

# State Meeting

## Ashburn Library

43316 Hay Rd., Ashburn , VA

January 5, 2013

### Minutes of GPVA Business Meeting on January 5, 2013

Present were: Audrey Clement, Kirit Mookerjee, John Reeder, Tamar and Tom Yager (Arlington), Sid Smith (At-Large), Charlie Jordan (Blue Ridge), Chris Fink (Fredericksburg), Mike Shushan (Hampton Roads), Chris Simmons (Loudoun), and Bill Benson and Joe Galdo (NoVA).

Also in attendance was former Arlington local member and current At-Large GPVA member Jim Hurysz. Having been advised that the GPVA Interim Committee recently amended GPVA Bylaws, ARTICLE IV. POLITICAL PRACTICES, 4-8. Access to Meetings and Records to read:

4-8.1 Meetings and records of finances and membership of the GPVA shall be open to attendance or inspection by any member of the GPVA except:

4-8.1(a) members who have been expelled or suspended by a Green Local or by GPVA itself;"

Jim was asked by the facilitator to leave the meeting, inasmuch as he had been expelled from the Arlington local. Jim disputed this, insisting that he'd simply resigned. Audrey mentioned the minutes of the October 3, 2012 Arlington local meeting, which indicate that a proposal to expel Jim from the Arlington local was adopted on a vote of 4-1-1. A proposal to remove Jim from the GPVA meeting was adopted on a vote of 5-1-1, after which Jim departed the meeting.

#### 1. Introduction.

Audrey vetted new At-Large member Sid Smith as a voting member of the party. On Charlie's recommendation, Audrey agreed to attach the outcome of recent Interim Committee votes as an addendum to the minutes.

Quorum consisting of at least half or two (2) of the four locals participating in the two most recent business meetings--Arlington, Blue Ridge and Loudoun on 9/8/12 and Arlington and Fredericksburg on 6/10/12--having been met, the meeting was called to order.

#### 2. Choose timekeeper, vibes watcher, facilitator, note taker.

Tom was appointed facilitator, Chris Simmons timekeeper, Sid vibes watcher, and Audrey note taker.

#### 3. Ratify agenda.

A proposal by John Reeder to substitute the co-chairs' previously published agenda with an another agenda was defeated on a vote of 3-6-1.

The co-chairs' agenda was amended and agreed to by consensus as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Choose timekeeper, vibes watcher, facilitator, note taker
3. Ratify agenda
4. Co-chairs report
5. Press secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. GPUS representatives report
8. Local reports

Break

9. Officer and GPUS representatives election

Lunch

10. Report on GPVA and Presidential campaigns
11. Status of Rockbridge Greens<

Break

12. Media workshop
13. Closing circle

#### 4. Co-chairs report.

Audrey reported that Tom and she had participated in a conference call convened by Libertarian Party leader Bill Redpath on 1/1/13 to discuss endorsement of SB690 introduced by State Senator Dick Black that reduces the petition requirement for presidential candidates in Virginia from 10,000 to 5,000 and the district requirement from 400 to 200 valid signatures.

Audrey has committed to going to Richmond on January 21 to lobby for the bill. Inasmuch as January 21 is a federal holiday, she asked other Virginia Greens to join her there.

Tom announced that he is setting up several local organizing meetings around the state and plans to convene one in the Richmond/Hampton Roads area in March.

#### 5. Press secretary's report.

Since the interim press secretary was absent from the meeting, the report was tabled.

#### 6. Treasurer's report.

Kirit reported that there is \$1,219.74 in GPVA regular account at Carter Bank and Trust located in Staunton, Va. There were a number of small donations. Expenses included renewal of the P.O. box and reimbursement of Audrey for production of a Green Party sample ballot for the November, 2012 election.

Audrey reported that there is \$278.61 in the GPVA Federal PAC account at Wells Fargo Bank and that Kirit and she want to move the account to a credit union, because Wells Fargo charges a \$5 monthly fee on new accounts under \$500, although it waived the fee for the last two months of 2012. She has submitted an application for an account with Signal Financial Credit Union.

#### 7. GPUS representatives report.

Tamar reported that GPUS has formed a youth caucus. The National Committee has approved a proposal to affiliate Kentucky and is considering proposals to declare Utah and Nevada inactive, due to lack of participation in National Committee affairs.

