

## GPPA: Making News, Facing the Future

### Greens plan for Nominating Convention, Feb. 20-21

by Green Star Staff

The 2010 Nominating Convention of the Green Party of Pennsylvania will be held Feb. 20-21 at the Holiday Inn Monroeville, just east of Pittsburgh. At press time, plans were still being finalized, but will include a Campaign School track, run by longtime Green activist Hugh Esco of Campaign Foundations. There will be other workshops during the day on Saturday, dinner and entertainment on Saturday night, and a business/nomination meeting on Sunday. For the latest complete information, check the GPPA website at [www.gpofpa.org](http://www.gpofpa.org) (click the "Next Meeting" link).

### Greens make mark during G20 summit in Pittsburgh

by Ed Bortz, Green Party of Allegheny County

The G20 met on September 24-25 in Pittsburgh, in an atmosphere of military lockdown, with pepper spray, rubber bullets, riot gear, armored personnel carriers, and sound cannons out in force. In spite of this, Greens and other activists exposed the G20 policies that have led to endless war, poverty, gross injustices and inequality, and a planet deep in ecological crisis.

Members of the Green Party of Allegheny County played key roles in organizing events such as The People's Summit, The People's March on September 25th, and a three-day no-holds-barred reading from "Poets on the Loose." They also were a vital part of a diverse group of activists from the Antiwar Committee of the Thomas Merton Center, Pittsburgh's leading peace and social justice organization.

During the People's Summit, Titus North, former Green Party candidate for Congress, was a presenter at a workshop on the war economy. North explained the bailouts to Wall Street as well as the connection between monetary policy and the financing of the military budget.

Reverend Billy Talen, Green Party candidate for New York City Mayor, spoke in Arsenal Park on September 24th to a thousand anti-authoritarian activists and community residents. By the time the subsequent march spilled into the Lawrenceville streets, the crowd had swelled to nearly two thousand. Police responded with military formation assaults, wielding pepper spray, rubber bullets, and sound cannon. Nearly 70 people were arrested, and some of the injured required emergency room care.



Vivek Ananthan, Philadelphia Green & member of the Green Party International Committee, speaks with a reporter at the People's March in Pittsburgh, Sept. 24  
(Photo: Lisa Hodaie)

On September 25<sup>th</sup> a broad coalition of eight thousand people joined The People's March, including Greens, Single-Payer activists, Code Pink Women for Peace, climate crisis and environmental justice groups, Free Palestine, unions, and Iraq Veterans Against the War, along with monks from Tibet and Burma.

Following the march, that night became one of terror for a large group of students, activists, and innocent bystanders, as the university neighborhood of Oakland became the target of an unprovoked police assault that included rubber bullets and pepper spray. The police invasion of University of Pittsburgh facilities resulted in the injury and arrest of at least 111 people. Subsequent reports from arrestees and witnesses indicated that there was widespread physical, verbal, and emotional abuse suffered from the hands of authorities during the arrests and incarcerations. Legal, political, and publicity organizing is underway to defend all arrestees, a struggle that will likely continue for many months.

(for the full version of this report, see <http://gp.org/greenpages-blog/?p=1461>)

### Marcellus Shale report

by Jay Sweeney, Wyoming County Greens

Drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale continues to be big news in NEPA and in much of the state. As part of the 2009/2010 state budget, nearly 32,000 acres of State Forest lands will be leased for natural gas drilling. The Green Party of Pennsylvania opposes drilling in state-owned lands without a vote of the residents of the Commonwealth.

Two DEP permit hearings for wastewater treatment facilities were held in October in Tunkhannock, Wyoming County. The second hearing publicly revealed what many have long feared. Wyoming Somerset Regional Water Resources Inc. stated in their application that wastewater from wells in Dimock contained radioactive elements Radium-226 and -228.

Members of the Green Party, Citizens for Clean Water, and others testified at these hearings. There was some brilliant and moving testimony. Meanwhile, much of the wastewater sits in frack ponds on the drilling site awaiting treatment. DEP plans to have 12 treatment plants in operation, but they will not begin to be in service until 2011.

