

Green Leaf

OKLAHOMA GREEN ACTIVITY



OCTOBER 2002



GREEN PARTY OF OKLAHOMA STATE FOUNDING CONVENTION

WE'VE GOT TO START SOMEWHERE

Mark your calendars for November 16th, 2002, 8:30-6:00PM, at the Cleveland County Fair Grounds 615 E. Robinson St. in Norman. After years of dedication, determination and work by many, we will *come together* from across the state to meet others, share ideas, and

continue to build the Green Party of Oklahoma. On our path towards contributing to national third party status, we lay the foundation of the Green Party of Oklahoma by following the ten key values set forth by the Green Party of the United States. Together we will examine what being Green means to Oklahoma and explore our connection with progressive politics throughout the nation and the world. Join us for this historical event that will pave the way of Oklahoma's grassroots progressive future.

Registration is scheduled to begin at 8:30 AM accompanied by a continental breakfast provided by the committee. The actual program will start at 9:30 AM with group introductions followed by a day of interactive discussion, committee elections, and guest speaker Mary Jo Guthrie Edgmon, sister of Woody Guthrie. A vegetarian buffet will be served from La Baguette and a slide show emphasizing positive views of the land, the people and the Greens in Oklahoma will be available for viewing. The convention is scheduled to end at 6:00 PM with members gathering at another location for evening entertainment. The location will be announced soon!

A pre -registration form is located at the end of this newsletter. Pre-registration will help the Convention Planning Committee insure proper seating, refreshments, and convention material although it is not required to attend the convention.

For all of those wishing to take part, opportunities are available for: evening entertainment, photos & music for slide show and providing travelers with lodging. Please contact Danelle Patrick at 405-412-8902 or Mark Lewellen at 329-7070 with any questions or to share your organizing talents, together we can make our founding convention a success!

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Want to help shape the Green Party's future in Oklahoma?

Nominations are being accepted for the following positions:

2 Co-Chair position (one of each gender),

1 State Treasurer 1 State Secretary

3 At-Large Committee Members.

Pre-notification to run for office is not required although it will aid in the preparation and time included for elections. The party shall strive to ensure that the committee reflects the diversity of the population of the state of Oklahoma.

The proposed bylaws are currently online at www.greens.org/oklahoma/home.html

UPCOMING GREEN PARTY MEETINGS

CLEVELAND COUNTY GREEN PARTY. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 12, at 3:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalists Church on Boyd St., west of Berry. For more information, contact the CCGP at (405) 945-1962 or Adrienne Johnson at ilo@ou.edu.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY GREEN PARTY. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, at 7:00 PM, downstairs at the Belle Isle Library (5501 N. Villa) in Oklahoma City. For more information, please contact Jonalu Johnstone at Jonaluj@cs.com or 521-9815.

GREEN COUNTRY GREENS. The next meeting will be held October 14, at 7:00 PM. Meetings are at the Tulsa City - County Library, 400 Civic Center (on Denver in Downtown Tulsa). For more information call Belinda Silverstar at 918-665-2412.

RECENT GREEN PARTY MEETINGS

CLEVELAND COUNTY GREEN PARTY. Mark Lewellen facilitated the September meeting, which seven people attended. Yvonne Anderson, Clean Cities Program Manager, spoke to the group about alternative fuel. Clean Cities is a locally based, private industry and government partnership sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Its objective is to facilitate the use of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) by fleets and individuals and to support the installation of an alternative fuel-refueling infrastructure throughout the nation. There are currently 84 Clean Cities coalitions in metropolitan areas across the country. The United States consumes more than one-fourth of the world's total oil production, but produces only one-tenth of the oil. Our transportation sector currently accounts for approximately two-thirds of all U.S. petroleum use. To keep the country's cars and trucks moving, we spend approximately \$60 billion per year to import 60 percent of our oil. As we continue to compromise our national security with increasing dependence on imported oil, we also compromise our air quality and our health with the by-products of petroleum-based fuel combustion. For more information about Clean Cities visit www.centraloklahomacleancities.org

