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Proposed Agenda Items

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Officer and Committee Reports
 - 2a. Report on Women's Caucus (Jessica Smith) (5 minutes)
3. Orientation for consensus process in meetings – Rita Jacobs
 - Selection of members to fill roles to facilitate meeting: facilitator, Co-facilitator, Time Keeper, Note Taker, Peacekeeper, Stack Taker
4. Proposed Amendments to bylaws – Sherry Wells and John Anthony La Pietra
 - 4a. Proposed change to by-laws – Dan Martin-Mills
5. Proposal for new Campaign Support Committee – Jim Becklund
6. Elections of officers and committee appointments
7. Proposal to dissolve two locals
8. Call for candidates – Erin Fox (10 minutes)
9. Awards presentation – Erin Fox (5 minutes)
10. Discussion on maintenance of Handbook – Rita Jacobs.
11. Discussion on Status for People of White Color of Eastern Europe - Ligia Grandys
12. Discussion on negative side of the use of marijuana - Ligia Grandys

Year End Archivist Report

To all parties Considered,

This report will be short, as there was not much activity for the position overall for the course of the year. On the date of November 11th, 2018, The Archivist was notified Via Email that was redirected to The Archivist from John Anthony, Committee Manager, stating that there was updates to the Bylaws of the SMM, and to update them to the Archivist flash drive, which was completed in the proceeding weeks.

Also to note, the Archivist is working with Dan, the Membership Manager on getting the majority of minutes form the SMM and other committee's uploaded to the website for public viewing. That should be complete by the March SMM, as long as I can figure out which files to upload, and what formats can and cannot be used on the MI greens website.

that concludes that report for the Archivist of the Michigan Green party. Have a good day.

Mike Zubas
MI Green Party Archivist



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Manatee Report

SMM March 16, 2019 in Muskegon

Although the GP-MI has no official position for information technology, (IT) this report is a brief account of our software development progress since the Pontiac SMM last November. The report that was prepared for that meeting was included with other meeting materials but was only distributed, not presented during that SMM.

That report listed feature development progress and attempted to answer some questions asked at the Traverse City SMM. Those dealt with decision-making processes, a pro/con look at Nation Builder, and concerns over a growing dependence upon a web application that is developed by a single person. You can access that report here: [Manatee Report, November 10, 2018](#).

I also recommended, as I am now, that the GP-MI backup and practice deploying the database and web application to a different server, say on a laptop or in the cloud.

The next paragraph is word-for-word copy:

A word now about site management/maintenance. The notion of an individual ‘webmaster’, (or whatever you want to call it) does not apply to the software under development. In small organizations it is typical that one person maintains the content of the website or Facebook page. The GP-MI would be severely restricted if held to this convention. It is better to imagine us as a growing enterprise. We need a site that is totally data-driven with the officers maintaining the content within their scope. One or more “administrators” can step in if needed, but in general responsibility is shared.

Since the February 27, 2018 SMM, we do have a post titled “Web Steward” with a formal definition that first appeared on the most recent by-laws. That definition totally misses the mark. This is not to be considered unusual because official GP-MI documentation is generally deficient, contradictory, and out dated. My first sight of the definition was in a version of our by-laws that was emailed to me quite recently, (rather than uploaded to our server by a GP-MI officer). It had a peculiarly long title, ending with “...[and wordsmithed through December 10, 2018], whatever that means. Although that job definition is posted on our website as if it is valid, and that version of the by-laws is presented thereon as our governing law, the office of GP-MI Web Steward needs to be revised. The current description reads as follows:

Under the advice and supervision of the web developer, maintains the party's website, updating it as necessary and editing it for errors. Enforces party policies regarding website use and the posting of articles.

The first sentence in the definition above refers to “the web developer”. But there is no definition for that term in any GP-MI documentation. In fact, the GP-MI does not have a “web developer”!

The next and final sentence refers to “party policies regarding the website use and the posting of articles”. These can't be referenced because they do not exist either!

I will propose changes to the by-laws in a different document but discuss what the GP-MI actually needs here.

In order to craft a brief job description, we need to consider what the job duties actually are. These can be found in the [“Handbook” chapter for Web Steward](#).

The list of duties is long. The scope is as broad as the organization. Cooperation with all other officers is implied. But most important are the duties regarding hosting account, domain, database, email, and user credentialing.

To assume that one person could fill this post is misguided for two reasons: 1) the job is too big, and 2) we need the security of a backup. In the case of an unexpected absence, another person with passwords and experience needs to be ready to manage things.

We need at least two people for this job. They need to be dedicated to the GP-MI, willing to cooperate with all elected officers, and trustworthy beyond doubt. Not only does this position have access to GP-MI financial and membership data, it controls every resource.

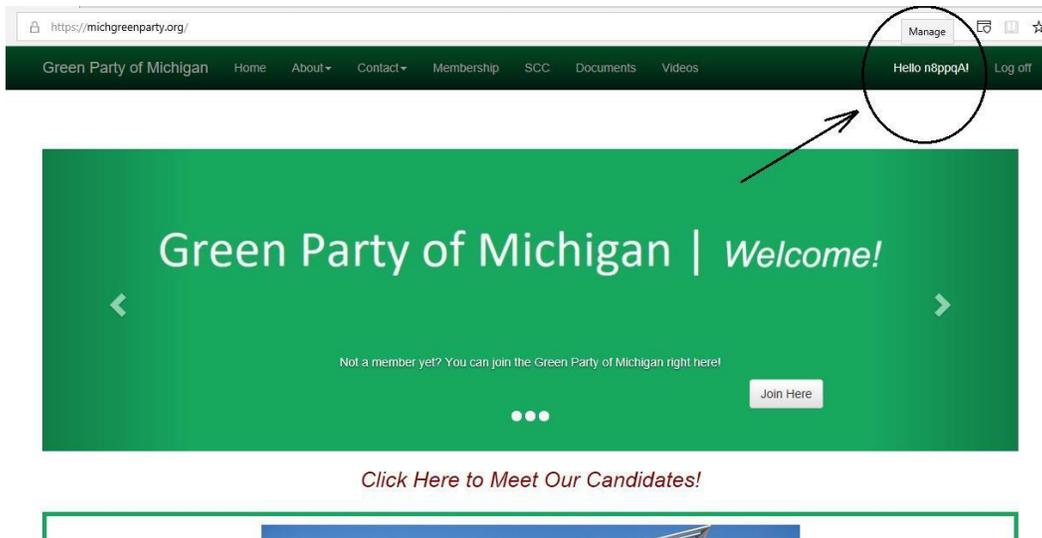
Since the November SMM, I have been working with four GP-MI members as defacto Web Stewardi.

You will find the updated software development progress timeline below. The most noteworthy item is the implementation of the migreenparty.org domain name. Forwarding is automatic from the defunct <https://michgreenparty.org> to the new secure <https://migreenparty.org>, and with officer email.

Other noteworthy improvements are the online form for new or updated local groups, and the ability now for any GP-MI member to post articles to the website. Both of these features are intended to encourage member participation and remedy the problem a central authority controlling access. And rather than an official censor, any GP-MI member can report an article and have it removed automatically, for specific reasons, after logging in.

Let me take this opportunity to ask every GP-MI member who has not already done so, to create an account on our web site. Please use the personal email address we have on record for you. Then after logging in, click the upper right menu button to view/update your profile data, (see screen shot). Your information will load automatically if the email you supplied is the same as the one we have on record. If you moved or changed your name, you can fix that yourself. You

can upload an image. You can even change your email address without help after logging in. If you need to change your email before creating an account, please notify me or one of the other GP-MI officers. We can make that happen for you.



We currently have 94 site users, up from 56 in November. These are members who have created accounts and confirmed the validity of their email address. That's a good start, but our target is 100% participation by GP-MI membership. Our goal is to support and promote grass-roots democracy.

Respectfully submitted by,

Daniel Martin-Mills,
WebManatee – Humanity Servers

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Progress:

Monroe: March - August 2017:

- Marketing Email system in place and used
- New data driven web application
- Membership management system in place and used

Marquette: August - October 2017:

- SMM replacement in place, (1st iteration)

Grand Rapids: October 2017 - February 2018

- Nothing

Traverse City: February –September, 2018

- Locals management system with automatic emails to local contact person.
- Join page inserts to database immediately and launches email to local contact person.
- County is now calculated by zip code, not entered by user
- GP-MI Offices, National Delegates, National Committees data systems in place and used.
- Splash page image management in place and used
- Article creation with highlights linked from splash page
- File upload for Communications, Treasurer, Committee managers
- Image uploads for member profile
- Candidates page with separate image upload and email addresses, sorted by office/precinct
- Donations page, (1st iteration)

Pontiac: September – November, 2018

- GP-MI Committee data system
- File management system for all Officers.
- Donations page enhancements
- Build UI for Treasurer/Admin access to collected data
- Membership management enhanced for admins
- Disclaimer statement in footer with GP-MI data pulled from the database.

Muskegon: November 2018 – March, 2019

- Data model changes to allow many to many relation between Locals Counties
- New image upload feature for Locals data
- Local Contact person manages [Locals data](#)
- Locals [Liaison notification](#) of any changes. This can work for notification before SMM
- New local group submission form
- Domain name switch and redirection, with SSL that spans multiple domains, hosting account upgrade for multiple domains.
- Officer can maintain [Handbook data](#) along with image and other [office data](#).
- New sidebar to the splash page
- Any GP-MI member can [create an article](#) on our site. Any member can have it removed for specified reasons.
- Provided means for authorized site users to report direct and in-kind [contributions](#) and receipts, and for admin to [manage/export](#) that data.
- New means for users to nominate members to GP-MI office and for nominees to accept/refuse.

