A lot has occurred since our Fall Gathering in Kenosha just after the presidential election. Many old and several new WI Green Party members began the year with great energy. That energy carried through the Wisconsin Recount. We found some disturbing things. Machine insecurity, inconsistent practices, and the large number of votes changed all pointed to a system that is broken. That didn't even take into account all the ballots were not hand counted, making impossible to verify the vote in those counties. In March, we hosted the Voter Justice & Democratizing Elections Conference, and we continue to do the work of voter justice in coalition through Wisconsin Count My Vote. We have made a difference.

That energy is also being focused on issue advocacy, candidate development, and party building. We've been active and present on issues that matter to Wisconsin like clean water, safe communities, public service, and a peace economy. We have initiated a ballot question in Racine to decriminalize marijuana. We are talking about sustainable transportation. We will be hosting an upcoming campaign school to support individuals who have stepped up to run for local, statewide, and national office. We will be able to make this available to candidates and their teams throughout the state via the internet. We are working on building up our party's infrastructure to support the several new chapters that have formed and connect members across the state.

These are exciting times to be Green. Come, put your politics where your activism is, and renew your commitment to the Wisconsin Green Party. Attend meetings, volunteer, speak up for people and planet over profit, and we'll see you at the next Fall Gathering the second weekend of November in Waukesha.
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In 2015, he led a Black Lives Matter rally at the Ferguson, Missouri police station that brought
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Internationally, George worked with Nobel Peace Prize winner and Kenyan Green Party
He has traveled internationally more than three dozen times working for peace, jus-
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George was active in the 2016 elections, and wrote a piece for the Progressive Mag-
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In his nomination to the Steering Committee, George wrote: I look forward to help-
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1. Growing Membership by increasing our public visibility in social movements at local
and national events to fulfill our Ten Key Values, and support our Platforms.
2. Providing Training in leadership development, media and social media, and can-
didate schools along with other resources to support local, state and national can-
didates.
3. Challenging Electoral Barriers through national campaigns of education and ac-
tion against exclusions from media and debates, the Electoral College, voter suppres-
sion laws and practices, etc.

We’re not just tree huggers. We run candidates and will get more elected. I will work
forward for Green Party full participation in the US political process. Government
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The WIGP Report from the GP 2017 National Meeting
by Dave Schwab
A number of Wisconsin Greens made it to the Green Party’s 2017 national meeting, held in Newark, New Jersey. New Jersey Greens are experiencing a surge of growth led by activist pastor Seth Kaper-Dale’s campaign for Governor together with African American media commentator and former professor Lisa Darden.

While attendance was not as high as 2016 (not surprising at all given that was a presi-
dential election year) it was encouraging to see one of the most diverse na-
tional meetings in memory. As someone who helped initiate the Green Party Youth
Caucus in 2008, it was exciting to see a large room filled with passionate Young
Greens. Our 2016 presidential candidates, Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka, were taking
an active part in the proceedings, showing us all what true grassroots politics looks
like. People of color were front and center in many of the sessions, including the
new Indigenous Caucus that is forming to join the Black Caucus, Latinx Caucus, and
others providing a voice for historically marginalized groups.

As this meeting showed, the growing diversity of the party also comes with some
growing pains. Over the four years of open seating commitments, none of the
three African American candidates were elected in the first count (although the top
two vote-getters included three women, two Latinas and one queer youth). Delegates
also reported problems with the process used for voting in the final hours, a prob-
lem Greens should take seriously given our commitment to election integrity and
evoting rights. Led by the Black Caucus, a significant fraction of attendees demanded
a recount, and a proposal was drafted for the national committee to consider that
course of action. As of this writing, Anita Rios had voluntarily stepped down from the
steering committee, meaning that the open seats will be taken by Andrea Meri-
da Guell, Gloria Mattera, Mike Dennis, and Wisconsin’s George Martin.

Despite the controversy, the national meeting was an invigorating experience.
Our Wisconsin delegation was able to learn, to get inspired, and to connect with people
from across the country who share our deep sense of purpose. As George would say,
we are Green and growing!

