

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 11:50 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: New announcement: Report from the Forum Webmaster

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From: GPCO Forum <contact@coloradogreenparty.org>
Date: Wed, Jun 14, 2017 at 11:28 AM
Subject: New announcement: Report from the Forum Webmaster
To: [REDACTED]

In brief: This week I was asked to provide direct access to the forum to move it to another server. There have been complaints surfacing of misuse of the moderating powers of the forum.

HISTORY OF UNILATERAL DECISIONS

The forum was designed by myself and Ryan Jones, with input from other members after a divisive bout of communications disrupted council workings. Our design was at the forefront of transparent state communications at the time, and it is still considered by many to be first in its class. When asked to move the forum, without council approval, I recall a similar incident in late 2015.

It was around that time that Andrea Merida moved the state website to another server without council approval. In the months that followed the move the site lost some of its functionality and I'm not sure it was ever recaptured. Unilateral moves like this from state officers without council approval have increased, including decisions with state finances and claims of forum censorship.

In my capacity as the host of the forum, it is not appropriate for me to move the forum without council approval. If that time comes, I will make the necessary files available and will facilitate in making sure it works in its new home.

Be advised, however, that there are other ways the forum could be moved, mostly intact, by those with the skills to do so.

CENSORSHIP AND PERMISSIONS

As to the complaints lodged about removing comments and threads from the forum.. Upon inspection, it seems that the restrictions that were built into the forum have been overridden. There were four administrators on the forum when I checked; for the laymen and -women, we should have no more than one or two trusted admins, as this gives a lot of power to an individual.

There are some functions that an administrator was needed to fulfill. Most of the relevant ones pertain to membership management. In order to maintain the integrity of the permissions system on the forum, I have

removed Admin access from all users except myself, as the primary forum webmaster and the one most comfortable with how the system's permissions maintain the power balance in communication on the forum.

As to the other admins, I have updated their status as appropriate to their station in the party as I understand them. Corrections are welcome, in OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL, not just the state officers.

Sean Friend has been added to a new category (Membership Management) which will allow him as Secretary to update and maintain the members of the forum. Be advised that he has been unresponsive in this duty when it suits him, so council may want to appoint a separate person to manage forum members (nonpolitical position).

Andrea has been added as a Facilitator (she took the role but was using admin powers to perform her duties).

(An aside: As webmaster I will not remove her as facilitator, although she didn't follow proper procedure when usurping the powers of that position. As a Green and council member I would strongly urge council to remove her from this position in favor of a person more familiar with the process of group facilitation and is less divisive in character.)

Dave Bell and Veronique Belamy have been restricted to the positions for which they serve the party: both Council Members, and Veronique a member of the Website Committee (was council notified of this addition to that committee?).

CLOSING THOUGHTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

As a reminder, on the forum the co-chairs do not have any more power than any other council member. Communication is a level playing field. When I helped design the forum, its system of checks and balances was at the forefront of transparent state functioning, nationwide.

The blurring of the lines of permissions has led to too many people with Administrative access and that is not appropriate. As of today, standards have been reset to restore the integrity of our main communications portal for state business.

My door is open to council if there are additional functions that are needed outside of those designated in our permission sets.

There is a small group of people overstepping council's powers, and a review of these altered permissions and misuse of forum operating policy is a candid reflection of that truth.

By providing clarity and correction in this letter, council members have tools to reflect upon how much authority they are allowing to pool in the executive branch at the expense of our goal of an effective grassroots, decentralized state party.

Blessings,


In my role as Forum Webmaster and Host

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You can view the full announcement by following this link:
<http://gpco.fullydefiant.com/forum/index.php?topic=345.0>

Regards,
The GPCO Forum Team.