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ToDo

Domain name:

- ~~Change marketing email to new domain name~~
- ~~Merge the two domain names~~

Candidate Data

- Provide a link for members to submit candidate data
- Generalize the current system to work for any election cycle

Content Management

- Let admin edit splash page Join sentence and other content
- ~~Allow Archivist to upload Minutes. Provide member read-only access~~
- ~~Allow Archivist to upload By-Laws and Handbook. Provide member read-only access~~
- ~~Include MI-GP Committees in app (work started)~~
- Look at migreen party and list things the new site needs to replace it totally.
- Work up ways for admin to add new pages.
- ~~Add images for Local groups~~
- Add instagram, etc. for Local Groups.
- Present user Roles and related responsibilities.
- Present footer from splash page on all pages (maybe)
- Calendar page
- Webmail page to send email to any selected officers

Donations:

- ~~Build UI for access to collected data~~
- Allow installment type donations
- Build a store and give admin control
- Allow for targeted donations

Articles

- Create a way to filter articles by type/author/date/etc.

Membership

- Calculate political districts based on address.
- Create methods to differentiate between Members and Interested Supporters and Volunteers
- Create a template email for sending Welcoming emails to new members.
- Add columns to collect gender, m/f/other
- Enhanced methods for handling no email and bad email.

Discussion/Debate/Decision:

- Member Discussion without Voting, like SCC General area
- Specialized areas like for a caucus
- Test/enhance current SCC feature.

Bugs/issues

- Fix National Delegates insert>add members, and cancel members missing bugs. (done?)
- ~~Rework presentation of GP US committees to not show addresses. (I think).~~
- Exception handling – email notification!
- ~~Rework file directories to ensure each officer has access to their own public and private locations.~~

New Features:

- ~~Add sidebar~~ with widgets
- Volunteer signup page – ask for fundraising person, other positions.
- Page for Competition between locals for money raised, etc.
- Ride share for meetings/actions
- Create methods for members to make suggestions and view progress and priorities list.

Application extension

- Generalize for use by local groups
- Generalize for use by other States

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LOCALS LIAISON REPORT, Sherry A. Wells--February 2019

Whether as Meeting Manager, Chair or Locals Liaison, “outreach” is what I call my activities in establishing Locals or being present to support them, including as a statewide candidate.

In January 2017, we had 11 Locals, covering 21 of Michigan’s 83 counties and 2/3 of the state’s population. I led the formation of Macomb and Oakland. Joe Jordan, then Locals Liaison, and I met with members in Monroe and Kalamazoo in advance of having SMMs in those places to try to establish those Locals, alas, unsuccessfully.

At the first SMM in 2018, By-laws were changed to permit Locals to contain up to 5 counties and the UP to configure itself however it wished. Only a new local took advantage of that so far.

As of January, 2019, we have 17 Locals covering 33 counties. I had attended the initial organizing meetings in Marshall, Adrian and Flint. Erin Fox and I went to Bay City and Saginaw--the latter was organized on the spot. I held meetings in Scottville--leafletting low- income communities in Baldwin County--and in Brighton, planting seeds. While on the campaign trail, I visited Benton Harbor and organized Allegan-Ottawa by emailing/snail mailing and then phoning every member on our list there.

I’ve attended Kent County and Capitol Cities meetings in the past year as well. We have at least one or two which need “house calls” to reinvigorate them. Road trip! Please elect me again.

This past year, I created or revised a formation procedures page, Sample Agenda, Sample By-laws and Registration Form. I also sent membership lists for target counties to interested persons. In fact, Robin Lorain’s interest and energy towards creating Locals led me to send her a list of all members in counties not yet organized, to which I added a “You go girl” send off.

LOCALS REPORTS

Capitol Area Greens, Jim Becklund

One of the highlights was breaking bread with our sister local, the Central Michigan Greens,. We shared ideas and got to know Greens to our North.

We are taking steps to do more voter outreach in the Spring, going to communities with newly designed 4" x 6" cards to tell the general public that we as a local and the Green Party is an option. We also plan to attend events where we can distribute literature and talk to the public. We are exploring fundraising ideas and getting shirts available to our members.

We will grow and spread the Green Party message ahead of the 2019 and 2020 election cycles. <http://www.capitolareagreens.org>

Oakland County Greens, Joseph Jordan

Despite few meetings, efforts to build the party deserve notice. Several members either ran for office or supported them. Sherry A. Wells ran for State Board of Education, Jessica Smith for Congress, and Beau Perry garnered 49 votes to win as a write-in for Ferndale Library Board. Art Myatt, Linda Myatt, Doug Campbell, and Joseph Jordan helped Sherry’s campaign. We thank *all* GP-MI members for working together to build a successful election year.

We lost a great personal friend: Art Myatt was a leader within our community and offered wise perspectives. Another long-time active Green, Eric Siegel, resigned from the GP-MI; we feel his loss, though we wish him the best in his endeavors.

Jessica Smith and Joe Petrillo are part of a working group with me to plan growth with strength by engaging our membership and pulling off community activities to draw in residents. We seek to support campaigns, find and field great candidates for the upcoming election cycles, and reach out to underrepresented communities across Oakland County.

Central Michigan Greens, Amy Slepr

We're the newest Local. Our website is functional. Our meetings have averaged 4 members of the 39 on the GP-MI list for our 5 counties. Weather canceled our monthly meeting tonight (2/12). We are encouraging people to step up for offices in GP-MI and GP-US.

We've collected \$45 in donations and scheduled a spaghetti fundraiser for Sunday, February 17th. We signed up to march in the Maple Syrup Festival in Shepherd and Highland Festival in Alma and hope to have enough money for t-shirts and lit. before those events.

Lenawee County Greens, Thomas Wassmer

My humble attempts to recruit more people through the local Indivisible group and Facebook did not get much attention. As to my own political aspirations-- running for city commission--I decided not to try anymore as Adrian is very much "same-old, same-old" and the environmental issues that drive me most are only marginally important to the locals.

I continue to share important news on my blog and via facebook, and educate and try to wake up my [Adrian College] students. I am prepared to do more but cannot see what would mobilize the locals. I see populism and scientific ignorance paired with pure self-interest that mobilizes a lot of people to "standup" against moldy and earthy smelling city water while ignoring the causes and solutions--mob behavior on one side and barely educated lack of civil courage on the other. I cannot fit into this and use this momentum for my own or the Green agenda as the opinionated half-informedness of the organizers and the selfish mob behavior of the crowds scare me.

Locals Liaison, Sherry A. Wells, visited 2/3 of our membership--Rod and Mary Harty--when in town for the State Board of Education special meeting at the Lenawee RESA.

Traverse Bay Watershed Greens, Tom Mair

After the SMM was held in Traverse City, some members stayed overnight to help me and some statewide candidates campaign. I ran for a second term for County Commissioner and came in third out of three in the November election; [the Dems. poured a lot of money into getting its person elected].

We meet on the Third Tuesday each month, eleven months per year every year since September 2000. During this last year, we had some joint meetings with the Democratic Socialists. At our February meeting, we will discuss The Green New Deal. We hope the Muskegon SMM will be "live-streamed" for those of us farther away.

Washtenaw County Green Party, Eric Borregard

At our March meeting, we nominated Jen Whaley for the special Ypsilanti Parks Board election on May 8. She came in 2nd in a field of 3, with 15% of the vote.

We held our county caucus on July 12, after several monthly meetings with only light attendance, despite repeated email notices, Green Party Facebook pages, the two college NPR radio stations and free event calendars in local publications well in advance.

Only four local members attended the caucus. Only one local candidate ended up running in the County in the general election. Eric Borregard ran for Michigan State Senate in the 22nd District and came in third with 2% of the vote.

We hosted and videotaped a candidate forum in Ann Arbor for our Governor candidate Jennifer Kurland and U.S. Senate Candidate Marcia Squier. Invitations were sent to all the other candidates for these two statewide offices; only 4 candidates from other parties choose to attend.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGI_TjXm2XQ&t=40s

SNAPSHOTS OF OTHER LOCALS

Kent County Green Party held a caucus nominating Jacob Straley for State Rep. and Charlotte Aikens for County Commissioner, had regular meetings, packed a car or two to SMMs in Pontiac and Traverse City, tabled at festivals, door-to-doored for several candidates, and more.

Macomb County Greens' godmother, Sherry A. Wells, emailed us regularly about area activities and was delighted to see several of us appear. She and Mike Zubas, our Local Rep. and 2017 Mayoral Candidate, stood in frigid temps. in March and again the day before the primary, not as a protest, but as a "promote" of the SMART bus; we take credit for the 23 votes by which it initially passed.

Mitchell Bonga, who attended Mike's and Sherry's election debriefing in 2017, ran for school board with support, again in cold temps., of Mike, Tom St. Mary, Jennifer Kurland and Sherry. This county is a "hard nut to crack," but we've not given up.

Muskegon Green Party held regular meetings, attended by a faithful few and others who popped in. At this moment, it is busy with the upcoming SMM it is hosting. Y'all come!

Ottawa-Allegan Greens formed this past summer, featuring statewide candidate Sherry A Wells and their own Robert Alway, with an extensive DEQ and related environmental background for State Senate. Local Rep. Michael Motta is an active and poetic FaceBooker for the party.

Saginaw Greens was formed on the spot during the road trip by Erin Fox and Sherry Wells, at a café using a new member's cell phone to go online and join. It is in flux, recently changing Local Reps. after doing extensive canvassing in the interim.

