

MINUTES
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NC DEMOCRATIC PARTY
ROLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, ROLESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 6, 2016

State Chair Patsy Kever called the meeting to order at 12:08PM.

Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Chair Patsy Kever welcomed SEC Members and guests. She restated the North Carolina Democratic Party's neutrality in the Democratic Primary. She pointed out that NCDP is completely independent of the following Washington organizations: The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and the Democratic National Committee. She called on all Democrats not to be divided nor distracted. She called for Party unity.

Our State Chair invited everyone to remember two recently departed Democrats, Otto Debruhl of Buncombe County and Ben Allen of Mecklenburg County as the meeting went into a Period of Silent Meditation.

Senator Floyd McKissick spoke to the meeting about the ruling announced on the previous day by the US Court of Appeals which invalidated North Carolina's Congressional Redistricting Plan.

Congressman David Price brought greetings to the SEC and talked about the importance of having a strong and united campaign in the General Election of 2016.

Secretary Melvin Williams gave the Quorum Report: The number needed for a Quorum was 274. By 11:50AM 391 SEC Members had already registered. Therefore, a Quorum was present.

John Brooks of Wake County made a motion that the SEC could not consider any motions to amend the POO because proper notification had not been given to SEC Members before this meeting. He said that the POO required that no SEC Member could be notified of Party business by email unless that Member has given written email notification permission within the last year. He said no SEC Member had given such email notification permission within the last year. Luke Hyde of Swain County seconded the motion.

Bob Hyman of Wake County opposed this motion.

Ralph Rodland of Guilford County reminded everyone that these proposed POO changes had been given to every SEC Member at the August 22, 2015 SEC meeting. He pointed out that these proposed POO changes had not been changed since that August 22, 2015 meeting.

John Brooks motion to prevent consideration of POO changes was then defeated by a voice vote.

The State Chair moved to consideration of the Agenda of today's meeting. Danielle Adams of Durham County made a motion to move DNC elections up to earlier in the Agenda after Item # 6. Her motion was seconded by Brian Fitzsimmons of Wake County. This motion was approved by a hand vote.

Ted Benson of Durham County made a motion to adopt the Agenda as amended. John Burns of Wake County seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

The meeting moved to consideration of the Rules of the Meeting. Cliff Moone of Catawba County moved to adopt the proposed Rules. John Arrowood of Mecklenburg County seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

The meeting moved to consideration of the Minutes of the August 22, 2015 SEC meeting. Billy Kennedy of Watauga County moved that the Minutes be adopted as presented. Sybil Mann of Haywood County seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the Minutes was passed by a voice vote.

US Senate candidate Kevin Griffin of Durham spoke to the meeting from a microphone on the floor.

The meeting proceeded to nominations for five positions on the Democratic National Committee.

Representative Rosa Gill of Wake County withdrew her name from consideration for a DNC position.

The following Democrats were nominated for DNC positions:

- **Charles Johnson of Nash County**
- **Janice Covington of Mecklenburg County. Nominated by Christian Cano.**
- **Cliff Moone of Catawba County. Nominated by Sarah Anderson. Seconded by Chaz Beasley.**
- **Rodney Moore of Mecklenburg County. Nominated by John White.**
- **Brenda Cleary of Wake County**
- **Ryan Butler of Guilford County. Nominated by Chris Sgro.**
- **Brenda Pollard of Durham County. Nominated by Betsy Wells**
- **Denise "Dee Dee" Adams of Forsyth County. Nominated by Dan Besse.**
- **Sheila Huggins of Durham County. Nominated by Ann Huggins**
- **John Verdejo of Wake County. Nominated by Brian Fitzsimmons. Seconded by Jessica Holmes.**
- **Jake Quinn of Buncombe County.**
- **Jesse Goslen of Franklin County. Nominated by Stephanie Goslen.**

The following Democrats withdrew their names from consideration for DNC positions:

- **Toria Boldware of Mecklenburg County**
- **Toni Mingo of Mecklenburg County**
- **Larken Eggleston of Mecklenburg County**

Sybil Mann made a motion to close nominations. Her motion was seconded by several people.

