

Massachusetts Green Party
Call for Emergency State Committee Meeting

Called by Gary Hicks, Marie Avin, Tony Lorenzen, Dan Melnechuk, Gil Obler, Mark O'Lalor, John Pepi, Grace Ross, Aimee Smith, Sara Willig, Betts Zisk

(Note: MGP bylaws state that 1/3 of the delegates can call an emergency State Committee meeting. There are currently 25 delegates so a minimum of 9 is needed.)

I. An emergency meeting of the State Committee is called for either Sunday November 17th or Sunday November 24th at noon (site TBA). The date will be decided based on the largest number of available state committee attendees responding to this email. **Please respond immediately but before 8am Friday, Nov. 15th with availability for both dates.** Determination will happen at that time.

II. This meeting shall have three agenda items:

- A) a proposal from Grace and Gary and others to recall Dan Corrigan as treasurer of the Massachusetts Green Party
- B) if said recall should pass, election of a new treasurer
- C) consideration of whether or not to offer Dan Corrigan a position on the Administrative Committee as Cape Regional Diversity Representative at least until the regular election of Diversity Representatives.

Inlined text of the recall proposal:

Mass Green Party

2002 Proposal for Recall of Treasurer

Sponsored by Grace Ross, Gary Hicks (with support of the other members of the Administration Committee) and co-sponsored by Marie Avin, Tony Lorenzen, Dan Melnechuk, Gil Obler, John Pepi, Sara Willig, Betts Zisk

This resolution comes in the context of our ongoing respect for Dan Corrigan's commitment, values and leadership and his service to the Party. His commitment to the vision of our work and willingness to hang in there for the last year and a half has really impressed us. We hope he will seek to play other leadership roles that are a better match with his particular skill set in the Mass Green Party -- after all there is more than any of us presently active could do and there are many roles needed to be filled.

We are asking for the recall of Dan Corrigan as treasurer because

1. Dan has not fulfilled key requirements of the treasurer's position
2. Dan has not worked well with others - not taking into account the input of others, not seeking information from others, unwillingness to accept assistance from others, unwilling to abide by decisions of the Administration Committee, unwilling to take leadership from the co-chairs (who are responsible for oversight according to the bylaws)
3. Dan has done things that might get the party in legal trouble

First example:

Since (our previous staff person) Rose Gonzalez's vacation (starting @ 8/15) before her departure, Dan Corrigan has not gotten and did not arrange to get access to information such as balances and transactions from our state fund account at Sovereign bank. This is why Dan did not have a balance for the State committee meeting. When Grace discovered that he was actually unable to access that information the week after the State Committee meeting, she asked him to prioritize finding out what was necessary to get access and getting back to her immediately so that the situation could be resolved; she would do whatever was necessary. that she felt it was essential for the MGP to be able to know how much money we had on hand at any time within say 24 hour period.

We finally got this access two and a half weeks later when Gil and Grace finally added their signatures to the account. We are also aware that for roughly the first year of his term, he was unable to access many of the Green information files that contained the specifics of our finances.

Second example:

The MGP maintains two bank accounts - one the "state fund" and one the "federal fund"; traditionally we have deposited monies into the state fund and paid monies from the federal fund. When Rose left as staff, we decided for various reasons to have her close our federal account in a bank in Lawrence. We had been told we needed a federal account to pay bills, so we needed a new account. Dan Corrigan wanted to research banking options closer to our values, which sounded good to me. However, after a week he had not found one, we had an outstanding payment due Rose and she had reported needing it as soon as possible; we had also received a bank statement showing we had quite a lot more money than we had thought at the State Committee. Grace asked him to at least temporarily come meet her and open the account they had been told they needed and at the same time add Grace's signature to our existing account (as the Administration Committee had agreed over a month previous); he said he had had time that same weekend to help move the office in Lawrence.

Instead of arranging to open the account, he sent off money to Rose as a "loan" to the MGP. We had been through trying to cover Rose for money earlier when we did not have it and were clearly told that unless we wanted to create book-keeping nightmare, that we needed to make individual loans not organizational ones. However, although Dan knew about the previous loans, he did not know how we had gone about them. But instead of calling and seeking this information, he created some complicated organizational paper process. In addition, he sent a check from our state fund to pay the rest of what she was most immediately owed - even though we have been consistently told by others in the Party that no such payments can be made from that account.