OKLAHOMA COUNTY GREEN PARTY, Jonalu Johnstone facilitated the September meeting which nine people attended. Curtis Andrew Beckwith from Tulsa visited with the group about the Bioregionalism Congress next month, and the cooperative effort with the Greens in Arkansas on programs on water. A State Party Founding Convention update was given, the proposed bylaw were discussed and the group agreed to provide \$150 of their treasury towards the convention. Ballot access and the possibilities of actions concerning access to the ballot were also discussed. Elections were held. The new Steering Committee includes

Co-chair: Danelle Patrick and Ben Oglesby
Secretary: Dolly Dearner, Treasurer: Jonalu Johnstone
At-Large: Paul Gill and Micah Gamino

Program on Islam

Daniel C. Snell, from the University of Oklahoma's Department of History, will discuss the six myths about Islam and address problems that Muslims and non-Muslims face in connection with Islam, including the status of women in Islamic countries. This event is free and open to all. For more information contact the Belle Isle Public Library at 843-9601. Pre-registration

GREEN COUNTRY GREENS, Curtis Andrew Beckwith facilitated the September 16 meeting, which four people attended. Belinda Silverstar read the latest update on the Green Party State Convention. She then read an email by an absent member, Tod Sloan, expressing his opinion that our small group should not take on any new big projects at this time. He also suggested we try to build our membership by attending the meetings of other groups that share our values. It was decided that a possible film screening on September 29, dealing with water quality issues could potentially attract some interest in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Water Quality Symposium. Chris Bryant was appointed to look into obtaining a suitable film. There was also discussion about our website being out of date and the possibility of finding help creating a new site.

STATEWIDE GREEN ACTIVITY



CELEBRATION OF OKLAHOMA INDIAN LANGUAGES

Intertribal Wordpath Society will be hosting its 5th Annual Celebration of Oklahoma Indian Languages Friday, October 18, from 6:00-10:30 PM at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 615 E. Robinson St. in Norman. It is free, HC-accessible, and open to the public. Cultural presentations in several Indian languages will be featured, as well as Indian tacos, crafts, and art. Preceding the program, in the same place and

THE CITIZEN'S SYMPOSIUM ON WATER QUALITY IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS AND NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA

The Washington County (Arkansas) Green Party, The Green Country Greens of Northeast Oklahoma and the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology will host a citizen-based conference focusing on the 2002 Oklahoma Scenic River phosphorus regulations and their effect upon the environmental policies and practices of cities, beef, poultry and swine processing companies, farmers and city dwellers in the Illinois River watershed. The first of two symposiums will be held Sunday, October 20, 2002, 1-5 PM, in Fayetteville, AR, at the Washington County Extensive Service Building, 2536 N. McConnell, (off Garland near UA Farm). The second symposium will be held Saturday, November 2, 2002, 1-5 PM, in Tulsa, OK, at Martin East Regional Library, 2601 South Garnett Road.

Peter Belkin, a spokesperson for the Green Country Greens issued the following statement: "The water quality of the Arkansas River is a major element affecting the quality of life in this region. Our ability, as inhabitants of this region, to have a positive impact on this water quality is based on our collective understanding of the contributing factors. Issues such as present water use, water chemistry, population growth, and discharges into the river are examples of elements of which we all must be aware. With this knowledge and understanding we will be able to ensure that we, as well as our public officials, take the actions necessary to improve water quality and promote the wise use of the resource. We are pleased and excited to work with the Green Party of Northwest Arkansas on the Water Quality Symposium. This is an important first step."

For additional information, contact Belinda Silverstar (Tulsa), bsilverstar88@aol.com / 918-665-2412

also open to the public, is "The First Diversity: Religious Imperatives Concerning Native American Language, Culture, and Relations, a symposium sponsored by the US Conference of Religions for Peace with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. For more information please contact Alice Anderton at wordpath@yahoo.com.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