What’s Going on in Racine? Greens Work to Elect Mayor, Decriminalize Marijuana
By Zack Gwin, Racine Green Party
Racine was once a city that hung its hat on the many successful manufacturing
companies that called it home. That time, unfortunately, has come, gone, and has
long since rusted through. Amidst the slow decline of the industry the city was built
on, our citizens bore the brunt of the consequences. Over the last four decades, our
people here have voted Democrats into office with hopes that their promises of
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Four Lakes Green Party
The Four Lakes Green Party endorsed 6 candidates in April’s election: incumbent Madison City Councilors Ledell Zeiler, Marshe Rummel, Samba Baldeh and Rebecca Kemble, incumbent Fitchburg Mayor Steve Arnold, and Madison School Board candidate Ali Maldonado. Zeiler, Rummel, Baldeh and Kemble were all re-elected to the city council. Four Lakes Greens would like to congratulate all our endorsed candidates on races well run. We look forward to continuing with our work with all to make Dane County a national leader in social, economic and racial justice, sustainable development, and the other causes the WI Green Party stands for.

We had a Green Party Potluck on September 10th in Madison, to which we invited everyone in South Central Wisconsin to get together and find out more about the Greens and what we’re working on. We have started meeting twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Social Justice Center.

Contact: Dave Schwab, FLGP co-chair davecschwab@gmail.com 518-610-2708
Dave Zeps, FLGP co-chair davezeps@gmail.com 608-358-2940
Read Elbird, WPJG CD3 Rep ultimate1001@hotmail.com 608-472-3364
Facebook: Four Lakes Green Party

Central Wisconsin Green Party
Central Wisconsin Greens stayed active on critical water issues, NO DAPL activism, the fight against Eribridge tar sands pipelines, and social-economic justice problems.

During the months after the election, our Central Wisconsin Green chapter decided to stay focused on the critical water issues facing our region because of the political pressure being applied to the people’s water sources by agricultural corporations. In February, five of us travelled to the State Capitol to join a statewide Citizens Water Lobby Day, where we joined approximately 500 other water protectors trying make an impact on the State Legislature. Issues of water contamination from CAFOs (animal factory production facilities); extreme water drawing from the groundwater by industrial-scale vegetable growers in the Central Sands region; the threat of a severe water system contamination event by the Enbridge Energy Partners’ tar sands pipelines; were among the critical issues that people were asking their legislators to act upon. The fact that the Legislature chose to ignore the people and to instead pass a bill permitting unlimited, lifetime groundwater draws from high-capacity agricultural corporations just shows the severe need for our Wisconsin Green Party to begin to displace the corporate puppet legislators now “occupying” the People’s House in Madison.

Looking for ongoing action on the water protection front from your Central Wisconsin chapter. It is our hope to grow our numbers and become well known on campus.

Contact: Justin S. Seis, UWSP College Greens President
Justin.S.Seis@uwsp.edu
Facebook: UWSP College Green Party

Greater Milwaukee Green Party
The GMGP began the year with the election of co-chairs who led the group in supporting various actions by Voices de la Frontera, The March for Science, and the Anti-Trump Coalition. The GMGP also successfully led several efforts for Count My Vote WI. Members approved a new set of bylaws by the ad-hoc by-laws committee. We are also very proud that two of our members, Maryapa Robinson and Barbara Manisiotis, were elected to serve on the WI Conservation Congress for three and two years respectively, and just had a lovely picnic to celebrate all elected candidates in WI. We are working on structural updates like a new website and membership database. Other goals this year are the formation of a UWM student group and 2018 election group.

Contact: Greg Banks (Senior Co-Chair) / vision4us@yahoo.com / 414 126 5912
Barbara Manisiotis (Senior Co-Chair) / lamaniott@out.net / 708 829 5315
Bill Brehun (Secretary) / wcipherhan@aol.com / 414 962 3956
Facebook: Greater Milwaukee Green Party

Waukesha County Green Party
There are many exciting things happening with the Waukesha County Green Party. We are continuing to work on growing our membership in this bastion of conservatism, however, our focus has been with creating partnerships. We have teamed with several local organizations, as well other local Green Parties within the state to magnify our progressive voice. Our presence has been noted and greeted with both warmth and approval. Our goal is to play a positive role in the county and in the state, to demonstrate a difference between our compassionate and caring party and the corporate controlled establishment parties.

