

MINUTES
NCDP STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ZOOM MEETING
7:00 PM, Wednesday, May 6, 2020

State Chair Wayne Goodwin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Secretary Melvin Williams conducted the Roll Call which showed that the following Council Members were in attendance:

Wayne Goodwin	Sonya Bennetone
Dr. Bobbie Richardson	Douglas Auer
Matt Hughes	Kathy Sinclair
Nida Allam	Cozzie Watkins
Jeff Rose	Felita Donnell
Melvin Williams	Jarrett Patrick
Anna Tilghman	Ginger Walker
Dianne Robertson	Allie Akers
Denise Adams	Devonte Wilson
Rev. Cliff Moone	Dr. Grace Galloway
Rev. Ray McKinnon	Vinod Thomas
John Verdejo	Randolph Voller
Shelia Huggins	Lee Nackman
Jon McLamb	The Rev. Dr. Wendy May
Senator Don Davis	Janice Covington
Chris Hardee	Kennis Wilkins
Jesse Goslen	Mark Edwards
Charlie Wallin	Brenda Pollard
Dave Wils	Floyd McKissick
Jim Davis	Congresswoman Alma Adams

At the end of the roll call, it was announced that 40 of the 53 Members were present on the call.

Executive Director Meredith Wilson congratulated all the people who helped make the recent County Conventions successful. She praised all the members of the NCDP team who worked on the County Conventions. She was happy to announce that more than 9600 Democrats attended the County Conventions in 92 counties. She also congratulated all the District Chairs who helped make the County Conventions successful.

Meredith reported that on Tuesday, May 5th mock District Conventions were held to help the District Chairs get ready for the virtual District Conventions.

She reported that the NCDP had already sent cards to District Convention Delegates giving them valuable information about the upcoming District Conventions.

She said the State Party has set up an 800 number which Delegates can call to register and log in to get Convention information.

Political Director Lorenzo Pedro also congratulated everyone who worked to make the County Convention a success. He said there will be a place on the NCDP.ORG website where candidates for Delegates to the National Convention can post their profiles.

Brenda Pollard asked “How can candidates for Delegate positions campaign?”

Lorenzo replied that the State Party will post campaigning methods on the NCDP.ORG website on Thursday, May 7th.

Congresswoman Alma Adams, an Ex-Officio Member of the Executive Council, addressed the Council.

Randy Voller asked the Congresswoman about the details of a bill about Confederate statues she had helped sponsor in previous years. Representative Adams said she would look up the details and speak on that subject in a few minutes.

Meredith Cuomo thanked everybody for helping make the recent changes in District Chairs and auxiliary Presidents a smooth process.

Wayne Goodwin thanked Meredith again for the job she is doing.

Congresswoman Adams reported that the bill she had help co-sponsor stated that no government funds could be used for the construction or maintenance of Confederate statues. However, she emphasized that everybody in Washington is totally focused on the coronavirus crisis now.

STATE CONVENTION DISCUSSION & ACTION

State Chair Goodwin announced that the June 6th State Convention will be a virtual event.

ED Meredith Cuomo gave a detailed explanation of the resolution entitled “RESOLUTION ON 2020 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION AND BIDEN-SANDERS AGREEMENT.” (This Resolution had been provided to Council Members in advance.) Throughout the rest of these minutes this resolution will be referred to as “RESOLUTION ONE.”

She announced that the Unity Dinner has been cancelled. She is planning to have speakers, music, and other entertainment during the State Convention.

Brenda Pollard asked if the traditional Unity Breakfast has been cancelled. Chair Goodwin said he has not talked with anyone from Wake County about it but it almost certainly will be cancelled because of the coronavirus and because most venues in Raleigh are not scheduling large event like the Unity Breakfast.

Wayne said the SEC will meet on the morning of June 6th before the State Convention. Meredith said the SEC will probably start at 9AM or 10AM. The State Convention will begin at 1:00PM.

Randy Voller and the Rev. Dr. Wendy May expressed their hopes that the State Convention will not be forced to be staged on a virtual basis again.

