

Green*Star

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STATE CONVENTION
ISSUE

GPPA Looks Forward to 2008

Green wins boro council seat; GPUS holds Annual Meeting in Reading

by Green Star Staff and wire sources

2007 was an exciting and challenging year for the Green Party of Pennsylvania.

In July, more than 300 state delegates, party leaders, and other Greens from nearly every state and several foreign countries came together in Reading for the 2007 National Meeting of the Green Party of the United States, hosted by the Reading Greens, the Berks County Greens and the Green Party of Pennsylvania. Highlights of the meeting included a workshop on "Dismantling Racism," and appearances by Ralph Nader and Cynthia McKinney. (Videos and photographs from the events are available on the Web at www.gp.org/meeting2007.)

This November, GPPA celebrated the election of Samuel Ettaro to Boro Council in Curwensville, a small town in Clearfield County struggling to build an economic base in the "new" economy. Ettaro, 39, ran a write-in campaign, beating out a long-time incumbent. Ettaro's major issue was the Sunnyside Ethanol plant to be built near his daughter's elementary school. One of Ettaro's biggest challenges will be to gain support for an alternative economic development plan and the Green Party intends to help him. Be on the lookout for more Green news from Clearfield County in 2008 and beyond!

Ettaro joins 35 other Greens across the country who were elected this past November. In PA, our other candidates ran valiant races bringing new people into the Green Party, getting the word out about our issues and values, and challenging the "same old same old" politics of the two corporate parties. Jennaro Pullano, the Green Party candidate for Mayor of Reading, placed third in a hard-fought five-way race, and we fielded candidates in contests across the state.

Chris Robinson of Philadelphia in an election analysis pointed out four ways to help grow the GPPA in 2008:

1. *Volunteer to help the Green Party at your polling place two days this year: the Primary Election in April and the General Election in November.*
2. *Stay informed by joining one or more of GPPA's email lists*
3. *Become familiar with the Green Party platform, talk with your neighbors about the Green Party, and ask them to register as Greens*
4. *Participate in progressive political activities as a Green.*

Support the Green Party of Pennsylvania!

Important Message from Jay Sweeney, GPPA Treasurer

Here it is - 2008, a presidential election year, and both the Republican president and the Democratic congress poll poorly with the public. The Green Party supports positions popular with voters including ending the Iraq war, stopping Global Warming, Universal Single-Payer Health Care, and Voter-Verified Paper Ballots.

We, through our candidates, have an opportunity to take this message to the voters. To do so, we are embarking on a plan to raise \$60,000 in 60 days and we need your help to do it. We're asking our members to raise \$500 to \$1000.00 to help GPPA

- Support our candidates for office
- Start a legal fund to defend challenges to our candidates' petition signatures
- Pay for our Nominating Convention in Harrisburg
- Notify registered green voters about our Spring Caucus
- Print and distribute our quarterly publication, Green Star
- Print and distribute our GPPA brochure
- Cover our operating expenses for the year

Perhaps you are inspired by the Green Party's 10 Key Values or our dedicated candidates. Perhaps it is because of leaders like Tim Reim (Erie) and Mike Ewall (Philadelphia) fighting to keep a tire-burning plant from being built in downtown Erie. Perhaps it is the dedicated Green Party activists throughout the state who work day in and day out to make your community a better place to live. Whatever it is, there is a passion in you that was touched by the Green Party. Show your support by donating as generously as you can to the Green Party of Pennsylvania.

I spoke to a Green Party member from New Zealand when I was at the GPUS Annual National Meeting in Reading. Their party was in debt. They initiated a program of calling all of their registered greens and asking them to donate one hour of their wages per month. Within a year, they had a six figure income, an office and paid staff. I see no reason why we can't do the same. Please consider a generous one time donation or an hour's wage per month.

Please donate now by check payable to the Green Party of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 11962 Harrisburg, Pa. 17108-1962 or via Paypal on our web site <http://www.gpofpa.org>. **Thank you for your support!**

In This Issue

- 2007 in Review
- 2008 Nominating Convention Program
- Local reports
- And more!

From the Editors

Welcome to the 2008 Nominating Convention of the Green Party of Pennsylvania. This special edition of the Green Star is also your program for the weekend's festivities. We're doing this in part as a cost-cutting move. There are many ways to help – some are mentioned above. If you're interested in publications, come to our meeting Saturday morning at the Nominating Convention, we'll be happy to see you! Thanks!

The GPPA Communications Committee



Green Party of Pennsylvania

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Poetry Corner

Out where the road changes
from blacktop to gravel, where
laws are left to chance

and weeds of whimsy grow
in rich variety, where
fallow "property"

must deal with sun and storm,
opportunistic seeds, and once-
a-century floods -

soon enough will the earth
revert. It is what Mother
Nature thinks of lawns.

-- Mort Malkin, Wayne Co.

Why we run candidates

By Blyden Potts

We run candidates with the goal of winning, so they can impact legislation and political decisions congruent with Green values. On that basis, some critics within the party ask: Why bother running if the chances of winning are slim, as with Presidential and statewide candidates? Why bother collecting signatures for a candidate who is very unlikely to win?