We tabled and participated in the Climate March in Milwaukee and the Water Panel in Waukesha. We volunteered at the Fox River cleanup with Waukesha County Green Team and Fox River Conservation Partnership on Earth Day. These events allowed us to make our presence known within the community, particularly with those who care about environmental issues. We have made several contacts within the Kenosha area, that we plan to collaborate with in the future. One instance was that together with other environmentally focused groups, we held a successful Sustainability Fair in August at Lapham Peak in Kettle Moraine State Park.

To help us further engage with our community we have decided to restructure our meetings. We have gone from a monthly short meeting format, to a quarterly gathering. Again, our focus is on engaging the community and being an organization that can collaborate with other like-minded groups and individuals in the area. We also look forward to continuing our work together with other local chapters. Working together we can amplify our voices and our successes will blossom.

Don’t see a chapter nearby?
Contact Dave at info@wisconsingreensparty.org for help starting a group in your area!

Racine Green Party
The Racine Green Party is a newer Green Party chapter in WI. It crystallized around the passion for moving away from the corruption that has plagued Racine for years, as insiders try to address the shift from manufacturing that has left the city with an unemployment rate well above the national average. We had an inspiring leap forward towards action when Green presidential candidate Jill Stein’s visit in March brought together over 70 participants and a ton of energy. After encouragement from Daniel Cobb on GNN when Fabi was a guest, we decided to move from talk to action.

While we have many initiatives underway, we are focused on a WI statute 9.20 direct action ballot initiative for the decriminalization of marijuana in Racine. This ballot initiative will change the fine for possession from a life destroying criminal sentence to the equivalent of a parking ticket. We believe change can only come from the ground up. We believe in economic justice: people should be given a fair shot in life, no matter if they were born rich or poor. We also believe in social justice: everyone and everything should be treated with respect.

Another initiative we are focused on is winning seats on the city council in the next election. We are developing candidates to be community leaders that change Racine for good, setting them up to win in February and April 2018.

This commitment led us to raise the funding for a headquarters (50D-HQ) or Getting Solutions DOME Headquarters. We already found a location in partnership with a landlord that is very supportive and launching community events around our city’s “1st Friday Celebrations.” We look forward to working with other chapters and hosting a Candidate Training Weekend in the near future.

So much to do in Racine! We are excited to have you join our movement or ask how we can help yours.

Finally, we believe in green sustainability, we believe we need to use renewable resources instead of harmful energy such as fossil fuels.

Fabi Kladnado, RGP co-chair
fab123088@gmail.com
Facebook: Racine Green Party

NEW!
Central Wisconsin Greens
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Proposed Amendments to the Wisconsin Green Party Constitution

The WIGP Constitution may be amended at any Membership meeting by consensus of the members present. Notice of proposed amendments must be provided in the notice of the meeting, and in the 2 newsletters prior to the meeting. The following are 3 proposed amendments to the WIGP Constitution.

Proposed Amendment #1

Article 3. Coordinating Council
Section 1. Coordinating Council.

The WI Green Party Coordinating Council shall consist of up to 25 members. All members must be members of the WI Green Party, and all efforts will be made to maintain gender-balanced, and ethnic-balanced representation. Five (5) members are the officers of the WI Green Party (two Co-Chairs, Elections Treasurer, Operations Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary). The responsibilities of officers are outlined in Article 4 of the Constitution. Up to 16 members are nominated and elected from the eight WI congressional districts. Up to two members are from each of the eight congressional districts. Each member serves a 2-year term. (Members will serve 1-year and 2-year staggered terms in first year). These 8 (16 in first year) members will be nominated in their district meetings at the Fall Gathering. The election will take place at the full membership meeting. Notification will be sent out three times (in the newsletter, via email, and with Fall Gathering information) that nominations for the congressional district representation will take place at the WI Green Party Fall Gathering. If someone would like to be nominated but cannot attend the gathering, they should send a brief written statement with another member, who will speak on behalf of the member. Up to four (4) members are nominated and elected from caucuses. One each from the following caucuses: Women, Diversity, LGBTQ and Youth. These are 1-year terms. These 4 members will be nominated in their caucus meetings at the Fall Gathering. The election will take place at the full membership meeting.

