

## **Maine Green Independent Party State Convention 2008 Meeting Minutes**

### **Attending:**

Jim Freeman, Jack Harrington, Anna Trevorrow, Anthony Zeli, Tom Fusco, Rob Brown, Jon Olsen, Bruce Gagnon, Rosalie Paul, Robert Shetterly, Gil Harris, Jamilla El-Shafai, Stacy Wentworth, Ruth Gabey, Julie Sawtelle, Fred Dolgon, Lynne Haywood, Frank Russell, Dan Jenkins, Loukie and Stan Lofchie, John Rensenbrink, Joe Cerny, Dave Frans, Melissa Frans, Jack Safarik, Pat LaMarche, Phil Wordin, Lynne Williams, Betsy Garrold, Mike Wakefield, Jacqui Deveneau, Kevin Donaghue, Hersch Steinlieb, Jesse Johnson, Ben Chipman, Eileen Goddard, Barry Magda, Kat Swift, Jane Meisenbach [there may have been some others not on this list who did not sign in]

### **Welcome:**

Jane Meisenbach introduced Board Members: Herself, Jimmy Freeman, Eileen Goddard, Lynne Williams, & Anna Trevorrow

Jane introduced the groups present: Veterans for Peace, Real ID, Mainers for Cynthia McKinney

Lynne W. spoke about the school consolidation repeal, and Real ID repeal initiatives currently in process.

Jane mentioned our tabling efforts this year: HOPE Festival, Mid-Coast Green Collaborative Sustainable Energy Expo, WERU Full Circle Fair, & 2 Peace Rallies in Kennebunkport

### **Election of Convention Officers:**

Lynne Williams was elected Convention Chair; Eileen Goddard, Parliamentarian; Pat LaMarche, Timekeeper; Jim Freeman, Keeper of the House; and Barry Magda, Election Officer.

### **Bylaws:**

Lynne asked that one of the authors of this year's only submitted bylaw proposal speak first.

**Jack Harrington:** We found there were areas in the bylaws that left us open to adverse situations. With access to bylaws from other states, a group of us identified parts for the convention to review and consider.

**Julie Sawtelle:** 10 & 11 are not part of what we authored.

**Eileen:** 10 was something voted on last year that never made it into the bylaws

**Jacqui Deveneau:** 11 has my initials on it. It doesn't need to be voted on, but just wanted to have it in there for people to consider.

Proposed changes 1 *JS*, 2 *JS*, both simple, linguistic changes, were adopted by acclimation.

Some discussion took place on proposed change 3 *JS*, which concerned

adding "Maine" before "Green Independent Party" in Article I.

**Pat** pointed out that adding this would make the phrase, "in the State of Maine," redundant.

3 *JS* was adopted by acclamation on the condition that "in the State of Maine" be removed.

4 *JS* adopted by acclamation

**Discussion began on proposed bylaw change 5 *JS*:**

**Jack:** We are trying to open up communications within the state of Maine. We are trying to develop a coordinated system in the way we communicate.

Jane: When I was first elected chair, I was criticized for not being on the DX list. I chose not to subscribe because I have very little time to read the comments on the list, and I didn't want people to assume that I was reading them.

**Eileen:** With our new website capabilities we have started a newsletter. We also recently developed a new communications list. It was just tested, and will be implemented soon.

**Anna** has taken over the calendar, and has been on top of it. All of these are parts of communication. We need people to go to the website and look at what is out there. What we really need is for people to become active in committees.

**Ruth:** This is not a reflection on the Board.

**Jacqui:** Most everyone is on my email list. I send out all kinds of information, events, candidates, updates etc. I spend a lot of time doing this. It doesn't reach everybody, but it reaches a good ninety people. So, if you are not on my list, please sign up.

**Jon O:** I commend Jacqui for all that she does. I do believe that it should be a Party list rather than a personal list. I propose Jacqui get a stipend.

**Jacqui:** I do this because I am the party Welcome Wagon Lady. But, if I am getting a stipend, then there is a matter of official capacity that would come with expectations I can't promise that I could fulfill not knowing my day-to-day scenario.

**Pat:** I find wording of this proposed change way too vague. On a National level, we have an official list that is heavily moderated; that is an "official" list. It is too much to add to somebody's plate on the State level. We should add an office to the Board for someone that does this in an official capacity.

**Eileen:** What do you have in mind when you say "official electronic communications list" in this proposed change?

**Julie:** All we want to see is that something official be put into place. We want to see more transparency between the Board and the membership. We want to get away from personal lists.