The SEC passed the motion to close nominations by a voice vote.

Ballots for DNC candidates were marked and collected.

Secretary Melvin Williams announced awards to the “Heroes and Heroines of the North Carolina Democratic Party – The County Chairs Whose Counties Paid 100% of Their 2015 Sustaining Fund Goals.” The Awards were presented by State Chair Patsy Kever.

The County Chairs of the following counties were called to the stage to receive their Awards and recognition:

Hertford County	Clay County
Stanly County	Columbus County
Yadkin County	Currituck County
Alleghany County	Franklin County
Anson County	Gates County
Avery County	Hoke County
Camden County	Jackson County
Carteret County	Lincoln County
Catawba County	McDowell County
Chatham County	Onslow County
Cherokee County	Perquimans County
Swain County	Mitchell County

State Chair Patsy Kever announced this schedule of upcoming events:

Precinct Meetings – February 27, 2016
County Conventions – April 16, 2016
District Conventions – May 21, 2016
State Convention – June 11, 2016
J-J Dinner – June 11, 2016

State Executive Council Member Sarah Anderson made a presentation about the “POWER OF THE PEN” project and encouraged everyone to join in the project to write letters to infrequent voters. She said that in 2012, 20,000 letters were written to infrequent voters and that over 14,000 of those people voted. Concetta Caliendo, President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina joined Sarah on stage to give support to the “POWER OF THE PEN” project.

Dr. Lavonia Allison of Durham spoke about the urgency of Early Voting.

Xena Ericksen told the members that people can no longer register to vote on Election Day.

Cliff Moone, Chair of the POO Rewrite Committee, was called to the podium to preside while recommendations for changes in the Plan of Organization were considered.

The Proposed Amendments had been in the packets given to SEC Members at the August 22, 2015 SEC meeting. These proposed amendments were noticed in the SEC meeting announcement and posted on the NCDP web site 14 days prior to this meeting.

Section 1.00 – Precinct Organization

The discussion of the POO began with a motion by Wake County Treasurer Max Adams to insert into Section 1.02-Part 4 the words “as well as the occupation and employer of the contributor.”

His motion was seconded by several people. It was passed by a voice vote.

As amended, Section 1.02-Part 4 now says: “The precinct chair certifies to the county chair in writing the names of those in attendance, the names of officers and delegates elected, and the names and addresses of contributors as well as the occupation and employer of the contributors.”

At this point Commissioner of Insurance Wayne Goodwin and Secretary of State Elaine Marshall addressed the meeting.

Following their addresses, Presiding Chair Cliff Moone returned to consideration of POO amendments at Section 1.05.

Section 1.05

A motion was made to change “Any person” to “Any registered Democrat” in Section 1.05. The motion was seconded by Tony Wayne of Henderson County.

The motion was passed by a voice vote.

Keith Thompson of Buncombe County made a motion to approve all proposed amendments through Section 1.04.

John Brooks of Wake County objected that the SEC could not amend the POO today. He stated that the SEC had no authority to amend the POO today.

Cliff Moone ruled that Mr. Brooks’ objection was out of order.

John Brooks appealed Cliff Moone’s ruling. By a voice vote the SEC supported Cliff Moone’s ruling that it was proper to amend the POO at today’s meeting.

Eleventh District Chair Luke Hyde issued a Quorum call. A count revealed that 340 SEC Members were still present. Therefore, a Quorum still existed.

The SEC then went back to Keith Thompson’s motion to approve all proposed POO changes through Section 1.04.

Mike Schaul of Wake County made a motion to amend Keith Thompson’s motion so the SEC will approve all of Section One proposed changes.

By a voice vote the SEC voted in favor of Mike Schaul’s motion to approve all proposed changes to Section One. (These changes will be added to the POO which can be viewed at www.NCDP.org.)

