time, demographic and geography wise, people vote their conscience

Maureen – Mother for 22 years, three kids – seven, 16, 22 – seen the changes in education, new member, wants to get involved, from Macomb County – Roseville, would like to reduce standardized testing, lots of money going to Special Education and lots of kids being put in special education just for that kind of individual attention, which is wrong, To Detroit emergency managers – “It's a sin what's happened in Detroit, I wish you luck.” Charter schools – some make a difference, some are problems all the way through. (Withdrew from Board of Ed. nomination process.

(Dan Finn – Comment against polarizing everything and speaking in absolutes)

Margaret – Revolutionary socialist, likes the opportunity to campaign, to talk to people, get viewpoints and values from varied groups, standing, worked at Wayne State for a while, lived in the area, embedded

Fran – Taught at Wayne State for four years, taught in a special program for working adults, program was terminated in 2004, moved to history department, wants moratorium on student debt, cutting administration would help debt crisis, standing, make Wayne State a green campus, use Detroit urban farms to help feed students, would like Wayne to have participatory budgeting

Derek Grigsby has been nominated for State Board of Ed., he accepts, Maureen withdraws

-US House

1st District – Ellis Shoal

2nd District – Matthew Brady

4th District – Jordan Salvi

5th District – Harley Mikkelson

8th District – Maria Green

9th District – John McDermott

10th District – Ben Nofs

12th District – Dylan Calewarts

14th District – Marcia Squire

Words from Candidates

Ellis – Involved in anti-fracking, got 1% last time he ran

Jordan – Lives in Saginaw and EL (school at MSU), bring troops home

Maria – Lives in Lansing, ecological reform, cannabis reform, drug reform (legalization – health system, not legal), CPS reform, “Foreign policy should be left to the foreigners.” Is a registered Dem. For term limits on congressional reps.

John – Foreign policy and econ policy are his main issues, declaration of war powers do not belong to the president, Libya and Syria action should be tried as war crimes, financial disclosure is key, drug legalization

Ben – Lives in Port Huron, Navy vet, Eagle Scout, VA committee needs work, marijuana legalization, student debt crisis, anti-Citizens United, member of Wolf Pack MI – non-partisan group working to amend constitution to eliminate corporate political money, would like to expand wind farms, part of DemExit

Dylan – Lives in Ann Arbor, trying to get rid of the Dingle family, Ann Arbor has lots of grassroots support for campaigns, lots of Bernie supporters, draw on student support, would like to introduce the term “multi-partisan” into politics, drug legalization, mental health, drug policy harm reduction platform, group home support, medical amnesty law (in cases of overdoses, etc.)

Lunch – 12:36

Honored to have Korie Blyveis – Green Party elected county clerk in Cass County (Newburg Twp. Clerk) – Says think local, nationwide issues are important, but remember to think small scale, too.

Presidential Preference -- 103 Ballots, 77 for Jill Stein, 5 No Candidate, 4 for Mesplay, and Curry, 3 for (?), 3 for Uncommitted, 2 for Kreml, 2 write in for Bernie, 2 None of the Above, 1 Brendan Pelto write-in

Clarification about Preference Poll, because a fair number of people didn't vote/listen/understand.

How many people will be physically present at the national convention? Six. Which means six proxy votes. (This changed later in the day. I believe the final count was 8.)

Motion by Matthew Brady to close votes and move on. Seconded by Jeff Wood. Supporting, Mamie Graziano. Blocking concerns? Yes

Close poll now: 26 Reopen Poll: 20 – Not 2/3 majority, so those who missed earlier vote are now voting. New Results: (These were never announced...)

Back to positions from before lunch

Marcia – “Recovering Dem,” main motivation for running is all of the election fraud she’s seen recently, wants to promote a 4+ party system, working on a list of social media and groups who have interviewed and endorsed Stein, who are friendly to the party, against TPP, ban fracking, be fossil fuel free by 2030, anti-watch list/no fly list, eco-socialist, free education, decriminalization of marijuana

Harley Mikkelson– Wants to get rid of minimum wage and guarantee everyone a job at \$15 an hour, bring troops home, hire more teachers, improve infrastructure,

Matthew Brady – “I want to get Greens on the ballot, that’s why I’m running.” Clean energy, fear of the oligarchy, election fraud, need to get money and special interests (NRA, oil lobby, etc.) out of politics, Democracyspring.org EVFA declaration

US House Nomination Results

Votes for Tia for 14th – 10

Votes for Marcia for 14th – 29

Move that the rest of US House reps are adopted by application – David Smokler, Eric Siegler supporting – Approved by consensus

Tom Mair (from Traverse) speaking via phone to convention. – Came within 6% of a win last time he ran. Grand Traverse County Board/District 2 this time.

State House

-4th District – Dan Finn

-22th District – Maureen Sims

-29th District – Tia Marie Leaks (Had the above run off between Tia and Marcia, Marcia won, Tia went for this State seat instead)

-52nd – Eric Borregard

Words from Candidates

Dan Finn – Wayne State grad, acting and theater degree, advocate for expansion of usable mass transit, end fracking, shut down line 5, money out of politics, arrest Snyder, Detroit is the epitome of energy inefficiency

Maureen Sims – Background in environmental health and safety from UofM, masters in dispute resolution

Tia Marie Leaks – Education, policing, and vacant homes are her top three issues. We have values we need to stand by, cooperation is key, need to work together across racial, political, etc. lines

Eric Borregard – Small business owner, substitute teacher, main issues are environmental, Huron river pollution, fracking pipelines, wildlife degradation, etc.