In December, the Pine Creek Headwaters Protection Group from Tioga County began training sessions to teach citizens to monitor waterways and well sites. The natural gas industry has derided the workshops, but the group stresses the necessity of water quality monitoring.

Opposition and watchdog groups are active throughout Pennsylvania and New York. In fact, residents from both states have been working together over the past year. New York residents are watching closely what happens in Dimock, and working to prevent the same things from happening in their environs.

### In This Issue

- 2009 Election Results
- Blyden Potts on "Four Green Parties"
- Chair Hillary Kane reflects on her tenure

### From the Editors

2009 was a busy year – and we actually have some progress to show for our efforts (see the election results inside!). 2010 will present many opportunities and not a few challenges – from ballot access to gas drilling, healthcare to warfare, financial reform to ecological preservation. As Hillary Kane says in her article, we need all hands on deck. Let's make the Teen Decade the Green Decade!

The GPPA Communications Committee



# Green Party of Pennsylvania

## Contact Information

P.O. Box 11962  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962  
888-PA1-GREEN  
www.gpofpa.org

## Steering Committee

Hillary Kane, Chair  
I.K. Samways, Secretary  
Vivek Ananthan, Treasurer  
Jessica Ashman Katrina Brabham  
Tim Reim Bob Small

## Administrative Committee

Blyden Potts  
Ed Bortz Traci Confer  
Mike Ewall

## Communications Committee

Randi Peters Skip Mendler  
Paula Bronstein Guy Gray  
Hillary Kane Michael Ochs  
Mary Riley Charles Sherrouse  
Bob Small Chuck Steel

## Poetry Corner

Energy,  
not seen except  
in light, not heard  
outside of sound, but  
measured across  
dimensions of  
whimsy from nano  
to mondo. How  
precise it seems,  
how well controlled we  
believe until  
[who could have known]  
a great oops goes down.

-- Mort Malkin, Wayne Co.

# Which Green Party is this?

by Blyden Potts

As surprising as it may seem for a small party with an explicit statement of values, I think the Green Party is actually an “umbrella” party – that is, it includes several distinct constituencies, just like the major parties. I see at least four “parties” within the Green Party, each with different goals in different issue areas:

- **Candidate Greens** identify with the Green Party mainly because of their support for a particular candidate - the prime example would be supporters of Ralph Nader. Almost a decade since Nader was the Green candidate for President, there are still plenty of people who registered Green as part of his campaign, and Nader is still seen as a Green Party figure in popular and media perception.
- **Ecology Greens** identify with the Green Party as an environmental party. They run the gamut from well-informed, cutting-edge environmentalists to casual voters who when asked tell you they joined the Green Party because they want to “help the environment” or promote recycling.
- **Decentralist Greens** focus on the “Decentralization” and “Grassroots Democracy” values of the Green Party. They want to see voters empowered, election processes made more democratic and inclusive, and the power of both large corporations and large government organizations checked sharply. They want community-based economics and politics, and tend to have a concern for protecting civil liberties. This is my type of Green Party.
- **Progressive Greens** see the party as primarily about promoting “lefty” positions on a broad set of social issues: social justice, universal health coverage, education, living wage, welfare, gay rights, abortion rights, etc. (though admittedly any particular Green may be an exception on a given issue).

“Progressives” tend to be the dominant constituency in the Green Party - to the point that the party has embraced the “Progressive” label. This raises a few concerns for Decentralist Greens like me. One issue is that the term “Progressive” isn’t very well-defined. Just as everyone likes “good music,” but disagrees about what music qualifies as “good,” almost everyone is for “progress” even if they have contrasting ideas of what that is. Similarly, for the general public the “Green” label conveys the ecological nature of the party, but not its decentralist or progressive nature. Our brand isn’t clear.

A second issue is that many Democrats also identify with the “Progressive” label. It becomes a way for Democrats to try to seduce Greens into voting for Democrats. Since progressive Democrats outnumber Greens, progressive media and conferences that Greens might be inclined to participate in tend to be dominated and controlled by Democrats. Worse yet, the “Progressive” Green Party is often seen in the media and popular view as only a leftward extension of the Democratic Party.

