

GREEN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA

General Assembly Meeting

April 28 – 29, 2001

Minutes

Location: State of California Secretary of State Building, 1500 11th Street, Sacramento, CA

Saturday Opening Ceremony [9:18 AM – 9:26 AM]

Dave Shorey – Welcome to Sacramento!

Julia Padilla – Spanish song and humor

New Delegate Orientation [9:26 AM – 10:06 AM]

Jo Chamberlain prefaced with report of the recent Global Green Gathering in Australia. She explained the global representation via four federations broken out by continents. She continued with a description of the structure of the Green Party of CA.

Mike Borenstein discussed the consensus process and his 4 rules of consensus etiquette. The rules are:

1. *Keep side conversations outside of the room.*
2. *Drop out of the stack if others ahead of you have already covered your point.*
3. *Not everybody has to talk about everything, every time.*
4. *Twinkle with hands instead of applause.*

Peggy Lewis discussed the roles of the consensus facilitation team.

Mike Borenstein put “Process Guidelines” up on the overhead screen and further explained the consensus process.

The Coordinating Committee (CC) was called up front and introduced. Counties with newly organized county Green parties were recognized.

Housekeeping [10:06 AM – 10:09 AM]

Facilitation Team Introduced and approved by consensus.

Facilitators: Mike Borenstein, Peggy Lewis, Lucy Colvin and Jim Stauffer.

Vibes Watchers: Tristan Sulger and Beth Moore-Haines

Timekeeper: Tim Smith

Note-taker: Steve Loeb

Agenda approved by consensus.

Assembly quorum was found to exist.

Consent Calendar [10:09 AM – 10:12 AM]

Ric Newbery presented. The Bylaws Proposal item on the consent calendar was to be adopted without concerns or objections. Some members of the Assembly approached the microphones to ask for clarifying questions and to voice concerns. Barbara Eniti had objections with this process for a consent calendar item. As per the bylaws governing (version December 2000) in Section 5-9.11, the above mentioned process is not allowed and requires the item to be rejected without further debate.

Decision: Rejected (to be repaired and brought back on Sunday)

Minutes from Last General Assembly Meeting [10:12 AM – 10:13 AM]

Minutes from last Plenary in December hosted in San Diego were approved. Comment was made to please spell check before posting.

Clearinghouse Report [10:13 AM – 10:30 AM]

Jo Chamberlain presented. Items for sale. We use the family owned or union businesses only. Jo mentioned Stink Fish. They provided some free samples. Jo introduced the three shirts available. Contact her for info about items available to aid in organizing. Jo passed out and projected onto the screen a County Contact info form that needs to be filled out and turned in by all active counties.

Cameron Spitzer described the e-services he has provided the Green Party of CA. He explained his “petra” server and greens.org. He has email services and email list services via majordomo available for Greens to use – donations encouraged.

Kendra Markle is webmaster of GPCA site. She is trying to get the credit card donation process available so that all locals can use it for free. She has many professional volunteers available to help build great sites for locals. They can do password protection, sustainer donor programs. They want to put a protected database on the web so that the locals can keep their contact/clearinghouse info available on the state party page for the public to find you.

Beth Moore-Haines announced that the G.R.O.W form also needs to be filled out by each county and returned before the end of the Plenary.

Adjourned for Break [10:30 AM – 10:45 AM]

Treasurer Report [10:46 AM – 11:02 AM]

Yellow sheet handed out showing Treasury financials. Mike Wyman reviewed the items on the yellow sheet.

Pause: Ross Mirkirimi arrived and spoke about the Nader campaign. Introduced idea of doing two mini-super rallies with Nader involved. September maybe. One in Southern CA and one in Bay Area.

Mike Wyman continued. Focus on sustainer program. Allows a less volatile source of funds. Mike wanted 20 more sustainers from the plenary to reach his weekend goal. Total goal is 1400 sustainers or 1% of registration. Use that formula to apply to locals also. A sustainer is someone who contributes a minimum \$10 per month via automatic withdrawal of credit card. Ideas of possibly sharing funds with counties and national.

Faramarz Nabavi commented that he would like to see auto debit of checking as an option to credit card method.

