

**Minutes of the
2020 Additional Annual Convention
of the Georgia Green Party**

The state committee meeting on February 22nd, 2020, upon adjournment of the Bonaire Nominating Convention of the Georgia Green Party was resolved that an additional annual convention of the Party be held “for the purpose of considering further proposals to amend the Platform of the party, to consider any proposed changes to the bylaws as such may have been previously reviewed by the state committee, to conduct internal elections for the subsequent term of the state Coordinating Council, the party’s Delegation on National Green Party Affairs, and the party’s Delegates and Alternates to the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention, scheduled for July 8-12, 2020 in Detroit Michigan, and to conduct the party’s Presidential Preference Ballot for the purpose of instructing its Delegation to the Detroit Convention.”

Pursuant to changes to the Nominating Convention Rules adopted by the state committee on April 19th and April 26th, the officers of the party on May 4th, 2020 published their determination that exigent circumstances exist due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Public Health State of Emergency established on March 13th and subsequently continued by executive order of the Governor of Georgia as well as related executive orders issued by the President of the United States.

Consistent with the amended rules, and the officers determination that exigent circumstances existed, the state committee subsequently resolved that the additional annual convention would be held beginning Thursday, June 25th, running through Saturday, June 27th; with county caucuses scheduled the preceding weekend, Friday, June 19th through Tuesday evening June 23rd.

The Convention was called to order at 7:00 pm, on Thursday, June 25th, with opening remarks by Denice Traina and then John Fortuin, who had been named by the state committee as the convention conveners. After some opening remarks they next recognized Denice Traina and Kweku Lumumba, as the co-chairs of the state party to extend welcoming remarks to participants.

Next, Hugh Esco, as the Credentials Committee, was recognized by John Fortuin, in his capacity as a convener, for a report, based on his participation providing technical support to the county caucuses. On the motion of John Fortuin, with a second by Denice Traina, and without objection, it was agreed to seat all present and that additional Greens who had not participated in the county caucuses but were or would subsequently be present on the convention call or who had registered their intention to participate by telephonic or email communication with party officers would also each be credentialed. Operating as a membership assembly rather than a delegated convention seventeen delegates from nine counties were eventually recognized as credentialed and ‘entitled pursuant to (the rules of the Party) to participate by both voice and vote in this Annual Meeting.’ The delegations consisted of: LeRoy Bartell and Georgia Hearn of Chatham

County; John Fortuin from Clarke County; Ayman Fadel of Columbia County; Jimmy Cooper from Crawford County; Kweku Lumumba and Cynthia McKinney of DeKalb County; Steve Carr, Hugh Esco, David Josue and Thano Paris of Fulton County; Theresa El-Amin of Muscogee County; Connie Johnson, Rod McCoy, Albert Newsome and Denice Traina from Richmond County; Josh Pritchett of Union County. Without objection, the report of the Credentials Committee was accepted and these delegates were seated in the Convention with voice and vote in matters to come before it.

The convention named its servants, with the following individuals nominated and the Convention agreed without objection that these individuals would serve in the designated capacities: facilitators: Denice Traina and Kweku Lumumba splitting the agenda, facilitating alternating sessions; clerk: Hugh Esco.

Assuming the gavel, Kweku Lumumba offered the agenda proposed by the state committee, for the consideration of the Convention. Without amendment, the agenda was approved without objection to govern the business before the Convention.

Mr. Lumumba next recognized Ayman Fadel, chairman of the Platform Committee, to review proposals related to the Platform of the state and national platforms. He began by reporting on concerns being raised by Hugh Esco to GNC-995, to require liability insurance coverage for police officers, a proposal endorsed by the Green National Committee and now pending as a part of the Platform Report for consideration by the upcoming national convention. Next he reviewed the single proposal ripe for convention consideration to amend the platform of the state party, providing for an initial reading of a proposal by Thano Paris, to revise the state party's existing language to rewrite an existing plank related to "Support Peace in the Middle East"; replacing it with a revised plank related to "Support an End to Occupation of Palestinian People". Finally, there was interest expressed by Thano Paris in advancing a demand for the commutation of the sentence of Reality Winner, and revisiting and updating the position in the existing platform related to the Kings Bay Nuclear arsenal; although no written proposal yet exists on either subject.

