



Mountain Party News

www.mtparty.org

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April 2004

Inside - Profiles of two Candidates for Governor

Campaigning 101, or Elections for Dummies

by Vince George & Gary Zuckett

In our last newsletter we sent out a call encouraging folks to run for office on the Mountain Party ballot. To demonstrate that campaigning isn't rocket science and can be done by normal people, we've compiled a fail-safe top ten suggestions for running a credible political campaign. Follow the suggestions below and you'll have your opponents lying awake at night wondering what your going to do next...

1. Ask friends, neighbors and associates to support your campaign via personal, phone and mail (snail and e-mail) contacts. Ask people for contributions and to volunteer for various needs you have to fill. Ask anyone likely to have an interest in your campaign, for whatever reason, to hold a fund-raiser at their home with people in their circle of influence. It doesn't take a lot of money to run a campaign in many races but it does take some so don't be shy. Believe in yourself and people will too.

2. Pick a person who can read directions, add & subtract to be your campaign treasurer (or do it yourself). In either case make sure you call the Sec. of State's office (see #7) for a packet of info on how to keep records and file the required campaign reports on time. This is important as a candidate who can't keep their paperwork together makes a poor impression on voters when you ask them to let you run the county or state government.

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Regional Committees Important Base for Mountain Party

by Frank Young

Mountain Party organization is based on Regional Committees. This is the basis of "one person, one vote" democracy.

Under our bylaws, Delegates to the state Mt. Party convention are apportioned by regions. In each Regional Committee a regional Chairman, two delegates, or an alternate Delegate can be seated with voting rights at the Convention (as well as a representative to the State Executive Committee).

For an effective grass-roots Party, a Regional Committee must be formed in each of the 17 State Senatorial Districts.

For Mt. Party folks within each Senatorial District the message is - its past time to organize and develop Regional Committees prior to the May 1st convention. At the convention we will provide time, perhaps at lunch, for regional committees to caucus and designate voting Delegates. However, this will be more orderly if you can meet among yourselves prior to the convention. The Regional Committee Delegates, along with the state executive Committee, are the core constituents of the Mountain Party at its convention. They are thoe ones who decide who will be nominated to run on the Party Ballot in the Fall.

So if possible, before the convention, call your friends over for a Mt. Party Regional Committee

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3. Talk to various lobbying groups (whose agendas you agree with such as labor unions and teacher's organizations) for endorsements of your candidacy. Sometimes these endorsements will come with a small donation to your campaign from their PACs. If endorsed, send postcards to their membership, if available, asking for their vote. Many endorsing groups will also do such member contact on their own.

4. Generate and accept as many public speaking engagements as you can fit in to your schedule. Draft a simple script or outline of the points you want to cover and present it over and over. It worked for George II (with a little help from his dad's buddies on the Supreme Court).

5. What you learn from speaking with voters will make broaden your message and make you a more effective candidate. Take notes. It impresses folks that you value what they are saying. Start talking to voters as early as possible in the campaign and be disciplined about doing it on a regular basis with numerical goals established and met.

6. From your County Clerk obtain a list of historical voters and new voters covering the time period including the last two general elections and the primary election in between. Cost is 1 cent per name and \$10 for an electronic version on a floppy disk. Use this when going door to door to contact the most likely voters in the least amount of time.

7. Ask everyone you encounter if they are registered to vote at their current address. Always have voter registration forms close at hand to immediately register a new person. The forms are free from the County Clerk or from the WV Secretary of State (1-866-SOS-STATE). Mail them (yourself) to the correct County Clerk, depending on where the person lives. Contact new voters before the election and ask them to vote.

8. Mass mailings can be done from local post offices for 12 cents per piece with special bulk permits. Targeted mailings are still cheaper than regular mail and can also be arranged through the post office. Many sheltered workshops and other organizations will rent their bulk mail permit and can do envelope stuffing for a small fee.

