Green Party of Arkansas
Affiliation Manual

Adopted by the State Committee on the 4th day of May 2002. Amended on 29th day of July 2017 by General Membership

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I. County Chapter Accreditation Criteria

1. Acceptance of the “Ten Key Values” as guiding principles of chapter.
2. Has applied to the GPA Secretary for accreditation, and has included written rules, platform, and other documentation with that application. Further, applicant agrees to be organized and run in accordance with the “Ten Key Values”. Agrees that the organization is to be transparent, i.e. minutes, rules, platform, publications are readily available. Agrees that the local’s membership list will be shared with the state and updates, along with copies of meeting minutes, and attendance list, will be submitted to the State Committee Secretary on or before the last day of each calendar quarter. (“Membership list” is defined as the legal name and address that would be accepted for voter registration, along with phone number and email address, if available.)
3. Elects a minimum of three officers to perform the functions of a chair, a secretary and a treasurer, in accordance with state and federal laws, and delegates to the state committee.
4. Agrees to operate as a countywide organization open to, and striving to be reflective of, countywide diversity. Assures that all those within the county on the state database are invited to participate. Assures that at least three of the organizing members live within the county. All officers, delegates and any representative operating in an official capacity must be residents of the county.
5. Agrees not to actively oppose state candidates selected by a state green convention, green caucus, or green primary.
6. Agrees where reasonable, to assist the state party achieve ballot status.
7. Agrees to run local candidates and/or participate in other political activity relevant to the county represented. (i.e. monitoring and supporting positions on issues of interest to the local greens … city planning, water quality, education, recycling, etc.)
8. Agrees to establish a county dues system of their choice. A template of a county dues system will be provided by the Executive Committee if requested.

II. Assistance

1. A sample set of rules will be furnished for their consideration.
2. An organizing meeting will be planned by the organizing local in coordination with the GPA, and a member of the GPAR executive committee (ExeCom) will be in attendance.
3. The secretary of the GPAR will give timely notice of the meeting to all greens from that county.
4. After the group has voted to adopt the rules, elected officers, and declared their desire to affiliate, the Executive Committee member present will report on the group’s application at the next GPA state meeting, where the application will be considered by the state committee.
5. Approval of the state committee is required for affiliation. A simple majority is sufficient if a vote is required.

III. Self-organized Procedures.

1. A request for an affiliation application is made to the Secretary of the GPAR.
2. The GPA secretary is notified at least two weeks in advance of the next meeting of the group so that notification can be sent to all residents of that county. Full membership list information for all members is received by the GPAR. (“Public” is defined as accessible to or shared by all members of the community and exposed to general view.)
3. A member of the Executive Committee will attend that meeting, and after the group has declared their desire to affiliate, the Executive Committee member present will report on the group’s application at the next GPAR state meeting, where the application will be considered by the state committee.
4. Application is made to the Secretary of the GPAR and the criteria listed in Section I have been met.
5. Approval of the state committee is required for affiliation. A simple majority is sufficient if a vote is required.

IV. Rights and Responsibilities

1. It will also provide any website referrals of people within their county. It is the local’s responsibility to send mailing list updates to the state secretary by the last day of each calendar quarter. (“Membership list” is defined as the legal name and address that would be accepted for voter registration, along with phone number and email address, if available.)
2. The new local will elect and send voting representatives to each state meeting in accordance with the rules of the GPAR. Attendance in at least 2 state meetings per year is required to maintain active status as a chapter.
3. It is strongly recommended that the local will have at least one member on the state
business email list serve, or with an email address, in order to expedite communications. If no electronic means of communication is available, the local may not receive timely notification on all issues.

4. It is strongly recommended that the local hold monthly meetings. These meetings are to be publicly announced and held in a public location. If necessary, the Executive Committee will assist the local in obtaining a public location for meetings. ("Public" is defined as accessible to or shared by all members of the community and exposed to general view.)

5. The local will present copies of meeting minutes and attendance lists to the state secretary before the last day in each calendar quarter.

6. The local will make an effort to build local membership.

7. The local will deliver a brief “State of the Chapter” report to the executive committee two weeks before the state meeting. This report will consist of a brief summary of the activities of the chapter during the preceding year and a short list of goals for the following year.

8. The local will not actively oppose candidates selected by state green convention, green caucus, or green primary.

9. The local will, where reasonable, assist the state party achieve ballot status.

10. The local will run local candidates and/or participate in other political activity relevant to the county represented. (i.e. monitoring and supporting positions on issues of interest to the local greens … city planning, water quality, education, recycling, etc.)

11. Members are eligible to participate in any green committee activity as per the GPA rules.

V. Probation and Revocation

1. An affiliated local has notified the Executive Committee of some violation of green values, or conditions of affiliation, or a chapter has remained inactive for two years and has not satisfactorily responded to inquiries.

2. The Executive Committee informs the accused local of the complaint and performs a fact finding investigation.

3. If the initial investigation by the Executive Committee finds the accusation to be frivolous or without merit no further action will be taken.

4. If the initial investigation by the Executive Committee finds the accusation to be credible and serious it will also notify the accused local of the impending action. The accused local will prepare its arguments for the following GPAR state committee meeting.

5. The accuser and the accused will be given the opportunity to present their cases at the state meeting. (Failure of the “accused” to respond will not delay the action.)

6. After both sides have had the opportunity to present their case, the GPA Executive committee will decide by consensus or, if necessary, by a three fourths vote whether the accused local will be put on probation. (A local that is on probation will have no voting delegates on the Executive Committee or any standing committee.)

7. Upon being put on probation the local will have until the next GPAR state meeting to present evidence to the Executive Committee that the condition leading to probation has been rectified and steps have been taken to prevent the offense in the future.

8. After review by the Executive Committee of such evidence the following actions may be taken:
a. The Executive Committee may accept the local’s evidence and by consensus or by a simple majority vote reinstate the local to active status.
b. The Executive Committee may reject the local’s evidence and by consensus or by a three-fourths vote revoke the local’s affiliation.

9. If the local on probation fails to appear at the next GPAR meeting or fails to present any evidence to the Executive Committee that the condition leading to probation has been rectified and steps have been taken to prevent the offense in the future, the Executive Committee may by consensus, or by a three-fourths vote revoke the local's affiliation.

10. A local whose affiliation has been revoked may reapply for affiliation after one year, by meeting the criteria listed in Section III, and additionally, presenting evidence to the GPAR executive committee that the condition that lead to the revocation of their affiliation has been rectified and steps have been taken to prevent the offense in the future.

11. Approval by the GPAR state committee for reinstatement of the local’s affiliation will be by consensus or by simple majority if a vote is required.