Tom reported that as GPUS Ballot Access Committee co-chair, he is putting together a plan to identify states to send petitioners in 2013 and 2014 with a view towards increasing the number of states with ballot status in 2016.

#### 8. Local reports.

Bill reported that with the untimely death of Paul Hughes last September, the NoVA Greens are on life support with only three active members.

Chris Fink reported that Fredericksburg is also on life support and wants the list of Jill Stein donors from that area. Tamar indicated that the Stein donors are on a list that she forwarded to Audrey for incorporation in the GPVA mailing list, and Audrey indicated that they were added to the list.

Mike reported that the Hampton Roads Greens haven't met in two and a half years. Tamar said she will encourage members and donors from the area to attend the March local organizing meeting.

John reported that gentrification is a grinding reality in Arlington County and that the Arlington Greens are petitioning to get a housing authority referendum on the ballot in November. He solicited petitioning support from other locals, and Audrey said she'll ask Chris Fink to post the petition on the GPVA website. Kirit said that he will meet with Arlington County Board Chair Walter Tejada to discuss the petition in his capacity as a member of the county's Landlord-Tenant Commission.

Chris Simmons reported that Loudoun County is off life support, having updated its membership list and developed a new website. He said that the Loudoun Greens should identify their boundaries, especially since a former Democratic Party chair from adjacent Frederick County wants to form a local. Tom reported another Democratic Party defection in Lexington who might revive the Rockbridge Greens.

At-Large member Sid Smith said he wants to organize a local in the Appomattox area where he lives. Audrey recommended that he reorganize the Central Virginia Greens local centered in Charlottesville, because there might be more Green leaning voters there, and promised to forward contact information of several other Greens in the area.

#### 9. Officer and GPUS representatives election.

The following officers were elected:

Male Co-Chair, John Reeder

Female Co-Chair, Audrey Clement

Treasurer, Kirit Mookerjee

Webmaster, Chris Fink

Press Secretary, Chris Simmons

GPUS Delegates, Tamar Yager and Joe Galdo

GPUS Alternates, Audrey Clement and Mike Shushan

Listserv Moderator, Charlie Jordan

An election report is attached as an addendum to the minutes.

#### 10. Report on GPVA and Presidential campaigns.

The party conducted a postmortem on recent Green Party election campaigns conducted in the state including Jill Stein's campaign for President.

Chris Simmons commented on his reelection to Loudoun County Soil and Water Board. Joe and Audrey described their recent campaigns for Congress in CD 11 and Arlington County Board, respectively. The party adopted by consensus a resolution proposed by Audrey to endorse SB690 and recommend that the General Assembly consider future legislation to reduce signature requirements for other statewide offices, as well as reduce from 10 to 2 the percentage of votes needed in statewide elections for parties to retain ballot status.

#### 11. Status of Rockbridge Greens.

The party adopted by consensus a resolution to disaffiliate the Rockbridge Greens local, which has participated in no party activities and has attended no meetings for at least five years.

#### 12. Media workshop.

Chris Simmons gave a PowerPoint presentation on how to use the media to promote political campaigns. Chris Fink agreed to upload the presentation to the GPVA server and post a link to it. Tamar proposed dissemination of a monthly email newsletter, saying: "If there's something to report, there's something to support."

#### 13. Closing circle.

The date and location of the next meeting is TBD.

*Audrey Clement, Note Taker*

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**ADDENDUM A**  
**GPVA Interim Committee Actions**

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Proposal adopted by the GPVA Interim Committee on December 30, 2012 on a vote of 7-2-1.

SPONSOR(S): Audrey Clement

SUBJECT/TITLE: Proposal to Amend GPVA Bylaws, Article IV, Political Practices, Section H

**PROPOSAL:**

Substitute Section IV.H of GPVA Bylaws, which currently states:

"H. Meetings and records of finances, membership, and minutes of the GPVA shall be open to inspection by any member of the GPVA in good standing. GPVA meetings may be closed to non-members on a majority vote in personnel or legal matters or if required by law."

with the following language:

"4-8.1 Meetings and records of finances and membership of the GPVA shall be open to attendance or inspection by any member of the GPVA except:

"(a) members who have been expelled or suspended by a Green local or by GPVA itself;

"(b) members who have been barred from GPVA meetings.