- **Because** ... as difficult as it is to win an election with the deck stacked against us, there is always at least a slim chance of immediate success.
- **Because** ... our candidates have a very real chance to shape the outcome of elections as spoilers, which will give corporate parties an incentive to adopt IRV, etc.
- **Because** ... even third party candidates can use their campaign to bring Green issues and values to the election discourse.
- **Because** ... to gain and maintain recognition as a legitimate political option in the eyes of Pennsylvania voters we must continue to have a presence in front of them, on the ballot, and on the campaign. That is crucial to gaining members and continuing to grow. Without growth we will never have success.

We get Presidential and statewide candidates on the ballot because that is how we get minor party status, and with Presidential candidates, because if we do not, someone else will do it in lieu of us.

Ultimately the answer to these questions comes down to where your heart is. If in your heart you can support Obama or Clinton or Edwards, or McCain or Huckabee or Romney or Giuliani, or either of the two corporate parties they represent, then maybe you shouldn't bother supporting Green candidates by collecting signatures -- but if none of those not-so-magnificent seven is someone you would care to see as President, if you believe corporate giants need to be removed from politics, or if you believe that voters should have many choices and that having more choices is better for democracy, then you have to do what is right: Fight the good fight, and work for someone you would like to see as President, a party whose values you believe in, and the right to a more democratic election process, even if the odds of short-term success are long, knowing that your work will move us in the direction of long-term progress. Be strategic, but do not give up.

And as I have said and written previously, 2008 is going to be a lot different than 2006. We WILL get our statewide and Presidential candidates on the ballot in Pennsylvania.

Green Local News

BERKS

The Berks County Green Party met in December and January. Current officers will continue for the calendar year 2008:

- Co-chairs: Randi Peters & Dave Kurzweg
- Treasurer: Mercedes Spradley
- Recording Secretary: Jessica Ashman
- Organizational Secretary: Teresa Valentin
- Members-at Large: Matt Hartzell
- Delegates to the GPPA State Committee: Randi Peters, Jessica Ashman, Mercedes Spradley, Matt Hartzell, David Kurzweg.

Especially with the 2008 elections, the efforts of the BCGP county committee will be prioritized to party building: membership active involvement and new member recruitment. -- Randi Peters, Co-Chair, BCGP

WAYNE

The Wayne County Green Party Committee (WCGPC) held its Annual Meeting on January 26. Beyond planning for the spring caucuses and other events to increase membership participation, discussion centered around a local controversy regarding gas and oil exploratory drilling in Damascus Township and elsewhere in Wayne County. -- Skip Mendler, Chair, WCGPC

What's happening in *your* county? Send reports of local Green Party activity to:
gppa-communications@gpofpa.org

Local
Organizing

**GPPA 2008 NOMINATING
CONVENTION SCHEDULE**

Friday 1 Feb.

8-9 PM Reception & Cash Bar (Pre-Function Area)

9 PM Open Poetry Reading (Pre-Function Area)

Saturday 2 Feb.

All day Registration, Vendors, Tables and Poster Presentations (Entry Area)
Silent Auction

9-10 AM Sustainability: The Essential "Green" Issue of the 21st Century (L. Menkes - A/B)
Conscientious Objection (E. Bortz - C1)
Communications Committee Meeting (C2)

10:15-10:45 Grand Circle Opening Ceremony

11:00-noon Nomination Papers & Signature Collection (B. Potts & H. Aisenstein - A/B)

Noon-2:00 Lunch/free time

2:00-3:00 Democratizing the Electoral College (A. Gordon - A/B)
Environmental Organizing (T. Reim & T. Confer - C1)
Fundraising (P. Javicas & H. Aisenstein - C2)

3:15-4:15 Ballot Access (B. Small - A/B)
Delegate 101 (T. Confer & H. Aisenstein - C1)
Showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* (I. Conner - C2)

4:30-5:30 Campaign School (J. Sweeney, G. Browne, et al - A/B)
Green Jobs (P. Glover - C1)
Martial Arts & Conflict Resolution (S. Mendler - C2)

6:00-8:00 Fundraising Dinner at A Passage to India

8:30-mid Silent Auction continues (Entry Area)
Presidential Candidates
Evening Entertainment - Occasions DJ, Live Music (Ballroom A/B)

Sunday 3 Feb.

10:00-noon Business Meeting (Ballroom A/B)
Election of Officers
Election of Delegates
GPPA Platform
2008 Budget

Noon-1:00 Lunch (on your own)

1:00-4:00 Nomination of Candidates & Closing

all events in schedule subject to change

Support the Green Party of Pennsylvania!

GPPA Donation Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amt. Enclosed \$ _____ * see instructions box for donation requirements

Employer Info _____

- I would like _____ copies (\$15/ea.) of the "Party with a Purpose" CD, whose cost will be deducted from my donation, including shipping & handling (no tax)
- Please send me more information about the Green Party of Pennsylvania
- Please subscribe me to the Green Star for 1 year at _____ (\$25 suggested donation) I prefer to receive Green Star in hardcopy electronic format

Donation Tips & Instructions

- Make checks or money orders payable to the Green Party of Pennsylvania
- Please include all contact information
- If your donation is over \$200, state law requires us to also have your employer's contact information
- Individuals may only donate \$2000 in a given year
- Donations are not tax-deductible
- CD orders will have the cost of the quantity, plus \$3 for shipping & handling deducted from their donation
- Mail form to:
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Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962

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