The meeting then went into an extended discussion of Section 10 of the POO.

Senator Don Davis proposed an amendment which dealt with the subject of **“TEMPORARILY RELINQUISHING PARTY OFFICE WHEN A CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN MANAGER IN PRIMARIES.”**

Senator Davis’ motion would strike Section 10.03 and replace it with the following wording:

“10.03 VACATING AND TEMPORARILY RELINQUISHING HOLDING PARTY OFFICE WHEN A CANDIDATE OR CAMPAIGN MANAGER IN PRIMARIES

“PRIMARIES

“Any officer of any precinct, county, congressional district or state executive committee, who (1) files for a partisan elective office and who is opposed in the Democratic Primary or (2) manages a campaign for a candidate in a partisan elective office who is opposed in the Democratic Primary, shall be deemed to have temporarily relinquished holding that office as of the date that another NC Democrat files for the same elective office throughout the duration of that Primary Election.

“Any officer of any county, congressional district or state executive committee, who takes an active campaign managerial or staff role or is a treasurer appointed for campaign reporting purposes in support of a candidate in a partisan elective office who is opposed in the Democratic Primary, shall be deemed to have temporarily relinquished holding that office as of the date such candidate and another Democrat file for the same Elective office throughout the duration of that Primary Election.

Senator Don Davis then proposed an amendment (Amendment A) to the main amendment.

Amendment A:

“When a chair temporarily relinquishes holding office, the first vice chair of that executive committee shall assume such duties for the duration of the Democratic Primary. If, for any reason, there should occur a vacancy in the first vice chair of the executive committee, the second vice chair, the third vice chair, the secretary or the treasurer, in that order, shall assume such duties until the office of the first vice chair is filled or until the closing of the Primary Election, whichever occurs first. If an officer other than the chair temporarily relinquishes holding office, the chair may assign the duties of that officer in part or in entirety to any member of that executive committee for the duration of the Democratic Primary.

The SEC then voted on Amendment A. It was adopted by a voice vote, a majority being in favor.

Senator Davis then offered a second amendment (Amendment B.)

Amendment B:

“Upon the approval by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the executive committee, its treasurer may be exempted from temporarily relinquishing office and permitted to serve for the duration of the Democratic Primary as a non-voting member of the executive committee. A treasurer of an executive committee who also serves as a treasurer in

support of a candidate in a partisan elective office who is opposed in the Democratic Primary shall be deemed to have vacated office.”

The SEC then discussed Amendment B.

Betsy Leech said that the position of Assistant Treasurer is currently authorized. Therefore, she opposes the Amendment B.

Stephanie Goslen of Franklin County said that the Party has control of the money, not the new Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. She is favor of Amendment B.

Henderson County chair Mark Case spoke in favor of Amendment B.

David Bland spoke in favor of Amendment B.

Jennifer Motsinger of Jackson County said she opposes Amendment B.

Bob Hyman spoke against Amendment B.

An SEC member called for the question. The call for the question was passed by a voice vote.

The SEC then voted by a voice vote to defeat Amendment B, a majority being opposed.

The meeting then proceeded to debate the passage of the Senator Davis’ main motion on Section 10.03.

Doug Berger spoke in favor.

Bob Hyman spoke in opposition to this main motion on Section 10.03.

Nancy Moore or Gaston County expressed opposition to the main motion on Section 10.03.

Orange County Chair Matt Hughes spoke in support of this amendment.

Franklin County Chair Jenny Edwards expressed her support of this amendment.

Wake County Chair Brian Fitzsimmons called for the question. His call for the question was passed.

Presiding Chair Cliff Moone informed the SEC that a 2/3 vote was required to pass this main motion on Section 10.03.

A vote was taken and it was ruled that this main motion was passed because more than 2/3 of the votes were in favor.

A proposal for an Alternate Plan of Organization for the Wake County Democratic Party was introduced by County Chair Brian Fitzsimmons.

