

Green Party of Colorado Annual Meeting – 5/3/08 – Littleton, Colorado

Present: 30 people representing the following chapters: Adams/Jefferson, Arapahoe, Denver, Mesa, Poudre Valley, Royal Gorge, San Miguel, Southwest, Summit (nine of nine active chapters to start the meeting). There was also a rep from the defunct Boulder chapter, and independent Greens. A quorum was achieved (at least 60% of active chapters and at least twice as many people as chapters present).

Announcements: various announcements and housekeeping messages were presented.

Our new website is almost live: check it out at www.coloradogreenparty.org

Chapter reports: many chapters were holding on but not thriving, with small meetings and not much activity. Exceptions include: Denver, which was not meeting regularly a year ago, but now has an active tabling and voter registration effort; Adams/Jefferson, which has been growing in size and activity; and Southwest, which has regular meetings of a dozen people, with two greens serving on local city councils. Efforts have been made to reorganize the Boulder local, so far to no avail. Greeley and La Plata chapters are also defunct. Happily noted was Tanya Ishikawa's appointment to the Federal Heights City Council.

New chapter affiliation: Westcliffe Green Party (Custer County) presented their bylaws (available upon request) and requested affiliation to the Green Party of Colorado. We unanimously reached consensus, welcoming them as the tenth active local chapter at this time.

Review of State Council decisions: per our bylaws, the state meeting has the right to review any decisions made since the last meeting by the on-line council. All decisions were announced – none were challenged.

Treasurer's Report (available upon request): We began the year with a balance of \$1,291.93, brought in \$520.34 revenue, spent \$350 so far, and have a bank balance of \$1,462.27. While we are solvent, these funds do not allow us to do much, like supporting our candidates or sending out mailings. Treasurer Dan Sage made a pitch for people to donate, and Doug reminded us the national Green Card program for \$36 shares the money with states. Kevin Alumbaugh and Scott Zulauf (fundraising committee chairs) reported on successful merchandise sales (which will soon be possible through the website) and suggested locals phone bank their local greens and ask for money and their email address for better communication. *(We now have the list of all registered greens in Colorado on an excel spreadsheet, easy to use, available upon request).* Hildegard Hix suggested we print lawn signs with our name and web address on one side, and room for individual candidate signs or bumper stickers on the reverse. We can raise money better if we can tell people specifically what we'll use it for, whether for candidate support, lawn signs, outreach efforts, etc. We also need more volunteers for this committee.

Co-chair elections: Tom Kelly is stepping down after three years. Dave Chandler is willing to continue. Nominations were opened: Claire Ryder offered to be the co-chair. No other people volunteered. The group enthusiastically consensed around co-chair Claire, and reaffirmed another annual term for Dave.

Bylaws Revision (see attachment): Dave had drafted a bylaws update/revision, in coordination with other interested local greens. Most items were merely clarifications, with discussion focused on procedures for state or national candidates who do not receive the support of their green party local group. We wanted to balance the value of grassroots democracy, required candidates to be active in their locals, while offering a safety valve if there is some conflict between a candidate and a particular local. We also established a new bylaw requiring Colorado Green Party candidates NOT be registered in a major party for at least six months prior to our nominating convention. State law specifies 12 months unless minor party bylaws stated otherwise: now ours do. After discussion, we reached unanimous consensus on the proposed changes.

Lunch break – platform tabled until after lunch.

Platform: Only Tony D'Lallo, Charlie Green, Dave Chandler and Tom Kelly have contributed to the Colorado Green platform so far. Please visit www.coloradogreenplatform2008.info to provide content.

Presentation on Recent Trip to Venezuela by Dr. Steve Grabowski

This concludes our state meeting.

Green Party of Colorado Nominating Convention – 5/3/08 – Littleton, Colorado

We now reconvened as the Colorado Green Party Nominating Convention.

Credentials: There are 27 official delegates apportioned per our bylaws in the following manner:

Adams/Jefferson – 4 delegates

Arapahoe – 2 delegates

Denver – 6 delegates

Mesa – 2 delegates

Poudre Valley – 4

Royal Gorge – 2

San Miguel – 1 (entitled to 2)

Southwest – 1 (entitled to 2)

Summit – 1 (entitled to 2)

Westcliffe – 2

Independent – 2

Selection of Presidential Electors: If/when Colorado casts its Electoral College votes for the Green candidates for President and Vice-President, we will need nine Green electors to actually cast those votes. Nine volunteers signed up on the official form to be turned in to the Secretary of State.

Nominations for Presidential Preferences: The following names were nominated for Colorado's choice for Green Party presidential candidates – Kent Mesplay, Elaine Brown, Cynthia McKinney, Kat Swift, Jesse Johnson, and Uncommitted. Dave Berry, vice president of the Colorado Public Employee Alliance, spoke for his friend Kat Swift. Nominators made speeches for their particular preferences.

The **first round** of voting yielded this result: Kent Mesplay (3 votes); Elaine Brown (4 votes); Cynthia McKinney (7 votes); Uncommitted (12 votes). No candidate received 60%, so another vote was taken.

Second round results: Kent Mesplay (2 votes); Elaine Brown (3 votes); Cynthia McKinney (5 votes); Uncommitted (15 votes). No candidate has 60%. Kent's votes are dropped (less than 1/12th of the total).

Third round: Elaine Brown (5 votes); Cynthia McKinney (6 votes); Uncommitted (15 votes)

Fourth round: Elaine Brown (3 votes); Cynthia McKinney (4 votes); Uncommitted (18 votes).

Uncommitted having received over 60%, voting concluded. Uncommitted wins 72%, Cynthia McKinney 16%, and Elaine Brown 12%. We will proportionally vote for our preferences.

Selection of delegates to the National Convention July 11-13 in Chicago: Colorado is apportioned 12 delegates; delegates can carry one written proxy, so if six people can go, we can use all 12 votes. We agreed to select Claire Ryder and Doug Malkan as delegates, with Bob Kinsey, Tom Kelly, Bill McCormick and Joe Calhoun as possible delegates, if they can go. The council will choose the remaining delegates up to 12.

Selection of Colorado candidates: Candidates and the offices they seek are as follows:

Art Goodtimes –Green incumbent - San Miguel County Board of Commissioners.

Jerry Lacy (from the new Westcliffe chapter) – Custer County Board of Commissioners.

Scott Zulauf – Jefferson County Board of Commissioners.

Tony D'Lallo – Colorado House District 34 (north Denver metro area).

A 10 minute recess was called so Joe Calhoun, independent member from Empire, could meet with and be approved by one green local in his legislative district, per our bylaws. He was approved by Adams/Jefferson, and then announced his candidacy.

Joe Calhoun – US Congress 2nd district

Bob Kinsey – US Senate

After speeches, questions, and discussion, **all candidates received unanimous consensus and were thereby officially nominated as Green Party of Colorado candidates for their respective offices.**

Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Eric Fried, state party secretary