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|-----------------------|--|
| October 3 | Weekly Vigil for Peace
NW 23 and Classen, every Thursday
4:00 - 6:00 PM |
| October 7 | Program on Islam
7:00 PM, Belle Isle Library, 5501 N. Villa
(between Penn & May on N.W. Expy.) |
| October 7-13 | Continental Bioregional
Congress On The Prairie
Camp Wood, Flint Hills of Kansas
Contact Curtis Beckwith at chikaskia@aol.com |
| October 12 | Cleveland County Green Party Meeting |
| October 18 | Celebration of Oklahoma
Indian Languages
6:00 - 10:30 PM, Cleveland County
Fairgrounds, 615 E. Robinson, Norman, OK |
| October 12- 13 | STARC/Ruckus microcamp
Activist Training Camp http://www.ruckus.org
http://www.starcalliance.org |
| October 14 | Green Country Green Party Meeting |
| October 26 | Granny D
11:30 Luncheon at the First Christian Church,
Norman (Webster & Eufaula) \$20: scholarship
available. Contact David Craighead at 405-525-
2928 or 405-732-8112 |
| October 26 | March in Washington for Peace |
| October 28 | Oklahoma County Green
Party Meeting |
| November 2 | Tulsa Water Symposium |
| November 16 | Green Party of Oklahoma
State Founding Convention |

Nationwide Green Activity

GREENS DECLARE OPPOSITION TO BUSH'S INTENDED INVASION OF IRAQ

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Green Party of the United States approved a strongly worded statement last week against President Bush's intended military invasion of Iraq. The statement was drafted by the party's International Committee and passed by unanimous vote of the Coordinating Committee, which includes delegates from 39 states and the District of Columbia. The text of the statement is appended below.

"While Democratic leaders in Congress, including Senators Tom Daschle and Joe Biden, have lined up behind Bush's plan to violate U.S. constitutional and international law, Greens have weighed the invasion's legality, possible outcomes, and, most of all, cost in human lives," said Dr. Jonathan Farley, Green Party candidate for Congress from Tennessee. "We urge Americans to call their Senators and Representatives and demand that they vote nay on any legislation giving Bush the green light to invade."

The statement unites Green activists and this year's candidates behind a common position on the threat of military action, and also agrees with a September 10, 2002 statement from the Green/EFA Group in the European Parliament. Greens internationally are calling for multilateral diplomatic strategies, beginning with a resumption of U.N. inspections of Iraqi weapon systems, rather than unilateral use of force.

Condemning the invasion plans, the European Green statement "support[s] those voices raised in the U.S. against such an intervention."

"The elections in Germany, handing victory to the coalition formed by Social Democrat Gerhard Schroeder with the Greens, showed widespread German support for the Green position against the invasion," said Jay Robinson, Green candidate for Governor of Iowa. "Chancellor Schroeder was reelected, and the Greens increased their number of seats in the German parliament from 47 to 55. Opposition to invasion is not confined to Germany; numerous heads of state and national majorities around the world agree with us -- with the notable exception of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who increasingly shows himself to be Bush's lapdog. "If President Bush and Congress truly care about the security of the U.S., they will work with the United Nations to address any threat posed by Iraq through peaceful, diplomatic means," said Tod Sloan, co-chair of the party's International Committee. "Unilateral military action by the U.S. will increase the suffering of the Iraqi people, provoke more terrorist attacks against Americans, and destabilize the entire region from Israel and Palestine to Pakistan and India."

Greens note that the U.S. is already at war with Iraq -- a low intensity war, with bombing raids every month. Between the destruction of infrastructure and the sanctions, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians have died during the past decade, including half a million children, according to U.N. figures.

Medea Benjamin, former Green Party candidate for the U.S. Senate from California, made front pages last week when she disrupted Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's presentation to Congress with a sign calling for 'Inspectors not War.'

"All across the U.S., Greens are uniting with a growing grassroots peace movement of ordinary citizens challenging Bush's rush to war," added Tod Sloan. "We're the side of the debate that's missing from the op-ed pages and talking heads on television, arguing that a war on Iraq would mostly serve the interests of big oil and the defense industries - lobbies represented by George W. Bush and his cabinet of former CEOs. If there were an open and public debate, few Americans would support Bush's plan.

The Green Party of the United States
<http://www.greenpartyus.org>
National office: 1314 18th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Mass marches and rallies are set for October 26, 2002 in Washington DC, San Francisco and in many other countries. Anti-war, civil rights, labor, students and other forces are joining together to launch a massive international mobilization in opposition to a new war against the people of Iraq.