"4-8.2 GPVA meetings may be closed to non-members on a majority vote."

**REFERENCES:**

GPVA Bylaws

<http://www.vagreenparty.org/bylaws.html>

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Proposal adopted by the GPVA Interim Committee on December 30, 2012 on a vote of 7-1-1.

SPONSOR(S): Audrey Clement and Tom Yager

SUBJECT/TITLE: Proposal to Amend GPVA Bylaws, Article VII Membership

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE:**

Present rules governing the standard of conduct for GPVA members contained in Article VII of GPVA Bylaws are prescriptive rather than proscriptive.

They describe how members should conduct themselves, but do not spell out the kinds of activity that ought to be proscribed.

The co-chairs agree that Article VII could be improved by incorporating language that details the types of activities that could result in sanctions by the party against recalcitrant members. This language, which comprises Section 7-2.2 of the proposal, was adapted from the section on membership standards contained in the Bylaws of the Arlington Green Party.

In addition, the co-chairs want to streamline the process for sanctioning members who are found to have violated the GPVA standard of conduct. The streamlined membership review process, which is contained in Section 7-3 of the proposal, was also adapted from the Bylaws of the Arlington Green Party.

**PROPOSAL:**

**SECTION I**

Amend GPVA Bylaws by substituting Article VII in its entirety with the following language:

**ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP**

**7-1 Eligibility**

7-1.1 Membership in GPVA is open to all members of GPVA locals in Virginia and/or anyone holding membership in the GPVA At Large local, except for officers, official spokespersons, candidate and central committee members of other competing political parties.

7-1.2 For purposes of enforcing 7-1.1, GPVA shall determine which political parties are competing.

7-1.3 The GPVA welcomes and embraces all members regardless of age, race, color, gender, spiritual belief, physical challenge, sexual orientation OR

**NATIONAL ORIGIN.**

**7-2 Membership Standards**

7-2.1 Members of GPVA are expected to:

- . uphold the Ten Key Values;
- . be honest and forthright in all dealings;
- . act scrupulously in handling state and local party funds.

7-2.2 Members of GPVA are proscribed from engaging in the following activities:

7-2.2(a) committing GPVA to actions, endorsements, and other policy positions outside that body's decision-making process;

7-2.2(b) misrepresenting the decisions or policies of the party or its officers;

7-2.2(c) financial irregularities with party funds;

7-2.2(d) acting to subvert the Green Party or its values, for example:

. advocacy or practice of racial, sexual, national or religious oppression;

. advocacy or practice of violent political actions; or

. acting as a strike-breaker, agent provocateur, or government or corporate informer;

7-2.2(e) acting to willfully disrupt the freedom of speech, press or assembly of any member or members of GPVA; or

7-2.2(E) INFRINGING THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF OTHERS BY DISRUPTING PARTY MEETINGS OR PERSONALLY ATTACKING OTHER MEMBERS IN GREEN PARTY FORUMS; OR

7-2.2(f) acting contrary to the principles of grassroots democracy.

7-3 Membership Review Process

7-3.1 GPVA may MAY REPRIMAND, BAR FROM MEETINGS, SUSPEND, EXPEL OR OTHERWISE SANCTION members who behave in a manner inconsistent with its membership standards as defined in 7-2 above.

7-3.2 CHARGES OF VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE MEMBERSHIP STANDARDS MAY BE MADE BY ANY MEMBER OR MEMBERS.

7-3.3 SUCH CHARGES MUST BE FORWARDED IN WRITING TO ONE OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE GPVA WHO WILL CONFER TOGETHER. IF EITHER OR BOTH CO-CHAIRS BELIEVE THAT THE CHARGES ARE WARRANTED, OR IF HALF THE AFFILIATED LOCALS AGREE WITH THE CHARGES, THEN THE MATTER SHALL BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED GPVA MEETING.

7-3.4 All members charged with violations of membership standards shall have the right to rebut the charges.