State Budget Proposal [11:03 AM – 11:15 AM]

Mike Wyman and Jo Chamberlain presented. First formal budget process was implemented this year. Don't spend money in Working Groups until specific approval from the Treasury. Working Groups must provide work plan and budget. So far, they have been very frugal.

Kevin McKeown asked about travel money allocation.

Response: Stipends and travel expense are limited. GROW has bigger budget for travel. They have to go around the state to help organize. Travel expenses are for state officials traveling out to the counties, not for delegates to come to plenary meetings.

Many commented that they would like to see greater detail in the budget to have a clearer understanding of where the money is flowing. No unresolved concerns. Budget proposal wording is available on pages 7 – 9 of agenda packet.

Decision: Budget approved by consensus.

Treasurer Appointment Confirmation [11:15 AM – 11:20 AM]

Jo Chamberlain presented. Mike Wyman is only candidate seeking position. Nancy Marmol has been added as only candidate for Assistant Treasurer. Both candidates are attorneys. Mike has been diligent in financial and legal filings. Kudos to Mike from the Assembly.

Mike Wyman – Treasurer

Nancy Marmol – Assistant Treasurer

Decision: Consensus reached on confirming the appointments of both candidates.

Spokespersons / Media Report and Discussion [11:20 AM – 11:40 AM]

Rebecca Kaplan, John Strawn, Ross Mirkirimi and Mark Stout presented:

Rebecca: Media committee created to work on outreach. Greater proactive work instead of just reacting to media requests for info. Any county org can make press statements and releases if already in the GPCA platform as long as made officially from the county party and not expressed or implied that statements are from the state party.

Goal: full time staff person to answer the telephone live.

John Strawn: Currently they provide press releases and take press calls. However, John believes in proactive spokespersons. Money is a problem. Volunteers have full time jobs elsewhere. Difficult to do the job well with only volunteers. Next plenary they will propose a solution to the problem. They are a subcommittee of the CC. John can be reached at 805-682-4050. Cell is 805-689-2840.

Mark Stout spoke of the committee's email address usage. Sending email to the address automatically distributes a copy of the message to each member of the committee. The address is gpcapress@greens.org. Greens should use this address when alerting the committee.

Ross spoke of the problem of blast faxing media in between campaign seasons when organization is limited. Rebecca wants volunteers to step up and help.

Orval Osborne asked when there will be an archive of past statements and releases? The committee responded that they are working on it.

Justin Moscoso asked what the protocol is when a reporter calls a local for information. Which phone number to use? Jo responded that the main clearinghouse number should be given.

Others provided suggestions for the Media Committee to consider in improving its function.

Electoral Reform Discussion [11:40 AM – 12:25 PM]

Caleb Kleppner: Caleb began discussing the county council elections and CA Election code. He asserted that it is an important way to strengthen county-level parties by gaining public exposure to our named candidates on the ballot for County Council. He mentioned that the candidates can also insert something into the voter guide. Costs vary by county. However, process can be used to grow registrants also. By using proportional representation or instant run-off voting for County Council elections we can move to using it for local elections. Once cities and counties purchase and use the necessary equipment for their elections, then the equipment will be available for the statewide elections.

Legal roadblocks include counties saying that our bylaws are too burdensome. Solution to that is the Green Party to have a section added to the Elections code. 2002 CA legislative session is our next best chance for getting a section added to the Elections Code that will codify our bylaws. We need to have our proposal ready for the San Mateo plenary in September. The Electoral Reform Working Group is working on it and intends to have a proposal before the Assembly at the next plenary.

Leslie Dinkin asked where the specific proposals are. Caleb responded that the Working Group is working hard on them and that they will be ready by the next plenary.

Jeanne Rosenmeier provided an update on CA legislation. AB1515 Hertzberg has Instant Run-off Voting bill in CA Assembly right now. Suggested that we all write our Assembly members to inform them of IRV and our support for it. AB55-56 are other bills that help provide the equipment needed to enable IRV to work. Locally, IRV is spreading. The Libertarian party has endorsed IRV and will use it for internal voting.

