

Pacific Green Party of Oregon

Fall Convention

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Minutes by Scott Green

Schedule:

Introductions

LNG Presentation

Healthcare for All Presentation

2016 Elections

Lunch

Salem Chapter's Initiatives

Voter Registration Drive

Party Business

Instant Run-Off Voting Discussion

Guantanamo Bay Presentation

A Better Oregon Presentation

Right to Try Presentation

Closing Statements

Attendees:

Starlene Rankin

Alex Polikoff

David Owens

Michael Sonnleitner

Matt Sanchez

Max Harmon

Charles Newlin

Michael Meo

Herschel Soles

Alan Zundel

Suzia Aufderheide

Chris Henry

Emma Lugo – Moderator

Scott Green – Minutes

Introductions

LNG Presentation

Healthcare for All

Discussion was centered on the topic of creating a universal single payer healthcare system for the state of Oregon. Currently there is HB28-28 that was passed and signed by Governor Kate Brown, also, SB631 currently has around 30 co-sponsors and aims to begin a study on the topic. Several ballot initiatives are in the works (ballots measures 42,43, and 44).

February's Healthcare demonstration in Salem had a lower turnout of approximately 1,000 persons. Michael Dembrow is currently attempting to gather 1 million signatures in support of universal healthcare. Currently signatures are being collected for the 3 initiatives, the target is 87,000, it was recommended that we gather twice that number in case some are invalidated.

Charles Newlin suggest we help circulate these petitions during our tabling events. Chris Henry stated that we should include language in the state's constitution guaranteeing universal healthcare, we should also make sure that a Green presence is present at protest events to voice support for universal healthcare. Alex Polikoff stated that Vermont passed a universal healthcare bill but the state didn't build the required infrastructure beforehand and as such that state's system is struggling. Chris Henry stated that the suit brought forth after measure 47 failed went nowhere. Emma Lugo stated that we should offer our direct support to Healthcare for All in regards to helping them gather signatures.

2016 Elections:

It was advised that the Portland chapter meet to organize and discuss election strategy for local Portland elections and to search for potential candidates.

Alex Polikoff states that potential wins could be found in fire districts, soil districts, and water districts, they are non-partisan and easier to win but do not prepare candidates for tougher elections. They can be good positions if you only wish to serve and have no other ambition to pursue higher office. He also

stated that running for state representative is a long shot, but may help to promote a candidate and is good for their political career.

Starlene Rankin asked where would we go to find out information regarding unopposed elections, Charles Newlin responded that we could go to the local county elections administration.

Michael Sonnleitner wanted to comment on his own strategy that led him to winning the PCC board seat, he states that technology is extremely useful with organizing and networking. He also stated regarding the healthcare initiatives that we should be endorsing all three ballot initiatives. Going back to his experience, his run was contested, there was a board appointed incumbent, also there was another candidate that was endorsed by the Democratic Party. His winning strategy was to get a list of registered voters, then narrow that list to people who voted in the last elections. He then paid for a phone number list but was denied a VAN because he refused to run as a democrat. He ended up with about 10,000 numbers which was completed in about 12 hours for a cost of \$250. He then had a team of roughly 40 volunteers who made calls to numbers on the list. He also did targeted canvassing, he placed flyers in local newspapers while the other candidates only relied on endorsements.

He suggested it would be good to also place donation-in-kind flyers into local papers. He ended up raising \$8,000, \$5,000 of which was from unions. He says, "You can win by being traditional". He stressed that a candidate should be confident, do not allow yourself to be intimidated, and be very motivated. He won with 38.5% of the vote in a 3-way race. He stated it took about 40 hours to create his voter's pamphlet statement and was proof-read many times. Sonnleitner was endorsed by both the Progressive Party and the Green Party and had endorsements from prior PCC presidents and many other local community leaders.

Charles Newlin suggested that Michael Sonnleitner write a elections treatise. Chris Henry mentioned that during one election he paid for a canvassing map to be created by the PSU population studies department and that this was helpful. Michael Sonnleitner stated that the county will give you raw data for the map. Starlene Ranking said that one could also get voter information from Nation Builder. Sonnleitner stated that he was able to also get the Green Party's list, however this list is out of date. Alex Polikoff used Google Maps but found that it was lacking in detail. Sonnleitner further stressed that having volunteers is key to a successful campaign. Alex Polikoff recommending maintaining a strong presence on social media networks.

Chris Henry stated that we lose the most registered voters during presidential elections due to voters wanting to participate in the primaries and that it is important that we get people to re-register as Greens.

