

# Indiana Green Party

## MINUTES - APRIL 2001

### 1. Attendance

Bethany Hayes, Skywolf, Margaret Burns, Billy Floyd, Tom Brown

### 2. IGP web site

Tom announced his decision to drive to Indy every third month and to donate the saved travel money and personal time to underwrite and publish a state web site. Although all were disappointed that Tom wouldn't attend every month, the organizing committee accepted the offer. Space on the server will be provided for every Green local that wants to publish web pages. Another goal is to centralize data collection and decentralize reporting to make organizing easier for the locals. Authorized local organizers and chapter secretaries will be able to download sorted contact lists from the central data store.

Tom forgot to ask for authorization to spend \$75 to reserve a domain name for two years. But he will do that on the Ingreens list.

### 3. Alternative Earth Day in Indy

The committee decided by consensus to participate in the alternative Earth Day commemoration sponsored by Common Bonds. Common Bonds is comprised of two dozen progressive organizations in Marion Co. and the state.

The committee decided by consensus to spend \$50 on photocopying the GPUSA brochure and a 1/4 page insert re the IGP. Skywolf will produce the brochure and insert. Skywolf and Bethany volunteered to table at the event.

Common Bonds is emerging as a very strong confederal voice for the first time in its history. The organization is more inclusive and tolerant of diverse viewpoints than ever before according to Skywolf. Although IGP will miss the opportunity to reach the larger number of people sure to attend corporate sponsored Earth Day, we decided to encourage political alliances with the Common Bonds member organizations. CAC, HEC, and groups less well known will participate in the Alternative Earth Day.

### 4. Ballot access

Bethany and Margaret report ICFEL was unable to stop or alter the language in a General Assembly bill which will make it more difficult for minor parties to obtain ballot access. The proposed law would move the petition deadline to June from its current July date. The clear intention is to deny the July 4th holiday to petition drives and to reduce the number of fair weather days to petition.

ICFEL's tact is to contact the Governor and Attorney General and appeal to them to advise the General Assembly that the proposed law (a) restricts ballot access, (b) is unconstitutional, (c) is unlikely to survive a court challenge, and (d) is therefore a waste of taxpayer money. ICFEL has contacted the ACLU and is submitting an

application for assistance.

Bethany cautioned that IGP needs to begin recruiting a candidate to run for Secretary of State. She also said that the Libertarian Party reps at ICFEL are impressed with what Greens have accomplished in such a short time and could feel threatened.

## **5. Proposal to decriminalize drugs**

Skywolf submitted a proposal for IGP to adopt a drug decriminalization policy. Although the committee was sympathetic, it decided that state level policy positions are the purview of a Congress of the IGP, not an organizing committee. We shared our viewpoints on drug decriminalization and offered to criticize the proposal so that Skywolf can rewrite it for broader support.

## **6. Affiliation with GPUSA and ASGP**

After a friendly, frank and focused discussion we arrived at consensus to propose affiliation with both national organizations at the June Congress. Understandably there was some confusion about the goals and practices of ASGP and GPUSA. We were able to sort that out in a positive way.

The committee did not elect a delegate to the July GPUSA Congress, but agreed we should at the IGP Congress in June. Tom emphasized that we now have representation at GPUSA as a caucus with two votes, and as a state party we can have unlimited votes based on our ability to organize and encourage members to join at the local, state and national levels.

## **7. State convention**

Greens traditionally hold annual Congresses. Organizing committee members tend to think of a statewide gathering as a convention. Tom has been using the term Congress instead as it is traditional among Greens. Members noted the difference in language. We discussed the difference between traditional state party structures and roles and Green party structures and goals.

Bethany is working with Greens in Bloomington who are offering to host a congress in a state park facility. The congress will be either in Indy or Fort Wayne. The location can be a sensitive issue because it influences who shows up and votes. IGP doesn't yet have a charter and an agreed upon definition of membership so the organizing committee is using the most inclusive definition for the Congress -- any resident of Indiana who is willing to adhere to the 10 Key Values.

## **8. Marion County Greens**

The Marion County Greens seem to be focusing on IGP rather than local issues. Bethany said she wanted to put more time into local issues and would contact Julie Crow to find out why Julie has dropped out. Julie is an influential person who is well known and well liked in Indy and missed at IGP meetings.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

The meeting Saturday went well. It was productive and very collegial.

For the second meeting in a row and the third time since last July, there was not a

quorum. We decided by consensus to downgrade the meeting to an IGP steering committee meeting so that we could make decisions and take action. Otherwise we would have had no authority to do anything.

I met Billy Youngblood Floyd outside Peru, and we carpoled to the meeting. Billy and two of his young adult children are starting a Green local in Huntington County. Billy has prior experience organizing in AIM. His wife, who was working and could not attend, is active in Miami Indian affairs. She is a member of the Little Turtle Clan and well known in Indiana and Michigan. Billy is from a different tribe and clan. Billy and I talked about organizing the northeastern region of Indiana and made plans to call an organizing meeting for potential Greens in the region.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tom Brown