Proposed Amendment #2

Article 3. Coordinating Council
Section 1. Coordinating Council.

The WI Green Party Coordinating Council shall consist of up to 30 members. All members must be members of the WI Green Party, and all efforts will be made to maintain gender- and ethnic-balanced representation. Six (6) members will be nominated and elected to serve on the Coordinating Council as officers of the WI Green Party (two Co-Chairs, Elections Treasurer, Operations Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary). The responsibilities of officers are outlined in Article 4 of the Constitution.

Three (3) members will be nominated and elected to serve as delegates to the National Committee and will serve on the WI Green Party Coordinating Council.

One (1) member is nominated and elected from each of the WI Congressional Districts. These members will be nominated in their district meetings at the Fall Gathering.

One (1) member is nominated and elected from each of the Local Chapters in the state of WI. These members will be nominated in their Local Chapter meetings prior to the Fall Gathering.

Proposed Amendment #3

Article 2. Membership Meetings
Section 4. Notice.

Notice of the date, place, time, and agenda of all Membership meetings convened by the Coordinating Council shall be provided to all members in good standing by regular mail at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and shall be published in the newsletter.

One (1) member is nominated and elected from each of the following caucuses: Disability, Diversity, LGBTQ, Women’s, and Youth. These members will be nominated in their caucus meetings at the Fall Gathering.

Each member serves a 2-year term. The election will take place at the full membership meeting at the Fall Gathering. Notification that nominations and elections for Officers, Delegates, as well as Congressional District, Local Chapter, and Caucus representation will take place at the WI Green Party Fall Gathering will be sent out three times (in the newsletter, via email, and with Fall Gathering information). If someone would like to be nominated but cannot attend the gathering, they should send a brief written statement with another member, who will speak on behalf of the member.

From the Coordinating Council, two (2) each will act as liaisons to each of the following WI Green Party operational committees: Budget & Finance, Communications, Elections, Membership Outreach, and Platform. These will be assigned at the Coordinating Council meeting immediately following the Fall Gathering.

Please review the above proposed amendments to our Wisconsin Green Party Constitution and come to the Fall Meeting prepared to discuss and vote on them. Thank you!
Democracy Convention

By WIGP Co-Chair Dace Zeps

Now, more than ever, we must focus on building the movement, institutions, culture we want and deserve so that We The People have the power to decide our future together. The Democracy Convention showcased vital work on voting rights and accountable government, democratizing global governance, building a democratic peace, media democracy, democratizing education, ecological democracy, democratizing the Constitution, and economic democracy. It brought these separate democracy struggles together in order to unite them in a common, deeply rooted, broad based movement for democracy.

Several Wisconsinites, including many Greens, traveled across the river to Minneapolis, to present or attend the 2017 Democracy Convention - where democracy activists, organizers, and community members from across the country converged under one roof. Many of the sessions were livestreamed, many by our own David Schwab! Visit democracyconvention.org where you will soon see the videos, hand outs, and the People’s Movement Assembly statements.

Call for Volunteers

As with any member run and funded organization, the Wisconsin Green Party relies on its members to do the work. If you have social media skills, love to talk with people, or follow what our local or state government are doing, we have work for you. Please consider taking some time to do just a little bit to keep the work load light for everyone. Below are some ways you can help!
- Event and other announcements on website, email, and Facebook.
- Outreach via calls, tabling, and festivals.
- Fundraise via special appeals and membership renewal reminders.
- Help us plan events, do outreach, and staff our statewide Fall and Spring Gatherings and maybe even a social or two.
- Issue advocacy, monitor and respond to calls to action and legislative activity.

Greetings Green Partiers! We want to hear from you! Tell us about upcoming events in your area, review events you attended, report about a topic, and share your opinion on an issue. Reach out and connect with other members in our great state. Please send any submissions to wigpnewsletter@gmail.com. (We reserve the right to edit any submission for length and language.) Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

Molly Katzfey

Letter from the Editor

By WIGP Co-Chair Dace Zeps

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