Announcements [12:25 PM – 12:35 PM]

Beth Moore-Haines: GROW can help with local growth activity. Remember to turn in grow form. She also announced the Retreat at Jenkinson Lake coming up on the weekend of July 21.

Kevin McKeown: FTAA globalization. Mainstream media blacked out coverage of protesters. Bring home fliers of anti-FTAA.

Tim Smith: Statewide Minimum Wage Initiative needs petition signatures and support.

Medea Benjamin: Pro-Democracy weeklong training in Florida coming up. Talk to Medea about it. PG&E shareholder meeting coming up May 16th.

Faramarz Nabavi: Billionaires for Bush or Gore – Selling CDs. Call Cliff at 818-766-5509.

Happy Birthday to Nancy Broyles!

Lunch Break [12:35 PM – 2:04 PM]

Bylaws Amendment – Restructuring [2:04 PM – 3:28 PM]

New facilitators: Beth Moore-Haines and Mike Borenstein.

New Vibes Watcher: Linda Howard

Ric Newbery and Lucy Colvin presenting.

This proposal had two purposes. First, the proposal was merely attempting to formalize the enabling language necessary to implement the Restructuring proposal adopted at

the Spring 2000 plenary. The second purpose regarded resolving some concerns that arose while attempting to carry out the above mentioned assignment. Furthermore, new concerns that arose during this process had to be addressed as well.

The final draft created by the Bylaws Committee included the following changes:

1. Delete all of Section 5-8, The Function of General Assembly Committees in Meetings.
2. Substitute all of Article 6, Committees – Formation and Function
3. Substitute most of Article 7 (except Sections 7-1 and 7-10), Committees of the General Assembly
4. Add new Article 8, Working Groups of the General Assembly

Ric began by prefacing and numbering the four concerns that were raised from the Bylaws Committee process. Said concerns are expressed on page 11 of the agenda packet. For brevity, the concerns will be numbered in the order in which they appear under “Concerns” on page 11 of the agenda packet.

Unresolved concerns carried to the Assembly with the proposal:

- #1**
- #2**
- #3**
- #4**

The above unresolved concerns did not include any declared representatives and/or originators to handle them in the process. It was not clearly explained how those concerns will be resolved without someone charged as a representative to decide whether or not to block consensus based on deliberation, compromise, friendly amendments, etc. If each of those concerns had a representative Assembly, it was not clear to the note-taker.

Clarifying questions included:

Jim Stauffer: Asked for clarification on this proposal that was sponsored by the committee of which he is a member. He commented that the wording regarding the establishment of mission for Work Groups seemed too stringent. He asked if it will be possible to change focus of the work in WG’s without going back to the CC for permission?

Response: The wording of the Assembly’s previously adopted proposal on the restructuring wanted restricted focus for WG’s and more enforcement from the CC.

John Strawn: Is it really necessary to have a WG mission statement in the bylaws?

Response: The restructure proposal that was adopted at last plenary mandated greater focus and control over WG’s. The question is beyond the scope of this particular proposal.

Additional concerns to the four mentioned above:

David Whizin: Concerned with the wording of a 2-week notification requirement in the new Section 6-2.2 as added by the Bylaws Committee in addition to concern #2.

Barri Boone: She had additional concern regarding Section 6-2.4 not allowing for proxy voting.

Ray Glock-Grueneich had an additional concern and proposed a lengthy friendly amendment regarding issues with determining quorum and eligibility to vote. Ric responded that the friendly amendment was too tough and asked if Ray would be willing to stand aside with the amendment for now and send a written version to the Bylaws Committee for consideration. Ray agreed to that.

Woody Hastings: Had additional concern regarding Section 8-3 on page 15 of the agenda packet. He felt that there was too much redundancy in the language. Response: Would he accept the current language and help clean it up later. Woody said no.

Mike Hitchcock (affirmation): He thought 2 week notification idea was excellent.

Michele Delahanty: She was not clear on language. Seemed too exclusionary she said.

Barbara Eniti: Additional concern about words "plenary" vs "gathering." Ric promised to revisit it later. Barbara also has an additional blocking concern regarding Section 6-2.2. Ric asked her if she would accept the wording for now with the promise that he will address it again later. She was willing to wait and leave wording alone for now.