He did this based on his reading of some of the regulations and his first couple of conversations with our state (OCPF) and federal (FEC) liaison officials. In terms of the

second check for instance, Dan Corrigan reports that the OCPF guy had said that he did not know why everyone set up their two accounts this way, that it was fine with the state for us to pay things like Rose out of the state account. The problems with doing this, however, apparently arise from federal law - something Dan Corrigan did not find out by asking those in the Party why we were consistently told not to do this, nor reading guides Greens have developed, nor by asking the right questions of the right liaison officers.

This meant that one illegal and one major paper mess were averted because Rose knew the impact of cashing these checks and agreed not to (although she never actually received them because Dan sent them to the wrong address).

The concern here is not really that Dan did not know not to do these things. The concern is: (1) that others in the Party had told us and him not to do these kinds of things; (2) that Dan rather than ask anyone why we had been told that, went against what Grace asked (and what the Administration Committee had agreed to over a month before) to get these two accounts open and with Grace as an additional signer; (3) he chose a different path without checking in with Grace or anyone more knowledgeable; (4) he did not figure this out from other sources available to him -- and therefore engaged in illegal and ill-advised action on his own not even reporting same to Grace or the Administration Committee in a timely fashion.

Finally Grace asked Dan Corrigan to get an account open as soon as possible. Then asked the Administration Committee to join her in insisting that Dan Corrigan do this so that bills could get paid legally. He did not do what Grace who has supervision over his work according to the bylaws asked (more than once), nor did he do it when all of the Administration Committee asked. After the Administration Committee deadline, he drove the checks up to Somerville on a weekend instead so that Grace and Gil could get the accounts open the next week. This has been done and Dan was called while they were at the bank so he could fax in his identification so he could sign checks, which he said he would do but did not; he decided to send it out by snail mail and not till days later.

These serve as just some examples of the differences and issues that have surfaced between how Grace Ross and the Administration Committee have seen Dan's job as treasurer and how he has seen his work.

Third example:

Our federal filing was due Oct. 15th. For some reason, Dan Corrigan did not remember about this, although Gil Obler, Dan Melnechuk, and Grace Ross did. Dan Melnechuk emailed Dan Corrigan on Saturday as a reminder.

For background, the documents had all been up in the Lawrence. Before moving anything from Lawrence, we insisted on copies or back ups when we found out that we have been operating outside of generally recognized standard operating procedure with only one copy of all our legal and financial materials. Since we made a back-up, Dan Corrigan had the computer with the books program for most of the time since third week of August. He

has signed our federal filings since he became treasurer about a year and a half ago. He had access to the key to go up to Lawrence and copy any records he needed for the financial paperwork for nearly a month and a half. By end of September, we had to move the office, so the paper materials came to storage in Medford. When we were changing over the mail system and setting up forwarding, one bank statement took almost a month to be received- another week to forward to Dan Corrigan.

On Saturday, Dan Melnechuk had first offered to go to Lawrence and meet with Rose and Dan Corrigan to do the filing on Tuesday, then a couple of hours later Dan Melnechuk realized he could not and sent the URL's to Dan Corrigan. Rose had offered to Grace to meet whoever to do the papers and the filing in Lawrence. Dan Corrigan did not look up the filing until Tuesday. He had originally said he could come to Somerville Tuesday if needed to sign for the new accounts so he had originally had time to travel on Tuesday. However, when he looked at the forms he realized he was missing paper he needed - including copies of the last filing. He had never kept copies of filings he signed - in fact he reports to me that he did not realize the length of the filing because he had only signed the cover sheet for them for Rose and never seen the whole report.

Not having checked out the URL's over the weekend, he did not get the materials he needed when he came up on Sunday and delivered the checkbook to Gil; he did not arrange for us to get him materials; nor did he use the time he supposedly had on Tuesday to get those papers. He filed a very incomplete report to avoid the worst of the penalties for not filing at all.

We are requesting an honorable and respectful process - understanding that anyone's willingness to serve is a gift and that all service is equally valuable (contrary to the hierarchical, competitive brainwashing we have all received under capitalism).

###