7-3.5 The burden of proof shall be on those making the charges. After hearing testimony from the accusers and the accused, including the presentation of evidence and/or witnesses BY BOTH SIDES, the membership shall vote to impose sanctions on the accused by a two-thirds vote.

7-3.6 MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE PARTY MAY HAVE THEIR RIGHTS RESTORED IF:

(a) THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY A LOCAL ARE REVOKED BY THE LOCAL, OR

(b) THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY GPVA ARE REVOKED BY GPVA, OR

(c) THE SANCTIONS EXPIRE, OR

(d) THE INTERIM COMMITTEE VOTES TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS.

7-4 Voting Rights

7-4.1 Each GPVA member, who is registered with the state party for at least one year or is designated to party officers by his/her local representative or alternate as a member in good standing of the local, is entitled to vote on proposals presented at business meetings.

7-4.2 At Large members who wish to exercise voting rights within the first year of joining the party shall be vetted by one of the co-chairs.

SECTION II

For ease of readability and reference, recodify GPVA Bylaws to conform with the numbering scheme reflected in SECTION I above.

REFERENCES:

GPVA Bylaws

<http://www.vagreenparty.org/bylaws.html>

Arlington Green Party Bylaws

[http://www.arlingtongreens.org/files/AGP\\_Bylaws\\_090815.pdf](http://www.arlingtongreens.org/files/AGP_Bylaws_090815.pdf)

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Proposal adopted by the GPVA Interim Committee on December 30, 2012 on a vote of 7-3-0.

SPONSOR(S): Tamar Yager

SUBJECT/TITLE: Proposal to Amend GPVA Bylaws, Article XIV, Officers, Section C

BACKGROUND:

Concern has been expressed within GPVA about a lack of rotation among officers, especially the Co-chairs. THIS PROPOSAL STAGGERS THE ELECTIONS OF GPVA CO-CHAIRS, AND LIMITS TO TWO THE NUMBER OF TERMS WHICH A CO-CHAIR MAY SERVE CONSECUTIVELY.

THIS PROPOSAL WILL ALLOW EACH OF THE CURRENT CO-CHAIRS TO RUN FOR ANOTHER TERM. FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL, THE TERM OF ONE OF THE ELECTED CO-CHAIRS WILL BE SET AT ONE YEAR, AND THE TERM OF THE OTHER ELECTED CO-CHAIR WILL BE SET AT TWO YEARS. THE CO-CHAIRS ELECT WILL DECIDE BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT WHICH TERM TO SERVE.

PROPOSAL

Substitute Section XIV.C of GPVA Bylaws which currently states:

"C. Each Officer shall be elected for a term of one year."

with the following language:

"C. The Officers shall be elected as follows:

"1. The Treasurer, Press Secretary and Webmaster shall be elected to a term of one year each.

"2. The Co-chairs shall be elected to a term of two years each.

"a. The election of the Co-chairs shall be staggered by one year.

"b. THE CO-CHAIRS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE NO MORE THAN TWO TERMS CONSECUTIVELY."

REFERENCES:

GPVA Bylaws

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**ADDENDUM B  
GPVA ELECTION RESULTS**

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**RESULTS FOR GPVA OFFICER ELECTION**

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Female - Co-Chair

Votes Candidate

6 Audrey Clement

1 write-in

Male - Co-Chair

6 John Reeder

3 Tom Yager

1 Charlie Jordan

Treasurer

8 Kirit Mookerjee

1 Charlie Jordan

Webmaster

8 Chris Fink

2 Charlie Jordan

Press Sec'y

9 Chris Simmons

1 Charlie Jordan

Delegate

Tamar Yager

Joe Galdo

(see below for STV round results)

Alternate

Mike Shushan

Audrey Clement

(see below for STV round results)

Moderator

6 Charlie Jordan

5 Sid Smith

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**STV RESULTS FOR GPUS NC DELEGATE ELECTION WITH 4 SEATS**

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OpenSTV version 2.1.0 (<http://www.OpenSTV.org/>)

Loading ballots from file Ballots.bit.

Ballot file contains 8 candidates and 10 ballots.

No candidates have withdrawn.

Ballot file contains 10 non-empty ballots.

Method Options:

Title -- 2013 GPVA NC Delegates Election

Seats -- 4

Counting votes using Scottish STV.