9. In statehouse races, communicate with the House of Delegates Clerk or Senate Clerk offices for

votes of incumbents you're opposing. In local races find out about your opponent's major blunders in office and point them out to voters when appropriate. (or at least promise them you'll not make the same mistakes).

10. Get covered by local talk radio and other free media which is often willing to feature candidates.

Relax, In the end you can merely pay the filing fee and do nothing, betting that your overwhelming charisma will carry the day. On the other hand, the more of the above suggestions you follow the more votes you'll get. And who knows, one or two of you starry-eyed liberals just might get elected!

Candid Candidates?

Candid Candidates is a new internet-based voter education tool which provides candidates a way to present themselves and their platforms directly to the voters. Developed by the WV Sec. of State's office, it gives voters the opportunity to see and hear the statewide and legislative candidates who will be on their ballot. Right now you can see videos of candidates running in the primary election at the website www.candidcandidates.com.

Candidates eligible for this profile include those running for Governor, State Senate, House of Delegates, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Treasurer, Auditor, WV Supreme Court, and US House of Representatives & Senate. Any of the above named candidates can submit a three minute video to the site in which they can discuss their political platforms.

Candidates for the general election may enroll between July 1 and October 1, 2004. To enroll, contact the Secretary of State's Office at 1-866-SOS-VOTE or email for more information: elections@wvsos.com.

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Nader or Not?

Our Party's presidential slot has generated heated discussion on the Nader question. Should we place Ralph on the ballot or not? Here are opposing views from two founders, Denise Giardina and Vince George:

Nader Not!

I ran for governor in 2000 to establish a third party in West Virginia, one that would give people in the state an alternative to our one-party system. Nothing could better illustrate the need for a local alternative than the 2004 governor's race. A Mountain Party candidate will provide an alternative to the Republican Coal candidates.

Having said that, I am appalled at the attempt to add Ralph Nader as a presidential candidate on the Mountain Party ballot.

We are enduring the most dangerous administration in the history of this nation. I do not think I exaggerate. I believe this republic will survive 2004 under this administration, but may not survive until 2008. This is not the time for egos, or even for stand about abstract principles. Ralph Nader has the right to run for president in WV, but now is NOT the right time. Any rhetoric which claims a Nader candidacy would help elect Kerry is a smokescreen. These are dangerous times. And West Virginia is a battleground state.

I think back upon the hard work of 2000. I had hoped the legacy of that campaign would be to stand up for our mountains and for a government of the people. Instead I fear the legacy will be to provide a place on the ballot for an effort which will lead to the election of George W. Bush in 2004. If West Virginia is the difference, and if Ralph Nader is the difference in West Virginia, I will live the rest of my life regretting the effort put forth in 2000. For me, it is the stuff of nightmares, and I pray the Mountain Party will not go down this road..

Sincerely, Denise Giardina

Nader Good for Party

I also want to advocate for us putting Nader on our presidential line. Personally, I believe it is the least we can do for a guy who has devoted his life's work to what the Mountain Party claims to be about. On a practical and strategic view, I believe his presence strengthens our gubernatorial candidate's chances of obtaining the needed threshold by creating a net gain of votes. We broaden the Democrats message to oust Bush, much the way Denise Giardina made candidate Wise talk of things he would not have otherwise. If WV is going to be back in the big D column, Nader helps this happen by being somewhere for Republican, and Independent voters to go who would otherwise sit out the race or vote R rather than vote D.

In 2000, 675,000 Republicans voted for Nader.

They've got more reason to now. If not now to continue building a progressive movement to the future, then when? If we swallow the D line about fear of choices, then once again they have us in the box of not having anywhere else to go. Also, some state Green parties are holding their presidential line available to Nader, whether he is the Green presidential nominee or not. In 2000 where Nader was strong, D resources were concentrated, both resulting in D electoral gains. Kerry is just another corporate shill who will only be less overt about selling us out. Dean has revealed that Kerry has taken more corporate lobbyist special interest money, from the usual suspects, in the last 15 years than any other US senator. Preferable to Bush, yes, but only in terms of degree.