Rachel Jackson of Seminole is organizing a trip from Oklahoma to Washington. To sign up contact her at 405-382-9274 or rconstance808@hotmail.com

202-296-7755, 866-41GREEN

Stephen Zunes:

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20020930&s=zunes>

THE PEACE HOUSE INVITES PLANNERS & ORGANIZERS to attend meetings for Planning & Organizing resistance to the Iraq War Build-Up. Meetings are Tuesdays, at UCC 3:00 to 6:00, 23rd and Classen and 6:55 PM. to 8 PM .at 3131 N. Penn. at the Church of Open Arms.

Guest Column

2002 to be a year of major growth for the Green Party of the U.S.

A Report from Dean Myerson, Green Party Political Coordinator

2002 is shaping up to be a year of major growth for the Green Party of the United States. Following the formation of the party last July and recognition as a national committee by the Federal Election Commission in November, we hired a Political Coordinator as well as a Finance Director to oversee fundraising operations.

In February, we opened our national office in downtown Washington, DC. The office is on 18th St. near Dupont Circle and is staffed by the Political Coordinator and Office Manager. The office will work to increase the visibility of the Green Party in the national media, build coalitions with kindred progressives in Washington, and oversee field organizing efforts across the country. All of this growth will lead

As the Green Party seeks recognition as a political party in Oklahoma challenges remain.

To obtain party status according to State Statue 1-108, Greens must provide the state election board with signatures of registered voters equal to at least 5% of the total votes cast in the last general election (either for Governor or Presidential election.)

Candidates for President of an unrecognized party seeking to appear on the ballot must produce 3% of the total votes cast in the last Presidential election as presented in State Statue 10-101. To qualify a Green Presidential Candidate for 2004 roughly 37,000 signatures will need to be collected.

Oklahoma is rated as one of the worst states in which to obtain access to the ballot. Oklahoma citizens are being denied political choice and representation by such strict ballot access requirements.

What can you do?

Get informed.

- Research State Statues 1-108 and 1-101.
- Visit www.ballot-access.org for a complete list of each states progress on this issue.

Contact your representatives.

- Urge your representative to sponsor a bill changing SS1-108 to 1% and SS 10-101 to a set 5,000 signatures.
- Inspire others to contact their legislators.
- Research candidates running for office. Find out how they feel about third party ballot access before you go to the polls.

directly to our Midterm Convention in Philadelphia this July. The office is shared with the DC Statehood Green Party.

The foundation of this progress is the tremendous success of our grassroots campaigns. We have more members, more volunteers, more candidates and are winning more elections all of the time, as shown by the many articles in this issue of GreenPages. The volatility and uncertainty that the September 11th terrorist attacks brought to politics in the United States has not slowed our growth at all. The principled positions taken by the Green Party regarding the War on Terrorism and attacks on our constitutional rights, as well as the predictable Enron Scandal, have demonstrated how the Green Party stands independent and above the major parties on these issues. As the party has grown, our committees have become more active. Here is a summary of what they are doing.

Accreditation

Long-time Chair Tony Affigne (RI) stepped down to focus on international matters and was replaced by Art Goodtimes (CO), the only Green officeholder to also chair a national committee. This committee has been hard at work implementing a new proportional representation voting formula for our Coordinating Committee while dealing with requests for affiliation.

Diversity

This Committee will be working with every aspect of Green Party operations (continued)

(2002 Green Party Growth continued)

to continue our improvement in diversity. They will work with the Media Committee to highlight the electoral campaigns and victories of people of color in the Green Party, and will work with our field organizing efforts to ensure we reach out effectively to broaden the colors within the Green Party.

Fundraising

Active direct mail and phone solicitation efforts attracted the first 1,000 donors to the Green Party, and its first \$100,000, in just a few months. We are now inaugurating our "1,000 For 1,000" fundraising campaign to raise our first million dollars

We are uniting small, medium and large donors in a common campaign whereby 1,000 people will donate \$1,000 to the Green Party, either all at once, or via sustaining monthly donations)

For an index of Green Party candidates in 2002 visit <http://www.greens.org/elections>

Internal Communications

This committee has improved our web page so that each committee has its own subpage, and is focusing on implementing a voting section on the web to better track and record our votes.

