

**2020 Green Party of Oklahoma
State Convention Session #1
Friday, July 3, 2020 held via zoom**

Minutes prepared by Kyle Gregory with input from other attendees.

Notice of the meeting was posted on all of the available Oklahoma Green pages including the most active: Green Party of Oklahoma (forum). Notice was also shared via email and messenger with known past members.

GPOK Voting Members Present:

1. Kyle Gregory (GPOK member, previously member from Arkansas)
2. James M. Branum (GPOK member)

GPOK Non-Voting Members Present:

1. Brent Wilson (new GPOK member, eligible to participate in convention discussions but not vote per our bylaws)

Observers Present:

1. Joni Levines (Florida GP member, former GPOK member --- she participated in some discussions but did not vote in the strawpoll or on convention votes)

Minutes:

1. The meeting started at 6:01 p.m. on 3 July 2020 by Branum.
2. Discussion of the agenda for this meeting
 - a. After discussion, the agenda was approved by consensus.
3. Election of chair and secretary for this convention
 - a. After discussion, Branum was chosen to chair the convention and Gregory was selected to serve as secretary.
4. General Discussion
 - a. All participants were asked to share why they got involved in the Green party
 - i. Wilson: "Peace is lacking in this country. Discussion of freedom of civil liberties, drug war, and climate can't wait. There has to be choice and there hasn't been in Oklahoma"
 - ii. Leviness: Agreed with points raised by Wilson. Also spoke of her disenchantment with the Democratic party after seeing what the DNC did to Kucinich and Dean and the bait-and-switch to pick Kerry as the nominee.
 - iii. Gregory: Diversity and the McKinney/Nader roots of the 2000's and the way that GP candidates sometimes get included in the national debates. I worked on campaigns for Green Party of Arkansas while in law school and it was fantastic to see Green Party views being spread nationwide by CSpan and hearing from the media directly that our US Senate candidate easily won his debate.
 - iv. Branum: I was an active Republican in my young days, but started to question things and they went to bigger questions like why war, which led me to the Libertarian party. I ran for office in Austin, TX as a Libertarian in 2000 but

became disenchanted with Libertarians as well, mostly due to their ideas about economics. I then got involved with the Green Party in Texas but then moved to Oklahoma for law school. I felt like a fish out of water coming back to Oklahoma from Austin, but the Green Party in Oklahoma became recognized by the national GPUS. --- Remembered Ed Shadid being interested in the Green Party. Worked with his run for state house and later running for city council. Ran for State House in 2006 as a Green-endorsed independent, focusing mostly on the issue of opposing the death penalty. We endorsed Bob Waldrup for mayor and he got a ton of votes for less than 200 dollars raised/spent. I drifted away as I saw a small window for radical activism within the two party system, but found out there's no way to overcome the party structure. I liked Sanders and supported him in the Democratic primary, but he was a compromise candidate.

- b. What are the next steps for rebuilding and revitalizing the GPOK?
 - i. Discussion of lawsuit for ballot access.
 1. LeViness: Ballotpedia member contacted me and discussed the Tulsa attorney. There are over seven plaintiffs fighting for a GPUS presidential candidate on the ballot in Oklahoma. It is going to cost \$35000 and we feel like this is too much. Attorney says there is a chance that it could get reduced after speaking with a judge. Will update later. Howie Hawkins called and offered to sign on and will be listed on lawsuit.
 2. Wilson: discussion of Hunter/Elias campaign adding their names to the lawsuit.
 3. LeViness: Not sure if it is already filed. A writ was filed three weeks ago, will update after speaking.
 4. Branum: Discussion of asking about press and seeing if it was be okay to go forward per attorney's advice.
 - ii. **Discussions on how the local chapters can be revived.**
 1. Branum: Initially we had intended to use zoom break-out groups for each of the local chapters to caucus together but since all GPOK members in this meeting are from Oklahoma County, we can't do this. Possibly we should consider merging the Oklahoma and Cleveland County chapters into a OKC metro chapter? But we also need to work to build up a Green Country (tulsa metro) chapter and not forget at-large members (who in the past were organized through a Rural Oklahoma Greens Local chapter). --- Look at voter turnout for Medical Marijuana and seeing the rural counties that are open-minded. They may be questioning the status quo now. It would be great to add GPOK literature in dispensaries that allow brochures/fliers.
 2. Wilson: Agreement on the dispensary idea and the wide crowd that could be potentially brought in.
5. Decisions Regarding the GPUS Presidential Nominating convention
 - a. Issue #1 - (introduced by Branum): We have passed the deadline set by the GPUS, but we could still submit delegate names and ask that they be seated, with the understanding that the delegates may end up being only observers (after all, we missed the deadline)
 - i. After discussion, the convention came to consensus that we would nominate delegates and alternates with the understanding that they may or may not be seated.

- b. Issue #2 (introduced by Branum): To prevent a “hostile takeover” of the GPOK, we adopted a bylaw provision that requires that GPOK members must have been a member for 30 days prior to the convention to be able to vote. While this provision made sense at the time, it does not make sense now as there was no way for anyone to effectively join the GPOK during the last few years of inactivity.
 - i. After discussion, we decided by consensus to hold a straw poll of all GPOK members present at the convention (including new members) in choosing our GPUS PNC delegates, and the voting members of the convention (Branum and Gregory) would agree to formally vote in line with the results of the straw poll.
 - c. Issue #3 (introduced by Branum): Should we bind our GPUS PNC delegates to vote for a particular candidate at the GPUS PNC or should we leave it to the delegate’s respective individual discretion?
 - i. After discussion, we decided by consensus that we would not bind our delegates to vote for a particular candidate, but that we would encourage our delegates to listen to any concerns raised by other GPOK members.
6. Selection of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to represent Oklahoma Greens at the GPUS PNC
- a. Nominations for delegate: Wilson and Gregory
 - b. Nominations for Alternate Delegate: Branum
 - c. After discussion, a straw poll of all GPOK members present at the meeting was held and the slate of delegates and an alternate was approved.
 - d. The voting members of the convention (Branum and Gregory) agreed through consensus to the election of the slate of delegates and an alternate.
7. The convention session was recessed at 6:39 pm on July 3, 2020.