We led held a call with Daryl Churney who is running to secure the Green Party nomination as a presidential candidate in the 2016 elections. He stated his various positions and stressed it is important to identify your constituencies early. That we must target members of minority religions, focus on diversity and the environment. He then left us his contact number and his website address for his documentary. His campaign slogan is "The future is in our hearts".

Salem Initiative:

Max Harmon stated that the Salem chapter will need 1,000 signatures for their ballot initiative to prohibit the construction of future fossil fuel infrastructure and for modifying the bottle bill of 1973 to include all consumer packaging.

It was suggested that they put up the ballot initiative text to the PGP website, get the text of the initiatives printed out so that it may be passed out at tabling events. Also, to include links to the text on chapter blogs. They will also like to establish a volunteer protocol for signature gathering.

Charles Newlin states that Pat Driscoll is always looking for new material for the PGP website.

Scott Green confirmed that the volunteer form on the website still works.

Charles Newlin puts forth a motion to do what we can to support the two initiatives.

Emma Lugo suggested that we raise funds.

Max Harmon suggested that we focus on legwork, getting volunteers, he hasn't spent any money yet.

Alex Polikoff wondered what would be the goal then for this year

Max Harmon stated that the goal is the 2016 ballot, he also states that the No KXL Pipeline group supports the initiatives.

Alex Polikoff suggested for the recycling initiative that recycling groups be contacted

Scott Green stated that there are many local recycling businesses that would support this

Emma Lugo reaffirmed that we need a Green brand on this, to use the initiative as an engine to generate more volunteers – to revitalize the party. This would be a big hit in Portland.

Chris Henry said we should send out mailers to attract volunteers

Scott Green suggests we contact the National Recycling Coalition

Emma Lugo states that getting this on the ballot, even if it fails, is a huge win for the party.

Seth Wooley states that \$600,000 is going to be needed in order to get these passed, only the vote by mail initiative in 1998 won only with volunteers but paying and managing people to promote this ballot initiative would cost about the same. But Gay marriage got many volunteers, and local measures are easier to organize and pass using volunteers.

Emma Lugo states that the Gay marriage initiative went to church groups and got many people to help and we got the signatures but that it wasn't filed in the end because the marriage banned was overturned in the Supreme Court.

Herschel Soles suggested we should contact the Granges.

Chris Henry said that we should reach out to the hemp growers of Oregon.

Seth Wooley said that the Yamhill Grange very much supports public power

## Voter Registration:

Discussing the motor voter bill

Seth Wooley said that the process of rulemaking by the SoS – tons of people will be registered but we need many more people to register Green. In 2012 we sued the SoS on ballot access rules. We need to maintain a 4 year qualification always, so we need 10,000 new Greens for the threshold of 0.05% of the electorate to retain ballot access.

Starlene Rankin asked if they can pick a party

Seth Wooley stated that the new card comes in as non-affiliated then they can choose which party they want to join. We expect 300,000 new voters in the first cycle, 900,000 after renewals. By the end of next summer we would need to be above our threshold.

Michael Sonnleitner asked how do we reach out to those 300,000 people?

Seth Wooley suggests that we collect voter registrations, run an experiment with internet advertising – online purchasing information goes to a clearing house, companies purchase a list of addresses and the matches are about 50% accurate. This process is automated.

Alex Polikoff asked if it targets individuals

Seth stated that the experiment would cost \$500

Scott Green contributed funds

Seth Wooley stated that the monies go to the Portland chapter's PAC.

Emma gives \$50

Paul gives \$250

Scott gives \$60

Suzia gives \$60

Matt gives \$25

Alex gives \$50

Charles gives \$50

For a total of \$535

Starlene Rankin asks if this is like Google Ads

Seth Wooley says it can be any marketplace like google or facebook

Scott Green states that his facebook ad experiment works

Charles Newlin stated that tabling doesn't work well for registrations

Seth Wooley states we should make the checks out to the Portland Green party – PO Box or Seth's house with the memo of voter registration

Seth Wooley states that we can claim a state tax credit of \$50

Plan B can be done in March, costs \$3-5 per person, we will need flashy adverts

Suzia Aufderheide suggests sending out birthday cards to people on the mailing lists for outreach.

Starlene Rankin said we need a social media campaign

Seth Wooley said that all activities will help.

Emma reiterates we should endorse all three HCAO initiatives, this motion carried with 0 blocks, 13 in support, 3 stand asides of alex, seth, and starlene

Michael sonnleitner seconded, emma introduced the motion.

