

The Green Party of New Mexico's annual state convention was held in the Jemez room at Santa Fe Community College, Saturday, March 21, 2009.

State Co-chair Michal Mudd chaired the meeting.

Following introductions, the 21 people in attendance observed a moment of silence before proceeding with the agenda.

Guest speaker Jeanne Green, a member of Code Pink, spoke about attempts to bring the National Guard home from Iraq through House Joint Memorial #18 and Senate Memorial #20. Because of the importance of this issue, Terry Mulcahy, who took minutes, inserts the following details as presented by Jeanne Green:

One half of all soldiers in Iraq are National Guard, approximately 600,000.

The Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq that allowed National Guard troops to be sent to Iraq is no longer applicable.

1- their mission was to protect the United States from attack

2- they were there to enforce the UN security resolution.

Instead, there have been re-deployments of the Guard.

Jeanne emphasized that use of the Guard in this manner is a dangerous precedent, and that there is a multi-state effort to bring the Guard home. Marilyn Huff also spoke about the human cost. She said that even though there is extreme danger, the Guard has lower status than other military personnel. As an example, she pointed out that, for the Guard, only combat time counts towards their medical care allowance. All other military personnel have all their time in service count towards their medical care allowance. Additionally, the National Guard are the last in line for medical leave.

There is a petition that already had a thousand signatures at the time of the meeting. The petition is addressed to NM Governor Bill Richardson to bring the Guard home. In addition, everyone should write letters to Richardson to remind him that, while running for President, he said that our National Guard are needed here.

Following their presentation, the Green Values Award was presented to Viki Elkey, Executive Director of the Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty for her 12 -year struggle to get the bill passed that repeals the death penalty in New Mexico. The death penalty had been repealed, but was reinstated in 1979. The legislation has been signed by Governor Richardson, and will substitute Life Without Parole for crimes that had been assigned the death penalty.

Ken Hughes gave a presentation on oil. He reminded us that the United States has already passed the peak oil point (the amount of oil taken from all available resources reached it's maximum level, and will always decline from now on). This underscores the need to find alternatives to the use of oil. Coal, Ken said, is only used for heating and electricity and is not a replacement for oil, so the arguments for using coal to back up our declining oil reserves are bogus.

A carbon emissions cap is supported by US President Barack Obama.

Ken also spoke about the need for more efficient and green electricity generation. Just 15 square miles of solar panels could power the entire state of New Mexico, for example, and New Mexico has the available land to do this. Ken also emphasized the promotion and use of renewable energy.

Virginia Miller spoke about the bill, sponsored by Jerry Ortiz y Pino that would establish an

Office of Peace. The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee 5-0, but was waylaid in the Senate Finance Committee by John Arthur Smith, who objected to the use of the word 'Peace'. Alternate language was suggested, such as Office of Restorative Justice, but this was not enough to overcome objections to the bill. Virginia said that it will be a continuing process, to work with Senators over the meaning of the bill, and peace, and to ferret out what the specific objections are. This bill had the support of the State Green Party, the Santa Fe Green Party, and the Bernalillo Green Party.

After the break, the treasurer reported that although there was \$9075 in the Green Party account at the end of 2007, it is now \$5322. There is still a fund of \$2500 in a separate litigation account. \$6500 was donated to the Rick Lass campaign, which is the maximum allowed by law, 10% of the amount of public financing. Questions were raised about the use of and replacement of revolving funds, as they are considered loans, but the money given to the Rick Lass campaign was not a loan. The Green party's officers were strongly encouraged to work on rules for the use of revolving funds, donations, and loans to campaigns. A motion was also made to discontinue automatic dues deductions, or find another way to do it, due to the fees associated with the process. There was no second, although there was some discussion of the matter.

Marion Seymour reported on the Rick Lass campaign, which was the highlight of the State elections. It was moved and seconded, without objections, that Rick Lass be sent a thank-you letter by the Co-chairs.

Robin Wakeland, NM Green Party National Representative, spoke of the National committee's report on Water Policy, which makes water policy a priority as an issue for National, State, and Local Green Parties. It was moved and seconded that the State Convention vote approval of this idea of water policy as our #1 issue, but consensus was blocked by a member of the Santa Fe delegation. After discussion, a new motion was made to: 1.) abstain from voting on it now, 2.) Have the proposal resubmitted (since it had a deadline for approval) and 3.) Ask for an extension of time to approve the policy idea. Since Martin Zehr is on the Committee that drafted the report, it was added to the motion that he be asked to resubmit the proposal to make water policy our #1 issue. Consensus was reached.

Election of Officers

Michal Mudd, current Co-chair, and Terry Mulcahy were nominated as State Co-chairs, and Russell Tyldesley, currently serving as Treasurer, accepted the nomination to serve one more year only. There were no nominations offered for Secretary. Current National Representative Robin Wakeland was nominated to continue in that capacity. Rick Fabrick was also nominated, as two representatives are needed, and Tom Knoblauch was nominated as an alternate. All nominations were accepted. There being no opposition to election of the above named people to serve or continue to serve as officers, the nominees were accepted as State of New Mexico Green Party officers by acclamation with consensus.

\$75 was collected by passing the hat to help pay for the convention expenses.

It was suggested that a press release extol the convention, and announce the new officers. I believe it was expected that the Co-chairs do this.

The Green Party of NM now has a Facebook page...

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=50478438362>