International

Many subcommittees have been formed to handle such issues as our representation on the Federation of the Green Parties of the Americas, international Green organizations, visits from Greens abroad and international issues. Persons with international experience and expertise should contact the committee to volunteer their help (write intcomm@gp-us.org).

Within the last week of February, we hosted or met guests from Morocco, Korea, Rwanda and Germany. We now receive regular requests via the U.S. State Department from visitors who ask to meet with the Green Party during their visit. Anne Goeke, International Committee Co-Chair, will travel to Dakar, Senegal, in March to represent U.S. Greens at the meeting of the 2nd Congress of the African Federation of Green Parties and preparations are being made for sending a USGP delegation to attend the 3rd Congress of the European Federation of Green Parties in Berlin from May 17th -19th, 2002.

Media

Following from our success at securing national mainstream media coverage on the formation of the party and FEC recognition last year (AP wire services, CNN Headline news, and others), our Media Committee is broadening its scope to include guest editorials, feature articles in magazines, response to attacks in the media as well as video production. We will be building relationships with the media so that we get coverage of our key campaigns this year. Watch for more Green Party articles in newspapers and TV in your area!

Presidential Exploratory

This committee has just reformed to start the exciting process leading up to the 2004 Presidential elections. And with all this activity going on, we will also be inaugurating our field organizing effort this Spring. Although Political Coordinator Dean Myerson did extensive field organizing last Fall, work at the office will limit his travel this year. We plan to gradually hire a team of field organizers to spread across the country training new Greens how to be effective and helping our state parties keep their existing ballot lines and gain new ones. After years of Greens working separately in their own communities and states, this effort will dramatically increase the impact that Green politics will have in the U.S. The success of the 1000 for 1000 fundraising program will be key to supporting our field operations.

The Green Party has existed in the United States for nearly 20 years. But its momentum has never been greater than it is today

A statewide committee produces this newsletter with a rotating editor. The October issue was compiled and edited by Danelle Patrick of the Oklahoma County Green Party. To leave items for publication or to volunteer for the newsletter committee, please post to the listserv at okgreens@yahoogroups.com or email Cdanelle@aol.com. *Green Leaf* is also available electronically at www.greens.org/oklahoma/home.html

Resources

⊗ More information about the Oklahoma Green Party efforts and those of the local chapters throughout the state can be found at our website, www.greens.org/oklahoma/home.html.

⊗ Alice Anderton is keeping an archive of Green Party materials, including video- and audiotapes of Nader and LaDuke from the National Convention. Please contact (405) 447-6103 or towardpath@aol.com if you would like to contribute or borrow material.

⊗ In order to keep up with significant state legislature activities that affect all Oklahomans, go to <http://www.OkLegislature.com>.

⊗ If you are interested in staying in touch with other Oklahoma Greens and being informed of Green activity throughout the state, subscribe to the Oklahoma Greens' listserv by sending a subscription request to okgreens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Messages are posted the listserv at okgreens@yahoogroups.com.

⊗ A national green lavender network has been formed for activists who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersexual. To join the listserv, send an e-mail to LavendarGreenNetwork-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

⊗ Any student organizations interested in developing a relationship with the national student Green Party organization, Campus Greens, please contact Students For Change-TUGP at tustudentsforchange@hotmail.com.

THE GREEN PARTY OF OKLAHOMA STATE FOUNDING CONVENTION

Pre-registration Form

The Green Party of Oklahoma will host our State Founding Convention Saturday, November 16, 2002. The actual cost per person for this event is roughly \$7.00. We have set a sliding fee to accommodate as many people as possible. Please fill in the information requested below along with selection of the amount you are contributing. Copies of this registration form may be made as needed. Pre-registration is not required but would be greatly appreciated to ensure proper seating and conference materials.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____
County _____

E-mail Address _____

Please choose a chapter with which to be locally affiliated.

Green Country Greens (Tulsa Area)
Cleveland County Green Party
Oklahoma County Green Party
Other _____

Please choose a suggested convention contribution.

Regular (\$7.00 or more)
Student / Low Income (\$5.00)
Other (\$_____)
I cannot contribute at this time, but would like to attend the State Founding Convention

Return this registration form along with a check or money order payable to the Oklahoma County Green Party.
PO Box 60523, Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0523