

Pacific Green Party Winter Convention

Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Growers' Market, 454 Willamette St., Eugene OR 97401.

Attendees: Alan Z., Vernon H., Mark B., Michael M., Alex P., Charles N., Bobbi H., Dana A., Michael B., Tim D., John T.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM. The morning agenda was approved by consensus. Attendees introduced themselves.

Reports on initiatives:

Minimum wage initiative - No one involved with the initiative was present to give an update. Mike reported the legislature has indentified a minimum wage increase as a legislative priority. He believes the goal is to circumvent a state ballot initiative. There are two initiatives currently proposed, one that splits Portland from the rest of the state and one inclusive at \$15/hr. They are being held back as proponents wait for the legislature to act on the governor's proposal.

Fossil Fuel Initiative - No one involved with the initiative was present to give an update. Charles reports that the initiative has been submitted to the Secretary of State, and that more action is on hold until Bryon (chief petitioner) returns from out of town.

Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) - Alex reported on this. Strategic goal of passing a ballot initiative in 2020 if the legislature does not act to institute a single-payer system. HCAO is also pushing local initiatives in support of single-payer for the purpose of education and raising profile to legislators. Corvallis and Eugene will both be pushing resolutions.

Benton County Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) initiative. Alan reports this is moving forward; Rep. Dan Rayfield has been very involved and is talking to local elected officials to get support. This is as a precursor to implementing RCV state-wide. Possibility of getting the County Commissioners to refer this to the ballot but will either get a referral or file an initiative within the next few weeks. The language of the proposal is near ready to go, as is a website for the campaign. Donations for the campaign can be sent to Fair Vote Oregon, P.O. Box 2284, Corvallis OR 97339

No Fake Emergencies initiative. Eric Winters, an attorney who is chief petitioner, presented. The initiative would a 2/3 majority to pass a law with the emergency provision, as this has been misused continually (1/2 of the bills from last session were "emergency"). Eric believes the emergency clause is being used to circumvent the initiative process. He stressed this addresses a policy issue, and should not negatively impact the legislatures ability to address immediate tax/financial needs. The attendees

had positive reactions but wanted more time to consider it. Official endorsement was tabled for the next convention, as it is not needed before then anyway.

Campaign Finance Reform initiative - No one involved with the initiative was present to give an update. Michael Meo reported that this arose from a multi-party task force created by the legislature to recommend campaign reform measures, and that the task force has submitted a report with recommendations but the legislators will be unlikely to act due to opposition from the Democratic & Republican party. Alan added that Seth Wooley of the PGP and Dan Meeks of the Independent Party are developing a campaign finance reform initiative in response to the failure of the legislature to take up the recommendations.

Community Rights initiative – Dana Allen presented on a constitutional amendment to establish community rights that can't be pre-empted by the State, corporations, or by international trade agreements. Rights of the people can only be elevated, not restricted. They are collecting 1000 signatures now, and submitting to the Secretary of State in a few weeks. They are hoping to be on the ballot for the 2016 general election. Dana requested the PGP support the movement and endorse the initiative. Discussion followed, including whether a community could use this law to override federal law (as in the group that took over Malheur in Burns). There was agreement that the initiative was in line with the core Green Party value of grassroots democracy. Vern moved to endorse the initiative, Bobbi 2nd, and the motion passed by consensus.

Alan Z. presented his proposal to reduce size of the State Coordinating Committee (SCC) from 7 to 5 members due to recent difficulties in getting a quorum. Charles explained the size of the steering committee was established because of 7 subcommittees. Several people said the proposal was a good idea and should be on the agenda for the next convention.

Alan reported that there were several “last-minute” requests to add items to the agenda:

Michael Meo wanted to talk about the Cascadia Chapter's info being removed from the PGP website.

Seth Wooley texted to request we consider the Multnomah County anti-corruption measure and OR IP77, campaign donation and spending limits and disclosure requirements; he said he could report by phone.

Starlene called to suggest we may want to watch a YouTube video of our Presidential candidates that is now available. Presidential candidate Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza Curry requested a Skype interview.

The convention voted to give Michael 10 minutes but otherwise to stick with the proposed agenda for the afternoon. The general sense was to move along and remind people to submit agenda items with supporting information before the convention, unless some emergency prevents this.

Michael Meo requested recognition of the Cascadia Chapter as a PGP chapter in good standing and that the chapter be included in the PGP website. Michael was censured at the last convention but there has been no disbandment of the Cascadia Chapter, so official restoration was deemed unnecessary. A motion by Michael to restore the Cascadia Chapter on the website passed by consensus with one stand-aside.

Election of SCC - Alan reported that the terms for Bobbi, Vernon, Suzia and Seth were ending; Bobbi did not want to continue, and the other three have said they are reluctant but willing to serve again. Alan and Michael M. nominated themselves. The attendees decided to elect using RCV, with the candidates getting one point for first place votes, two points for second place votes, and so forth, and the candidates with the lowest total of points being elected. Alan, Vernon, Seth, and Suzia were elected. Vernon agreed to be the member with the one-year term specified in the constitution.

Electoral strategy - Michael Meo reported on the Cascadia Chapter meeting with Laurence Brahm and Jody Grage in Portland. Laurence and Jody recommended direct voter contact, reaching out especially to young people, marginalized groups and non-voters. Michael S. talked on his election strategy and the importance of going door-to-door to talk with voters. General discussion ensued, including dissemination of GP presidential candidate info.

Candidate recruitment - Charles said recruiting someone for Wyden's Senate seat was a priority but that the Ashland candidate will not be running for that seat. Emma will run if another candidate cannot be confirmed, and otherwise will run for U.S. House District 5. Michael Meo said he wants to run for U.S. House District 3. There was discussion about asking Suzia to put her name on the ballot vs. Rep. Walden. Tim D. intends to run for Benton County Commission. Bobbi said the Secretary of State office would be up, and it's importance on voter registration and RCV. Seth W. will not be a candidate for it, though. General discussion of our methods of recruiting and nominating candidates ensued.

Alan noted that the Governor's office would be the only state-wide race in 2018, and he thought it important to be preparing for this ahead of time. He suggested compiling useful information, such as voter demographics, policy briefing materials, and so forth. Tim suggested a 3-person committee for that purpose; reaction was mixed.

Voter Registration - The effects of the Sanders campaign on our voter registration numbers and ways to capture Sanders supporters if Sanders loses the nomination were discussed. Alan recommended comparing voter lists from early in the race to voter lists after the Oregon primary to target voters who had switched from Green to Democrat. The importance of our website as first point of contact with new "motor voters" was discussed; Alan recommended feeding website suggestions to the SCC who could then discuss before asking Trisha to make changes. Seth is reportedly working on a social

media campaign. Tim talked about the importance of being in contact with chapters and party members around the state to engage new voters.

Charles relayed Blair Bobier's desire that the ranked choice voting campaign be a priority this year; there was general agreement with this. Bobbi mentioned the Jill Stein presidential campaign receiving matching federal funds.

The date for the next convention was set for Saturday, May 21. This will be a nominating convention for candidates.

The convention was adjourned at 3:30 PM.