Next Kweku Lumumba next asked that we hear a 'Report on ballot access strategy and litigation'. He recognized Jimmy Cooper, lead plaintiff in Cooper vs Raffensperger. Cooper reported on the oral arguments scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th, before Judge Ross in the Federal District Court for Georgia's Northern District. This is our case challenging the constitutionality of Georgia's ballot access barriers under pandemic conditions. We are represented by Bryan Sells, an Atlanta based Election attorney. Jimmy Cooper discussed the barriers to signature collection under social distancing. Hugh Esco was then recognized to comment on the significance of the Cooper challenge and its ability to provide our state party to retain ballot access under O.C.G.A. 21-2-180(1).

Thano Paris asked about the recent Court Order enjoining the enforcement of the residency requirements imposed on petition circulators by the Georgia Recall Act. Hugh Esco was recognized to offer context and to clarify the scope of the change won by Bryan

Sells and to distinguish that provision from the ballot access barriers faced by our candidates, for whom the circulator residency requirement does not apply.

Kweku Lumumba next opened the floor for nominations for the state committee. The following individuals were placed in nomination by Denice Traina: Hugh Esco, Connie Johnson, Rod McCoy (who declined the nomination), John Fortuin, Jimmy Cooper; Hugh Esco nominated Denice Traina and David Josue; John Fortuin nominated Ayman Fadel (who declined the nomination).

On a motion by Denice Traina, with a second by John Fortuin, the convention, without objection, delegated its authority to the state committee to fill any vacancies which might exist within its ranks.

Kweku Lumumba next opened the floor for nominations to the Delegation on National Green Party Affairs, to succeed Wasiuddin Ahmed and Jimmy Cooper. Denice Traina nominated Jimmy Cooper and Josh Pritchett; Hugh Esco nominated Ayman Fadel (who also declined this nomination).

Kweku Lumumba next opened the floor for nominations to serve on the Georgia Delegation to the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention. Denice Traina nominated Kweku Lumumba, John Fortuin and Jimmy Cooper; Hugh Esco nominated Denice Traina; John Fortuin nominated Thano Paris (who declined the nomination) and LeRoy Bartel; Denice Traina nominated Hugh Esco and Steve Carr.

There being no further nominations, nominations for internal party offices were closed.

Kweku Lumumba opened the floor for nominations for candidates for the Georgia Green Party's Presidential Preference Caucus. Hugh Esco was recognized to nominate Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker. LeRoy Bartell was recognized to nominate Dario Hunter and Darlene Elias. John Fortuin was recognized to nominate David Rolde for inclusion on the Presidential Preference Caucus ballot.

Hugh Esco asked unanimous consent that the rules requiring secret ballots for the Party's internal elections be suspended allowing the uncontested races for the state committee, the Delegation on National Green Party Affairs and the Georgia Delegation to the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention to each be resolved by acclamation. Without objection the rules were suspended. Without objection, each of the slates for internal office were elected by acclamation.

Kweku Lumumba recognized Denice Traina for closing remarks, and without objection, the Thursday evening session of the Georgia Green Party's Additional Annual Convention was adjourned at 21:48 pm.

The Convention reconvened Friday evening, June 26th, 2020 at 7:00 pm, for the purpose of conducting a candidate forum. In addition to many of the Delegates to the Georgia convention present on the previous evening's event, we were joined by Howie Hawkins of Syracuse New York and David Rolde of Boston Massachusetts, each a PCSC recognized candidate for President of the United States.

We heard questions from Georgia Greens, including Albert Newsome, Denice Traina, Theresa El-Amin, LeRoy Bartell and Hugh Esco, as well as Thistle Pettersen of the Wisconsin Party (who had been invited to perform during the fundraiser) on topics related to the nuclear industry, the sex-based rights of women, the banking industry, reparations for African-descendants, U.S. foreign intervention, Russian-phobia, the Syrian intervention, the protection of children from ideologically driven treatment of gender-dysphoric and natural capitalism.

Angela Walker joined the call as we were wrapping up the candidate forum and was offered an opportunity to introduce herself, and to field questions; including one from John Fortuin about the anticipated job-loss in her own trucking industry due to the introduction of self-driving vehicles.

Following the candidate forum we heard campaign speeches from the Georgia Congressional nominees John Fortuin for the U.S. Senate and Jimmy Cooper for Georgia's 8th Congressional District.

Friday evening's event adjourned without objection at 9:20 pm, slightly ahead of schedule.