This problem is compounded by the fact that many “Progressives” are also – whether they admit it or not – “Liberals.” This is another ill-defined political label that I use here to mean people who believe that the power of the government can and should be used to improve the welfare of the people. The Liberal position is in many ways opposite that of Decentralist Greens, who see government power as something alien to the people that needs either to be reclaimed and/or sharply limited.

This can make for interesting disagreements on some issues within the party. Is a minimum “living wage” the best way to ensure the economic well-being of the less fortunate among us economically? The Progressive-dominated Green Party says yes, but many Decentralist Greens are likely to take exception to that view. Are national social justice policies a good idea? Progressives tend to promote them, but Decentralists tend not to like them. The Decentralists have some affinity for Libertarian values; the Progressives shake their heads in wonder. The Progressives often want to ally with Progressive Democrats; the Decentralists ardently want nothing to do with corporate politics. Positions driven by some Green values don’t always agree with positions driven by other Green values.

So long as everyone understands and tolerates the diversity of emphasis and interpretation of the key values, having an umbrella party is probably a good thing. We have more in common than we have issues that divide us, and having a range of views helps us avoid groupthink. That said, as I look at the political landscape I see a large portion of disaffected and “independent” voters out there who, I believe, would be far more attracted to a party that emphasizes Decentralism than they are to a party that emphasizes being Progressive. I would like to

see the Green Party become more the party of Decentralism – the Anti-Bureaucracy party – and less the party of Liberal Progressivism. I’m not saying we should back off our values or goals in social issues, but that we shouldn’t be embracing “big government” as the solution for these issues.

Liberal Progressivism remains mainly under the Democrats’ umbrella – but Decentralism is the BIG difference between the Greens and the corporate parties.

## Cards By Bo

100% post-consumer  
recycled paper

www.CardsByBo.com

## GREENS EARN VICTORIES IN 2009 PA MUNICIPAL/COUNTY ELECTIONS

- Jay Sweeney was elected Auditor in Falls Township, Wyoming County with over 90% of the vote.
- Charles Michael Farley won a write-in campaign for Minority Inspector of Elections, Hanover Borough, 4th Ward, York County.
- Randi Peters won a write-in campaign for Auditor (2 Yr) in Maiden Creek Township, Berks County. She also won a write-in campaign for Minority Inspector of Elections.
- Frank Divonzo was elected Auditor in Paxtang Borough, Dauphin County.
- Leif Winter will become Auditor in Franklin Township, Susquehanna County.

### Other Green Party candidates

- Steve Baker lost the race for Auditor of Springettsburg Township (York Co.) with 21% of the vote to a Republican challenger.
- The Green ticket of Martin Boksenbaum and Juanita Carra-Budzek lost their bids for the two Town Supervisor positions in Lehigh Township (Northampton Co). They won 13% and 12% of the vote respectively in a 5-way race. A Democrat and a Republican won the two seats with 25% and 31% respectively.
- Albert "Bert" Taylor was denied the 6th District seat on Erie City Council, (Erie Co) with 2% of the vote in a four way race. The Democrat won with 32%.

### Other candidates of interest

- Marakay Rogers received 2% of the vote as a Libertarian candidate for Judge of the Superior Court (securing ballot status for the Libertarians for the next 2 years).
- Bill Smedley won Constable of Nippenose Twp (Lycoming Co.) with 92% of the vote. He was first elected as a Green, but was forced to seek re-election as a Republican (only because of a technical glitch).

