Webmaster / IT Committee Report

GPVA Meeting 1/31/2017

During this reporting period, the IT Committee has pursued the goal of supplying the GPVA with a new website and upgrades to our IT services, including membership and contact management. Under direction of the webmaster, the IT Committee met multiple times in October 2016 to formulate a plan to upgrade our IT services, and this plan was submitted to the GPVA Interim Committee for review on Dec. 8, 2016. This plan called for short-term implementation of a NationBuilder website, to immediately capitalize on its promise of access to state voter lists and social media integration, followed by longer-term implementation of a self-hosted Drupal-based website, to take advantage of its wide range of mature, no-cost content management and contact management capabilities. At present, both sites are up and running (NationBuilder at https://vagreenparty.nationbuilder.com, and Drupal at http://www.vagreenparty.com), but neither has any content, and some design decisions are still underway. The IT Committee plans to hold another meeting in February to assess status and jump-start the population of these sites with data and content.

– Submitted by Christopher Fink, GPVA Webmaster

Webmaster / IT Committee Report

GPVA Meeting 5/5/2017

During this reporting period, the Webmaster and IT committee made great progress on our website & IT services advancement plan (submitted to co-chairs for IC consideration 12/8/16, and posted on the GPVA IT Committee page at http://www.vagreenparty.org/it.

In addition, an IT committee meeting was held April 5, 2017, at which the Webmaster presented the new Drupal site to the committee, and noted the list of remaining items to be performed, which members could (and still can) volunteer for by obtaining a website account and logging in.

Specifically:

1. The GPVA Press Secretary has been posting his own press releases on the new Drupal site since

February.
2. The new site has a "Location Map" which shows the boundaries of each local, to make it easy for new members to choose the one closest to them, and to contact the right local reps.
3. The May GPVA state meeting, as well as the FGP meeting schedule, have been added to the new Drupal site's online calendar.
4. Links to the GPVA Facebook, NationBuilder, Reddit, & Twitter pages have been added.
5. Much work has gone into the formation of a standard template for Committee Pages, to make it easy to organize their mission statements, internal task lists, membership rolls, and public documents.
6. The NationBuilder site has also seen significant recent improvement, with the addition of introductory text, important sign-up links, and social media integration.

Next steps on the Drupal site will be (a) again encouraging participation in completion of the remaining tasks, (b) setting up a Wiki page so that IT committee members can quickly get familiar with the basics of Drupal (and our particular site's conventions) before starting on a task, (c) fleshing out the remaining committee pages, (d) migrating the listserves to the new server, and (e) migrating the member database into the new site.

Next steps on the NationBuilder site will start with importing the contacts gained from the Stein list.

- Submitted by Chris Fink, GPVA Webmaster

Webmaster / IT Committee Report

GPVA Meeting 7/23/2017

As was reported in previous meeting minutes, the GPVA's IT Committee has two current goals -- First, the publication of an (ultimately temporary) NationBuilder website, and secondly the transfer of our main website to a new (permanent) Drupal-based system.

The NationBuilder website is being handled mainly by Tamar Yager and Tim Cotton, and unfortunately I cannot speak to the progress on that system at this time. However, I will ensure that the IT Committee holds another internal meeting soon, to discuss this.

The Drupal website, meanwhile, is being updated by the IT Committee as a whole, and while a number of committee members have stepped up to the plate to help out, by signing up for site access accounts, I'm not sure much progress has been made since May. I will point out, though, that many of the site's features are already in regular use (e.g. article and press release updates), and that IT Committee members may find a list of outstanding tasks on the committee page, to which they are welcome to ascribe their names. Personally, I have spent some time learning how to move our listserves and membership lists over to the new system, and have been successful at this for a different website that I manage. So in short, I believe that with the exception of the task of moving our archives (old meeting minutes, etc.) to the new site, we are very close to the point where we can use the new site for all future business.

- Chris Fink, Webmaster

IT Committee Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2017

Attendance : Christopher Fink, Tamar Yager, Jake Levitt

1. **NationBuilder Site**: Primary need right now is to close out the PayPal integration. We have a donation button, the code of which can be put anywhere on the site, but the hard part is the back-end integration, which (presumably) downloads the donation data from PayPal into a financial database, keyed to the donor's account. Tamar reports that many people have offered their assistance with this, including Andrew Franke, Tim Cotton, and Sean Imanian, but no progress has yet been made.
2. **Drupal Site:** Chris reports that he has learned how to (a) import membership databases into Drupal, and (b) migrate MailMan mailing lists from one server to another. The tricky part with the MailMan lists is that we don't want to have to change the domain of our email addresses, even though the MailMan lists will (temporarily) need to be hosted on the vagreenparty.com server, while the vagreenparty.org server is down for overhaul. Once this detail is figured out, the functionality will be in place to leave the old website behind and move over to the new site for current operations, though there will still be plenty of old content to migrate over.

- Chris Fink, Webmaster