Sincerely, Vince George

Regional Committees, continued from page one

meeting in your Senatorial District. These meetings may be held in person, by conference phone calls, on-line or however you can assemble and talk.

To find out which Senatorial District (Regional Committee) you live in, click on the following internet site for further information:

www.legis.state.wv.us/legishp.html .

Contacting potential Mt. party candidates for public office in your District Regions will let them know who you are. And, of course, they'll be interested in helping to organize the District regions as a part of organizing their own campaigns. The people we currently know of who are interested in being Mountain Party candidates include:

For Clay County Commission: Andy Wadell phone 548-4662 (daytime) or 587-6586 (evening) e-mail: jawadell@frontiernet.net

For Hardy County Commission: Betsy Orndoff-Sayers phone: 874-3726 e-mail: betsyo@wardensville.com

For Calhoun County Commission: Jason Cox phone: 655-8685 (no e-mail)

For House of Delegates, 51st District (Hampshire County): Robin Mills phone: 496-8624 e-mail: robinmills4@yahoo.com

For House of Delegates, Norman Wolcott phone: 304-799-6579 or 304-762-5891 e-mail: nwolcott@post.harvard.edu

And two potential candidates for governor include: Jesse Johnson, phone: 541-9841 e-mail: wwood@bigplanet.com and Bob Henry Baber phone: 304-846-6644, wvapoet@richwoodwv.com

This list will not be finalized until the day of the convention so if you are interested in running for office or know someone who is have them contact Frank Young at 372-1455 or frankly@mtparty.org .

Jesse Johnson for Governor

What would you do with a goldmine? Would you ignore it or find innovative ways to use it? West Virginia is that goldmine. Unfortunately, all too often candidates and politicians repackage and spit back the same old, same old, which leads us to, you guessed it...more of the same old, same old. I want you to see West Virginia through my eyes—a bold, beautiful place able to pull itself up to new heights. But before I show you, I need you to do something...think outside the box. It may seem like a small thing, but thinking outside the box is vital to West Virginia's future and to my campaign. If West Virginia is going to move forward, we need to try a whole new approach. And do I have a new approach!

“Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends”...the state is always in need of revenue...but we don't need to obtain it by bleeding our citizens dry. Instead I intend to create a whole new industry, which is educationally sound, environmentally sound and commercially viable. I intend to bring feature film productions to West Virginia as well as grow our very own intellectual properties from the ground up. Film is simply real life in a microcosm. Employing everyone from carpenters and electricians to food services and clean-up crews. It's a factory mentality pure and simple and we have the best workers in the world. Each location production spends 30-50% of its budget in the community its films in. That's no less than 10 million spent locally per production. I have already taken the first steps to accomplish this by supporting legislation to study this during the past legislative session. In addition I am now working diligently to bring the first round of big name productions to the state. And that's just the beginning, we also have a ready and able workforce capable of post production work. I am currently laying the groundwork to start a school and retraining network to educate a more post production workers, so that we can keep our young people from moving away, give those with disabilities a chance to work, and provide an income for those laid off or looking for a new career.

But what, you may ask, does a film guy know about the issues? Well acting and film are all about research and execution, every actor spends voluminous amounts of time studying the world around them. The important things that matter to me matter to you, health insurance, education, jobs, and Choice....as governor I will protect yours, but not your choice to usurp the choice of others. I find it equally as important to move away from a government which continually rehashes and reorganizes itself at the expense of future generations, and instead find new and innovative ways to accomplish our tasks. Instead of just campaign reform, I plan to develop a program in which every citizen may make a limited donation to the campaign of their choice and get the money back as a write off on

their taxes. I also have new ideas to limit mountain top mining with responsibilities and a clear exit strategy. I welcome you to join me in this experiment of new ideas, the most innovative political science experiment of the new millennium. I look forward to meeting you all at the nominating convention. signed: Jesse Johnson

Bob Henry Baber for Governor

Dr. Bob Henry Baber, a Kellogg national Leadership Fellow, poet, artist, and former candidate for governor in the 1996 Democratic Primary is seeking the Mountain Party Nomination for Governor. A resident of Richwood WV, Baber feels the Mountain party now is closer to his values and ideals. “Creating a vision of hope and promoting fair taxation and environmental responsibility will be the guiding light of my quest for the Governorship should I become the Mountain Party nominee. We can no longer afford a “caretaker” governor, since our former governors have not taken care of either the people of the land, and have chosen instead to take their marching orders from the powers that be.”

