



2014 Convention Report

The 2014 convention of the Green Party of Louisiana was held at the New Orleans Healing Center on Saturday January 25th. The event was open to all members of the Green Party of Louisiana (defined as registered Greens living in Louisiana).

Breakfast and Registration. The event opened with a breakfast and registration period where Greens were able to meet one another and catch up with old friends. Voter registration forms were available for non-Greens in attendance to registers.

Opening Remarks & Blessing. Opening remarks were provided by Bart Everson of New Orleans, which included an assessment of the party's organizational status, reminding folks in the room (which at the time numbered about 25) that the party was 'what you see here in this room—there's no vast organization that exists elsewhere.' Bart also said a blessing, in the spirit of the season of incipient desires, to take good care to plant the seeds of a revitalized party, that we might celebrate the harvest in the years to come.

The Politics of Redemption: Democratizing the Electoral College. The first presentation was by Asa Gordon of the DC Statehood Greens party entitled “The Politics of Redemption: Democratizing the Electoral College.” His presentation focused on a progressive interpretation of the 14th amendment which would require proportional allocation of electors in Presidential Elections. This would eliminate the ‘winner take all’ system which effectively purges all votes for the non-winning candidate. Following his presentation there was questions and discussion.

Candidates Panel. Upon return from the break, a panel featuring former Green Party candidates was held. Panelists were Jill Stein (President, Governor of Massachusetts), Lynne Serpe (City Council, New York City’s 22nd District), Morgan Moss (Mayor of Rayville, LA), Jason Neville (State Senate, District 3), and Eliot Barron (U.S. Congress, District 5)

The former candidates discussed the successes and challenges of their runs for office. Common themes were establishing clear positions on progressive issues, establishing clear goals for the campaign (for example: to win the race, to push a major party candidate in the progressive direction, to increase Green registrations, etc.). In the case of Louisiana, where we have many small towns such as Morgan Moss’ hometown of Rayville, there was a discussion of leveraging the statewide party resources (funding, media, door-to-door canvassing, etc.) for these smaller elections to attain a victory. For example, in 2010 when Mr. Moss ran for mayor, only 1,062 votes were cast and Mr. Moss received 302 (28%). A ‘push’ from Greens statewide in such races could tip the scales towards a Green candidate victory.