Roz Mandelcorn: Concerned about state party being able to exercise emergency powers. Response: Already in the bylaws. Concern resolved.

Don Eichenberger: Additional concern about quick decision making ability between plenaries by CC. Response: CC has such powers in bylaws now.

The stack was closed for voicing concerns and Ric moved to test for consensus at 2:56 PM. Separating out concerns #1 and #2 and first looking at if consensus existed for everything else. Some confusion erupted from the Assembly.

At this point, five unresolved concerns existed. Beth asked if there were any unresolved concerns. Jeanne Rosenmier, Ray Glock-Grueneich, and Jim Stauffer all voiced unresolved concerns. Ric asked if they would be willing to stand aside if he promised to readdress their concerns by the next plenary. Each was willing to stand aside. Consensus arrived at 3:11 PM with excepted concerns #1 and #2.

Strawpoll on concerns #1 and #2 was inconclusive. Testing for consensus on concern #1. Nancy Glock voiced blocking concern. Was willing to stand aside if her concerns would be addressed by next plenary. Consensus reached on the removal of concern #1.

Test for consensus on concern #2. Barbara Eniti offered a friendly amendment on Section 6-2.2. Earlier she was willing to stand aside on the promise of readdressing the issue before the next plenary. She reversed that and wanted the last three sentences from said section removed. Ric **accepted the friendly amendment** and said that the section would be sent back to the committee for rework. All unresolved concerns were removed with one friendly amendment and a long list of promises to readdress the key concerns all over again at the next plenary.

Decision: Consensus reached on the amended proposal.

“Hugging Clown” Comic Relief [3:20 PM – 3:38 PM]

Platform Discussion [3:39 PM – 4:30 PM]

Discussion leaders: Michael Carley and Pam Hitchcock (current coordinators of the Platform Committee)

Mike and Pam explained the process that they have been facilitating. They have been asking Greens to make suggestions on the many planks in the platform. They have had a tremendous response. However, the process is ongoing.

Michele Delahanty – Volunteers. They want readers to pick portions of the platform and to make suggestions about obsolete or unclear language.

Bud Dickinson: Talked about the existing platform. Some controversy on the committee about how the new one should be put together. Some want a detailed platform like the one that exists now. Others want a summary document that will more effectively communicate the key planks.

Pam: Goal is to create a document that will promote the Green Party. She is proposing that the Green Party identify just a few planks that are most relevant to the party now and simply the handouts so more prospective Green voters will actually read the document. Pam also wants to talk to the Issues WG and find out what it going on. The drafts of the planks should be read by the experts in those fields. Pam also wants to simplify and lower the reading level of the document.

Open mic for discussion began and long lines formed. The comments covered both viewpoints about evenly. That is, that some like the summary type platform and some like the comprehensive form. A few commented that we could have both. The entire

discussion was about the style and form of the platform only. Virtually nothing was suggested about specific language in planks.

After hearing the discussion, Pam stated that her vision for a summary style was far different than the vast majority of the Assembly. She announced that she will resign.

Break [4:30 PM – 4:40 PM]

Bylaws Amendment – Removal for Cause [4:40 PM – 5:10 PM]

Presenters: Beth Moore-Haines and Mike Borenstein

Beth and Mike introduced the need to deal with removing a member of the CC or any officer appointed by the CC for cause.

Concerns:

Warner Bloomberg: He would prefer to wait until September to work out the kinks.

Jo Chamberlain: Proposed a friendly amendment to add “including Decline to State” to paragraph 1-b of the proposal on page 16 of the agenda packet.

Response: **Friendly amendment accepted.**

It was also proposed that paragraph 1-c add “unless prohibited by law.”

Response: **Friendly amendment accepted.**

Roz Mandelcorn: Proposed friendly amendment to change wording from “appointee” to “officer appointed by the CC” in paragraph 3 of the proposal.

Response: **Friendly amendment accepted.**

Santa Clara local has four unmentioned unresolved concerns but wishes to stand aside with promise to re-address the language later.