“I believe fair taxation and fiscal responsibility are the number one issues facing the people of our state. Only by increasing taxes on extractive industries can we retire our current deficit and create a diversified future. Outside corporations currently own 50% of the land and 75% of the minerals, yet pay only 16% of the property taxes.”

This injustice unfairly places the burden of carrying our schools, roads, health costs, and economic development on the backs of the common people. This tax issue dwarfs all other issues. Without tax reform --- increasing corporate taxes and decreasing citizen taxes --- none of West Virginia's other problems can be addressed. If we follow the failed ‘status quo’ policies of the past century, we will continue to find ourselves in a three-legged race with Mississippi to see who can be the poorest state in the Union.”

Baber's platform includes issues like an increase in the state minimum wage, eminent domain declared on post-Mountain Top Removal land, protecting the state's public water, promoting tourism, promoting value-added wood product manufacturing, extending health coverage, promoting housing initiatives, WPA-like programs to revitalize small towns and rural communities, and protecting a woman's right to reproductive choice.

Baber added, “ Since the Mountain party is not beholden to the usual allegiances of corporate money and media, it is in the unique position of actually advocating on behalf of the true needs of the people, land, water, and air. I'm excited by the prospect of speaking clearly and forcefully on the issues and look forward to working side-by-side with concerned West Virginians to remake our state.”

Mountain Party Convention Registration

May 1, 2004 10 AM to 5 PM

Jackson's Mill Conference Center

160 Jackson Mill Road Weston, WV 26452-8011
(304) 269-5100 or 1-800-287-8206



Send Registrations to:
WV Mountain Party
RR1 Box 108
Ripley, WV 25271
(registrations received after April 23
cannot be guaranteed lunch)

Yes, Count me in for the Party Convention:

NAME(s) _____

ADDRESS _____ COUNTY _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Number of people Attending _____ Registration Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch)
Student, Senior, Low Income \$15/person
Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Children free but lunch ticket not included

I plan to register as a Mountain Party Voter and wish to participate as Credentialed Delegate at the convention. Names of potential Delegates _____

I can't attend the Convention but

I want to contribute to the success of the Mountain Party by:

Check all that apply...

- A Membership Contribution of \$ _____ Enclosed.
- I am interested in hosting a House Party or other Fund-raiser for the Mountain Party.
- I will register my friends and others to vote, send _____ copies of the Voter Registration Form.
- I am interested in learning more about becoming a Mountain Party Candidate for public office.
- I would like to help organize a local Mountain Party Committee in my area.

Please put me on your mailing list: NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____
PHONE _____ COUNTY _____

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WWW.MTPARTY.ORG

Not Too Late to Register for May 1st Convention!

This election cycle is an important chance to do something out of the ordinary-Vote for people you might really like to see as leaders instead of choosing the “lessor of two evils.” West Virginia’s MOUNTAIN PARTY can give you that option.

It’s not too late to be a part of a historic event, the second ever Mountain party Nominating Convention. We’ll gather at Jacksons Mill to decide who will represent us in the Fall elections and redefine our platform and issues. The building of a new political party is a slow and difficult process. However, future rewards can be very significant - the society we would all like to live in emerging from the current nightmare of greed and special interests. This effort requires steady and continuous progress and the Mountain Party needs some of your time, and effort to make a go of it. See inside for details.

This year we’ll be reaching out to voters from all classes and of all philosophies. New ideas are what we need. New alliances are what will make us grow. Tell your friends that there is another way to go about expressing themselves politically and show them how to contact us. Come to the Mountain Party Convention and let your voice be heard!