



*Arizona Green Party (AZGP) state meeting—Saturday, January 12th, 2008
Phoenix Public Library—Desert Sage branch
7602 W. Encanto Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85035*

TENTATIVE AGENDA

AZGP State Committee meeting:

9:05am: Arrival & introductions

9:10am: Role assignment—Facilitator, note taker, timekeeper, vibes watcher & stacker

9:15am: Review/approval of the agenda (morning & afternoon); additions/deletions of agenda items; set/adjust times; quorum requirements

9:25am: Review/approval of minutes from the last AZGP state meeting (15SEP07); pre-approval by e-mail?

9:30am: Treasurer's report (Rebecca); approval of expenditures/reimbursements, etc; AZGP draft budget for 2008?

9:50am: AZGP Bylaws revision/amendment (proposal by Angel)—elimination of vice co-chairs; referral to General Membership meeting?

10:10am: Green Party-US issues (Claudia, Drew & Richard)

10:30am: Other business (flex time)

10:45am: Adjourn for lunch (or yoga); optional meeting time for AZGP "working" committees—Ballot Access, Bylaws, Finance/Fundraising, Media Outreach, Membership Outreach, Website, etc

AZGP General Membership meeting:

12:10pm: Arrival & introductions

12:20pm: Role assignment/What is the facilitation process? Consensus vs. Robert's Rules of Order (Claudia)—Facilitator, note taker, timekeeper, vibes watcher & stacker

12:25pm: Review/approval of the agenda; additions/deletions of agenda items; set/adjust times; quorum requirements

12:30pm: Orientation for new members; AZGP Bylaws—Article V: Meetings (Angel)

12:35pm: AZGP Treasury balance (Rebecca)

12:37pm: Campus Greens, county chapter & Green Locals reports

1:00pm: AZGP Bylaws revision/amendment (referral by AZGP State Committee)—elimination of vice co-chairs

1:20pm: Nomination/election of new AZGP officers & state committee (Angel)

1:50pm: (flex time)

2:00pm: Break

2:10pm: AZGP ballot status petition drive (Claudia & Richard)

2:35pm: Green Party-US National Convention; selection of Arizona delegates; binding of delegates; Arizona Green Party “Primary” (mail ballot vs. convention/caucus); Green Party presidential nominees, etc. (Drew)

3:05pm: (flex time)

3:15pm: Fundraising (Angel)

- Green Party-US “card-carrying” Green campaign (post cards/flyers)
- Sale of Green Party merchandise (t-shirts, buttons, magnets, bumper stickers, etc)
- AZGP contribution forms and “Pass the Can”
- Sale of Green Pages newsletter
- Recycling of used cell phones & laser cartridges (www.ecophones.com)
- Other ideas from www.grassrootsfundraising.org, etc
- Request for folks to join the AZGP Finance/Fundraising committee (current members—AZGP state treasurer, Richard Scott & Angel Torres)

3:30pm: Break

3:40pm: Racism/white privilege within the Green Party—locally & nationally (Angel)

4:10pm: (flex time)

4:20pm: Breakout sessions for AZGP “working” committees—Ballot Access, Bylaws, Finance/Fundraising, Media Outreach, Membership Outreach, Website; proposal for new “working” committee—*Green Growth/Strategic Planning*

4:50pm: Reports from “working” committees

5:10pm: Parking lot/announcements/next meetings:

- AZGP State meeting (Caucus & Convention); Saturday, May 17th & Sunday (?) May 18th, 2008; Tucson, AZ; location TBD

5:20pm: Evaluations—positives, negatives & concerns; what did YOU commit to do during the next 4 months?

5:30pm: Adjourn (dinner at the Texas Roadhouse?)