R|Audrey |Joe |Mike |Chris |Charlie |Sheri

|-----

|Tamar |Kirit |Exhausted |Surplus |Threshold

=====

1| 2.00000| 2.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 1.00000| 0.00000

| 5.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 2.00000| 3.00000

|-----

| Count of first choices. Candidate Tamar has reached the threshold and

| is elected. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be

| transferred for the next round.

=====

2| 2.00000| 2.40000| 1.20000| 0.40000| 1.00000| 0.00000

| 3.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 3.00000

|-----

| Count after transferring surplus votes from Tamar with a transfer

| value of 2.00000/5.00000. No candidates have surplus votes so

| candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next

| round.

=====

3| 2.00000| 2.40000| 1.20000| 0.40000| 1.00000|

| 3.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 3.00000

|-----

| Count after eliminating Sheri and transferring votes. Candidates Sheri

| and Kirit were tied when choosing candidates to eliminate. Candidate  
| Sheri was chosen by breaking the tie randomly. No candidates have  
| surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes  
| transferred for the next round.

=====  
4| 2.00000| 2.40000| 1.20000| 0.40000| 1.00000|  
| 3.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 3.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Kirit and transferring votes. No candidates  
| have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes  
| transferred for the next round.

=====  
5| 2.00000| 2.80000| 1.20000| | 1.00000|  
| 3.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 3.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Chris and transferring votes. No candidates  
| have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes  
| transferred for the next round.

=====  
6| 2.00000| 2.80000| 2.20000| | |  
| 3.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 3.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Charlie and transferring votes. Candidates  
| Audrey, Joe, and Mike are elected.

Winners are Audrey, Joe, Mike, and Tamar.

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#### STV RESULTS FOR GPUS NC DELEGATE ELECTION WITH 2 SEATS

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OpenSTV version 2.1.0 (<http://www.OpenSTV.org/>)

Loading ballots from file Ballots.bl.

Ballot file contains 8 candidates and 10 ballots.

No candidates have withdrawn.

Ballot file contains 10 non-empty ballots.

Method Options:

Title -- 2013 GPVA NC Delegates Election

Seats -- 2

Counting votes using Scottish STV.

R|Audrey |Joe |Mike |Chris |Charlie |Sheri

-----  
|Tamar |Kirit |Exhausted |Surplus |Threshold

=====  
1| 2.00000| 2.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 1.00000| 0.00000  
| 5.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 1.00000| 4.00000

-----  
| Count of first choices. Candidate Tamar has reached the threshold and  
| is elected. Candidates have surplus votes so surplus votes will be  
| transferred for the next round.

=====  
2| 2.00000| 2.20000| 0.60000| 0.20000| 1.00000| 0.00000  
| 4.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 0.00000| 4.00000

-----  
| Count after transferring surplus votes from Tamar with a transfer  
| value of 1.00000/5.00000. No candidates have surplus votes so  
| candidates will be eliminated and their votes transferred for the next  
| round.

=====  
3| 2.00000| 2.20000| 0.60000| 0.20000| 1.00000| 0.00000  
| 4.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 4.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Kirit and transferring votes. Candidates Sheri  
| and Kirit were tied when choosing candidates to eliminate. Candidate  
| Kirit was chosen by breaking the tie randomly. No candidates have  
| surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes  
| transferred for the next round.

=====  
4| 2.00000| 2.20000| 0.60000| 0.20000| 1.00000|  
| 4.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 4.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Sheri and transferring votes. No candidates  
| have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes  
| transferred for the next round.

5| 2.00000| 2.40000| 0.60000| | 1.00000|  
| 4.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 4.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Chris and transferring votes. No candidates  
| have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes  
| transferred for the next round.

=====  
6| 2.00000| 2.80000| | | 1.20000|  
| 4.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 4.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Mike and transferring votes. No candidates  
| have surplus votes so candidates will be eliminated and their votes  
| transferred for the next round.

=====  
7| 2.00000| 4.00000| | | |  
| 4.00000| | 0.00000| 0.00000| 4.00000

-----  
| Count after eliminating Charlie and transferring votes. Candidate Joe  
| has reached the threshold and is elected.  
Winners are Joe and Tamar.