

IOWA GREEN PARTY STATE CONVENTION - MAY 17, 2008

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library

I. IAGP Co-chair Wendy Barth called the convention to order with a brief statement advocating engaging the electoral system to bring attention to critical issues. She reminded listeners that "we're here to help you run for office."

II. There were two brief keynote addresses. Randall Wilson, Legal Director of the Iowa-ACLU gave the first speech. He stated he feels really safe in this room!

He spoke about the history of the recent Green-Libertarian party registration lawsuit, for which he served as our pro bono lawyer. He touched on the Iowa Socialist Party's attempt at the same goal in the 1980's. (That effort failed. According to the 8th Circuit Court, to record members of a party representing a "minor fractional interest" would present too great a burden on the state.) Thanks to newer electronic data storage technology, several recent successful court cases in other states and Mr. Wilson's persuasive arguments, both Iowa's Attorney General and Secretary of State felt our case had merit and offered to settle out of court. Now, where do we go from here?

*[NOTE: Wilson added unique aspect to the registration forms; in other states, people can write in third party affiliation. In Iowa, by meeting certain requirements, third party names will be on the voter registration card.]

He mentioned that party labels may be less important to many people, with over a third of Iowans registered No Party. He also spoke about civil liberties and information: Information is Power. Civil liberties define boundaries, where "space" begins and ends; equality, access to the system; and an expectation of operating rules. Currently, our biggest collector of information is the government.

The second address was presented by Dr. Maureen McCue, Coordinator of the Iowa chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility. She presented a short history of PSR. This organization acts to bring a medical perspective on various governmental policies. They are taking action on a number of issues to try to sway opinion leaders toward a more sustainable, people-centered, humane environment. One of their main concentrations has been on nuclear proliferation. In Iowa, they are focusing on war, the environment, also possible war in Iran. Climate change and the way global militarism affects that (i.e., the impact of military operations, build-up and emissions on climate change) are the two greatest threats to the survival of the species. PSR is also active in the effort against coal plants.

Dr. McCue extended an invitation for all to participate in the next July 4th parade in Coralville as part of the People's Coalition (for Everything).

III. Presidential preference vote. There was no sound (?!!!????!\$@#%\$!) . Wendy Barth presented a short review of each of the Green presidential candidates.

IV. Music/Balloting. Pigs in Clover and Greg & Jean Thompson performed several great numbers while the ballots were being counted. More complete results have been posted. Here are the final numbers for IAGP's national convention delegates.

Cynthia McKinney - 3

Kat Swift - 2

Jesse Johnson - 1

Kent Mespaly - 1

V. Selection of IAGP delegates and alternates to the Green National Nominating Convention (Chicago, July 12th). IAGP is allotted 8 delegates and up to 8 alternates, Members approved 6 delegates and 4 alternates, and agreed to approve two more delegates (and possibly more alternates) online after putting out a call to see who else might be interested. Delegates are: Wendy Barth, Lorelei Barth, Ron Kinum, Joe Aossey, Matt Kearny, Jamie Fredericksen. Alternates are: Florence Boos, Bob Schultes, Ray Meyer, Holly Hart.

VI. The convention decided to begin petitioning for our presidential ballot line as soon as possible, with Cynthia McKinney as the Presidential candidate. After some discussion, it was agreed to place Wendy Barth's name on our nomination papers as the v-p placeholder.

Ron Kinum moved, seconded by Bill Boos, that IAGP put Kinamo Christian Moyawaszife Curry on the vice-presidential line as a placeholder until an actual vice-presidential candidate is selected. It is not yet known whether any of the presidential candidates have chosen running mates. KCM Curry is an African-American woman from Los Angeles seeking the vice-presidential position. Bob Schultes, also seconded by Bill Boos, suggested going with Wendy Barth, as a former recent candidate. Using a local member as a placeholder is not an unusual practice in Iowa. The rationale is that there is some name recognition and local tie-in, and it is easier to make sure that the paperwork needed to substitute the eventual v-p candidate is completed.

[As of May 20, petitioning has commenced - Thanks to Lorelei Barth for being the first canvasser!]

5/21/08

Holly Hart

Secretary, IAGP

IAGP Members in Attendance:

Gail Ardery, Johnson County

William Boos, Johnson County
Matt Foster, Johnson County
Jamie Fredericksen, Johnson County
Holly Hart, Johnson County
Matt Kearney, Johnson County
Ron Kinum, Johnson County
Greg Thompson, Johnson County
Jean Ann Thompson, Johnson County
Mike Wilson, Johnson County
Marcia Wilson, Johnson County
Dawn Jones, Washington County
Joe Ossey, Linn County
Wendy Barth, Linn County
Tom Cobb, Linn County
Bob Schultes, Linn County
Jim O'Loughlin, Black Hawk County
Cade Ullerich, Story County
Stephen Teus, Davis County
Ray Meyer, Lucas County

Guests:

Randall Wilson, Iowa ACLU Legal Director; Des Moines (Polk County)
Dr. Maureen McCue, Coordinator, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Oxford
(Johnson County)