Minutes/notes of AZGP State Committee meeting

In attendance: Rebecca DeWitt, Claudia Ellquist, Hal Goldfarb, Richard Scott, Drew Spencer, Dave Stewart & Angel Torres

Roles: Facilitator—Angel; note taker—Drew; timekeeper—Dave; vibes—Rebecca; stacker—Claudia

Morning agenda approved with revision: discussion of AZGP ballot access (lead by Claudia & Richard) during “flex time” (10:30am)

Minutes from last AZGP State meeting (15SEP07) approved by consensus

Treasurer’s report (Rebecca): approximately \$5500 in account (prior to expenditures/reimbursements)
Expenditures/reimbursements due:

- \$670.00 reimbursement (50%) due to Claudia & Drew for travel to 2007 GP-US Annual National Meeting
- Mailing to Yavapai County Greens: \$175 & \$41.50?
- Expenditures/reimbursements to Leenie Halbert for Yavapai County expenses (mailings/postage, P.O. Box, purchase of Green Party literature, cable access for Green Party, etc): \$200.00
- Reimbursement to Angel (meeting room rental & copies): \$50.00

Total in AZGP account (after expenditures/reimbursements): \$4363.50

AZGP Bylaws (Angel):

- Latest revision circulated to State Committee members present; revision of note/importance: elimination of vice co-chair positions. We will discuss this revision on our next AZGP state committee conference call (Feb. 2008?). Angel recommends we ratify this at our next AZGP state meeting (May 2008).

Green Party-US report (Claudia, Drew & Richard):

- Cliff Thornton of Connecticut was approved for a seat on the GP-US National Committee
- Resolution approved: state Green Parties should have treasuries in “community” banks
- AZGP is eligible to send 8 delegates to the GP-US National Convention in Chicago (July 10-13)
- There is a recall effort of Liz Arnone (GP-US National Committee): Claudia & Drew are asking for advice
- Claudia: The GP-US Ballot Access Committee—15 (50%) of the members are GDI supporters
- Drew: The GP-US Presidential Campaign Support Committee has sent out a bio sheet/survey of officially approved candidates
- Elaine Brown has withdrawn her name as a GP-US presidential candidate and left the Green Party
- Richard: Once we (AZGP) achieve ballot status, we need to protect ourselves from political (candidate) opportunists or “carpetbaggers”
- Claudia: Nader will not declare he is seeking (or not) the GP-US presidential nomination until after Feb. 5th, 2008

AZGP Ballot Access update (Claudia & Richard):

- We currently have 8477 signatures statewide
- The GP-US Ballot Access Committee is concerned about our state’s effort/progress
- Claudia & Richard have set up a political action committee (PAC) to collect funds to pay professional petitioners
- All signatures must be turned in to the county recorders no later than March 6, 2008

Adjourn for lunch (discussion during lunch):

- Angel: How do we stop/prevent “carpetbaggers” from using our ballot line?
- Richard: We need a process to approve/endorse our candidates
- Claudia: Green Party of Pima County bylaws state that our candidates should receive the endorsement of the party (not required)

Minutes/notes of AZGP General Membership meeting

In attendance: Rebecca DeWitt, Claudia Ellquist, Hal Goldfarb, Linda Macias, Richard Scott, Drew Spencer, Dave Stewart & Angel Torres

Role assignment: Facilitator—Angel; note taker—Drew; Timekeeper—Dave; vibes watcher—Rebecca; stacker—Claudia

Agenda was reviewed and approved; quorum requirements met (at least 2 counties present)

No new members present; AZGP Bylaws (Article V: Meetings) reviewed

AZGP Treasury balance (Rebecca): \$4363.50

Campus Greens, county chapter & Green Locals reports:

- Green Party of Pima County (Claudia)—we ran 2 candidates in the November 2007 elections for Tucson mayor & city council; former Congresswoman (and Green Party presidential candidate) Cynthia McKinney visited Tucson in October 2007; GPPC has sent out 7 or 8 e-mail digests; we had 25 folks at our last meeting
- Mesa Greens local (Hal)—we have 6 members regularly attend (meetings at Mesa Bookman's); regularly schedule Friday Movie Nights; our members are working on the FairVote AZ Glendale initiative for Ranked Choice Voting
- Glendale Community College Campus Greens (Richard)—officially approved by campus administration; 1st meeting will be January 22nd at 12:30pm
- Green Party of Maricopa County (Angel)—we have held 3 meetings and 1 fundraising dinner since our last AZGP state meeting (September 2007 in Prescott). At our September 30th meeting in Glendale, we had 17 folks in attendance; on October 28th (in Paradise Valley), we had 12 folks attend; on November 18th (in Scottsdale), 10 folks attended the meeting. At our Holiday Fundraising dinner in December, we had 20 folks attend, a guest speaker (Mick Dalrymple from aka Green), and musical entertainment (Dakota & the Black River Bandit). We have had almost 40 folks in Maricopa County volunteer to collect signatures; however the actual petitioners (hard-core) numbers about 10 folks. Cynthia McKinney also came to Tempe (ASU) last October 2007. Our next GPMC meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 27th in Tempe.

AZGP Bylaws revision/amendment (Angel): refer to next AZGP state committee conference call (February 2008?) and ratification at next AZGP state meeting in Tucson (May 2008)

Nomination/election of new AZGP officers & state committee members:

- Co-chair: Claudia Ellquist (term expires January 2009)
- Co-chair: Angel Torres (term expires January 2010)
- Vice co-chair: Celeste Castorena (term expires January 2009)
- Secretary (interim): Rebecca DeWitt
- Treasurer: Rebecca DeWitt (term expires January 2010)
- Recorder: Drew Spencer (term expires January 2010)
- Media Outreach coordinator: Richard Scott (term expires January 2010)
- Website coordinator: open
- Yavapai County representative: Leenie Halbert
- At-large member: open
- At-large member: Hal Goldfarb (term expires January 2009)
- Green Party-US delegates: Claudia Ellquist & Drew Spencer (terms expire?)
- Green Party-US alternates: Celeste Castorena & Rebecca DeWitt (terms expire?); Hal Goldfarb (observer)

Flex time: Hal asks for AZGP endorsement of Arizonans for Responsible Health Care initiative (universal health care). No decision or consensus reached on the issue, since there were no materials for the group to look at or research.

Break

AZGP ballot status petition drive update (Claudia & Richard):

- Richard—we currently have 8477 signatures statewide
- Claudia & Richard have set up a political action committee (PAC) to pay professional petitioners
- Angel—organized a local “Meet up” group to recruit new volunteers to petition; so far, no luck.
- Cynthia McKinney may possibly visit Phoenix on January 31st, which could give a boost to our petitioning efforts

Arizona Green Party (AZGP) presidential preference election & mailing of ballots; Green Party presidential nominees; selection of Arizona delegates to GP-US convention; binding of delegates to vote, etc (Drew):

- Drew reviewed the document he drafted titled “The AZGP Presidential Primary Process”. The document had been e-mailed to the state committee (prior to our meeting) for approval/consensus. The proposal outlines the timeline of our presidential preference election, the mailing of the ballots, sample ballots, the tabulation committee, and the selection and binding of our AZGP delegates. The mailing of our ballots will occur sometime during March/April 2008. Elections results and the selection/binding of our delegates will occur at our next AZGP state meeting (May 2008).
- Green Party presidential nominees: Jared Ball (withdrew his name to support Cynthia McKinney); Elaine Brown (withdrew her name); Jesse Johnson (filmmaker from West Virginia); Cynthia McKinney (former congresswoman from Georgia); Kent Mesplay (environmental scientist from San Diego, CA); Ralph Nader (will not declare until after Feb. 5th); and Kat Swift (accountant from San Antonio, TX). There will be space on the ballot for write-in candidates and a “none of the above” option.
- Cost of the AZGP presidential preference election mailing: approximately \$1500 (bulk mail postage, envelopes, labels, printing/copying).
- Volunteers for Arizona delegates to GP-US National Convention: Rebecca DeWitt, Claudia Ellquist, Hal Goldfarb (maybe), Leenie Halbert (maybe), Richard Scott, Drew Spencer & Angel Torres

Fundraising (Angel): see agenda for “bullet” points. We would need to fundraise approximately \$4600 to pay for all 8 delegates to attend the GP-US National Convention in Chicago (air travel, convention registration, housing, transportation, etc). We need more than 2 folks (Rebecca & Angel) to serve on the AZGP Finance/Fundraising committee.