Up North Green Party's Local Rep., LuAnne Kozma, has led the nonpartisan Ban Fracking petition drives and this past year brought the issue to court to successfully get the time extended to a reasonable period--something needed by all petition drives.

Upper Peninsula's North Country Greens' Local Rep. Linda Cree has been active with the national Green Party and, per one source, has eloquently presented information and opinion to educate others on some facets. She and Aimee Cree Dunn are also two of the very active environmentalists up there and will continue that work but wish to back out of Local activities.

Vehicle City Greens hosted our state convention. In groups of 3 to 5, they canvassed door-to-door to tell the communities about the Green Party and to recruit new members and candidates, most often including John Early, Deb Valdes and Carlos Valdes and Erin Fox,

Gina Luster ran for County Commissioner and earned 10% of the vote against the only other candidate (a Dem.) Jill Stein appeared for her campaign with statewide candidates Jennifer V. Kurland and Sherry A Wells.

Wayne County / Detroit Greens held a county caucus nominating D. Etta Wilcoxson for Congress and Rev. Bullock for State Senate, Later they hosted a rally with local NBC media onsite with camera and Jill Stein, second annual picnic in Clark Park, candidates and other members at the Labor Day parade, 20-25 volunteers on election day, three other meetings/ socials. Four members stepped up as new board members. Lou Novak is a Tech-Town business member and offered a space for several events and joint weekly strategy meetings.



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Membership Manager's Report

SMM November 10, 2018 in Pontiac

I would like to begin by thanking Paul Homeniuk, Rita Jacobs, Sherry Wells, LuAnne Kozma, John Anthony La Pietra, and everyone else who worked this year to help me with Green Party of Michigan business related to membership data management, in sending Marketing email, and with tasks Spring SMM. This has been a busy time, given that key officer positions have been left open. With everyone's help, the show has gone on!

Membership numbers are still rising. I reported 1,563 members [in November](#). Today I count 1,602. The rate has dropped however from about one new member per day when I started in 2017. But it's still good to see that people are finding us, especially when they comment about wanting to participate, contribute, and get involved with local groups.

The Join page on our web site is working harder for us now. Data is automatically saved to the database and notifications are automatically sent to the Membership Manager and to the Contact Person of whichever Local Group the new member's county belongs to. This requires that the Contact Person create a user account on the web site, however, and not everyone has done this yet. The 'County' field is now calculated according to the user's zip code. Incorrect or incorrectly spelled county values have been a problem with our membership data until now.

All this is a huge relief to the Membership Manager, who only two years ago had to maintain data by hand via email attachments and disconnected spreadsheets. The [data management](#) part of the job almost takes care of itself, leaving communication as the manager's primary responsibility.

I'm looking forward to the future for the Green Party of Michigan. With tide changing away from the political establishment, and greater concerns over the environment, I expect people will consider the Green Party as a worthy alternative. I am certain we will be ready!

The SMM in Muskegon is another chance for us to prepare. I hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted by,

Daniel Martin-Mills,
Membership Manager



Independent Bank Accounts Total balance as of 1/1/2019

\$ 3,239.38

Expenses

	Republic Wireless	Stripe Fees	Other	
January	\$ 22.46	\$ 4.43	\$ 200.00	(Detroit MLK day Committee)
February	\$ 22.47	\$ 1.78	\$ 160.69	(Pizza meeting / office expense)
March	\$ 22.43	\$ 0.00	\$ 39.99	(Office expense)
April	\$ 22.37	\$ 7.38	\$ 0.00	
May	\$ 22.43	\$ 0.00	\$ 1000.00	(State Nominating Meeting)
June	\$ 22.43	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
July	\$ 22.44	\$ 0.89	\$ 0.00	
August	\$ 22.44	\$ 9.16	\$ 350.00	(campaign contribution)
September	\$ 22.50	\$12.68	\$ 344.34	(Cambria Room Rental)
October	\$ 22.64	\$11.63	\$ 346.00	(\$250 room rental / \$96 PO BOX)
November	\$ 22.64	\$ 0.00	\$ 143.70	(Go Daddy expenses)
December	\$ 23.37	\$ 1.63	\$ 5.00	(postage)
Totals	\$270.62	\$ 49.58	\$ 2,589.72	

Expenses YTD\$2,909.92

Donations

	Check/cash Donations	Stripe Donations	Other	In Kind
January	\$ 0.00	\$ 70.00	-----	-----
February	\$ 0.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00 (Fundraiser)	\$ 50.75
March	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	-----	-----
April	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00	-----	\$ 596.63
May	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.00	-----	\$ 82.67
June	\$ 70.00	\$ 0.00	-----	-----
July	\$ 20.00	\$ 10.00	-----	\$1,989.87
August	\$ 20.00	\$ 145.00	-----	-----
September	\$,1065.00	\$ 78.16	\$ 0.80 (Bank Interest)	-----
October	\$170.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 0.30 (Bank Interest)	-----
November	\$500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.31 (Bank Interest)	-----
December	\$ 0.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.30 (Bank Interest)	\$ 130.98
Totals	\$ 1,975.00	\$ 703.16	\$ 46.71	\$2,850.90

Donations YTD (not including in kind) \$ 2,724.87

GPMI Standing Committees
(as of 2019-02-14)

By-Laws Committee

Doug Campbell
John Early
Paul Homeniuk
John Anthony La Pietra
Daniel Martin-Mills
Lou Novak

update:

Daniel Martin-Mills (invited 4x by jalp to join the committee's YahooGroup, including in February, but connections not made yet)
Sherry A Wells (withdrew 11-13)
Rita Jacobs [does not want to be a member – only wants to be able to receive and send list messages]
< report materials provided separately; five ideas for by-laws amendments [two on the same topic], no committee consensus on any >

Media Committee

JoAnne Beemon
Eric Borregard
Linda Cree
Erin Fox
Margaret Guttshall
Paul Homeniuk
Randym Jones
LuAnne Kozma
Jennifer V Kurland
Jennifer La Pietra
John Anthony La Pietra
Chuck Loucks
Tom Mair
Harley Mikkelson
Art Myatt [honorary/commemorative]
Lou Novak
Jessica Smith [new 09-16]
Fred Vitale
press@migreens.org <old alias>

update:

Jessica Smith (invited 09-16 by jalp; joined 09-16)
Sherry A Wells (withdrew 11-13)
< no significant activity to report >

Platform Committee

Eric Borregard
Douglas Campbell
Linda Cree
Aimee Cree Dunn
John Anthony La Pietra
Tom Mair
Linda Manning Myatt

update:

< no significant activity to report >

“CANDIDATE SUPPORT” Working Group Report

(February 11, 2019)

FORWARD

As we continue to grow as a party and a significant influence in the political scene in our state and around the country one of our greatest influences in the political future of our state is our candidates. Each candidate, no matter what office, partisan or nonpartisan is a way for the Green Party to grow. Without candidates we exist in theory only.

If it is the goal of the Michigan Green Party to increase its effectiveness in promulgating Green Candidates through unity and support with each Green Local and members doing a part to accomplish this goal we must have a plan, an outline of what we can and will do in the future to make sure candidates are elected and the Michigan Green Party, as a whole, grows. Public awareness of our nature and support of and for Green Party candidates during the election cycles must go hand in hand. The support may come in many forms, from financial to “on the ground work.”

This working group has focused on eight general areas and has tried to explore many different options available. As you read on you will see our intent is to explore any option with no option may be too farfetched. Our goal is to give the candidates unity and strength as a party that has unity and strength. Our candidates are “regular citizens” and many are first-timers who can benefit from suggestions in campaigning and knowing the fact that they are supported by an organized and growing party.

It is our purpose to present the following options for the future of our party.

1) Fundraising:

No matter how you look at it money IS in politics. We prescribe to the principle of small donor/ no corporate money system. This makes it important that we promote small- or large-scale party supported fundraising events as well as working on a serious membership dues plan.

Dues: At the present time there are 14 out of 51 state Green Parties (including Washington D.C.) that have some form of dues for their membership. These range from straight dues (e.g. \$20 individual and \$35 family) to a graduated dues system (\$60/year--\$5 monthly to \$240/year--\$20 monthly). Another state has a dues system based on group (e.g. \$25 for resident, \$10 for student or senior and a waiver of dues for low income). There are two definite arguments for having some kind of dues system. First, no matter how large or small the financial impact dues bring to the party dues will bring money into the party coffers at a time when nearly anything the party or our candidates do involve a monetary investment. Second, many feel that by paying some sort of dues gives the member a sense of empowerment to get involved in party activities— “I’ve invested my hard earned money into the party therefore I have a right and a share in what happens.”

To better encourage dues payment there could possibly be incorporated “perks” such as buttons, T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc. The greater the dues the bigger the perk. This should also be incorporated into regular donations.

General Fundraising: General fundraising is probably the most important aspect of sustaining and growing the party coffers. Along with the idea of having “perks” for donations there are some different ways to encourage donations. Everyone wants and likes recognition. Recognizing donors on the website by categories of donations (e.g. gold—above \$100, silver--\$50 to \$99, bronze--\$1 to \$49, and sustaining—above \$200) and listing names and listing names under each category. This may make contributing more competitive for the general public.

Donations may also be solicited and recognized under specific categories such as election campaigns, ballot access fund or to the general fund. This may make it more attractive to people who have specific issues they want to promote via the party.

There may be good reason to set up a *Ways and Means Committee* to explore ways to fundraise and distribute funds to candidates and to use addition funds for activities that would increase public awareness of the party as well as garner funds. It might be worthwhile to investigate setting up a semi-independent arm comparable to the Republican Party TARGET organization.