**Lynne:** There may be more possibilities than were looking at, here. One may be a list that is purely an announcement list. Another, would be a blog or discussion list. I would suggest we put this on hold and ask Eileen and others that would like to work on this to put together a full proposal.

**John R.** seconds

**Jack:** We are trying to create a linkage to reach people further north in the state. Some of the discussion we've had here seems like it would address this issue.

**Barry:** I have a concern putting this language in because it expands the bylaws immensely. I'd love to see a year schedule-in advance for Board meetings; it would help many of us up north plan. I'd be all in favor of a newsletter, but people are also clamoring for a two-way communication system.

**Jane:** Remember that all the Board meetings are open, and most of our meetings are by conference call.

**Alan:** There also may be a way for people to listen in on meetings that we have together. I strongly support some kind of Maine Green Party official communication.

The motion was called.

The bylaw change is withdrawn with the stipulation that a committee of us work on setting something more formal in place

Accepted by acclamation that we work on setting up a communication policy

**Discussion began on proposed bylaw change 6 JS:**

**Jack:** With the creation of the position of Membership Chair, we are trying to create a focal point so we can reach out to locals.

**John R:** It has financial implications. We can't expect somebody to put this much time and effort into this without some kind of stipend.

**Alan:** Ben Meiklejohn is the local coordinator. I am maintaining the databases & phone numbers. We only give them out as allotted by the Board; they approve me to release, and I will. We don't want our lists to be inundated with calls. We did pay \$500 to Ben this year to do some coordinating, so there has been at least some type of compensation.

**Jimmy:** To reiterate, because I've had some experience doing this stuff: it is a

great idea, but it does take a tremendous amount of energy and funding.

**Julie:** What we are trying to do, though we have this to some degree already in place, is to put something officially in place. It is a matter of memorializing what we are already doing.

**Jane:** I see this as the role of the chair of the local committee.

**Jack:** The goal is not to put more of a burden on the Board, but rather to open it up & get more people involved.

**John R:** I think the minimum we should designate to this is \$1000.

Motion to adopt this change. Voting took place. Motion passed.  
Proposed change 7 *JS a.* was passed by acclamation with the stipulation that it contain a reference to Article V to define "Special Meeting."

**Discussion began on proposed change 7 *JS b.***

**Jack:** We want to expand communication to the public. We want to see more press releases and other communication forms going out. But rather than being personal opinions of those that happen to be Greens, we'd like to see them going out as the voice of the Party. We'd like to see a Board Member review and approve what's going out.

**Pat:** I'm all in favor of writing letters to the editor, press releases etc., but this language does not say that. We need to take on the gumption for ourselves and not make it a requirement of the Board. However, that is not what this proposed change says, and as such, I support it.

**Jack:** There's a two-track issue at work: personal opinion, and party opinion. I feel that the Party should clearly delineate its opinion.

**Julie:** We are already doing all this. We are just putting it in writing.

**John R:** I endorse this. I hope it passes.

**Barry:** The only real new part is the last sentence that discusses adopting policy resolution. We may need to define "resolution."

**Lynne W:** My suggestion would be to currently table this and have someone draft a section on Resolutions. Otherwise, if people want it to be voted on today, we should change "resolution" to "position" because "resolution" is a legal term, and if it is in there, we need to have a section defining it.

**Barry:** This is already in the section on Board duties.

Motion to adopt 7 *JS b.* section 6.1. Seconded. Vote took place. Motion passed.

Motion to adopt 7 *JS b.* section 6.2 with the stipulation that "resolution" be changed to "position." Seconded. Vote took place. Motion passed.

**Discussion began on proposed change 8 SJ**

**Betsy Garrold:** Do we have any legal ability to do this?

**Lynne W:** There are parts of it that we can do legally. We can do 1 through 6. We cannot force candidates to abide by a longer deadline than the State forces them to abide by.

**Pat:** None of this is necessary. I'm ready to call the question and vote against it.

**Barry:** if we really want to do something about candidates, we need to do much more thorough work on this. This candidate thing is going to get into some onerous work for the Board. We should be talking about endorsing candidates not mandating them. It is up to candidates to know what laws they need to comply with.

**Betsy:** Historically I understand where this is coming from. But, the only power that we have is to choose endorsing or not endorsing.

**Jack:** One of the things we looked at when doing these revisions was, where are the places that put the party vulnerable in the public eye. We have an obligation not to be foolish. We do need a process to vet candidates.