Break

Racism & white privilege within the Green Party—locally & nationally (Angel):

- Claudia—driving while Black or Brown
- Angel—As a Puerto Rican/Xicano, I have experienced racism/white privilege in the work place, in my union organizing efforts with fellow co-workers (mostly white women), and in the Green Party. When I first took over as the co-chair for the county & state Green Party, I received almost no support. While some Anglo/Europeans say they want diversity, it has been my experience that they (Anglo/Europeans) are threatened by strong leadership/representation from communities of color. Instead, what some Anglo/Europeans are looking for is “token” representation, not diversity.
- Hal—we must confront institutional racism; we must organize against financial institutions that engage in “red-lining” (not making home loans or mortgages to communities of color, or certain low-income neighborhoods)
- Richard—Cynthia McKinney’s next visit to Arizona; venue?
- Drew—we should be recruiting youth of color to the Green Party

- Claudia—Wimbledon (tennis) champion Arthur Ashe was once asked, “Does race still matter?” Arthur commented that “if I’m walking down the street, and folks don’t know that I have won Wimbledon—all they see is a black man. So, yes, race matters!”
- Richard—The Green Party needs to develop some programs on peace, education, etc.
- Drew—not sure I agree with Richard. Whose responsibility is it to develop programs—the political party or the candidate? Where is the line?
- Angel—I like the way the conversation has progressed, so far. One concrete proposal for AZGP is to recruit & run candidates of color. We (as people of color) also have a responsibility to advocate for change/power.
- Claudia—Green Party candidates want help with policy & programs
- Rebecca—We should show our support and stand with the Latino protesters at Pruitt’s furniture store; I can also do outreach to members of the Black churches
- Linda—I drove the truck for the march in front of Pruitt’s
- Claudia—I will commit to calling Latino/a Greens and invite them to our meetings
- Dave—There is a difficulty in recruiting folks to the Green Party. The Democrats can deliver services; Greens promise the future
- Hal—What if we could provide a service (perhaps a soup kitchen)?
- Claudia—Our (Greens) goal should be to change government policy!
- Richard—What is our (Green Party) program in regards to racism & white privilege?
- Dave—We need to make our Green Party candidates accountable! There needs to be more cohesion between our candidates and the party membership (to avoid situations like the Nader candidacy of 2000). We should create innovative policies.
- Angel—In the early years of the Arizona Green Party (AZGP), some of our members spoke “romantically” of wanting to work with the Native American community. It was almost like a “Dancing with Wolves” moment. However, that same “romanticism” was not present when asked if we were going to network with the Latino and/or Black community. We (the Green Party) need to focus on building relationships with communities of color; it needs to be a coordinated effort.

(Flextime) Follow-up to Arizona Green Party (AZGP) presidential preference election discussion (Drew): What are the criteria for who will appear on our AZGP presidential preference election ballot?

- Drew—we will use the updated (March 10, 2008) Green Party-US list (minus any undeclared candidates). There will be no independents, other party, nor favorite son/daughter candidates on our AZGP ballot.

Breakout sessions for AZGP “working” committees were cancelled due to lack of time. Hal volunteered for the new *Green Growth/Strategic Planning* committee (when formed).

Parking lot/announcements/next AZGP meeting?

- Next protest/meeting of the Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty in Arizona will be held February 15th, 2008
- Tentative date & location for next AZGP state meeting: Saturday, May 17th, 2008 in Tucson

Evaluations

Adjourn