The Convention reconvened at 10:00 am, Saturday morning, with Denice Traina facilitating. We began by recognizing Hugh Esco for a report on the status of the voting application and its readiness for the conduct of the Presidential Preference Caucus of the Georgia Green Party. He predicted it would be ready to open voting immediately after lunch.

We proceeded to recognize LeRoy Bartell, in his capacity as the Treasurer of the Party to lead a conversation on the budget document he offered. He shared his screen to allow folks to review the draft he had prepared, describing it as a wish list; and contingent on our building a membership base to support the programmatic work anticipated by its line items. He answered a couple of clarifying questions. The Convention was agreed without objection that the draft budget was reviewed and accepted and reported back to the incoming state committee for its consideration, refinement and adoption.

The convention next turned its attention to the consideration of proposed amendments to the state party platform.

Although Thano Paris was not present to offer his paper, Ayman Fadel, chairman of the Platform Committee presented the Paris motion, to amend the platform of the state party to "Support an End to Occupation of Palestinian People".

FP#7: Foreign Policy – End Occupation of Palestinian People

Thano Paris (Fulton County) offers the following:

Amend the Foreign Policy plank, by striking the second introductory paragraph, in its entirety, inserting in its place, a new paragraph, to read:

~~Ever since~~ The United States and the Allied powers directly supported the creation of the State of Israel in 1948; on the United States has extended to it a hand in friendship and support. Israel owes much basis of its political survival and economic success to the United States' unwavering support. In recent years, America has increased its support dispossession and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people in from their historic homeland. Israel furthered its aggression against its Arab neighbors through the 1967 war which saw it extend an attempt effective military occupation to alleviate the suffering of its masses. Both sides have fostered West Bank, Gaza, (Sinai at the creation time) and the Golan Heights. We seek to provide a political platform for the advocacy of radical groups which have in turn led the Palestinian right to return, and an end to the surge occupation consistent with violence our national party platform.

Amend the Foreign Policy plank further, by striking the paragraph 12., related to “Support Peace in the Middle East”, in its entirety, inserting in its place a new paragraph, to read:

12. Support an End to Occupation of Palestinian People ~~Peace in the Middle East~~

Our position must support the quest for peace ~~at any cost~~ with justice. In order to achieve such a goal, we ~~must~~ make the following recommendations ~~to the warring parties~~: (a) ~~h~~Halting of any further settlement development in the Palestinian territories; (b) rolling back of the present settler communities; (c) establishment of a contiguous Palestinian state with parts of East Jerusalem as its capital; (d) a sustained campaign to educate both sides of each other's language, heritage, and plight; (e) equitable. This would include access for Palestinians to Israeli educational institutions; (f) the removal of the apartheid wall, and checkpoints and other mechanisms which violate the right of Palestinians ~~Maintaining an open border between the states to the facilitation of~~ facilitate commerce and free movement of the labor force aimed at raising the standard of living in of the Palestinian State; We acknowledge the disproportionate level of violence in this conflict exerted by the Israeli state. Consistent with this we see a specific role for the Israeli state in halting such aggression so as to positively influence the potential for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. We support the just demands of the Palestinian solidarity movement for boycott of, divestment from and immediate and irrevocable suspension sanctions of Israeli institutions. Specifically, we join the call for the termination of all acts the Georgia International Law

Enforcement Exchange. This program was set up in the early 90's with the cooperation of terror perpetrated by members the state of radical groups on both sides. The United States is called upon to maintain its position Georgia with the purpose of operating as an honest broker a type of peace between law enforcement exchange or study abroad for current Police Officers with their counterparts in Israel. We call for the Palestinians and repeal of Georgia SB 327, which requires that companies or individuals contracting with the state not engage in activities related to the boycott of Israel.

Next Hugh Esco was recognized to offer a substitute, as follows:

FP#7: Foreign Policy – End Occupation of Palestinian People – *Esco substitute*

Thano Paris (Fulton County) offers the following:

Amend the Foreign Policy plank, by striking the second introductory paragraph, in its entirety, inserting in its place, a new paragraph, to read:

Ever since The United States and the Allied powers directly supported the creation of the State of Israel in 1948; on the United states has extended to it a hand in friendship and support. Israel owes much basis of its political survival and economic success to the United States' unwavering support. In recent years, America has increased its support dispossession and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people in from their historic homeland. Israel furthered its aggression against its Arab neighbors through the 1967 war which saw it extend an attempt effective military occupation to alleviate the suffering of its masses. Both sides have fostered West Bank, Gaza, (Sinai at the creation time) and the Golan Heights. We seek to provide a political platform for the advocacy of radical groups which have in turn led the Palestinian right to return, and an end to the surge occupation consistent with violence our national party platform and its support for "a U.S. foreign policy that promotes the creation of one secular, democratic state for Palestinians and Israelis on the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan as the national home of both peoples, with Jerusalem as its capital".