**Lynne W:** suggests that 8.1 & 8.2 be referred to the candidate committee, so that this can be given to candidates for their review, so that we know this is taken seriously.

**Fred Dolgon:** It would be good if the party could have a seminar about what the liability of the Green Party is based on situations that have come up in the past & whatever other situations we can imagine.

**Lynne W:** I am concerned with the perception of the party in the public eye. In the past, when candidates get in trouble, I do feel that it reflects on the party. I'm not afraid of being sued. I am afraid of the way we are perceived.

**Dan:** The system works in a way that we cannot take the party name away from the candidates.

**Kevin:** That's why we have elections, and why they are competitive.

**Jack:** We've agreed to withdraw this as long as it goes to committee for further review.

Motion to send to the Candidate Committee for review. Voted. Motion passed. 9 JS adopted by acclimation. Barry points out that we should not have voted so quickly, as this shifts our operation from consensus to majority.

**Budget:**

**Alan:** I've appropriated, \$50 for local candidates, which isn't much, but its what we can afford. I've set aside \$300 stipend for Board Members for attending meetings, which basically just goes to travel expenses. I've been trying to move us away from a voluntary basis.

**Jane:** We would like to give \$200 to each of the Delegates going to the National Convention. We don't have the money to do this, but we are raising funds.

**Alan:** We need to do some real fundraising. I've been looking into what the Rotary Club does. They raise thousands of dollars in one event. I've been doing some figuring to come up with an estimate of what it would cost to create a position for someone to organize fundraisers. The figure I've come up with is \$3500 for someone to go out and do some real fundraising. It isn't in the budget today, but it isn't out of the realm in the future.

**Dan:** How much did we get from the tax write-off this year?

**Alan:** This year we got \$1352, last year \$1982. My feeling is that we cannot keep relying on the tax write-off. We need to do some real fundraising.

Motion to approve the budget. Vote took place. Motion passed.

**Herb Hoffman's address:**

Herb Hoffman, Independent candidate for U.S. Senate spoke on his values, which, he said, accord 100% with Green Party Platform. He promotes single-payer universal health care, an immediate withdrawal from Iraq and all countries occupied by the U.S., accountability in our government including impeachment. He has asked for our endorsement as a candidate, as the Green Party does not have a candidate running in that race.

Asked whether he would register Green after the election, he responded that he could not make that commitment at this point.

Voting to endorse was postponed until 2:30

**Lunch & Award Ceremony:**

**The Green of the Year** award was presented to Lynne Williams for the legal assistance she has provided to the party pro-bono, as well as her work on environmental and civil rights issues throughout the state.

**Lifetime Achievement** awards were presented to, Maine Green Party founder,

John Rensenbrink; Green Party activist, Freddy Dolgon; and party member and author Herschel Sternlieb.

### **Local Candidates:**

**Pat LaMarche** introduced the local candidates, expressing the importance of running. Even if you don't win, she said, the act of running is a step toward a better tomorrow.

**Mike Wakefield**, a local candidate running for Town Council and State Representative in Windham, spoke during lunch about the importance of promoting our values as the party of the people.

**Dan Jenkins**, candidate for State House District 119 in Portland, spoke about his campaign. His major platform issues are single-payer universal healthcare on the state level (as he noted, the federal level is refusing this option), alternative transportation such as expanding rail systems, and affordable housing. Dan also mentioned neighboring State House candidate, Sandy Amborn, who is running in District 120, saying that her chances are good running for an open seat.

**David Franz**, candidate for House District 66 in Brunswick, spoke, saying that his goal was, first and foremost to grow the Green Party. He expressed his commitment to honesty and serving the people as opposed to our current government that serves only its own self-interest.

### **Presidential Candidates:**

Pat introduced the speakers for the Presidential Candidates:

**Bruce Gagnon** spoke on behalf of **Cynthia McKinney**. McKinney, he said, was the first to introduce impeachment legislation in Congress; she is one of the few that were speaking out before the war began, about what this was going to do to the American people. She was driven out of office twice, by schemes of the two parties. She was vilified by the Democrats for asking Donald Rumsfeld about what he knew before 9-11. She was working with Hugh Esco (a national Green), reaching out to the Greens long before she ever registered Green. She reached out the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space to ask what she could do in Congress to further their efforts. She is already bringing lots of people into the Green Party; we will see more disaffected Black activists coming over to the Green Party as a result of her work. McKinney was one of the first to reach out to the people of New Orleans after Katrina. McKinney has defined winning as building the Green Party. We have recently formed a group called Mainers for Cynthia McKinney, our website is [www.mainers4mckinney.org](http://www.mainers4mckinney.org). She has to raise \$5000 in 20 states in order for her campaign to receive federal matching funds. We would like for Maine to be one of those states. June 15 there will be a potluck fundraiser at Jane Meisenbach's house.

