



Green Party of New Mexico
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Minutes from the Special Convention—New Party Meeting June 25, 2022

The June 25 2022 Special Convention, New Party Meeting, was held at the LaFarge Library in Santa Fe at 2:00 P.M. with an option to attend through Free Conference Call. Those attending were Rich Yost, Michal Mudd, Pete Gleichman, Em Ward, and Rick Brown, with Patricia Wing of Santa Fe County attending as a visitor. All attendees were in person. We had a quorum to conduct business with Em Ward convening the convention and Rick Brown serving as secretary. The convention was called to order at 2:13 P.M.

We deferred the officer reports hoping that Brett Portman would log in with National Representative information, so we moved to the next topic which was changes to our Rules and Regulations. This was the primary purpose of the Special Convention, to consider proposed changes to our Rules and Regulations, along with serving as the New Party Meeting, because we have to submit party rules and regulations along with petition signatures to the Secretary of State to regain ballot access. The proposed changes involved allowing at large representatives to party conventions and the Green Council since we only have one local now, for the Albuquerque metro area, and we wanted Green Party members in other parts of the state to have some representation in the Party.

The first proposed change was to allow four at-large representatives to party conventions from each congressional district except that counties already represented by a local cannot have additional representatives. This change passed by consensus.

The second proposed change was to allow two at-large Green Councilors from each congressional district except that counties already represented by a local cannot have additional representatives to the Green Council. This also passed by consensus.

A third change was to add to the powers and duties of the Green Council the responsibility to appoint at-large delegates and Green Councilors from applicants who petition the Green Council and provide proof of current registration with the Green Party. This also passed.

A fourth change was to remove language giving the Green Council responsibility for setting the dates for annual meetings for the local chapters, giving the locals flexibility to set their own dates for their meetings (which has actually been the practice in recent years anyway). This change also passed. (Note: It later came to our attention that State law decrees that parties set local meeting dates within a certain time frame, so we voted virtually to delete this change and return to the original language.)

We next asked Patricia to tell us a little about herself and what her interest was in attending this meeting. She said that she lives in Santa Fe County and found out about the meeting by searching on line. She described herself as a "quiet political person" and said that she is currently not affiliated with any political party and is interested in sustainability, the environment, and clean energy. We gave her some information pamphlets about the Green Party.

Next we moved on to the officer reports, starting with the Treasurer's Report from Michal Mudd. The current balances of the GPNM's accounts are as follows: \$745.66 in the checking account, and \$2747.04 in the savings account. The account with the money from the Taos Local has \$229.56.

We were not able to contact Brett so Pete Gleichman gave the National Representative's Report. He said that there has been a debate in the National Party about whether the GPUS should remain in the FPVA which is a federation of Green Parties in the Americas. One problem is that the FPVA has rules that prohibit member parties from joining any other organizations, and some in the GPUS felt that this was too limiting. Also some other member parties had positions with regard to gay and reproductive rights that are counter to the positions of the GPUS. The National Party voted to withdraw from this federation. New Mexico didn't vote on this issue; Brett informally abstained from voting. Also the nomination process for the national Steering Committee is under way and or has already ended. Pete said that he didn't know how long the voting period for the Steering Committee is or anything about the candidates. Em said that she thought that the voting period usually extends to the last day of the National Convention. She asked Pete to provide us with information about the candidates. Michal Mudd, also national rep, said that there is a meeting of the current National Steering Committee tomorrow (June 26).

Next it was asked if anybody had any information about any potential candidates for public office in the next election. Nobody was aware of any.

The next item was ballot access. At the time of the convention we had approximately 4600 signatures. We need 3482 verified signatures. We had a

discussion about how many signatures would be enough. Figures vary among different studies about the percentage of signatures collected that were valid. A California recall had 80% valid. A study of 143 petition drives had an average of 75.3%. A Washington State study had 86% valid. Taking the lowest number of 75% we would be a little short at 3450 valid signatures. We asked if we have longer to collect signatures if we are not running a candidate in the next election cycle. We will try to contact the Secretary of State's office to find out. At the latest we would have to submit our signatures before next November because the number required by the State could change after the next election cycle. It was suggested that we contact the Working Families Party to see if they have any information about ballot submission requirements or the percentage that is typically rejected in New Mexico. If we do get a response from the Secretary of State that we can turn in our signatures later, we will wait till we collect more to build up a better margin. If we don't we will have to turn in what we have. Other questions: could we get photocopies of our signatures? Could we make a giant PDF? The State is required to respond to our submission within 7 or 10 (?) days.

Announcements and questions:

- The STAIR Party has contacted us to join a national collaboration of minor parties. It was reported that a Unity slate in California increased minor party vote totals in California. There was agreement that we want more details about this party and what they are doing. What other parties are they talking to? Someone mentioned that the Libertarian Party has also explored the possibility of working together with us. There was general agreement that we would be open to alliances on issues, but not necessarily in elections.
- Goodparty is a free campaign tool for minor parties. There is information on their web site.
- There is a Womens' Socialism Conference in Albuquerque on Saturday July 26. Greens are invited.
- The National Green Party annual meeting is in July, information is at GP.org. Richard Winger, who has worked on ballot access, is a speaker. The registration fee is \$100.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M.