Amend the Foreign Policy plank further, by striking the paragraph 12., related to "Support Peace in the Middle East", in its entirety, inserting in its place a new paragraph, to read:

12. Support an End to the Occupation for Palestinian People Peace in the Middle East

Our position must support the quest for peace ~~at any cost~~ with justice. In order to achieve such a goal, we ~~must~~ make the following recommendations ~~to the warring parties~~: (a) Halting of any further settlement development in the Palestinian territories; (b) rolling back of the present settler communities;

(c) the creation of one secular, democratic state for Palestinians and Israelis throughout Palestine establishment of a contiguous Palestinian state with parts of East Jerusalem as its capital; (d) a sustained campaign to educate both sides of each other's language, heritage, and plight; (e) equitable. This would include access for Palestinians to Israeli educational institutions; (f) during the transition, the removal of the apartheid wall, and checkpoints and other mechanisms which violate the right of Palestinians Maintaining an open border between the states to the facilitation of facilitate commerce and free movement of the labor force aimed at raising the standard of living in of the Palestinian People State;. We acknowledge the disproportionate level of violence in this conflict exerted by the Israeli state. Consistent with this we see a specific role for the Israeli state in halting such aggression so as to positively influence the potential for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. We support the just demands of the Palestinian solidarity movement for boycott of, divestment from and immediate and irrevocable suspension sanctions of Israeli institutions. Specifically, we join the call for the termination of all acts the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. This program was set up in the early 90's with the cooperation of terror perpetrated by members the state of radical groups on both sides. The United States is called upon to maintain its position Georgia with the purpose of operating as an honest broker a type of peace between law enforcement exchange or study abroad for current Police Officers with their counterparts in Israel. We call for the Palestinians and repeal of Georgia SB 327, which requires that companies or individuals contracting with the state not engage in activities related to the boycott of Israel.

The motion was for passage by substitute. There ensued a conversation on the nuances of the substitute, and the changes it offered to the underlying Paris motion and the significant update offered by the Paris motion to the twenty-year old language in the existing Platform of the Georgia Party. After nearly an hour, on a motion by John Fortuin, the body was agreed to postpone further consideration until after the lunch break, to allow Ayman Fadel, John Fortuin and others interested an opportunity to craft a new substitute seeking to address some of the concerns raised in the discussion before lunch.

As we were about to recess for the lunch break, one of the participants in a fit of frustration, and believing their audio connection to be muted, expressed themselves rudely. A discussion ensued about this incident, delaying our lunch recess. But in the end we agreed to still break for an hour.

Returning from the lunch break, and with Kweku Lumumbu now facilitating, an apology was expressed, and Denice Traina offered to mediate a conversation with the aggrieved party.

We then took up a new substitute crafted by Ayman Fadel and John Fortuin across the lunch break. That substitute, read:

**FP#7: Foreign Policy – End Occupation of Palestinian People – Convention
Revision of *Esco substitute***

Thano Paris (Fulton County) offers the following:

Amend the Foreign Policy plank, by striking the second introductory paragraph, in its entirety, inserting in its place, a new paragraph, to read:

Ever since The United States and the Allied powers directly supported the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, resulting in the United States has extended to it a hand in friendship and support. Israel owes much of its political survival and economic success to the United States' unwavering support. In recent years, America has increased its support dispossession and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people in from their historic homeland. Israel furthered its aggression against its Arab neighbors through the 1967 war which saw it extend an attempt effective military occupation to alleviate the suffering of its masses. Both sides have fostered West Bank, Gaza, Sinai (at the creation time) and the Golan Heights. We seek to support the self-determination of the Palestinian people and to provide a political platform for the advocacy of radical groups which have in turn led the Palestinian right to return, and an end to the surge occupation consistent with violence our national party platform and its support for "a U.S. foreign policy that promotes the creation of one secular, democratic state for Palestinians and Israelis on the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the River Jordan as the national home of both peoples, with Jerusalem as its capital".

