



Green Party of New Mexico
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2023 Annual Convention Green Party of New Mexico

The 2023 Annual Convention of the Green Party of New Mexico was held at the Santa Fe Main Library on Washington Avenue on Saturday April 29. There was also an option to attend virtually. Delegates present were Charles Clements, an at-large delegate from Las Cruces; Tom Wakely, at-large from Deming; Rick Brown, at-large from Taos; and Michal Mudd, Em Ward, Peter Phillips, and Rick Yost from GPAMA, which gave us a quorum for the Annual Convention. Also present were Martin Zehr from Dona Aña County and Virginia Miller, a long time activist who gave a presentation on her work toward establishing a New Mexico Department of Peace. Em Ward convened the meeting and Rick Brown served as secretary. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M.

Virginia Miller began the meeting with her presentation. She said that Representative Andrea Romero sponsored legislation to establish a Department of Peace this year but it was tabled. She said that during or before the next session she would try to visit in person with the chair of the House Appropriation Committee to obtain funding. She said that Senator Nancy Rodriguez would help get it through the Senate if it has funding. About \$500,000 is needed. Her focus is on teaching peace building to children in schools. Charles Clements said that he would try to interest his representative in this. There was consensus that Virginia would write up the history of the legislative efforts and the funding requirements for distribution by the end of this year.

Next we discussed the aftermath of Senate Bill 180, which increased the signature requirements for minor party candidates in non-presidential elections. It has been signed and will go into effect in 6 weeks. We have reached out to the Attorney general's office and received no response.

Consensus was that we will reach out to Secretary of State and should wait to see if the Secretary of State responds in a timely manner.

The next item was election of officers. Em Ward agreed to continue as Co-Chair, Rick Brown agreed to continue as secretary, and Michal Mudd agreed to continue as treasurer. There was consensus on keeping the current slate of officers through the next year. Rich Yost agreed to serve as the other Co-chair. Michal also agreed to continue as National Representative with Martin Zehr as alternate. Martin is interested in the Eco Action committee. He has been involved in water issues for a long time. It is his perception that the current State water plan is just about numbers and is not attuned to users.

The next topic was candidates for public office. Tom Wakely has talked to a prospective campaign manager. He is still assessing whether he has a realistic chance in the local mayor's

race. Question – does the recent legislation apply to the local election in Deming? The next election will be this coming November so the turnout may be higher. He is also considering City Council.

Next Michal gave the Treasurer's Report. We have \$1202.07 in the "Essential Business" (checking) account and \$2753.00 in the savings account. The "non-transaction" account has \$121.01.

Next Michal gave the National Representative's Report. There is currently a big battle going on for the national co-chair positions. There will be interim officers until the races are decided. There will also be an interim treasurer. Michal can send names and bios of the candidates for these positions to everybody by email. Voting begins on May 1 and will be open for a week.

Other business:

- Rick Brown gave an update on progress toward home rule in Taos.
- Em reported on Holtec. A final decision from the federal government has been delayed, but the State of New Mexico has a resolution that states that Holtec would need permission from the State to begin operations.
- Tom Wakely has resigned from Fellowship for Reconciliation so there has been no progress on the gun trafficking issue. The lawsuit by Mexico against gun manufacturers with several states signing on has been dismissed in federal court, and we don't know whether there will be an appeal.

Announcements:

- The Gateway Alliance will have a webinar on marijuana legalization issues on Wednesday May 3.
- The Peace Committee of the GPUS will have a webinar on Thursday May 4 as a tribute to Daniel Ellsberg.
- Em will attend the Global Green conference in Korea next month as an observer, and will go as a state delegate if possible. **We approved Em as delegate for GPNM to Global Greens Congress 2023.** She was encouraged to engage with European Greens who promote war in Ukraine. She also brought up that the US and South Korea recently agreed to have submarines armed with nuclear weapons sent to South Korea. She is concerned about how other Greens are addressing dangerous world situations. Part of her mission is to learn what discussion is happening around global reparations.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.