



Green Party of Maricopa County (GPMC) General Membership meeting minutes
Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ
Saturday, November 19th, 2005

In attendance: Gina Aroneo, Celeste Castorena, Dennis Davis, Korky Day, Michelle DeHerrera, Rob Jackson, Maria Leyva, Robert Neal, Lynn Ott, Jose Rivas, Richard Scott, Angel Torres & Mary Ellen Wierschem

Richard Scott gave a short history of the GPMC & Arizona Green Party (AZGP)

Roundtable discussion: What is Grassroots Democracy and what does it mean for the Green Party?

- Start small—elect folks to school boards, city council; think globally, act locally
- Real democracy—fairness, sharing of power, proportional representation, etc
- Grassroots—the direction of power is UP!
- Democracy—majority rule, minority rights
- How do we select delegates to our national (Green Party) convention?
- The United States is not a democracy, no longer a republic, but an empire! We need popular (grassroots) political and economic education.

Fundraising (Robert & Angel)

Website (Robert)

Green Party candidates for 2006 (Richard & Robert)

- Run Claudia Ellquist for Governor
- Run folks for city council (Tempe, Glendale, Scottsdale, etc) & school board; start at the local level (Angel)
- Run Green candidates for all races; have “Paper” candidates that don’t campaign (Korky)
- We should be strategic about the campaigns we run (Dennis)
- I can run as Independent against John Kyl; would like to obtain endorsement from the Green Party (Rob Jackson)

Proportional Representation (PR) & Instant Run-off Voting (IRV): Korky

- The League of Women Voters (LWV) has drafted 3 bills on PR/IRV for the next session of the Arizona State Legislature. One of the bills would allow cities or counties the option of PR & IRV. Another bill would allow the IRV option for overseas and military voters.

Yavapai County Greens meeting (Richard)

- Two weeks ago, Richard met with 2 supporters (Jeri Lynn Merritt & Leenie Halbert) about re-starting the Yavapai County Greens chapter

To Do/Wish List:

- Jose—wants to focus on immigration & Native American issues
- Korky—volunteers to be GPMC on-line newsletter editor; newsletter can be viewed on the website, or folks can receive it by e-mail
- Jose—volunteers to be GPMC Speakers Bureau coordinator

Evaluations: “good to see new faces”, “struggle is good”, “we need to improve the Roundtable Discussion; we need guidelines”, “disappointed with low attendance”, “let’s get political campaigns going to motivate Greens”

Adjourn

Green Party of Maricopa County (GPMC) Steering Committee meeting: Agenda & minutes

- Membership Outreach: Mary Ellen—we should put the question on the postcards “What can you contribute? If you can’t attend, please make a donation.” The responses to the telephone calls have been requests for activities & ways to participate. Folks want more social functions/social group. Rob—We should register folks Green when they attend. We should focus on PR/IRV.
- Arizona Green Party (AZGP) State meeting (Angel): Location & date? Jose is working on reserving ASU West for our location. The date will probably be the 1st or 2nd Saturday in January 2006.
- GPMC Holiday Potluck: It will be held at Richard’s home. We will be doing some fundraising at this event.
- Candidates: Looking for Green Party candidates for 2006 elections.
- Jose’s internship ends in December 2005.