Ray Glock-Grueneich: Proposed friendly amendment to eliminate words “or non-binding arbitration” from paragraph 3-b.

Response: **Friendly amendment accepted.**

Decision: Consensus achieved on the amended proposal.

Bylaws Amendment – At-Large Elections [5:10 PM – 5:35 PM]

David Shorey presented.

Clarifying questions:

Jim Stauffer – Are unplanned vacancies accounted for with the new method?

Response: No, it is not covered.

Concerns:

Mike Feinstein: Prefers to see choice voting with NOC in single seat elections and single candidate elections.

Response: **Accepted as friendly amendment.**

Lockwood: Unclear on language. No concern.

Tristan Sulger: Concerned with potential problem of vacancies and no method to fill them in the interim. If group murdered, how would vacancies be appointed? Concern was actually a clarifying question.

Nancy Marmol: Concerned that at-large seats have no reason for being with current vacancy problem. Ric clarified reasoning. Consistent election process with 3 seats open every time.

John Strawn: Proposed friendly amendment of special election using IRV for remainder of term to fill vacancies.

Response: No.

John is not willing to block. No remaining unresolved concerns.

Decision: Consensus reached on amended proposal.

Election At-large CC Reps [5:40 PM – 5:50 PM]

Caleb Kleppner presided.

Three seats were open. Two candidates and NOC were possibilities. Preference voting used. The candidates were:

1. Jo Chamberlain
2. Justin Moscoso
3. NOC

Winners were announced later.

Announcements [5:50 PM – 6:05 PM]

Wild Bill handled housing.

Rebecca and Mark Stout announced energy summit that occurred the day prior. Sending around sign-up sheets to work on energy crisis. Medea Benjamin and Ross Mirkirimi plan to be leading a strategy session at 6:30 PM.

Winston of Monterey explained the benefits of utilizing community TV.

Paul Frankiin. Columbia devastation. Handout available for resolution.

Susan Co-chair of Campaigns WG. Fill out questionnaire about local campaign activity.

Lucy Colvin: United Farmworker handouts. Contact your legislators about 3 bills. AB423, S1125, and AB638.

Mike Feinstein had Green Pages. 1200 available to buy.

Faramarz: Imperial County couldn't come, but please help them out by buying a t-shirt.

Saturday Assembly Meeting adjourned at: 6:05 PM

Sunday

Housekeeping and Agenda [9:00 AM – 9:15 AM]

Facilitated: Jo Chamberlain and Rob Enge

Scribe: Mark Stout

Timekeeper: Linda Howard

Vibes Watcher: Amarera Baylaurel, Woody Hastings

Note-taker: Steve Loeb

Consent Calendar [9:15 AM – 9:22 AM]

Presented: Ric Newbery

Ric amended the last sentence of Section 7-1.4 before presenting this proposal. Changed from "encourage to fill at least one seat with a woman for gender balance" to "encouraged to strive for gender balance."

Clarifying question:

Barbara Eniti: Requested to add "g" to 3-2.2 "liason of reg of voters"

Ric response: No, this is a consent calendar take it or leave it proposal.

Barbara withdrew concern.

Decision: Consensus reached on proposal.

Campaigns & Candidates Discussion [9:20 AM – 9:35 AM]

Orval Osborne presented. Requested that all who are considering a campaign to please fill out the questionnaire to let the state party know of plans.

Goal of creating better communication between the Campaigns & Candidates and locals. Assessing the needs of locals. Training for the 2002 campaign season.

State constitutional races – spending most of the WG’s time on this one.
Governor’s seat and Secretary of State’s seat are recommended for the Green Party to pursue.

Suzanne Mayes: When are the trainings?

Response: Summer and fall planned.

Bud Dickinson: Recruiting candidates needed. Filing deadlines are this fall and time is of the essence.

Justin Moscoso: Filing deadline is even earlier for local races.

Ancient Forests Initiative [9:35 AM – 9:52 AM]

Presenters: Dan Hamburg and Susan Maloney

Dan: Gov Davis reneged on his promise to spare old growth forest on non-federally owned land. This initiative needs the support of green groups all over CA. Asking that the CA Green Party endorse and support the effort.