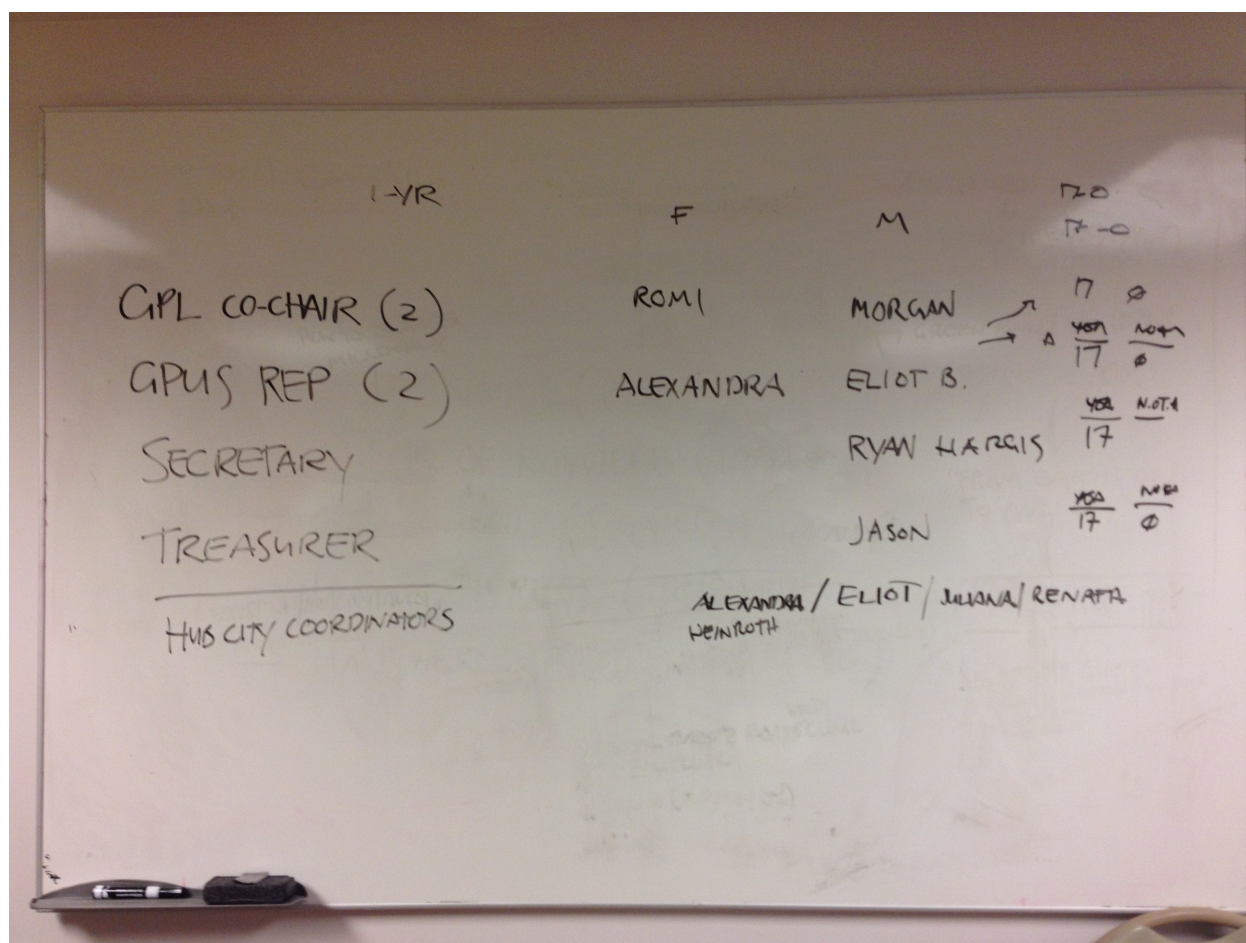
Lunch. Lunch was held in the restaurant downstairs, where Greens got some good local food and could further socialize.

Jill Stein. 2012 Green Party Presidential Candidate then gave her keynote speech, which focused on the Green Party imperative in an age of corporate control of government, the increasing threat of debt to our economy and young people, and the threats of global climate change, exemplified by her mantra “systemic change not climate change!”

Discussion: Next Steps for GPL. Ms. Stein’s discussion led to a productive and wide-ranging conversation about how Greens can advance our cause in Louisiana. Key points were to run candidates locally (including small districts/towns), intentionally building diversity into our organization and our

work, and understanding our role as change agents within the capitalist system.

A consensus emerged that the 'Earth Day to May Day' event was the best opportunity to engage and activate these goals. The Global Climate Convergence is seeking host cities to organize events between April 22, 2014 and May 1, 2014, to highlight the dual issues of economic and environmental justice. Greens in attendance were enthusiastic about becoming a part of this movement and agreed that New Orleans should be a 'hub city' for the nationwide event.



Officer Elections. An open nomination was held to identify candidates within the part to fill key leadership and coordinating positions. The following people were elected unanimously to the following positions:

GPL Co-Chairs: Romi Elnagar and Morgan Moss
 GPUS Representatives: Alexandra Weinroth and Eliot Barron
 Secretary: Ryan Hargis
 Treasurer: Jason Neville

Also informally elected to coordinate the HUB Cities Initiative were: Alexandra Weinroth, Eliot Barron, Renata Brown and Juliana (??)

Assessment and Adjournment. A form to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the convention was circulated and collected. The convention then adjourned by unanimous vote.

Submitted by Jason Neville, 25 May 2014