**Jacqui** read a statement from **Kent Mesplay**. He is a Native American, who is speaking with tribes as we speak. He would like to express his support to the Maine Greens. He is working to grow the party at a time when peace, justice & environmental protection are desperately needed in our culture.

**Kat Swift** spoke. Years ago, Kat was an anarchist and didn't want to take place in the political process. But having witnessed democracy in another country, she realized that it was our structure that was flawed, not politics itself. She served as co-chair of her state Green Party. She ran for city council in a city larger than our state and won 30% of the vote with only 60 days to campaign and no money, running against a candidate with money and name recognition. She would like to see age restrictions on political participation eliminated. Mental health issues are a big concern of hers. She says "it seems to us on the outside, that ya'll have your shit together" in Maine; she has wanted to come up here for a long time. We need to be supporting all of our candidates, she said, because we are putting our lives and finances on the line. Our hope is that we can get all of our varying constituencies behind us so that we can then get all those people behind whatever candidate wins in the end.

**Ruth:** Will Texas have ballot access this year?

**Kat:** Texas needs 75 thousand more signatures from people that did not vote in the primaries before July; we only have 5000 now. Texas will not have ballot access this year.

**Jacqui:** Tell us how many Delegates the state of Texas is allotted to the National Convention.

**Kat:** According to state law, we have 0 Delegates to our National Convention. So, by sending Delegates at all, we are first challenging state law. We previously had 7 Delegates, but as a result of the recent Delegate Apportionment proposal that was passed by the National Committee, we now have only 3.

**Jimmy:** are you attracting young people?

**Kat:** Yes. The trouble I'm having is getting them involved so that they don't go away. Students don't have a lot of time to be involved in the internal politics of the party. So it's a matter of engaging them in the right way.

**Jesse Johnson**, founder of the West Virginia Mountain Party, and whom battled in court to deliver that ballot line to the Green Party, spoke about his campaign efforts. He asked the Convention to consider the question, "if not now, when?" He sung with the Convention, and spoke about our obligation to bring healthcare to our citizens, to restore our electoral system, and protect our environment, now. If we don't do these things now, then when will we? "I am



running for President of the United States," he said, "I am running for the Green Party." He has toured the country, bringing this message to people throughout. "We are the second party," he said, "there is only one other party and we all know it; it is the Corporate Party." "The disenfranchised from the Democratic and Republican parties are going to be coming our way; and the group of people that doesn't bother to come out to vote is coming our way, because hard times are coming, in fact, they're already here," Jesse said, "This party is going to grow exponentially in the coming election cycles. When you vote your values, your vote will always count." Jesse expressed the need for the Green Party to grow, not just from the bottom up, but from the top-down as well.

**Rob S:** What will happen in WV when we stop burning coal altogether and what is your plan for alternative energy?

**Jesse:** There is a broad spectrum of opportunity. We need to transition away from burning coal. Why maintain an energy grid that is unsustainable? We are polluting the waters in the meantime. When they blow up coalmines, they also release the methane into the atmosphere, which exacerbates emissions. Carbon is not a bad thing in and of itself. We can transition from burning coal to making products from coal, creating carbon foams, carbon fibers that will replace steel. We can create an entirely new manufacturing base.

**Freddy:** Tell us how the term "Redneck" was coined.

**Jesse:** "Redneck" was coined during the mining years. During the Battle of Blair Mountain in 1921, coal companies threw people out of their homes, which forced them into tent communities along the railways. Representatives from the coal companies then rode the trains, and opened fire upon these communities as they rode by. During this battle, the coal miners began tying red scarves around their necks as a means of identifying themselves in an act of solidarity. And so was coined the term "Redneck."

**Ruth:** What do you think about Senator Bird?

**Jesse:** He's run more elections and cast more votes than any other Senator in office. I ran against him, but I like rather to think about running with him. I'd like to see more candidates coming together because it is more about a confluence of ideas. He has, on the other hand, always been in the pockets of coal companies, but he takes a firm stance against this war.

Jesse was asked his opinion on No Child Left Behind.