Move to accept all (above four) by acclimation – Movement - Eric Siegel, Second - Jeff Wood

Break

Fred introduces Bill Kreml (Presidential nominee candidate), discusses electors, talks about Jill Stein’s campaign

-Kreml is a Northwestern alum, PhD from IU (poly sci), one of the original drafters of original Democratic Party charter in 70s, Green Party is the non-totalitarian left, we are at a point in history where we can create something

-We need 16 volunteer electors; first 16 to give Eric their name have it

-Stein campaign is looking for a volunteer coordinator for MI, also, take and disseminate some Stein literature. Email jonathanf@jill2016.com

State House (cont.)

-63rd – John LaPietra

-86th – Cliff Yankovich

-83rd – Deena Bruderick

-11th – Tiffany Hayden (also taking on the special election slot to fill November-Dec)

-53rd – Joe Stevens

Below this line were absent

-70th – Michael Anderson

-109th – Wade Roberts

Words from Candidates

John – Need more government that’s actually BY the people, MI is last in governmental integrity and transparency

Cliff – Former Republican, small business owner, getting Republicans saying “I’m a Republican, but I’m going to vote for you.” Government for the people! Interests of MI taxpayers ahead of own interests and corporations and companies. Shut down line five. Road repair. Education. Get rid of PACs.

Deena – From Sanilac County, pro-cannabis, art education

Tiffany – Anti-roadside drug testing (MI Senate Bill 207 – passed in to law, signed, pilot program, five counties)

Joe – U of M grad, environmental econ, emergency manager law is “a completely and utter failure,” election reform, drug legalization and decriminalization, judicial reform (mediation), basic income proponent

Movement to adopt above five by acclimation – David Smokler, moved, George Corsetti, seconded – Adopted by acclimation

Michael Anderson would like to be dually nominated by Green and Socialists (without ballot access)

Move to strike Patrick Crumbaugh from list by Lou. Seconded by Margaret

Movement to nominate Anderson by Lou, seconded by Jesse Torres

Anderson nominated by consensus

Move to remove final three names (Gillespie, Anderson, Nelson) from consideration by Paul, seconded by Lou. Deferring on Ryan Nelson. Lou withdraws Nelson from that removal pool. Seconded by Paul, passed by consensus.

Move to nominate Wade Roberts by Candace, support by Korie. Consensus approval.

Words from Candidates

Korie Blyveis (Newberg Twp. Clerk)– Discussed her experience as township clerk, going for reelection (spoke earlier)

Celeste Bondie (Emmet County Board/District 4) – Shut down line five, garbage trouble in the county – dumping/expensive pick up, having house parties for campaigning

Stuart Collis (Ypsilanti Twp. Park Commissioner) – Speaking for himself and Shauna McNally

Candace Blyveis speaks on behalf of Wayne Vermilya (Presque Isle County Board/District1)

Proposal by David Smokler to approve the above four by acclimation, George Corsetti seconded.

Friendly amendment, Jesse Torres nominates self for Holly Twp. Park Commissioner, consensus approval.

Words from Candidates

Eric Siegel (Oakland CC Board of Trustees) – Looking for an endorsement, rather than a nomination, because it's a non-partisan position. Teaches at Oakland CC, "Put a teacher in charge of the school." Seven member trustee board, no educators on it right now.

Veda Balla (Didn't catch what she's running for) – Looking for an endorsement because non-partisans position, urban sprawl, animal rights, legalization of marijuana

David moves to endorse the two above candidates. Seconded by Lou. Consensus approval.

US Green Party Updates (LouAnn)

-National Committee – Confederation of all state Green parties, been making decisions on the platform, big deal was Proposal 8-5, which was a socialist leaning economic proposal, there are lots of caucuses and committees

-Discussed national convention delegate situation

-Proposed platform is online

-State candidates; familiarize yourselves with the MERTS system

Federal level money threshold is \$5,000, State is \$1,000

All 15 delegates for National Convention approved by consensus.

Nick Bryce promoting Sink or Swim Festival and Rally in Detroit (September 23-25th) being put on to call attention to water issues in MI. Looking for Green support via speakers/candidates, endorsements, monetary support, etc.

Proposal by Lou to endorse Sink or Swim at \$300 level. Seconded by Lloyd Clarke. Approved by consensus.

Anita Bell speaking on reparations – African World Festival in Detroit in August, working with reparations Labor Union to put out a petition asking for reparations to be enacted via executive order. Would like the petition to go to Obama, but if that doesn't happen, joined Greens because party is reparations friendly. Has petition here to be signed. Have a signature app, and can do it via text, new media is great.

Dave Smokler – Plug for The People's Tribune, Green friendly, invitation to write your own article for the publication. There's a Spanish version, too, focusing on immigration issues.

LouAnn and Ellis – Speaking on Philly protests with Stein during DNC and the Socialist Convergence. 10,000 at Clean Energy march. Jill Stein was everywhere. Stein went in to DNC to meet with media. It was cool. Things happened. Lots of marches. Big numbers. Lots of big names. Lots of Bernie people. Some of the Bernie walk outs joined in the protests. Socialists met, lots of activist mind joining.

August 9th, Royal Oak Public library, 6:30 pm – Report from Michigan Bernie delegates

Closing remarks by Sherry – All of you who are not running have so many options to be involved – anything from driving people places, to campaign managing, to putting out lawn signs. “In the middle of the word Power is We. We are in Power.” We did a lot today, it went well. Amazed and proud. Feels like the restart of something big. Thank you all.