

In This Edition

◆ The fight goes on for member participation in Manifesto!

◆ STLP AGM Report from our Secretary Mark James

◆ National Policy Forum - Why not put your name forward?

◆ Centre Left Grassroots Alliance - NEC Elections 2010

◆ STLP Committee - worth chiselling away still?

Joint Policy Committee rules out National Policy Forum before General Election

A behind the scene tussle about who will decide the key elements of Labour's next General Election manifesto is being fought out between Leadership 'loyalists' and party activists who fear a crushing defeat without a return to Labour values.

The latest twist is that according to the Joint Policy Committee, which met on Thursday 3 December, there will be **NO** further National Policy Forum meeting despite repeated promises to the contrary.

Where does that leave us, the members, in deciding the policies that we will be expected to support and campaign for to ensure Labour wins another term in government for the whole of the UK?

"2010 Manifesto – who decides?"



According to Ann Black's note to CLGA NEC constituency section members, Manifesto co-ordinator Ed Miliband MP is now reaching out to Labour Party stakeholders. He is planning to meet representatives from CLPs, trades unions, socialist societies, local government, the PLP. peers, the EPLP, the JPC, the policy commissions, and the NEC before the formalities of a Clause V committee (to rubber-stamp the Manifesto).

Arrangements for the CLP section were tabled as 'NPF officers' recommendations', and are pretty much as previously circulated - CLP/ regional reps within each region to meet with ministers (whatever that means) and choose one of their number to attend the CLP stakeholders' meeting with Ed Miliband.

So the timetable looks like this:

Dec-Feb: pre-Clause V stakeholder meetings with Ed Miliband

Jan-Feb: comments from The Choice for Britain consultation will be fed back to the six policy commissions and NPF CLP reps ahead of meetings with Ed Miliband

Dec-Jan: summary policy programme drafted



26 Jan NEC:

Jan-Feb JPC meeting with Ed Miliband to discuss manifesto progress

Before general election - Clause V meeting

Still up for grabs:

- ◆ a take it or leave it OMOV ballot on the proto-manifesto
- ◆ an on-line consultation asking members to prioritise 5 priorities out of a list of, say, 10
- ◆ re-engaging with members as proposed by STLP in letter to Ed Miliband on 11 November

STLP is contacting all interested parties to make sure everyone in the Labour Party knows the door is still open to express a view.

In the meantime you can give your opinions on what the Manifesto should contain at: <http://www.labourspace.com/thechoice>

Report on Save the Labour Party AGM - by our Secretary Mark James



Mark James
Secretary - STLP

The STLP AGM took place on Saturday 7th November 2009 at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London.

Jon Cruddas MP and NEC Chair, Ann Black addressed the meeting.

Jon spoke of the need to reform the coalition that saw Labour win three comprehensive election victories since

1997. He felt that next year could prove to be one of the big turning points in the history of the party analogous to 1931 and 1979 – on those occasions the party had failed and this time it had to get it right. We had to resist the clamour for primaries and in his view electoral reform had to be on the agenda. The key thing was to rebuild links across the party.

National Policy Forum - Why not put your name forward?

Conference agreed in Brighton that in future elections to the NPF will take place on the basis of One Member One Vote. There are 55 seats at stake elected from 11 regions across the country on the basis of gender equality.

Clearly the Centre Left Grassroots Alliance will need to field a full slate of candidates. If you are interested in putting your name forward for consideration as a nominee of the CLGA could you please contact the Secretary, Mark James on MarkJames994@aol.com

Centre Left Grassroots Alliance – NEC elections 2010

STLP participates alongside groups such as the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and the Labour Representation Committee (among others) in the Centre-Left Grassroots Alliance.

Elections take place to the National Executive Committee this summer and the CLGA will as always be fielding a full slate of candidates.

The members' ballot just held agreed (by 65% to 35%) that Peter Kenyon would be our first choice nominee for the slate with Gary Heather as the next choice.

STLP Committee - worth chiseling away still?

We are anxious to ensure that the committee is broadly representative of the STLP membership across the country. The AGM agreed that there will be six meetings of the committee throughout the year (including one at the AGM itself).

If you are interested in nominating yourself to the committee could you please contact the Secretary, Mark James on MarkJames994@aol.com or (Tel: 0208 293 1612).