Jesse: It is an overwhelming success. That success was for those who championed it, to get to the minds of your children, and get them to join the military. I just finished a study on the effects of violence on young children. From that I found, it isn't the rap music, that creates violent behavior, but the video games, and our government is manufacturing and distributing video games that train children in violent and militaristic behavior.

**Discussion of Endorsement of Herb Hoffman:**

**Jimmy:** I have known and worked with Herb for more than a year and I believe he's as Green as any of us. Jimmy moves to endorse Herb.

**Jamilla:** I would find it difficult to endorse Herb Hoffman. He's very much aligned with the Democratic Party.

**Pat:** If you want to run as a Green, register Green. I don't think we should endorse anyone that is not a Green.

**Kevin:** I agree with Pat LaMarche. If anyone wants to run in the Senate race as a Green, there's still opportunity to do so.

**Jack:** We need Green candidates, and we need to support our candidates not others.

Vote takes place. Motion to endorse Herb Hoffman fails.

**Presidential Candidate Voting:**

**Those that did not vote at their caucus, either because they could not attend, or because one was not held in their municipality, or for whatever reason have the option to vote today at the Convention. Voting took place.**

**Votes were counted, and Alan announced the new statewide percentages:**

**Cynthia McKinney received 81.5 % of the vote**

**Jesse Johnson received 8.4 % of the vote**

**Kat Swift received 5.8 % of the vote, and**

**Kent Mesplay received 3.3% of the vote.**

**Delegate Apportionment:**

**Jacqui: We have to elect 11 representatives (Delegates) to the National Committee. After that, we have to determine Delegates to the National Convention. We can carry 44 votes to the National Convention; we can carry that number by proxy, with 22 delegates to the Convention.**

**Anna, Tony, Pat, Jacqui, Julie, John R, Theresa, Morgen, Jane, & Tracy are current Delegates to the National Committee, with Jon O as an Alternate.**

**Tracy and Theresa wish not to continue**

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**Does anyone else want to be on the National Committee?**

**Jack and Jamilla would like to join. Jon O will stay as alternate. Robert Brown has stepped up to fill the 11..[since the Convention Jamilla has stepped down to Alternate with Jon O. and Betsy and Laura Price has**

**stepped in to Jamilla's place as Delegate]**  
**Vote takes place. All are elected.**

**Volunteers, of the 11, were asked to go to the National Convention in Chicago. Anna, Tony, Pat, Jacqui, Jamilla, John R. & Jon O. volunteered. It was decided that we can vote in people that are not here (or no longer here) today.**

**Bruce, Marybeth & possibly Nate Shea were volunteered. Betsy volunteered to be an Alternate.**  
**We need to recruit 9 more people.**

**Motion to accept the partial list of Delegates. Vote took place. Motion passed.**

**(The final list of Delegates to the Convention were: Anna Trevorrow, Tony Zeli, Jacqui Deveneau, John Rensenbrink, Pat LaMarche, Jack Harrington, Jane Meisenbach, Jon Olsen, Bruce Gagnon and Mary Beth Sullivan [who is waiting to find out if she can be counted])**

**(Our Proxies who have been vetted by the Board are: Theresa Savage, Betsy Garrod, Lynne Williams, Eileen Goddard, Rob Brown, Morgen D'Arc, Nancy Allen, Gerold Oleson, Rosalie Tyler-Paul, and [if MaryBeth is able to be a Delegate] Laua Price.)**

**Jack:** Do we know what the cost will be?

**Anna:** We are reserving a van to drive to Chicago. We have figured \$175 per person to travel by van. The van can carry 9-10 people, and about 5 have committed so far. If you would like to reserve a spot on the van you can make a deposit of \$20 with Tony.

**Tony:** We are also looking into staying at a Hostel in downtown Chicago, which will be a much cheaper place to stay than the Hilton, where the convention is being held.

Registration for the Convention is \$225, but the MGIP is hoping to contribute \$200 to each Delegate.

Motion to approve the Board to approve any others that want to serve as Delegates. Vote took place. Motion passed.

#### **Election of Board Members:**

There are 2 seats up for Board. Those seats are Eileen's and Anna's. Once we select members for the Board we will select a Chair, from all 5 Members, for the next year.

We also need to elect a new Treasurer. Alan has done a wonderful job, but has decided it time to step down.

Jane nominates Anna for Board, Eileen seconds.  
Vote took place. Motion passed.

Alan nominates Tony, Dan seconds.  
Some discussion takes place on whether or not that is a conflict of interest,  
where Tony and Anna are partners.  
It was pointed out that we have had spouses on the Board before.  
Motion proceeds to a vote and passes.