The proposal stated that 35% shall constitute a quorum at Wake County Executive Committee meetings.

Chris Telesca, for a Point of Order, asked if proper notice had been given in Wake County for this motion to be considered at today’s SEC meeting.

The Chair ruled that he could not properly rule on that question.

Xena Ericksen called for the question. Her motion to call for the question was passed.

The SEC then voted to approve this motion which stated that 35% shall constitute a quorum at Wake County Executive Committee meetings.

The results of the first round of balloting for DNC Members were announced.

Results of DNC female vote:

Dee Dee Adams of Winston-Salem was elected to the DNC.

A second round of votes will be taken to select between:

Brenda Pollard and Sheila Hutchins

Results of DNC male vote:

A second round of votes will be cast to select between:

John Verdejo, Cliff Moone, and Ryan Butler

SEC Members marked their second round ballots and they were collected.

Executive Director Kimberly Reynolds presented the Financial report which included the following information:

- \$112,000 was in the NCDP Treasury at the end of 2015. The Party has no debts except legal debts.**
- Repairs have been made to the State Headquarters.**
- In the fourth quarter of 2016, 188 people donated to the NC Republican Party while 788 people donated to the NC Democratic Party**
- In 2015 NC Democratic Party received donations from over 5,000 people. Over 1,000 of these were new donors.**
- She promoted the Blue Crew donation program**
- In 2016 the NC Democratic Party needs \$850,000.00 for its Operating Budget.**

Brian Fitzsimmons made a motion to adopt the Budget presented by Executive Director Kimberly Reynolds. Sarah Anderson seconded his motion. This motion was passed by a voice vote.

Keith Thompson of Buncombe County gave a Tribute to longtime Buncombe County Register of Deeds Otto Debruhl.

District Chair Cozzie Watkins promoted the Twelvth District's 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Matilda Phillips, President of the Senior Democrats of North Carolina, promoted the Senior Dems' 2016 State Convention.

Matt Hughes, Chair of the Platform and Resolutions Committee, came to the stage to present the report of his committee. He suggested that all Resolutions be passed unless SEC Members requested that certain Resolutions be pulled for discussion.

Kathy Sinclair of Buncombe County made a motion to pass the entire report of the Platform and Resolutions Committee. Betsy Wells seconded her motion.

Ann Newman requested that Resolution 38 be pulled.

Marena Groll of Durham requested that Resolution 50 be pulled.

Mike Schaul asked for Resolutions 39 and 40 be pulled.

Mike Potter requested that Resolution 30 be pulled.

David Bland made a motion to approve all non-pulled Resolutions.

Cindy Sinkez seconded the motion. This motion to pass all non-pulled Resolutions was passed by a voice vote.

Marena Groll asked that the numbers be removed from the House and Senate bills in Resolution 50.

Mike Potter said Resolution 30 should be defeated because virgin trees were being cut down, converted to wood pellets, shipped overseas where they are creating environment pollution when they are burned.

David Bland made a motion to approve Resolution 30. Jake Quinn seconded the motion. This motion to approve Resolution 30 was passed by a voice vote.

Ann Newman made a motion to change the title of Resolution 38 to "Resolution in Favor of Greater Protection for People with Substance Use Disorders." Her motion was seconded by Brenda Cleary. This motion was passed by a voice vote.

Jake Quinn made a motion to pass Resolution 38 with its changed title. His motion was seconded by Brenda Cleary and was passed by a voice vote.

A discussion began on Resolution 39 about US relations with Cuba. Mike Schaul said this Resolution is out of date. Sybil Mann and Bob Hyman said that this Resolution is needed because it still will take an act of Congress to open an embassy in a foreign country.

Charlie Reece made a motion to adopt Resolution 39. Ginger Walker seconded his motion. This motion was passed on a voice vote.

The SEC began a discussion of Resolution 40 about US relations with Iran. Christian Cano said that we need to support President Obama on Iran.