It should be overwhelmingly recognized that there is a huge need to increase our exposure to the general public. Some of the ideas set forth are: a) Tables at public events with Green Party and candidate literature available to the general public and manned by local party members and candidates to promote their campaigns. Of course, there would be ways to accept donations to the party and candidates as well as membership applications available. These tables could be set up at public events such as county and state fairs and local annual events. Since, in most cases, these tables would cost something the state party could conceivably pick up the tab. b) Low cost events such as \$5.00 a plate dinner would appeal to a wide range of the public. Invitations could be sent out to Chairpersons (and guests) of groups in the state that have the same principles as we do. It would be at a minimal cost and candidates could attend to give brief speeches. c) Party run phone banking may prove to be a successful fundraising venue. It is important that this be a group effort to maximize the effect. All of these could be classified as "direct action events" and promoted via email and social media.

Even though the Green Party does not take large corporate or PAC money it still may be possible and worthwhile to approach small businesses like Michigan solar and wind power manufactures. These contributions should come from their individual workers maybe through incentives from the company. The contributions could be listed on our website as contributions from "Friends of (company name)" and using the individual's name. There would have to be a promotion meeting with employees set up with company approval to make this work. Since we are a party that supports unions it would be a good idea to have a general meeting with union leaders and membership for their support and funding.

Above all, we must act and look professional in all our activities. Things like banners, business cards, and educational materials should be done by professional union printers. Also, any and all our official communications, including press releases, should have a letterhead and or a watermark designated with the Party logo.

We already try to do one major mailing fundraiser a year, however, it is important that we not limit ourselves to just one and certainly not at the end of the year when we are competing with every nonprofit. We cannot compete with tax-deductible donations and unfortunately this mailing only goes out to listed members. We could conceivably have two or more major fundraising "blasts" possibly in April (to coincide with tax refund time) and another in September. We must not limit ourselves to the membership role. Ways to get the word out to as many voters as possible should be a high priority.

Finally, it is imperative that we make the donation process as user friendly as possible. We now have a rather conspicuous DONATE button on the top of our website with ways to make a single donation or reoccurring monthly donations. That is very important. To keep our treasury filled.

One last thought: money taken in by direct fundraising should in part go back to help support any and every candidate who asks for support. This could possibly be done by an application filled out by the candidate with a specific reason or purpose that the funds will go to.

2) Candidate Support Committee:

Unfortunately, many of the Green Party candidates feel that they are alone in running and not getting the direct support from the state party. With that being said it is time for a committee solely responsible for giving a greater support to the candidates. This committee should consist of a minimum of three members consisting of at least one representative from the Upper Peninsula, Northern Lower Peninsula and Southern Lower Peninsula with the power to add “helpers” to execute the task of finding ways to support candidates and let the candidates know that they are there to be of service.

Ways the committee can serve:

- a) Support candidate canvassing with ideas on where to canvas, getting supporters to canvas and follow up with reports on how the canvassing went.
- b) Be informed on local events where the Green Party candidates can rally or support a cause that follows our principles and platform. This would have to be done well in advance so that planning can be made, and the word gotten out so people can plan to attend.
- c) Find ways to support the candidate’s local issues like the website (more on that later) or other social media.
- d) In off years the committee can still set up local and even state fundraising events.
- e) The committee will need to have a Project Manager who is/will be informed on what candidates need to do in each quarter long before the election. This involves the knowledge of Michigan laws of registering as a candidate so there is no confusion or mistake in registering. This could be an ongoing process maybe even in a blog where candidates and former candidates could share their experiences like what went right and what went wrong. Also, it could be a forum where candidates can express their feelings on what they expect from the party and what the party expects from them.
- f) **IMPORTANT:** We need to have a handbook for candidates that covers the entire process from declaring candidacy to winning at the voting booth.
- g) The committee needs to encourage and enlist a core of mentors who have had experience with campaigns to help, encourage, and support candidates. Especially first-time candidates. This would need to be done at least a year prior to the election. Candidacy is a learning experience, but it would solve a great deal of problems if mentors could advise on the hurdles candidates will face.
- h) The committee should commission a written guide for doing tables at fairs and other local events. These “face to face” with the public events need to be equipped with information on the party and cards for membership and donations. There would need to be a system in place to make it possible for same day membership and donations right at the table. This could be done via a set up to simply swipe a credit or debit card.
- i) The committee would need to have a separate branch of members who would review all candidate requests for financial assistance. (There should be a list of what the party will give financial assistance for and an application form to be filled out by the candidate.)

3) Website:

Some of the things we suggest here are either already being done or are in the works, however, they were part of the discussion.

From the candidates point of view it would be a huge boon to their running if there were promotional pictures in the form of a slide show in a prominent spot at or near the top of the homepage with clickable links to 1 ½ to 2 minute videos from and about each candidate introducing themselves, what office they are running for, a “position” presentation that may include local and/or particular issues supported by the candidate. This should also include clickable links to their campaign websites and social media accounts to encourage the general public to find out more about the candidates and make it easy for individual donations to candidates. This, of course, would be done during the election cycles and taken down shortly afterwards and replaced with a list and pictures of Green Party candidate winners.

Since we already have a “DONATE” button at a prominent place at the top of the homepage it should be briefly mention that this is very important (maybe even larger). Currently, we use a Stripe App (better than PayPal with fewer fees). If not already, there should be a way to make consecutive monthly donations. It should be noted here that many of the other state Green Party websites have their donate button at the bottom of their homepage or do not have one at all.

A link to a “Volunteer” page should also hold a prominent place on the homepage. Basically, it is important that every aspect of the website be as user-friendly as possible.

An “Events in Your Community” tab could be added with information supplied by local Green groups or possibly a person or committee that would track events of interest to Green Party members. It would be hoped that these events would be listed in a timely manner with notice of at least a week so people can plan to attend. These could include such things as meetings for like-minded organizations, protests, and local city council meetings (don't forget to wear something Green Party related). To augment that it would be worthwhile to have a “Pending Legislation” tab listing bills before the state legislature that involves our core values.

There were several interesting websites brought to our attention that really showed an “in your face” presence that we might want to consider emulating:

<http://www.McMorrowforMichigan.com> and
<http://www.democrats.org>

Certainly, one of the more important things for the website would be a way to access all the locals with a prominent “Locals” tab. A listing of all the locals as well as clickable links to their website (if they have one). To help the locals it should be possible to have individual pages for the locals in place of a website for those who do not have the tech ability or people power to do one themselves. Local volunteers would be needed as admins for these pages. Money saved by the locals could, in turn, be donated back to the state party if they wish.

The three main IMPORTANT things the website should do is:

a) Communicate with people about our Key Values, b) Have our Four Pillars at the top of our homepage, and c) Again, the “Donate” button should be large and at the top of the page.

4) Exposure (or how to get people educated about the Green Party):

There are many things the state party with the help of the locals can do to bring the message of the Green Party to the general public. Yes, we are for decentralization, but a coalition of the state party and the locals can be a dramatic force.

We need dedicated members who believe in our political philosophy and are willing to work. Therefore, Membership Drives are very important. This can be done through the usual door-to-door canvassing but we need to “spread our wings” so to speak and use more community efforts to draw attention to the Party in group settings. Some of the suggestions were the state and locals could collaborate: ice cream socials, silent auctions, pot luck socials with speakers, yard sales, and social media events to name a few. These are local events that the state party could support through promotion and gathering and sending in volunteers. Events like this would be a place for information and membership applications to be available. The platforms are out there, and we should not hesitate to use them. Stimulate the locals to put on these events with party support.

Although it is important to focus our educational efforts on every level of the public, the groups that need to have a great deal of focus are: college campuses, minorities, independents and first-time voters. Middle-income voters (those who were at one time well off but are now feeling the “crunch” of the shift in wealth) and unions are also something for our focus. The age group of 18 to 29 years old is very important to try to get them involved in the party. IMPORTANT: We must send the message that the Green Party and our Candidates are common people dealing with common issues. That should be stressed at all levels.

Since we usually get very little if any mainstream media attention we need to find alternative ways to get our message out.

- Utilize local papers (including weekly papers) with articles on the party, local Green Party meetings and events. Many of these weekly papers will put in announcements for free and are often looking for articles to fill up space.
- Utilize local and college radio stations that might be interested in interviews and interesting stories on what locals are doing in the community.
- Utilize local TV. Ads are cheaper in the past-prime-time slots. A possible good source would also be public access television which is available to anyone and is free of charge. Videos could be submitted to be aired.
- Independent social media shows would be another place to have interviews with Green Party members and candidates.
- We would need a complete list of as many media outlets as possible available to members, locals and candidates.

Participation in protests and rallies could be educational tools also. Walking around passing out Green Party info and talking to people about why we support the protest is a good way for a one-on-one exchange. Even a presence at another party’s rally walking around with signage and literature (if we remain away from the actual rally and stay on a public space) bring attention to us.

One thing that should be not overlooked is the idea of one picture is worth a thousand words. In that respect we cannot disregard the possibility of billboards. Although a large public billboard or billboards may be effective (although costly) it might be possible to erect smaller billboards (like yard signs types) on private members property along roads. If these comply with local ordinances it would be a way for the public to see us. These could be designed and hand made by party members. The cost would be minimal simply involving time and supplies.

As a state party, we have the “clout” and ability to reach out to people and nonmainstream media with a large Internet presence to ask for interviews and presentations on our platform. Progressive groups like Jimmy Dore, Redacted Tonight, Democracy Now and TYT just to name a few would be good places to contact. There are many more (some radical but have similar principles). We should never limit ourselves or remain silent. Getting involved in the issues would put us in the front line and get us noticed.