## Paper and Planet



we're putting it all together at  
[greenlinepaper.com](http://greenlinepaper.com)

recycled office papers, toner & ink, compostables,  
tissue & towel, kitchen/restaurant, natural cleaners,  
fair trade foods

Call 800-641-1117  
for our national products brochure.  
GreenLine Paper Company, Inc.  
631 S. Pine Street, York, PA 17403



America's Green Office Supply

## ***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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

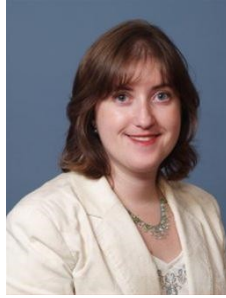
- Make checks or money orders payable to the **Green Party of Pennsylvania**
- Please include all contact information
- If your donation is over \$200, state law requires us to also have your employer's contact information
- Individuals may only donate \$2000 in a given year
- Donations are not tax-deductible
- Mail form to:  
**Green Party of Pennsylvania**  
P.O. Box 11962  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962

**Thank you for your support!**

## A Look Back ... and a Look Forward

By Hillary Kane, Chair, Green Party of Pennsylvania

When I became Chair of the Green Party of Pennsylvania three years ago, the state party was in disarray. The Steering Committee was not meeting on a regular basis, there were often no set agendas for State Committee meetings, and most local Greens knew little about what the state party was doing. When I ran for Chair, I specifically set out to fix these issues, most of which I saw as internal problems – meaning that they were not necessarily about how the broader public viewed the Green Party, but how we organized ourselves to make our own organization stronger.



Three years later, we have greatly improved many of those internal systems. Our Steering Committee holds weekly conference calls. We have published detailed agendas prior to each State Committee meeting. And in the last year and half, we have embarked on an ambitious plan to have one member of the Steering Committee personally visit each active local at least once in the calendar year. To date, Steering Committee members or other prominent Greens have visited ten locals, representing the great majority of the locals who are currently active.

In addition to these very modest accomplishments, we have also done the following:

- Increased the number of press releases sent out on behalf of the party. This year alone, we sent out about a dozen press releases, at least two of which got picked up in the media. We also started a new “Call to Action” program, whereby we turn appropriate press releases into a call to members to act in some way, usually by calling their state legislators about an issue.
- Developed the first GPPA Brochure. Now in its second run, the GPPA brochure allows locals members to have a professionally designed handout to distribute at local events or on the campaign trail. We have distributed over 15,000 of these brochures in the last three years. And, we have a new Outreach Committee that has designed an even newer brochure (in full color!) for next year.
- Most importantly, we developed an on-line statewide database that allows us to manage our membership more effectively. This system also serves as a way for us to validate signatures during a petition drive, as it allows someone to check their papers against the registered voter list.

As you can see, we have made great strides with many infrastructure improvements. Unfortunately, they are not enough. Despite these positive changes, the underlying foundation of the Green Party is active and engaged membership at all levels. Yet, in the last three years, the most troubling development has been the decline of active membership. We have seen at least three locals fold in as many years. Attendance at State Committee meetings is consistently low, and attendance at local meetings is equally shaky. We must reverse this decline.

Come February’s convention, I will be stepping down as Chair. My husband and I have decided to start a family, and we will be welcoming a new baby into our lives this summer. I have no plans to leave the Green Party; I simply need to step back a bit and focus on this new chapter in my life. I know there is another leader out there who will step into the role (and many others who will support the new chair) and take the party to the next level. In my estimation this means carrying on the internal improvements, while shifting focus toward more external goals such as reviving membership and attracting new members to the party.

Despite the difficulty any third party faces in this country, I am confident that the Green Party will weather the current storm and emerge stronger in the coming years. But that will only happen if each and every one of us commits to being a part of that success.

When I became a Green, I had no thought that I would ever be so involved in the party. After all, when I was a Democrat, I didn’t need to get more involved than voting twice a year. Early on with the Green Party, I realized that if I and a few others were not consistently showing up, there was no party. Each and every one of us was needed to get the work done, particularly because we were building something new. And while the Green Party is not as new as it once was, compared to other parties, we are still the new kids on the block. We still have tons of growing to do and we need all hands on deck. You – yes, you reading this article – you need to stay (or get) involved, because if you don’t, there just might not be a Green Party left the next time you visit the voting booth.

## Dancing Trees Web Design

Discounts for Green groups  
& businesses

[www.DancingTreesWeb.com](http://www.DancingTreesWeb.com)

**Green Party of Pennsylvania**

P.O. Box 11962  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962

**BULK MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SWARTHMORE, PA  
PERMIT NO. 3**