Amend the Foreign Policy plank further, by striking the paragraph 12., related to "Support Peace in the Middle East", in its entirety, inserting in its place a new paragraph, to read:

12. Support an End to the Occupation for Palestinian People Peace in the Middle East

Our position must support the quest for peace at any cost with justice. In order to achieve such a goal, we ~~must~~ make the following recommendations ~~to the warring parties~~: (a) hHalting of any further settlement development in the Palestinian territories; (b) rolling back of the present settler communities; (c) the creation of one secular, democratic state for Palestinians and Israelis throughout Palestine establishment of a contiguous Palestinian state with parts of East Jerusalem as its capital; (d) a sustained campaign to educate both sides of each other's language, heritage, and plight; (e) equitable. This would include access for Palestinians to Israeli educational institutions; (f) during the transition, the removal of the apartheid wall, and checkpoints and other mechanisms which violate the right of Palestinians Maintaining an open border between the states to the facilitation of facilitate commerce and free movement of the labor force aimed at raising the standard of living in of the Palestinian People State; We acknowledge the disproportionate level of

violence in this conflict exerted by the Israeli state. Consistent with this we see a specific role for the Israeli state in halting such aggression so as to positively influence the potential for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. We support the just demands of the Palestinian solidarity movement for boycott of, divestment from and immediate and irrevocable suspension sanctions of Israeli institutions. Specifically, we join the call for the termination of all acts the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. This program was set up in the early 90's with the cooperation of terror perpetrated by members the state of radical groups on both sides. The United States is called upon to maintain its position Georgia with the purpose of operating as an honest broker a type of peace between law enforcement exchange or study abroad for current Police Officers with their counterparts in Israel. We call for the Palestinians and repeal of Georgia SB 327, which requires that companies or individuals contracting with the state not engage in activities related to the boycott of Israel.

Discussion on this language led to a single small additional floor amendments, (1) an El-Amin / Fortuin amendment to rewrite the title of the plank to read:

12. Support an End to the Occupation of the Palestinian People and Palestinian lands
~~Peace in the Middle East~~

The second substitute, on a Fadel-Fortuin motion, was adopted as amended, and without objection.

The Convention was agreed without objection to fill the outstanding vacancy on the Georgia Delegation to the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention with Theresa El-Amin, who had not been on the call on Thursday evening when the internal elections had otherwise been resolved.

Theresa El-Amin was recognized to offer a presentation on her work as a member of the Steering Committee of the Labor Community Alliance for an Independent Party. The Alliance is now organizing a virtual conference for September 19th – 20th, 2020, entitled Breaking the Grip of the Two-Party System. She shared background on the effort and moved the endorsement by the Georgia Green Party of the effort. Without objection, the Convention was agreed to endorse the conference.

Finally, the voting application was ready to facilitate the casting of secret ballots, credentials were distributed to the Delegates of the Convention, and the vote was opened for the Georgia Green Party Presidential Preference Caucus. Time was spent on the call, coaching delegates on the use of the voting software, and the incoming ballots were monitored to support that coaching, to remind voters of the two step process, first to confirm their choices, second to cast their ballot. At around 4:15 pm, Hugh Esco lost power and network in his neighborhood due to a thunder storm, losing the ability to manually close the vote and report the results until his network was restored shortly before midnight. Once network access to the voting application had been restored, the vote was closed, and the results were reported by email to the state committee, and the

next day to the Georgia Delegation to the Quadrennial Presidential Nominating Convention.

From: Hugh Esco
To: gpga-cc@
Subject: [gpga-cc] Election results: Hawkins: 12, Hunter: 1
Date: Sun, 28 Jun 2020 00:10:10 -0400

First preference votes:

12 Howie Hawkins / Angela Walker
1 Dario Hunter / Darlene Elias
0 David Rolfe

<http://dev.vote.georgiagreenparty.net/cgi-bin/irvresult?pid=1>

I will leave the site and the results up and accessible for a day or two in case anyone is interested in taking a closer look before I archive the site's database.

There being no further business before the Convention, the Convention stood adjourned, without objection, at 16:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Hugh Esco, Secretary
Georgia Green Party

As approved, by the Coordinating Council, July 5th, 2020,



Hugh Esco, Secretary
Georgia Green Party