Email Blasts could be a very effective tool to get the word out not to just our membership but to people in masse. Constant Contact, although they charge, seems to be extremely effective in gathering a large email base.

At least once a year we should have a high-profile rally in which we could invite nationally known Greens, Green supporters, and Candidates to speak. There would have to be a great deal of planning and cooperation with locals to pull this off, but if we promote it right, we could get the attention of mainstream media. Don’t think small on this. Thirty or forty people is way too small, think hundreds or thousands of Greens and Green Curious attending.

Before moving on we should not dismiss any idea or rely on just our own thinking. The Canadian Green Party and the European Greens have had more success than we have. We should not feel inhibited in reaching out to them to find out what works for them.

5) Standing Election/Media Committee: This committee would be involved in much of the things previously addressed under **Exposure** and would be a crossover with the **Candidate Support Committee**. It may need to be broken up into two separate entities with one focusing on election procedures and protocols while the second should focus on media along with working with a merchandise person. In essence these would not only support the candidates they would support the party. *We are the candidates and the candidates are us.*

Media: It is very important that we take advantage of every social media platform available to promote all our Michigan candidates including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube. There must be a group in charge of putting up a continual presence on social media with messages on what the party and candidates are doing, who we are and information on party philosophy and stances on issues. The importance of an almost constant presence cannot be emphasized enough.

You Tube can be a very important source for the candidates (e.g.—30-minute infomercials on how to run a successful candidacy presented by former candidates, or 15 to 30 minute presentations by the candidates). It can also be a platform for Green Party presentations, interviews with candidates (either live in a studio setting or remote), candidate chats, and even presentations on the Party itself. It would be highly advantageous for the GPMi to set up a You Tube channel specifically purposed for these things. All of these need to be a “community” effort from former candidates, anyone experienced in the election process and anyone willing to speak on our Ten Key Values and Four Pillars. The returns for the candidates and the party may greatly outweigh the cost. You Tube channels also offer viewers the option of “subscribing” to and getting notifications when a presentation is available. To facilitate a You Tube channel it would be important to have a “studio setting.” More on that in the next section.

The importance of Facebook, as a sharing tool, and its outreach should not be overlooked. Targeting voters by posting and sharing should be the responsibility of all active party members. Our official Facebook should be “alive” constantly. Facebook is free and it can potentially go out to millions of people.

Standing Election: This committee would be to inform candidates and potential candidates on the rules that the Michigan Board of Elections has set up. One major focus would be to have a handbook available with Frequently Asked Questions included that may save a great deal of time and effort in making sure all the candidate paperwork and filings get done on time and in order. (Note: this committee would have to review the election board rules yearly since the rules do change.) This group would augment the Candidate Support Committee which would concentrate more on helping individual candidates.

This committee should use resources (both monetary and physical) to help ALL candidates. Merchandise is an integral part of any candidacy or party activity. They should include items like generic Green Party signs, banners, flags, pins, hats, shirts, etc. Some of these items can be for sale others to promote. Some of these items like pins and hats should also be available to candidates on an at cost or low-profit basis. Banners and flags can be used at events and tables. We should not limit ourselves to just one or a few banners and flags since it is not easy to pass around for events.

It is IMPORTANT that this and the Candidate Support Committee, when approved, should work IMMEDIATELY to get the candidates “out there” early, for in a political campaign every minute counts.

An Elections Committee should work in harmony and cooperation with the media to ensure maximum effect.

Since the things this committee and others would do involves some monetary expense we should have multiple sources of income, a yearly treasurer’s report and a budget.

6) Office Space and Public Relations: It is an important step to have a permanent public space for the Party somewhere in the state (either donated {preferred} or paid. The party must have at least one permanent office in an appropriate location. Even though Cadillac area is the geographic center of the state accessibility to the public could be an issue locating there. Some possible locations could be Lansing (the center of Michigan government), Detroit (as a densely populated area), Ypsilanti or Ann Arbor (as more left-leaning area with a student population). Since our P.O. Box is in Grand Rapids that may be another consideration. Other cities could be added in the future but it is important to start with one to assess the financial responsibility and fit the expenses into our budget. Size may also be an issue and that depends on what we want to do with it.

With an official office space, we should have and can do the following:

- a) It should be “manned” by a staff of one or two trained knowledgeable people during set regular business hours. They would be available with coffee and snacks or donuts to talk to the general public who are curious about the Party.
- b) A place for information packets and merchandise for sale.
- c) A place where party members could meet to plan events and activities.
- d) Large enough to have a corner “studio space” (a backdrop or casual living room type setup) for recording candidate presentations.
- e) A place for candidates, not just state but national candidates, to go and talk, relax, plan and share ideas.

The reason for at least one official office space are many, but for the candidates it is two-fold

- 1) Candidates are often denied access to “debates” whether live or via questionnaire because they have no physical office space. This could be provided by opening a party office.
- 2) They are denied access because they do not have a bank account with a certain amount in it. As a party, we could provide a basis for such an account.

Now let’s get down to the nitty-gritty:

Size: We would not need a large space just enough to accommodate two desks, merchandise tables and a “studio setting” (as discussed earlier).

Supplies: These items can either be purchased or donated. Computer with monitor, printer, scanner, one office desk, one small desk, podium, several long tables, filing cabinet, paper, pens and other office supplies, daily supplies of coffee and donuts/snacks, a backdrop or furniture (possibly a fake fireplace), camera and tripod, banner for the window and a graphic for the door with hours, utilities unless included in rent, internet service, and possibly cable/satellite service and TV. A full financial impact statement should be made before moving forward with opening an office space. Again, since we have never done this before, one office should be opened at a time to see how it impacts us for at least a full year before moving forward with another office.

For those who say we are a party of decentralization and this does not fit into that, each office would basically be run by locals where the office is set up.

Public Relations is an integral part of every Party and every candidate. We must “talk” about the Green Party and the candidates as often as possible. This includes communication with the general public as well as party members. It serves little purpose to keep preaching to just the choir. Regular written communications are important. Mass communication platforms like Constant Comment could be a boon to us. Cost and effectiveness is a high priority. Press releases on important topics should be sent out as often as necessary. The general public needs to be blitzed with what we believe in and what we support.

Campaigns for members and funding should go out often. Hitting the marginalized population is important. Those affected by government decisions (mainly in the wallet) should be a high priority in membership drives. The once middle-class now the lower-middle-class have been hardest hit over the last few decades and we can provide them with a platform and a philosophy that would help them.

The party needs to become more physically involved in “drives,” events, and demonstrations. We need to encourage participation through communications with party members. There needs to be a systematic approach to this through regular emails from the state party and a Newsletter sent out on a bi-annual or quarterly basis.

A good relationship should be encouraged with state green tech companies and green projects. These relationships may gain us members and individual contributions.

7) Candidate Responsibility: First, looking at the vetting questionnaire potential Green Party candidates are asked to fill out. Overall it is very comprehensive with only a few minor changes. For the present, this is filled out more or less “on the spot.” There are several possible courses of action to improve it and make the candidate’s position and qualifications as well as what the party expects of the candidate:

- a) Even though a potential candidate may know the job description of the position he or she is running for, the party should send out an email or letter to an official link to the job description of the position whether it is drain commissioner or governor.
- b) Included in that email or letter should be general indications of what a Green Party member, once voted in, should focus on in the way of position and goals.
- c) The potential candidate should be provided with the questionnaire well in advance to give them time to formulate and communicate their answers. A short biography (limit 350 words) should be included.
- d) Although it is already on the questionnaire it would be best to have the candidate further present three major issues involved with the position.
- e) The candidate must indicate whether his or her family fully supports the candidacy.

It is very important that a candidate be a “working” candidate. Can they build a base of supporters through an articulation of ideas, principles and their agenda for their term in office? For only a candidate who can build a base and work toward winning a position are best for the party. In other words, paraphrasing: “What you can do for the party.” On the other hand, it is important that the candidate hears what the party can do for them and do this early in the campaign. Candidates must also be encouraged to work together to help each other, especially where there areas

overlap. On the practical side, candidates must have somewhere on their literature a reference to the Green Party.

Two very valuable resources for the candidates: 4-page “So You Want to Be a Candidate by John Anthony and the Merchandise Vendors list. These both should be available to the candidates.

Post Elections Suggestion: It is suggested that all candidates participate in a forum to discuss their candidacy and election with suggestions on how to improve the process for future elections. The state party would be responsible for setting up a Forum with a record of it being saved whether in minutes or video.

We need accurate data regarding the total number of candidates who ran for office, and the election results for each candidate. This could be shared on our website as an indication as to how well our candidates have done.

Outreach: Any form of “outreach” should include any and all members of the party willing to present themselves as members. If an outreach is done at an event or meeting any Green Party participants should be encouraged to wear something that indicates their affiliation with the party (e.g.—shirts or buttons). As discussed earlier there must be a way to gather and disseminate any and all local and state events or meetings of interest to the party. We should always consider having a presence at meetings and events of like-minded organizations.

Radio, TV newspapers, and online interviews with Green Party members, officers or candidates can expand our positions and reach many more people. It must be remembered that we are not a single-issue party. Any interview, unless it is specifically geared to a specific issue or situation, should let people know we focus on all issues covered by our principles. Mainly, it is our responsibility to get the word out to as many people and organizations as possible that we support them and share their ideas. These can include but not limited to: Workers (e.g.—World Workers Party-Detroit Branch), Unions (after all we support them), Socialist Organizations with the same ideals, Independent Progressive organizations, and generally disaffected and pissed off people.

