

<< **DRAFT** >>

Green Party of California  
General Assembly  
Berkeley, CA – April 29-30, 2000

Saturday Morning Session

Facilitators: Lynn Serpe and Michael Borenstein

Ten Regions represented and a Quorum of 7 was present.

Time Keeper: Peggy Lewis

Vibes: Beth Moore and Dave Shorey

Announcements

Davis Earth Day Registration Clearinghouse

Ralph Nader contact Joan Strasser 510-524-8780

Santa Cruz County Green Party Position on Biotechnology and the  
Industrialization of Life (handout)

Approval of Minutes

Corrections were made to the minutes from last 2 plenaries with consensus. Changes to pages 22 “Approval with correction; 26 “ASGP meet Rep.”, page 27 Tribal “ref. To overturn to propose rec.” .

Long term planning

By-Laws are on the web page in draft form.

Discussion concluded that control of direction rather than people is a better strategy. In the restructuring the number of groups was pruned back which leaves more people in each group which results in a broader base. The international issues are grouped together for ease. More work needed in education and media, more time and energy. We need to ask what we want to accomplish. Focus on State level and have a 2 year plan. We need to understand the process and get the written form to people ahead of time, also establish who has the responsibility to get work done. The idea of restructuring is to feed upward from the Coordinating Committees (CC’s). Old working groups will now be called Standing Committees. Ad Hoc committees are not affected by restructuring. The purpose of the vote today is for approval of the concept.

Noted: Straw polls are not formal votes; if 20% stand aside we do not have consensus; if the unresolved concerns are not willing to stand aside the proposal presenter has the option to go for a vote or not.

Concerns:

Because of consolidation it will take more time for dissemination of information.  
Conditions for membership proposed 2 State Plenary attendances.  
Need for voter registration and outreach.  
Work plans need to be submitted to general assembly.  
Affirmation: First we are a Political Party!  
CC has so much work already we need to promote inclusion of other groups. Expansion of working base for future goal.  
Local need to be trained and share knowledge to get people involved.  
Work on Election Reform/Finance Reform.  
Seattle and DC largest speak out is not reflected; work against corp. power and WTO, be part of it.

#### Consent Calendar

After discussion, items number 1, 2 5 were consensed. Items 3 and 4 were removed for discussion to another time during the plenary. Item 6 would be discussed by the working group and be brought to the delegates with recommendations.

Through extra time consented to by the general assembly, item 3 was discussed (affirming John Strawn and Nancy Marmol as Spokespersons until the next plenary.) It was consensed that John and Nancy be affirmed.

Discussion: The process by which the Coordinating Committee chooses Spokespeople (defined by the by-laws). Working Groups to CC; draft timeline to Plenary in order to approve a broad based plan (for next 2 years) that gives direction and is inclusive. Focus at State level. We should reinvent ourselves and forget tradition when doing plenary structure. Put process in written form for better understanding. Codify now, provide workbooks! Need to talk about budget. Where do ideas come from? Flow of information, define WG goals. On membership we need administrative work. Open on line phone between state meetings.

Affirmed: Working Group people who show up 2 times can vote.

Are CC appointments subject to Plenary approval? See pg. 9 on liaison to WG's which remains in place. Ballot Initiatives – which group to take electoral action? Proposal is not simple, the concept means understanding the by-law language.

#### Concerns

Platform on page one considered poor for WG.

Too much discipline in places.

The Platform standing committee is appointed yearly need 2 yrs. For packets.

Definition of membership? Pg 9. In caucuses add “and other”.

Standing Committee should be flexible to add members on biannual basis. First work one year to qualify.

Voting seldom comes up in WG's

Term limits on CC for 1<sup>st</sup> democratic reform.

Need action on issues like putting Green Party names on endorsements to build part and develop other caucuses.

Conflict healthy – rework proposal.

To be on State Plenary 2 attendances. Change 'handle' to 'oversee or take responsibility for'.

CC centralization might burden and handstring other groups, promote inclusion.

Train locals, share knowledge.

Seattle and DC the largest speak out is not reflected by Greens. Work against corporate power.

How do we ask CC to make an endorsement happen in good time?

How to get work done between plenaries. Fix structure!

Visibility, direct actions A16, host for all affinity groups.

Voter Registration! Campaign for Finance Reform.