Party Business:

Michael Meo

The SCC had voted in June to decertify/dissolve Michael Meo's chapter due to Michael Meo's behavior.

Michael Meo claims he was agitating for the party, he got banned from starbucks.

Scott Green states the vote was June 11<sup>th</sup> 2015.

Michael Meo defends himself in regards to the peace house incident, that he was looking for volunteers from the peace house and that they overreacted.

Scott Green states previous SCC notes, Meo as being disruptive, alientating, antagonistic

A proposal is put forth to censure Michael Meo, but first we need to confirm the dissolution of the chapter. The proposal to carry the ban receives 4 blocks and is not carried.

We suggest that we revoke Meo as being the representative of the PGP to HCAO, Meo resigns as rep.

Meo refuses to apologize for his behavior, he refuses to write an official apology.

Motion to censure brought forward and seconded

Sonnleitner, Polikoff, Soles, and Aufderheide stand aside.

We reiterate that the main contention was the issue with the peace house.

IRV:

Alan Zundel suggested that we coordinate with Rep. Wayfield in regards to IRV. Benton County there should be a countywide election for IRV, the Greens in Corvallis could be a good start.

Guantanamo Bay Prison:

Kevin Martonick states that there was a resolution passed in Berkley CA to close the prison, lift ban on transfer of detainees. The Human rights commission and the National Lawyers Guild supports this. We need the PGP to endorse, to get a 2016 city resolution in Portland.

Kathy – Right to Try Laws:

Right to try laws much easier to access experimental treatments for people with terminal illnesses. We need a national law as the state laws have no teeth. Oregon is ground zero due to our 2006 death with dignity law. Kathy (Emma's Sister) is a patient advocate. Kathy feels that companies profit at the expense of the patients. The Goldwater Institute backs a right to try law, they are a libertarian group. Senator Brownback would also support this.

Suzia asks whats in it for the Goldwater institute?

Kathy says they would see it as a victory of state law trumping federal law.

Newlin states he is a lib-soc and supports personal choice.

Kathy states that the Oregon right to try law was partly written by the GWI

Chris states his sister passed away because she couldn't be a candidate for a fish test

Alex states the national Green Party should also endorse this.

Kathy says that there may be a possible Supreme Court challenge. Look at gay marriage.

A Better Oregon

Raina Lopez and Tom Deluth

A Better Oregon represents a coalition of groups dedicated to economic fairness, services, and education. They also believe that corporation should pay their fair share of taxes. They stated as well that they support HCAO, Charles Newlin told them that we do as well.

For the upcoming election in November of 2016:

Working oregonians are working more and getting paid less, ¼ of the population makes \$12 per hour or less while the top 1% saw a 200% rise in income. They stated that Oregon had a cut of 3,400 teachers, 30,000 children could not attend head start programs, and employee daycare covers only 1/6 of families.

They are fighting for smaller class sizes, affordable housing for the elderly, and affordable healthcare. Oregon has the lowest corporate tax rate, it has remained unchanged for 40 years. We rank dead last – 50<sup>th</sup> – for corporate taxes, it would take an additional \$1.5 billion to hit 49<sup>th</sup> place. Corporations pay almost nothing back into the services in their own states, but they take record profits, the burden for services is then placed solely upon the community.

They support an increase of the tax rate on corporations earning more than \$25 million per year in sales (gross). 190 corporations would be affected in the state. We could raise the corporate tax rate to 2.5%. Nike and Intel out of state sales would apply.

Seth stated that this group is funded by Mark Weiner and that he would block support due to Mark Weiner's negative campaign tactics. The OLCV are funders of the Democratic Party, while the AFL-CIO represent unions.

They have asked of us for support to get their initiative on the ballot, and are asking for a formal endorsement.

Charles Newlin states that we live in a low tax / low service state, we were #1 in unemployment during the last great depression in 2008.

Raina states that their group is hoping to get \$5 billion in taxes for the state with their proposal.

Emma says we should talk to Eric for a senate candidate, endorse Bobbi or Alex for HCAO later. Eric was on the city council of Ashland 3 years ago, he is an organic farmer. He said he doesn't really want to run, but would like to challenge Ron Wyden, and build the party, but isn't really interested. He lost out to big money in his last election, the chamber of commerce smeared him. He needs a strong political machine to help him should he decide to run, he asks for a good campaign manager. Eric states that he sells his produce at the Ashland grower's market 3x a week, in Medford too.

This concludes the minutes of the Fall Convention of the Pacific Green Party of Oregon.

-Scott Green 10-27-2015.