Since we are a party of the people it is important that we get the word out that we are the party that want to and can do things for the people. We must never target a specific group. Indicate to everyone that we are not a party that owns them but a party that is with them whether they are “black or brown your party is Green.” This goes further to include indigenous people and any group that feels they have been neglected or harmed by the duopoly. We ARE the party that can do things for people. We must listen to them first (be sympathetic) then they will know and like us as people just like them who are trying for change.

One final thought: It is very IMPORTANT and necessary for the party to gather endorsements from organizations with like-minded ideals to include but not limited to Unions and small local businesses.

CONCLUSION

The ideas set forth in this report are not proposals but procedures, paths and definitions that could be done over time to improve our candidate support as well as the party. These are ideas to explore and expand on and possibly implement. Some of these ideas may fall under the job description of existing officers or committees. If they do, then let's get them moving. We must grow and that takes blood, sweat and tears.

All candidates are ours. They are us. Whether member, officer or candidate we are all the same and we must have that commitment. We cannot stand idly by. We must act and never stagnate. Always be involved.

One last thought: No idea is far-fetched until proven so.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Becklund, Robin Laurain, Monika Schwab, Dan Martin-Mills

Michael Zubas, Sherry Wells, Matt Crehan

(with contributions from Leroy Euvrand, Joe Jordan and Joe Selden)

Report on Banking and Monetary Reform Committee - submitted by Rita Jacobs

At our State Membership Meeting in September 2018 in Traverse City we adopted a proposal to sponsor the creation of new standing committee of GPUS: Banking and Monetary Reform Committee. In November, the proposal was presented to the Steering Committee of GPUS, with our sponsorship, together with sponsorship by the Green Party of Texas and Green Party of Tennessee. The proposal was adopted by the National Committee early in December after discussion and voting.

The committee now has 10 members from 7 different states, and we expect our committee rules to be approved by the National Committee this month. We will be focusing mostly on providing educational materials to Green Party members and candidates. We have some very enthusiastic members. I am currently serving as temporary co-chair until our rules are approved and elections are held.

By-Laws Committee Report for March 2019 SMM . . . comments on suggestions A-D compiled by Sherry A Wells

[jalp's comments 02-12 pm05:37]

* As noted, I don't entirely think A is even necessary, but I'm certainly willing to have it spelled out.

* We might want to change "seeks" to "seek" in B, to agree with both "Chairs" and "respond" earlier in the sentence.

* And I'm fine with wordsmithing "quarterly" out of D, though I'm not entirely confident about setting a hard deadline for locals to report. Does anyone else wonder if it might be better to say something more like requiring locals to get their updates to the Locals Liaison in a timely way (so the Liaison's report can make it into the SMM packet in time)?

I do have some problem with C. I think it's probably better to enable the SCC or an SMM to vet new members of standing committees to whom specific parts of the power of the SCC or an SMM is delegated than to let the committees approve members themselves. It may be a trade-off between Decentralization (advantage: committees) and Grassroots Democracy (advantage: SCC/SMM with broader representation).

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Doug's comments 02-13 am12:37 [with JALP's follow-up 02-13 pm05:03]

A

I don't see the abbreviation "SMM" defined anywhere. [JALP: It's defined in Article II, Section 2 -- the section referred to later.]

If it's true that "*The SMM is the supreme decisionmaking body of GP-MI.*", then that statement should come first.

[I have no problem with that, though it's not in the section of Article VII that the amendment as proposed now would amend. It could be handled as the type of wordsmithing this committee is already authorized to do on its own.]

We should decide on whether we want to use "GPMI" (my preference) or "GP-MI", and use ONE abbreviation consistently throughout the document.

[The only appearances of "GPMI" I see in the current text are three in Section 2 of the officer-removal language in the Appendix. They should be corrected. (Unless we recommend switching to "GPMI" throughout -- which would be my preference as well, but I'm okay with the hyphen in.)]

Article II, section 2 defines voting rights. If we're making a statement that members participating in a meeting remotely have the same voting rights as those participating in person, it ought to go there.

[It could -- instead or as well. But if we only mention it once, I would prefer VII-3. I would guess Sherry might have had in mind the legal maxim that, when a topic is touched on in two places in a law, the more specific language controls whenever it applies. II-2 talks about voting rights in general; VII-3 specifically mentions attendance.]

We should decide on whether we want to use second person or third person, (my preference) and use only ONE style consistently throughout the document.

[I don't see a lot of variation in person; if anything grammatical or syntactical may need standardization, it might be active vs. passive voice. But anything of either sort would count as wordsmithing.]

Article VII suggests that the SCC has the same authority as an SMM, but I vaguely recall that there are limitations placed on the SCC. Those limitations ought to be spelled out.

[There are some differences spelled out in the by-laws:

- * The SCC has quorums; an SMM does not.
- * The SCC can't amend the by-laws by itself; consideration at an SMM is required.
- * And proposals to remove officers go to an SMM, while proposals to revoke membership go first to the SCC (with a possible appeal to an SMM).]

B

Putting two (or more) people in charge of something dilutes their authority, responsibility & effectiveness. We should have ONE chair. (and if need be, one or more Vice Chair(s))

[The duties described for the Chair (which the proposed amendment would not change) -- "respond[ing] to requests from the media and the public for interviews and appearances, and seek[ing] opportunities to represent the party to its members and to the public"-- seem to me to be the type where two could do more than one.]

Everybody knows how I feel about requiring a vagina in order to be eligible for something. It's also a Title 9 and EEOC violation, if I'm not mistaken.

[GPMI is not the kind of educational institution Title IX applies to – nor is it an employer (nor have our chairs been our employees).]

Gramatical errors & consistency.

[Any such corrections (plus spelling) could be wordsmithed as long as they don't change the meaning/substance. So please feel free to point them out. We can do the wordsmithing while we edit any amendments adopted at the SMM.]

C

Didn't we hash out the ambiguity of "these bodies" and the Key Value violation just last month? Why did it never make it into the text? This needs a complete re-write for clarity.

[There has been no consensus reached on "these bodies", in this committee or on the SCC. My reading of the phrase that the bodies meant are the SCC and SMMs is supported by the language in the required statements of purpose for each of the existing standing committees; this has continued to be the interpretation used. (I will shortly re-send my more detailed discussion of this matter from a month ago {see below}.) Given Doug's two arguments in the past – that the committees themselves should be the only ones to make the appointments, and that the committees as well as the SCC and SMMs should have that authority -- I would like to be sure which of these two arguments Sherry's proposal would insert into the by-laws. (I'm not thrilled either way, as I've said before – but I'd be less concerned with the latter than the former.)]

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[Doug's counter-proposal on C, 02-14 am11:04]

In a nutshell:

- The language of Article VI, Section 2 is ambiguous.
- The application of Article VI, Section 2 has been inconsistent.

Before we start wordsmithing, the bylaws committee needs to decide:

- Who approves new members? The SMM/SCC, which is inconsistent with Decentralization and the expedient, effective & efficient functioning of organizations, or each individual (sub-)committee?
- Do we reiterate that the SMM/SCC has the authority to seat & unseat members, or does _Article VII, Section 1 -- supremacy of decision-making_ suffice?
- Should we use the language "_sub_committee" to highlight their subordinate decision-making authority?

I propose:

- Each individual subcommittee. That's who will have to work with the new member, not the SMM/SCC. Decentralization is a Key Value. Decisions should be made by the people who are most affected by the decision and we don't write bylaws that conflict with Key Values.
- No. The fewer words and the less redundancy, the better.
- Yes, to make it clear that to make it clear that "these bodies" refers to the individual committees, not SMM/SCC.

That said, I propose the following wording change:

Article V I – Committees

Section 2: Other subcommittees may be formed or dissolved at the discretion of the SMM or the SCC. Membership on subcommittees requires membership in the GPMI and is subject to the approval of each respective subcommittee.

The existing language, for reference:

Article VI – Committees

Section 2: Other committees are formed and dissolved at the discretion of the SMM or the SCC. Membership on committees is subject to the approval of these bodies. The minimum requirement for committee membership is to be a member of GP-MI and be willing to serve on the committee. Committees created at the discretion of the SMM/SCC are required to have a clearly defined purposes and responsibilities. Rules for membership on specific committees are contained in the Handbook.

Article VII – Decisionmaking

Section 1 –The SCC is the decisionmaking body of GP-MI between SMMs. The SMM is the supreme decisionmaking body of GP-MI.

Previous discussions, for reference:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/migreens-bylaws/conversations/messages/561>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/migreens-bylaws/conversations/messages/560>

Douglas Campbell

Subject: Re: [migreens-bylaws] ambiguous bylaw -subcommittee eligibility
Date: Sun, 13 Jan 2019 13:42:04 -0500

From: jalp5dai_Catesby <jalp5dai@catesby.org>
To: migreens-bylaws@yahoogroups.com

The suggestion is inconsistent with the history of requiring SCC/SMM approval of members of the Media Committee in particular, who were from the beginning of that committee in 2003 explicitly given the SCC's authority between SMMs to speak for the party.

It is also inconsistent with the statements of purpose adopted for all three standing committees in September 2015 -- after, and as required by, the by-laws change adding this "ambiguous" language as part of the major revision adopted in June 2015 (which also removed language which had said all committees would be "self-selecting", that is, any GPMI member could simply volunteer for any committee). The statements of purpose, quoted from the GPMI Handbook here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dlgix32Y0V31VG0aKcgULY9K5a-miCl1aidbvGZa67E/edit>

read as follows:

/-----\

A) Platform Committee: The Platform Committee shall co-ordinate a proposed GPMI platform for at least every even-numbered year, as well as issue papers and positions, and submit them to the SCC for review and to an SMM for final approval. All Platform Committee members must be members of GPMI, expeditiously approved by the SCC or an SMM.