Susan: Lawyer working out the final wording. There isn’t much ancient forest left and the remaining should be allowed to survive. Not an educational measures, this must win.

Clarifying questions:

Beth Haines: Do you want general agreement and endorsement although language is not final? Response: Yes.

Mike Borenstien: How many signatures needed? 419,000

Denise Robb LA: Will money be available to the Green Party to help as well?

Response: Only want support of the Green party to help gather signatures.

Concerns:

Ric Newbery: Uncomfortable with blank check approval.

Lucy Colvin: Object to time restriction. We have many initiatives. Proposed a friendly amendment to only endorse now and wait on committing to working until other options have been considered.

Ben Parks: Concerned with technical inaccuracies in wording.

Beth Moore-Haines asked presenters if they would accept Lucy’s friendly amendment to not obligate the locals to get involved. Dan **accepted friendly amendment** and Lucy dropped concern.

Decision: Consensus reached on amended proposal.

Working Groups and Committees [9:55 AM – 2:05 PM]

Three sessions for Working Groups and Committees to meet.

Lunch Break [2:05 PM – 3:05 PM]

Announcements [3:05 PM – 3:15 PM]

Suzanne Mayes and David Shorey new vibeswatchers
Mark Stout, Mike Wyman and Jo Chamberlain facilitated

Mike Feinstein announcements:

Global coordination has formed at Global Conference. Global platform created.
WTO issue – difficult vote encountered. However, the vote to abolish the WTO won by slim margin

Jo Chamberlain:

July 28-29 in Santa Barbara ASGP. Workshops. Cal is hosting a global youth green website. Formal request that three will come per country: one man, one woman, and one youth.

Susan King:

4 federations on the global stage have formed. African, European, Americas, and Asian-Pacific. 9 of 22 US delegation were from CA. Costa Rica Fed of Americas meeting in November

Group Coordinators Confirmation [3:15 PM – 3:18 PM]

Bylaws Committee: Ric Newbery and David Shorey
Platform Committee: Mike Borenstein and Peggy Lewis
Finance Committee: Mike Wyman and Nancy Marmol
International Protocol Committee: Pamela Meidell
Clearinghouse Committee: Jo Chamberlain
Campaigns & Candidates WG: Susan King and Orval Osborne
Electoral Reform WG: Jeanne Rosenmeier and Caleb Kleppner
Issues WG: Don Eichelberger and Michelle Delehanty
GROW Group: Faramarz Nabavi and Beth Moore-Haines

CC election results:

Jo – 52 votes
Justin – 19 votes
NOC – 5 votes

19 needed. Jo and Justin elected to CC.

Vocal Evaluations [3:18 PM – 3:37 PM]

- Ray felt very inspired at his first plenary.
- Emily Malvin Alameda loved the venue, problem finding plenary packet
- Wild Bill Sacto: enjoyed volunteering
- Mike Wyman: should have a manual on how to hold a plenary. Should book multiple rooms in union friendly hotels next time.
- Cameron Spitzer: measured by good homework. Most from this one.
- Amarera: Would like to dance and perform a closing ceremony. Don't need to be so gender balance structured in stacks.
- Beth: Thanks to David Shorey for organizing.
- Mike Wyman: Thanks to the organizing committee.
- Nancy Glock-Grueneich: First plenary. Green values reaffirmed by process. Use better lunch process for discussion.
- Lucy: Long time since Group coordinators got together Would like to see more meetings between plenaries for WG's.
- Mike B: Felt more want for cooperation and resolution at this plenary. Good.
- Roz: Put some workshops on Saturday to break it up a bit.
- Mark Stout: So much time was spent internally looking instead of outward activity. Hope to see more externally focused stuff next time. Loved facilities venue and housing. Host committee were incredible.
- Faramarz: Loved this plenary and we had 86 delegates come on Sunday. Shares the concerns of Mark Stout.
- Tian Harter: Felt like being railroaded during some decisions. But loves the green tie-dyed shirts.

Adjourned meeting in auditorium at 3:37 PM. Out to courtyard for closing ceremony.