

Wrap Up from the State Green Gathering

At the recent Green Gathering, which attracted more than 40 representatives from around the state, Greens elected new officers to the State party. John Otter and Kathy Sanchez were voted in as Co-Chairs; Bill Pelsue, Secretary; and David Thompson, Treasurer. Suzi Otter and Joe Lacayo are our new National Representatives, with Michael Collins and Michal Mudd serving as alternates.

Keynote speakers were Matt Gonzales and Ross Mirkarimi from San Francisco California. Ross now holds the seat won originally won by Matt on the board of supervisors. Both are Greens who have run successful election campaigns and are highly respected in their community. Ross spoke of the positive impact IRV is having in the San Francisco races. Fran Gallagos, our Green Municiple Judge spoke of her struggles with both major parties and her gratitude to Greens who gave her a home and helped her gain and retain office, and implement her successful and innovative programs.

Out-going Co-Chairs Joe Lacayo and Carol Miller brought us up to date on the State Party and gave a review of their three year tenure as the Party's chief officers. Carol Miller urged us to follow through on priorities set at the April Green Council Meeting. Carol stressed the need to work on Health Care with single payer health insurance; voting rights with Instant Runoff Voting (now called Ranked Choice); Peace; and Economic Justice through Living Wage initiatives. She cited that these issues should be priorities of government. We also learned from Carol that Green Party, Silver City Councilor, Gary Klaus, is considering a run for mayor.

Incoming Co-Chair, John Otter told of his history with the Green Party, which began in California, and took him as far as a Global Green meeting in Australia. He emphasized that we are a movement as well as a political party. He would like us to relate our activities to the Green Mission. John plans to solicit ideas and input on processes from Greens from around the state. He sees that updating the platform as important and as a tool in developing strong locals. John also spoke to the need for more visibility on college campuses throughout the State.

Sean Knight and Emily Franklin, along with food and snack donations from other local Greens, organized the delicious supper, which made for a fine social occasion.

Many thanks to all those who helped make the Gathering such a success!