B) Media Committee: The Media Committee is delegated the SCC's authority to write and publicize press materials on GPMI's activities and policy positions, and may speak to the media on behalf of GPMI. All press materials produced by the committee shall conform to GPMI's platform and other stated policy positions, and shall not significantly extend those positions. All Media Committee members must be members of GPMI, expeditiously approved by the SCC or an SMM.

C) By-Laws Committee: The By-Laws Committee shall be responsible for maintaining the GPMI by-laws, including making any needed text changes that do not alter the content, meaning, or effect of the by-laws; reviewing proposed changes to the by-laws presented to it, and reporting on each such proposal to the SCC and to an SMM. It shall make the current by-laws available in hard copy at each SMM, and to all members and locals in at least one generally-accessible non-proprietary electronic format. All By-Laws Committee members must be members of GPMI, expeditiously approved by the SCC or an SMM.

\-----/

I can provide the minutes of the two SMMs involved if needed.

In this context, the by-laws language is not redundant. Rather, it states explicitly that not only the Media Committee, but also the other standing committees, would require SCC or SMM approval to join. Also, the mention of willingness to serve is not any of the triple synonyms unnecessary, redundant, or superfluous -- because the clause does not apply only to putting someone on a standing committee; any members who state they are no longer willing to serve can on that basis be immediately removed.

* [=====] * [=====] * [=====] *

One more point. Doug was part of this committee when the major revision to the by-laws was discussed in 2015, and involved in several of the conference calls leading to the committee's draft which was brought to the SMM where that revision was adopted. He was also present at the later SMM where the statements of purpose were adopted by consensus -- including amending my initial drafts as indicated in the minutes taken by Sherry A Wells:

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7. GPMI COMMITTEES Statements of Purpose

PROPOSED by John Anthony La Pietra, not present. His proposals for Media, Platform and By-laws Committees, with the amendment to Platform and By-laws of the last sentence of his for Media Committee, that "members must be members of GPMI, expeditiously approved by the SCC or an SMM["] were Passed by Consensus.

\-----/

Since then, all additions of new members to any of the three standing committees have been done by approval of the SCC or an SMM as per that SMM decision. Nevertheless, it was not until last week that Doug mentioned any recorded objections.

He based one of his blocking concerns against a proposal recently before the SCC, to appoint a new member to the GPMI Platform Committee, on the interpretation that the phrase "these bodies" in the by-laws meant to the standing committees *ONLY* -- that the proposal "violate[d] the published bylaws" [quote from his message to the SCC list timestamped 1:53am 2019-01-04], and that the SCC (if not the SMM) did not have the power to appoint members. Now, he is arguing that the SCC and the SMM of course have that power, but that the standing committees should also have it.

Those two positions are inconsistent with each other -- and both are inconsistent with the practice for the past three years and more as well as with the by-laws and the statements of purpose. This committee has the power to recommend the change Doug suggests -- but it should be fully aware of the history and the current situation before deciding to do so. {NOTE: no further discussion until this week}

On 1/13/2019 6:01 AM, 'DouglasCampbell Michigan' naderladuke2000detroit@gmx.com [migreens-bylaws] wrote:

> It has come to my attention that one of the bylaws is ambiguous and needs clarification. To wit:

>

> /Article V I – Committees

> Section 2: Other committees are formed and dissolved at the discretion of the SMM or the SCC. Membership on
> committees is subject to the approval of these bodies. The minimum requirement for committee membership is to be a
> member of GP-MI and be willing to serve on the committee./

>

> It is clear to me that "these bodies" is intended to refer to the subcommittees, not to the SCC or the SMM.

>

> [1] The SCC and the SMM /already/ have the authority to seat and unseat people from subcommittees under its jurisdiction.
> There is no need to restate the obvious and we don't write redundant bylaws.

> [2] The SCC and the SMM won't have to work with the person asking to participate on a subcommittee; the existing members
> of the subcommittee will. Therefore, it should be the subcommittee's members' decision, not the decision of some external,
> uninvolved committee.

> [3] Decentralization is a Key Value. Decisions should be made by the people who are most affected by the decision and we
> don't write bylaws that conflict with Key Values.

>

> I propose the following wording change:

>

> Article V I – Committees

> Section 2: Other subcommittees are formed and dissolved at the discretion of the SMM or the SCC. Membership on
> subcommittees requires membership in the GPMI and is subject to the approval of each respective subcommittee.

> I removed "and be willing to serve on the committee" because it seems unnecessary, redundant & superfluous. This bylaw is
> irrelevant unless someone is requesting a seat on a committee. I renamed them "_sub_committees" to make it clear that we're not
> talking about the SCC or SMM.

> This is a first draft and I probably haven't anticipated every possible circumstance. Let me know if I've neglected anything.

>

>

>-----

>

> Douglas Campbell

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
Tracking "Active Participation" on the GP MI State Central Committee	latest Participation as of:	date emp_hasized . . . d									
date of vote in 11011 more recent than YahooGroup message	90 days before check date =====> 2018-09-30	2018-10-06	2018-11-16								
[]	name	type	2018-12-29	2019-01-04	2019-02-14					
4	Aimee Cree Dunn - Local Representative <starrivore@hotmail.com>	ep/local	2018-12-27	2018-12-27	[resigning]	Amy Slepr	-	Local			
	Representative & Contact <amyslepr@gmail.com>	ep/local	2018-11-20	2018-11-20	2019-02-11	Carlos Valdes	-	National			
	Alternate <debnchuckaye@yahoo.com>	GP-US	2018-12-10	2018-12-10	2018-12-10						
I	Charlotte Aikens - Treasurer <treasurer@michgreenparty.org>	officer	2018-12-28	2018-12-28	2019-01-29						
	Christopher Gilday - GP-US Committee <chrsgilday84@gmail.com>	GP-US	2018-11-25	2018-11-25	2019-01-29						
!!	Daniel B. Martin-Mills - Membership Mgr & Local Rep <membership@michgreenparty.org>	multiple									
	Representative <kariyalover69@yahoo.com>	2018-12-19	2018-12-19	2019-02-03	1.Q_ D arlene Eagley - Identity	Caucus					
	Representative & Contact <BowenDavid@Bellsouth.net>	ep/caucus	[n/a]	[n/a]	[not yet on]	1. David Bowen	-	Local			
	1. Deb Valdes - Local Representative <dbravaldes50@gmail.com>	ep/local	<i>[DQ]O dais/</i>								
	GP-US Committee <naderladuke2000detroit@gmx.com>	GP-US	2018-12-28	2019-01-03	2019-02-13	1. Doug Campbell -					
	Merchandise Mgr, National Alt, & 2 GP-US Cmtes <drayperkins@live.com>	multiple	2018-10-04	[US 10 04]	2019-01-29	ti Eric Borregard - Local					
	Representative <eborregard@ad.com>	ep/local	2018-12-27	2019-01-02	2019-02-11	1. Erin (Michael) Fox -					
	Local Representative & GP-US Committee <info@erinfox.us>	multiple	2018-12-27	2019-01-02	2019-02-11						
1.z.	Frederick Cook - Local Representative <nebulavideo@yahoo.com>	ep/local	<i>[DQ]O dais/</i>								
	Local Representative <jacob@jacobstraley.com>	ep/local	2018-12-28	2019-01-02	2019-02-04	19 Jennifer Kurland - Local					
	Representative <jenniferkurland@yahoo.com>	ep/local	2019-02-05								
	Jessica McCallie-Arquette - Rep at Large & NC Delegate <mccallie.arquette@gmail.com>	multiple	<i>[DQ]O dais/</i>								
	Jessica Smith-Venture - Identity Caucus Representative <letmehearyoumi@yahoo.com>	ep/caucus	[n/a]	[n/a]	2019-02-10						
2/	Jim Becklund - Local Representative & Contact <white_dog_man@yahoo.com>	ep/local	2018-12-28	2019-01-02	2019-02-12						
2S	John Anthony La Pietra - Committee Manager <jalp5dai@catesby.org>	officer	2018-12-29	2019-01-04	2019-02-13						
2.!	John Early - NC Delegate <jearlygreen@yahoo.com>	GP-US	<i>[DQ]O dais/</i>								
2i	Joseph Jordan - Local Representative <ignatiuswriter@gmail.com>	ep/local	2018-12-20	2019-01-02	2019-02-12						
2§	Ligia Grandys - Local Representative & GP-US Committee <kamea_gr@yahoo.com>	multiple	2018-12-24	2018-12-24	2019-02-14						
2.z	Linda Cree- Local Rep, National Alternate, & GP-US Committee <creelinda@hotmail.com>	multiple	2018-12-28	2019-01-04	2019-02-08						
2_!	Linda Najar - National Alternate & GP-US Committee <lnajar@gmail.com>	multiple	<i>[on leave]</i>								
29	Lou Novak - Local Rep, National Alternate, & 2 GP-US Committees <lmn@lppals.com>	multiple	2018-12-28	2018-12-28	2019-02-11						
3.Q	Lu Ann e Kozma - Comm's Mgr, NC Delegate, & Local Rep <communications@michgreenpa	multiple	2018-11-09	2018-11-09	2019-02-12						
3!	Michael Motta - Local Representative & Contact <msumichael1967@yahoo.com>	ep/local	2018-11-20	2018-11-20	2019-01-29						
3/	Mike Zupas - Archivist, Local Rep, & NC Delegate <mrzupasjr@gmail.com>	multiple	2018-11-16	2018-11-16	2019-01-05						
3/	Monika Schwab - Local Representative & Contact <moni.schwab@icloud.com>	ep/local	2018-11-11	2018-11-11	2019-02-04						
3.!	Paul Homeniuk - Chairperson & GP-US Committee <chair@michgreenparty.org>	multiple	2018-12-18	2018-12-18	2019-01-29						
3i	Rita Jacobs - Local Representative, NC Alt, & GP-US Committee <rajacobs@arq.net>	GP-US	2018-12-27	2019-01-02	2019-02-11						
3§	Roger Nye - Local Representative <RWNye@fastmail.fm>	ep/local	2018-12-13	2018-12-13	2019-01-25						
3/	Sherry A Wells - Locals Liaison & Local [Rep?]/Contact <locals@michgreenparty.org>	officer	2018-12-28	2019-01-02	2019-02-11						
3_!	Thomas Wassmer - Local Representative & Contact <twassmer@sienaheights.edu>	ep/local	2019-02-03								
3_!	Tom Mair - Local Representative & Contact <traversegreen@yahoo.com>	ep/local	2018-12-28	2019-01-03	2019-02-12						
4.Q	Veda Balla - GP-US Committee <vedaballa1@gmail.com>	GP-US	2018-12-20	2018-12-20	2019-02-13						