Elli Klein made a motion to change to wording of Resolution 40 to say: "Reject War and Continue To Build Relations with Iran." Jerry Markatos seconded her motion. This motion was passed by a voice vote.

A motion was made to amend the last sentence of Resolution 40 to say: "Be it resolved that we strongly reject the call to bomb Iran and urge Congress to support future administrations in continuing diplomatic accords." This motion passed on a voice vote.

Doug Berman made a motion to remove the words “reject carpet bombing” from the Iran Resolution. Ruth Bishop seconded this motion. It was defeated by a voice vote.

State Chair Patsy Keever announced results from the second round of DNC Voting:

Female Ballot – Sheila Huggins of Durham was elected.

Male Ballot – John Verdejo and Cliff Moone were elected.

A vote for North Carolina’s fifth seat on the DNC was announced. SEC Members were told they could vote for any of the original DNC candidates who had not already been elected. Ballots were cast and collected.

All of the current NCDP Headquarters Interns were called to the stage where they introduced themselves and told the name of the university they are attending.

Jannet Barnes made a Quorum call.

Stella Adams pointed out that there was a Quorum when the SEC started conducting the elections and, therefore, the elections should be allowed to continue.

David Bland made a motion to pass Resolution 40 on US relations with Iran. Rich Elkins seconded his motion. His motion was passed on a voice vote.

All Resolutions that were adopted at this SEC meeting will be posted on the www.NCDP.org web site with the correct wording as passed.

Jerry Markatos made a motion asking the SEC to consider reaffirming a Resolution against the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) which was passed at a 2014 SEC meeting. Lou Ferresi seconded his motion.

Cliff Moone stated that for a Resolution from the floor to be considered by the SEC, a 2/3 vote would be needed.

A vote was conducted. It was ruled that 2/3 of the Members did not vote in favor. Therefore, the TPP motion was not eligible for consideration by the SEC.

Dewey Sheffield said that after reading three newspapers every day, he gets discouraged. He said he then gets uplifted and inspired when he receives “GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS.” He invited SEC Members to give a round of applause to Melvin Williams for publishing the “GOOD NEWS.”

Dr. Lavonia Allison promoted Early Voting on March 3-12 and promoted “Souls To The Polls.”

Sarah Fellman from the NCDP Headquarters reported on her outreach to get college students actively involved in voting and involved in the Democratic Party. This dynamic young lady has already successfully enrolled students at more than 30 North Carolina colleges and universities in her crusade.

Mecklenburg County SEC Member Marc Friedland presented a donation of \$1,000.00 to State Chair Patsy Keever. She invited other SEC members to make donations.

Connie Green-Johnson promoted her campaign for State Representative in House District 105.

Woodie Cleary spoke to the Members about his campaign for State Representative in Wake County.

Christian Cano promoted his campaign for Congress in the Ninth Congressional District.

Sybil Mann invited everyone to the Liston B. Ramsey Dinner which will be held in Mars Hill on April 9th.

A report from the balloting for the fifth DNC position was given. It showed that a runoff vote was needed between Jake Quinn, Rodney Moore, and Ryan Butler. Ballots were cast and collected.

Matt Hughes promoted his campaign for Orange County Commissioner.

Veleria Levy talked about her campaign for Rowan County Commissioner.

Marena Groll spoke to the Members.

Adam Coker promoted his campaign for Congress in the Second Congressional District.

A report on the latest DNC vote was given. It showed that a runoff was needed between Jake Quinn and Ryan Butler.

This runoff was done by a standing vote.

Ryan Butler won this vote for a seat on the DNC.

Summation: The five new DNC Members elected at this meeting were:

Winston-Salem City Council Member Dee Dee Adams

Sheila Huggins of Durham

John Verdejo of Raleigh

Cliff Moone of Hickory

Ryan Butler of Greensboro

The meeting was then adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Melvin Williams, Secretary
North Carolina Democratic Party**

