

Green Party of Santa Fe County

December 2, 2008 Business Meeting Minutes

Upcoming Events

December 8, 2008: John Fogerty civil rights trial begins, Judge Johnson's chambers, Federal Court House, 3rd and Lomas, Albuquerque. Contact Marion Seymour for more information.

December 12, 2008: Artists Reception 5-8pm, Silent Auction on Saturday, Dec 13, 5-8pm, Tickets \$10.00 Open Hands, Open Hearts 2nd Annual Fundraiser for Open Hands, Nussbaumer Fine Art Gallery, 314 Guadalupe (at Auga Fria)

December 16, 2008: Green Party Holiday Party, 7pm John and Suzi Otter's house, contact John or Suzi for location and information

December 18, 2008: Holiday Celebration and Fundraiser for Peace, 6:30-8:30 at the Albuquerque Mennonite Church, 1300 Girard NE, Albuquerque

January 6, 2009: Green Party Business Meeting, 7pm, Pyramid Café

January 20, 2009: Green Party Social, 7pm, Pyramid Café

February 3, 2009: Green Party Business Meeting, 7pm, Pyramid Café

February 17, 2009: Green Party Social, 7pm, Pyramid Café

February 24, 2009: Green Party County Convention, 6pm, location to be determined

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silence at 7pm by Xubi Wilson. The following Greens were present at this meeting: Emily Franklin, Sean Knight, Rick Lass (facilitator), John Otter, Suzanne Otter (note taker), Leslie Pearlman, Emile Sawyer, Marion Seymour (actioneer), Sheila Sullivan, Russell Tyldsley, Maurice Webster, and Xubi Wilson (vibes watcher).

Reports

Co-Chair: Xubi Wilson reported that it is time to start working on the County and State Conventions, agreeing on our vision and agenda for 2009 and organizing the annual mailing to Green Party members. Xubi also reported that we have been asked to produce a weekly radio show on KCRC. Xubi will send a letter to Santa Fe Police expressing the Green Party concerns about the image of police in recent ads. He will stress that police are representatives of neighborhoods, not an occupying force.

Treasurer: Sean Knight reported that our balance as of 12/02/08 is \$715.82.

Discussion Items

Green Party Status

Rick Lass provided copies of the relevant sections of the election code on determine Green Party status. According to the state constitution the Green Party of NM after the last election qualifies both for being a major party and for being decertified as a party. The expectation is that decertification will be the choice of the Secretary of State, consequently, we decided to pursue qualifying a new party. This will involve a petition with 3,000 plus signatures, which can be of any registered voter, not only current Green Party members.

Annual Mailing

The annual mailing will include the petition (above), our legislative agenda for 2009, a request to donate money to the party, and details about the convention. A state-wide mailing would cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000; a Santa Fe County mailing would cost approximately \$1,000. At the next business meeting on January 6, 2009 we will agree on the focus for 2009.

Discussion of Green Values, Goals and Focus for 2009

The discussion of our focus for 2009 and beyond included the following topics. It was helpful to think about deciding which issue(s) we will take the lead on, and which issues for which we will show visible support. We will finalize the top two or three issues for the next legislative agenda at the next business meeting on January 6, 2009. Here are the ideas we discussed:

- Taking the lead on good governance, including implementing ranked choice voting in Santa Fe and eliminating straight party voting.
- Implementing ranked choice voting in Santa Fe, working with Voting Matters on this.
- Working toward getting ranked choice voting for party primaries could be part of our legislative agenda.
- Eliminate straight-party voting. This is a good time to begin to build support and build coalitions to make this change. There is no mechanism in the law for straight party voting, so perhaps a law suit would be the mechanism to make this change. The legislative approach is a long haul.
- Abolish the death penalty in New Mexico. This issue would also involve working with a coalition of other groups.
- Environmental issues
- Public Safety
- Health Care
- Schools/small schools in Santa Fe. Think New Mexico has published a paper on small schools. Being active on this issue could carry over into running someone for school board.
- Bottle Bill
- Buy Locally. Economy starts at the local level. Give contracts to locals.
- Localization of energy, sustainable energy into the future.
- Alliances with labor. (In the bailouts for the Big 3 labor will take a big hit. Someone has to stand up for labor.)

Long Term Vision for the Green Party

Now is a good time to begin regular discussion of how to build the movement and establish a 10 or 20-year vision. Where would we like to see the Green movement in New Mexico in the future?

As progressives we need to be on the ball and not let complacency settle in. There were a lot of people involved to elect Obama, *and* an on-going conversation about the progressive agenda is very important at this point. There is a danger that progressives and environmental groups will be too easily bought off. Progressives need to be pushed, stay focused on what is progressive.

It is important for Greens to distinguish ourselves. Society is coming apart at the seams, it's apparent to most people that the things we have been talking about, Green values—turns out we were right. Do we want to be the radical voice?

Perhaps a key values study group will be possible in 2009.

Green Party of Santa Fe County Convention on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 6pm

Date is pending approval from the State Co-Chairs. Xubi and Rick will follow-up with this. The agenda for the county convention will include:

- Green Values in Action Award for 2008
- Election of county officers
- Election of delegates to the state convention

The location of the convention will be determined on January 6, 2009.