Standing Committee vacancies have 'friendly' fill in for information until plenary.

Yearly gathering training sessions, not at business meeting.

Work Plan back to General Assembly. Implementation of proposal.

Monthly conference calls.

International Host.

Affirmation: 1<sup>st</sup> we are a Political Party

### Proposal

The proposal to restructure the working groups as described in detail on page 8 of the plenary packet was introduced by Mike Feinstein of the Los Angeles? Green Party for the Ad hoc committee on Restructuring Working Groups. This proposal would be the structure on which to amend the by-laws.

After the presentation, questions and concerns were raised. A vote was called. Two stand asides, one no and 51 yeses. The proposal moved to the By-Laws Standing Committee to continue the work.

Adjourned for Lunch

Facilitators: Mike Feinstein, Jim G. Michael B. and Lynn S.

Project 2000 or P2K

Daniel Solnit reported 3-400 voters registered Green through tabling in 2998; 12,000 registered through Project 200 in 1999 but through attrition lost about 5,000 in 1999,so a net gain of 7k registrants. P2K issued 10k bumper stickers, and 10k buttons, mailed newsletter and people are still tabling. The unforeseen fundraising news letter failed to raise expected sustainable funds due to Audie bock's cover picture and her reregistering of undeclared. Letters indicated recipients' frustration with the cover story. Mailings and staff salaries were the biggest expenses. Daniel concluded that the project works, but eh question is whether the Party can sustain the salary and big mailings. He produced a post-Project 200 personal analysis of "the Party at a crossroads" and made copies available. Daniel is no longer working as the Clearinghouse coordinator. Some Greens requested a spread sheet to better evaluate future projects. Daniel said not all results fit

quantifiably into a spread sheet but a report is forthcoming. He announced a meeting to continue Project 2000 on a volunteer basis.

Jo Chamberlain of the San Mateo Green Party reported that the project has been discontinued. Raising money, using incentive gifts, proved to be more work than folks had time for. The P2K committee reported that getting some folks to table was challenging. The assessment was that raising money using direct mail (with the costs underwritten by Michael Wyman of the Marin County Green Party) seemed a better use of time and the limited resources the state organization has.

Suggestions were raised to continue fundraising for the state. The concerns raised will be addressed later during the Finance Committee report. Big concern to get good data base of donors and do direct mailing and to use Web.

Facilitator Dave Shorey:

Liaison to Secretary of State as an administrative position that provides information on behalf of the Party to and from the Secretary of State's office. They would send an official letter on Ralph Nader and keep deadlines informing the 54 electors in CA.

Affirmation: Betty Traynor (who has served 2 years on the CC)

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Between Dec, 1997 and 1999 income was \$78,230.58. A debt of \$20,000 will be covered by a loan program. The first run of Consensus was \$5,000. There is a debt of \$9,000 for mailings from the San Francisco office. Handout of Accounting for GP of CA for Feb. 28, 200 to April 28, 200 reflects Income total of 3386.44 and Expenses of 1843.10 for a Balance on hand of \$1543.34.

There is a Petra Kelly Fund, set up by Nancy Broyles and Gloria Purcell to provide "scholarships" to help Greens attend conventions. Approximately \$240. Iin funds are available. Fill out forms for delegates needing funds.

Local Dues: Each County fills out a montly activity report and sends in dues of \$5.00/month or 10% of counties net. Other forms for WG;s and Standing Committees to sumit their budget to treasurer for reimbursement.

Reminder to Counties: Each needs a bank account; an SS-4 Form (online) much like acquiring a Social Security Number for a legal entity. Submit the Treasurers name to Michael Wyman.

The SF office rent is being supplemented by the Medea Benjamin Campaign. Re: the LA office debt, Mike Feinstein said, "There are no hands in any pockets yet. The LA local will raise money for statewide staff."

Nancy Marmola nd Jo C. has been serving as the active interim treasurers. The Treasurer is a non-voting member of the CC; a member of the Finance Committee; and a member of the Treasury/Budget Committee.

Treasurer nomination: Michael Wyman, PO Box 9380/San Rafael, CA 94912-9380/ Tel: 415-461-6268.

Affirmation: Michael Wyman Treasurer to fill remaining time of Joe Hoffman's term until Feb. 2001.