Mission Statement

Co-chairs: Darlene Eagley and Jessica Smith-Venture

The Green Party of Michigan Women's Caucus will organize and act to advance everyone identifying as a woman and their rights within the party in action of our key pillar of feminism in the state at large. With the ultimate goals of maximizing the women's vote for the Green Party, participation of women at all levels of the party and a voter, activist, leadership, candidate and office holder base of women that is reflective of the great diversity of this state and the 10 key values of this party.

Proposal to Dissolve Locals – Sherry Wells

Per the By-laws:

Article III. Section 1:

C) Once the requisite documentation is submitted, the local is automatically an official affiliate of GP-MI and may conduct appropriate business and activism as such. The affiliation may only be ended by a decision on an announced agenda item at an SMM.

We currently have Locals which have become inactive for various reasons and which may better serve our members and the Party by dissolving them in favor soon after of a different configuration. I may have such new Locals ready to form immediately upon passage of these proposals. (Fingers crossed.)

Proposed:

1. That we dissolve the Vehicle City Greens Local.

Background--the convenor lived in Shiawassee County so included it in this Local. He moved to another county. A long-time active Shiawassee member had attended Lansing meetings for many years and is comfortable doing so. Capitol Cities could add another one or two counties. I will seek new officers for Genesee County by itself.

2. That we dissolve the Upper Peninsula's North Country Greens.

Background – Linda Cree and Aimee Cree Dunn have been the motors for a long time and although they plan to remain active Greens up there, conveyed that it is time for them to give others an opportunity. I will work to form an Upper Peninsula Greens Local (any excuse to be there when it's too hot to work in Georgia) composed of all 15 counties, perhaps in regions with gathering as a whole annually (and sharing a bus to the SMMs?!).

We have another Local or so having problems getting leadership--I'll visit as soon as I can.

Sherry A Wells, Locals Liaison

BY-LAWS PROPOSAL for March 2019 SMM, Daniel Martin-Mills

The current GP-MI By-Laws has omitted the office of 'Web Steward' which was approved but poorly defined at the February 24, 2018 SMM in Grand Rapids.

That description reads as follows:

Under the advice and supervision of the web developer, maintains the party's website, updating it as necessary and editing it for errors. Enforces party policies regarding website use and the posting of articles.

The first sentence in the definition above refers to "the web developer". But there is no definition for that term in any GP-MI documentation. In fact, the GP-MI does not have a "web developer" post!

The next and final sentence refers to "party policies regarding the website use and the posting of articles". These could not be referenced because they do not exist either!

I will propose a change to the by-laws below but discuss what the GP-MI actually needs here.

In order to craft a brief job description, we need to consider what the job duties actually are. These can be found in the ["Handbook" chapter for Web Steward](#).

The list of duties is long. The scope is as broad as the organization. Cooperation with all other officers is implied. But most important are the duties regarding hosting account, domain, database, email, and user credentialing.

To assume that one person could fill this post is misguided for two reasons: 1) the job is too big, and 2) we need the security of a backup. In the case of an unexpected absence, another person with passwords and experience needs to be ready to manage things.

We need at least two people for this job. They need to be dedicated to the GP-MI, willing to cooperate with all elected officers, and trustworthy beyond doubt. Not only does this position have access to GP-MI financial and membership data, it controls every electronic resource owned by GP-MI.

BY-LAWS PROPOSAL

This proposal asks that the GP-MI insert into the By-Laws, Article V – Officers, between Section 11 and Section 12, a definition for the Web Steward position, and then renumbering existing Sections sequentially after the newly inserted Section 11.

This proposal asks that the inserted text reads as follows:

Section 11 – Web Steward: Two GP-MI members will be responsible for maintaining GP-MI owned electronic resources, including website hosting, official email, marketing email, according to the [“Handbook” chapter for Web Steward](#).

BY-LAWS PROPOSALS for March 2019 SMM , Sherry A. Wells

A. Electronic Voting

Article VII. Decision-making

Section 3. Decisions shall be made by members attending an SMM in person or electronically . . .

JALP response same day: I'd be okay with this, though I'm not sure it's entirely necessary if we count people as attending either in person or "remotely". (I do.)

Rita: (12/12) If we presented this as the first agenda item at an SMM, then we could accept votes from those attending electronically on the remaining proposals and elections. Great idea.

B. Female and Male Co-chairs

Article V. Officers

Section 2: Chairpersons: There shall be two co-chairpersons, one female and one male. The party Chairs shall respond to requests from the media and the public for interviews and appearances, and seeks opportunities to represent the party to its members and to the public.

C. Standing Committee Membership

Article VI – Committees

Section 2: Other committees are formed and dissolved at the discretion of the SMM or the SCC. Membership on committees is subject to the approval of ~~these bodies~~ the standing committee membership. The minimum requirement for committee membership is to be a member of GP-MI and be willing to serve on the committee. Committees created at the discretion of the SMM/SCC are required to have clearly defined purposes and responsibilities. Rules for membership on specific committees are contained in the Handbook.

D. Locals Reports

Article III. Locals

Section 2: B) Locals may meet and organize as seems best to them, but are responsible for providing a ~~quarterly~~ an update to the ~~appropriate~~ Locals Liaison 6 weeks in advance of the next SMM as to their numbers, structure, and efforts.

Dispute Resolution Committee Proposal:

The purpose of this committee would be to help to mediate and resolve internal disputes between parties. The Green Party has grown considerably in the last several years, but this growth hasn't always been easy. Sometimes disagreements, opposing viewpoints, or personal conflicts have slowed progress. This is unacceptable.

This proposal is asking for the nominations of 7 people annually. These people would use the By-laws to help resolve interpersonal disputes. For this year we are asking that Jessica Smith/Venture and Darryl Gibson be appointed to the DRC, with the remainder of the members of the committee to be voted on at the SMM.

- **If the DRC rules on a dispute the members of the party agree to the decision and resolution of the DRC. Decisions of the DRC MUST be reached in simple majority. If the result of the DRC verdict is thought to be unfair, unjust, or not in accordance with the by-laws, the opposing parties can appeal to the national DRC OR if this local DRC cannot reach simple majority it shall be turned over to the national DRC.**
- **Members of the DRC that are members of another committee can not vote on any issue relating to that committee they are a part of, to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.**
- **No more than 1 member of another committee at one time, to avoid many people people missing out on votes.**

This committee is cost effective, as no extra funding would be needed to implement any changes necessary for this body to perform its duties.

This committee is also a needed addition to help facilitate the growth, strength and influence of GPMI across the state as well as the country.

Thank you for taking the time to carefully consider this important proposal.

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Jessica Smith/Venture- letmehearyoumi@gmail.com

Darryl Gibson-GPDG1@protonmail.com

proposals considered by the SCC since the Pontiac SMM (as of 2019-02-14) John Anthony La Pietra, Committee Manager

- *PROPOSAL* 20181112 (Impose Consequences on People Violating By-Laws with Unruly Behavior at SMMs as On SCC)
[defeated by lack of quorum]
- *PROPOSAL* 20181210 -- Appoint Rita Jacobs to GP-US Banking & Monetary Reform Committee [adopted by consensus]
- *PROPOSAL* 20181212: Approve "Leave of Absence" for Linda Najjar Through 2019-03-10 [adopted by consensus]
- *PROPOSAL* [20]181220 (Endorse 2019 Detroit MLK Day Rally & March, Contribute \$100 to Be a Sponsor) [adopted by consensus]
- *PROPOSAL* 20181228 (appoint Jacob Straley to the GPMI Platform Committee)(replacing *PROPOSAL* 20181227)
[defeated by lack of quorum -- but see 20190112]
- *PROPOSAL* 20190107 -- Fill All Officer Positions by Appointment
[blocking concerns declared; in effect, replaced by 20190108 & related actions]
- *PROPOSAL* 20190108 (notify membership of need to fill officer positions) [adopted by consensus]
- *PROPOSAL* 20190112 (appoint Jacob Straley to GPMI Platform Committee
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- *PROPOSAL* 20190113 (appoint Rita Jacobs as delegate to the National Committee) [adopted by consensus]
- *PROPOSAL* 20190113B (ENDORSE Jan 18th Mass Action Against GM Closing of 5 North American Plants) [adopted by consensus]
- *PROPOSAL* 20190121 (open GPMI offices) [defeated by vote]
- *PROPOSAL* 20190210 (Sign Petition to Support Food and Labor Justice at U-M) [withdrawn]

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