Jane nominates Lynn for Chair, Jimmy and Eileen second. Vote takes place.  
Motion passes.

No volunteers for Treasurer were found.

**Jane:** As a Board we will commit to finding 9 Delegates and 1 Treasurer.  
Motion passed.

**Presidential Electors:**

Those nominated are:

Julie District 2, Tony District 1, Bruce At Large (if he agrees), and Pat At Large  
All are seconded.  
Motion passes.

**Local Committees:**

**Jane:** Are there any officials from local committees present to discuss their  
operations, current initiative, and so forth?

**Ben C:** I hadn't planned on speaking, but I am a Board Member of the  
Cumberland County Green Committee. Our recent projects have been  
recruiting candidates to run throughout Cumberland County. Issues that we're  
currently focusing on are healthcare issues & budget cuts in health and human  
services. We are also working on the polling places closures in Portland, where  
the proposed budget wants to eliminate two-thirds of the polling places in  
Portland. We'll be going to the Town Council meeting tomorrow night to speak  
out against these closures. Operationally, we are the Cumberland County  
Committee; we have an office down town; we have a Chair, Treasurer, and  
Board. You can visit our website at [www.Ccgreens.org](http://www.Ccgreens.org).

**Discussion of Proposed Resolution:**

**Jon O:** This resolution is similar to the bylaws changes, trying to get us closer to  
better communication & an official party stance on issues.  
Jon read excerpts from the resolution.

**Pat:** We can make all the structural amendments we want. But if we don't have  
the volunteers to do the work, these aren't going to be implemented. What we  
need to do is get these committees up and running.

**Lynne:** The crux is in article 3. I think that is the key to all of this: finding those local people. The media will follow the local activities. If we want to pass a resolution, we should resolve to resuscitating existing committees and creating new ones.

**Ruth:** The idea is to get the public to feel good about voting for Green candidates. And if they don't know what our message is, then people aren't going to vote Green.

**John R:** I strongly endorse what you are trying to do. It is the party that needs to be known.

Eileen: I would have real issues on voting for all six resolutions. I don't believe any of them are beneficial to the party or to the Board as an all or none.

**Dan:** In principle, it is a slippery slope of de-decentralizing our party. It is undermining of grassroots democracy.

**Freddy:** We should have a committee that follows local issues and makes sure we are acting upon them.

Eileen points out that we already have in place a "Social Action" committee.

**Alan:** We have started funneling MGIP communications with our new capacities with our website.

The resolution signers agree to drop Resolution 2 and 6

**Jimmy:** suggests that we put together a group of people to address these unresolved issues that came up in bylaw changes and resolution discussion today.

**Betsy:** We already do this. You can't control what the media will pick out, but Nancy's press releases go out to everyone.

**Julie:** My biggest complaint is that we're not communicating. We need to be in communication about what we are already doing.

**Lynne:** I suggest, if there is a local issue, and a local person thinks it would be worthwhile for the Board to approve a proposal on the issue, then we can endorse.

**Jon O:** It's a chicken & egg situation because the more we can get these issues out there, the more people will be likely to join and become active themselves.

**Freddy:** The key is that we make connections from the issue itself, to the

broader scope of our values.

**Lynne:** For instance, on the repeal of the school consolidation measure, my connection was really with our ten key values.

**Jack:** The only distinction we were trying to make is education. It's the difference between the personal opinion, and the party position.

Motion to support the remaining four resolutions. Vote takes place. Motion passed.

**Ruth:** We lost a lot of people after the Nader campaign, and we still have the stigma of losing the nomination for John Kerry. We need to address this.

**Jimmy:** I would ask, that people don't always press, "reply all" when responding to an email. Be discretionary because all of us are overworked. And also, the angry emails are not productive.

**Eileen:** We may be behind the times a bit, but we are getting there with our new website capabilities. We have a discussion list that's just a Board list, and capabilities for other groups.

**John R:** When Jane and Eileen took office 2 years ago, our party was in a state of relative divisiveness. We were teetering on chaos. For Jane and Eileen, I want to say that you did such excellent and outstanding work under unbelievable odds.

**Jane:** The big picture, though we all have our differences, and we can get caught up on petty arguments, is that we all have the same values. We all want world peace, and we need to keep that big picture in mind.

**Platform:**

There were no platform changes submissions this year.  
Motion to adjourn, seconded. Passed.