Discussion on adding to 10 Key Values Proportional Representation. Caleb reminded us that Europe already has proportional representation and therefore did not need it as a key value. Further, the media often quotes the Party's 10 KVs. Also it is a method not a value. It was not tested for consensus and left as is.

Break for Caucuses at 3:15 and Working Groups at 4:15 – 5 p.m.

Plenary for August discussion: Humbolt Interested in hosting; some said to work regionally toward Nov. election. Others said to go south again. Commitment is for a gathering per year and 3 Plenary's per year. The importance of linking with other groups around the Democratic Convention is important, thus a So. Ca. meeting could satisfy both.

AFFIRMATION of San Diego in August.

April 30, 2000 - SUNDAY Green Assembly Minutes

Quorum present

Facilitating: John S and Estelle P.

Vibs: Gloria Purcell, Cameron Spitzer

Time Keeper: Linda Howard

New State election rules are not listed on the ballot; registrations differ in each county so we must deal with them locally.

#### DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL PLATFORM

Budd Dickinson of Alameda County reported that amendments to the national platform are available on-line at [http://www.platcom.intranets.com/register\\_members.asp](http://www.platcom.intranets.com/register_members.asp). You need to register (it's free) and can get access to it. The first draft platform is available at [www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org) without the amendments. If you are unable to access the amendments, Budd will e-mail them to you upon request. The National Committee requests feedback on the amendments though it would be difficult to add new ones at this juncture. Responses are due May 21, 2000, which will get to the National Committee on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Tom Stafford began a sign-up for an ad hoc committee to discuss responses. The counties can e-mail remarks to Budd at [bdickinson@california.com](mailto:bdickinson@california.com).

Consented: The process for reporting back to the National Committee on the final state response(s) will have the final report placed on the state website ([www.greens.org/~jms/cc](http://www.greens.org/~jms/cc)).

#### GREEN CANDIDATES PRESENTATION

Justin Miscoso – Congress- “electoral reform” w.moscoso2000.com  
Rebecca Kaplan – Oakland City Council “coalition builder”  
Craig Coffin – Congress (Monterey County) “Get Farr Out”  
Gloria Purcell – State Assembly District 21 “Save the Earth”  
Mike Feinstein – Santa Monica City Council “outreach to all”  
Medea Benjamin – Senator “Greens, the Party to Contend With!” “Debate”  
Sara Amir – State Assembly 42<sup>nd</sup> Dist. “Great to be a Green” [www.saraamir.org](http://www.saraamir.org)

## PROPOSAL

To form a separate Youth Organizing Standing Committee/International WG. Designed to empower youth as in other countries in a youth wing. Some lively discussion as youth favored a separate arena. It was not consensed.

## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AFFIRMED**

### **“GO GREEN GO” CHANT**

Region 1 (NE/Shasta) – Don and Linda Yost  
Region 2 (Sacramento/Sierra) – Mike Borenstein/Peggy Lewis  
Region 3 (Emerald) – Rob Engi  
Region 4 (Bay Area) – Budd Dickinson/Nancy Marmol  
Region 5 (Central Valley) – Mark Stout  
Region 6 (Central Coast) – Mike Walker  
Region 7 (Tri Counties) – John Strawn/Pamela Meideld  
Region 8 (Los Angeles) – Mike Feinstein/Sara Amir  
Region 9 (Orange/Riverside/San Bernardino) – Lerner Goude  
Region 10 (Imperial County/San Diego) – Ricardo Newbery  
At Large – Jo Chamberlain, Estelle Palley, Lucy Colvin

There were presentations for the At Large vacancies. The delegates voted by secret ballot and the three new At Large Reps are: Beth Haines, Rebecca Kaplan, Tom Stafford.

The old and new working groups reported on their discussions and future recommendations.

## VOTER REGISTRATION – sign up to serve!

New Co-coordinators

Fara Mare, Stephani Jensen, Stuart Beckman, Jo Chamberlain

1. Campaigns & Candidates – Orval Osbourne is the contact person
2. Electoral Reform – Calef Kleppner
3. Green Issues – Don Eichenberger
4. International/Green Issues Working Group – Michael Stanley, Michael Jones

## STANDING COMMITTEES

1. By-Laws; 2. Finance; 3. Platform;
4. International Protocol;
5. Clearinghouse for media and press. .

All on Data Base, look for upcoming e-mail/Michael Bornstein.

Last page