

Violations of state by-laws [Submitted by Committee to Restore Green Values, August 18, 2017]

Co-chair allowed the reinstatement of the defunct Poudre Valley chapter without a vote. Whether the Poudre Valley chapter is (charitably) considered to have been inactive for several years or is considered to have been defunct, a vote was required to return the chapter to active status. This is a violation of either by-law 3.1.1.2 or by-law 3.1.1.3.

3.1.1.2 A Green local can be **reinstated** to Active Status by submitting a written request (email is acceptable) for reinstatement to the Council or to a state meeting, listing its new active members for the Council and being approved by at least a 60% vote of the voting Greens at a state meeting, or by at least **a 60% vote of the Council.**

3.1.1.3 **If a Green local has been in Inactive Status for more than six months, it will be considered to be defunct** and will be removed entirely as a Green local. To be reinstated, the local will have to go through the same procedures as a new local.

3.1 A Green Local must agree to:

- * Accept the Ten Key Values and to manage the chapter in accordance with those values.
- * Abide by the bylaws of the Green Party of Colorado.
- * Openly support only the national candidates selected by Green convention, state level candidates nominated at a Green Party of Colorado nominating convention, and local candidates selected with the criteria specified in sections 4.5.4 and 4.5.5 of these bylaws.
- * Make a good faith effort, where reasonable, to increase the number of Green voter registrations within the boundaries of their chapter.
- * Make a good faith effort to run state and local candidates.
- * Make a good faith effort to increase the number of qualified voting members within their chapter.
- * Make a good faith effort to fundraise for the operation of their chapter and to assist in the operation of the Green Party of Colorado.
- * Demonstrate evidence of commitment to, and good faith efforts to achieve, gender balance in party leadership and representation.
- * Demonstrate evidence of good faith efforts to empower individuals and groups from oppressed communities, through, for example, leadership responsibilities, identity caucuses and alliances with community-based organizations, and endorsements of issues and policies.

Chapter officers and council representatives must not have been registered as a member of a political party other than the Green Party of Colorado for at least thirty days before nomination and must maintain registration as a Green Party of Colorado voter throughout the duration of the officer's/representative's term.

A Green local must present its proposed bylaws for approval, and be approved by 60% of the voting Greens at a state party meeting, or by the state council.

Both co-chairs advocated violence on Facebook posts, a violation of the Key Value rejecting violence. This is a violation of by-law 3.2.

3.2 **Membership** in the Green Party of Colorado is open to anyone regardless of sexual orientation, race, national origin, religion, etc. **A member shall subscribe to the Ten Key Values**

Co-chair, in her capacity as Council Facilitator, failed to notify the Jefferson County chapter and the Platte Valley chapter that some of their representatives had missed three votes in the council. She waited until all representatives had missed at least three votes, and then declared the chapters inactive. This is a violation of by-law 3.1.1.

3.1.1 **A Green local shall be placed in Inactive Status if it fails to send any representatives to a state meeting or if it fails to have representatives vote for three or more consecutive votes on the council, or if it no longer has any active members on the council. Council members will be considered inactive if they do not vote on three consecutive votes. They will be notified of their status by the Council Facilitator immediately upon missing the third vote. They can be reactivated by notifying the Council Facilitator that they wish to be reactivated and by voting on the next Council vote. Council representatives cannot be reactivated in an Inactive or defunct local. For absence at a state meeting, the local will be notified by the Secretary within one week of the meeting. Once placed in Inactive Status, a local will not be counted in the quorum for votes and its representatives will not be allowed to vote. For missing votes on the Council, the local will be notified by the Council Facilitator immediately upon failing to vote for the third time, or when it no longer has any representatives on the Council.**

Co-chairs set the date and location of the 2017 annual meeting without discussion by the Council. This is a violation of by-law 4.1.

4.1 **State meetings** will be held yearly or more frequently at a location agreed upon by the members at the previous meeting, **or by a special call of the Council at its discretion.**

Co-chair ignored the Procedures and Guidelines developed by the Council for conducting business between state meetings. This is a violation of by-law 4.2.2.

4.2.2. The Council will meet and make decisions between state meetings **by means determined by council.**

Co-chair allowed members to give a recall proposal the misleading name of “Declaration of Co-Chair Position Vacancy” to remove her co-chair, Bill Bartlett, instead of following the procedure of finding him in contempt of goals and instituting a recall. This is a violation of by-law 5.9.

5.9 If any officer or national representative is found to be in contempt of the goals of the Green Party of Colorado, recall proceedings shall be invoked. A three fourths majority of voting members present at a state meeting and/or the Council is required to achieve the recall of an officer.

Co-chair voted in place of elected national representative Larry Dunn for more than a year, without announcing her votes to the Council within three days of the vote so that it can be reversed if the Council so chooses, without announcing her votes to the statewide forum, and without informing the Council of the agenda for the national meeting. This is a violation of by-law 5.3.2 and by-law 5.3.3.

5.3.2 These representatives, whose number is determined by the bylaws and rules of the national Green Party, will represent the GPCO in all votes. Votes by these representatives can be determined by a decision of the state council, or by the representatives themselves. If the representatives deem that the vote is clearly within the scope of the Ten Key Values and the platform of the GPCO, and would likely result in a consensus of the Council, they may vote without consulting the Council, but are required to announce this vote to the Council by email within three days, and must include the text of the proposal and any such supporting material as was provided with the original proposal. Such votes should occur, where feasible, more than three days prior to the end of the voting period in case the Council decides that it wishes to reverse the decision of the representatives. Such a decision of reversal can be communicated to the Secretary of the national Green Party either directly by the Council, or through the representatives. Representatives should also announce all votes to the statewide list-serve at least quarterly, and Council members should summarize such votes at meetings of affiliated locals.

5.3.3 In the case of national meetings, representatives shall send the agenda and related materials to the State Council as soon as it is available, and from there to all local chapters. Via the Council, the representatives will be informed of any direction regarding scheduled votes. But the default condition will be that representatives will be free to apply the values and platform of the GPCO at the meeting as they see fit, based on the discussion of proposals and any amendments that may occur.

Co-chair made no effort to choose temporary representatives who can travel to the national meeting, although both elected representatives (Bob Kinsey and Larry Dunn) have decided not to attend in 2017. This is a violation of by-law 5.3.4.

5.3.4 Representatives to national meetings shall make a good-faith effort to travel to national meetings of the Green Party. Should their schedule or financial status conflict with this, they must communicate this to the State Council to see if the problem can be remedied, either with financial support, or by choosing a temporary representative who can travel to the meeting.