Vinod Thomas asked if the Council can expand RESOLUTION ONE to include the State Convention's Rules of the Day. He expressed the fear that some of the Rules of the Day might not work in a virtual Convention.

Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes explained each part of RESOLUTION ONE including the fact that it changed the filing deadline for candidates for National Convention Delegates to May 21, 2020.

The Rev. Ray McKinnon made a motion to separate the schedule of District and State Conventions in RESOLUTION ONE. His motion was seconded by the Rev. Wendy May.

Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes respectfully asked Ray and Wendy to withdraw their motion and explained why he was making this request. The Rev. Ray McKinnon and the Rev. Dr. Wendy May complied by withdrawing their motion.

Janice Covington asked if the Affirmative Action Plan is to help Democrats who have been discriminated against in the past.

Matt Hughes replied that was not the purpose of the Affirmative Action Plan. He said the Affirmative Action Plan does not allow any quotas. It just asks the State Party to seek not to discriminate.

THE REV. WENDY MAY MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION ONE. HER MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CLIFF MOONE.

Matt Hughes told Vinod Thomas that the Council does not need to do anything now on the State Convention's Rules of the Day.

Jeff Rose, President of the State Association of County Chairs, asked how we will vote at the State Convention. Meredith Cuomo explained that each State Convention Delegate will be assigned a number. Each Delegate's number will be assigned to their respective county which will produce correct weighted voting.

Cliff Moone expressed the opinion that everything we are doing tonight violates the POO because of the current national emergency. He said that in the future, amendments should be approved by a called SEC meeting.

Kennis Wilkins voiced support for RESOLUTION ONE. He said that in the past we have set goals to ensure that various groups were properly represented. He asked if we need to amend the POO so that the Party will not have to have a certain number of Delegates from certain groups? He expressed concern that we need to be sure to have proper representation for certain groups.

Matt Hughes said we need a plan that would permit the Party to suspend parts of the POO in times of crisis.

Tenth District Chair Doug Auer said that there will be a four or five day voting window as part of the upcoming District Conventions at which Delegates to the National Convention and the Presidential Electors will be elected. He asked if there will also be a similar four - five day voting window for the State Convention.

Matt replied that he did not think the four-five day voting window would be necessary for the State Convention because the process of narrowing the field of candidates per Delegate position to one consensus candidate would effectively eliminate the contest.

Matt said that the Affirmative Action Committee will work on selecting a well-balanced Delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

Secretary Melvin Williams reminded the group that Members need to say their name each time they start to speak.

The Rev. Dr. Wendy May asked how non-binary Democrats will be categorized at the District and State Conventions. Matt gave a detailed explanation of the election of non-binary Democrats. He emphasized that gender parity will be followed at the State Convention.

Delegate Selection Expert Julia Lee explained that ballots will not be divided by gender at the State Convention. Delegates will be told to vote for one person (or in some cases two people) without considering gender.

A motion was made to end discussion on RESOLUTION ONE. The motion to end debate was passed by a voice vote.

THE COUNCIL THEN VOTED ON THE EARLIER MOTION BY THE REV. DR. WENDY MAY AND SECONDED BY REV. CLIFF MOONE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION ONE. THIS MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION ONE WAS PASSED WITH NO OBJECTIONS AND WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS.

Secretary's note: The Resolution which was passed was the exact same resolution which was provided to Council Members in advance. It was not amended in any way. The official name of this Resolution was "RESOLUTION ON 2020 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION AND BIDEN-SANDERS AGREEMENT." To see the exact wording of this Resolution, open this link: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AnQ7o4fBJE0fjz5XycKxiFeWaJEfofCX>

DNC Member DD Adams heartbreakingly spoke about the death of The Honorable Vivian H. Burke who has served on the Winston-Salem City Council for 43 consecutive years. She was the longest serving municipal official in the entire nation.

DD Adams then made a motion to adjourn our meeting in Vivian Burke's memory. Several Members seconded the motion which was passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Brenda Pollard made a motion for the Executive Council to salute Governor Roy Cooper for his excellent leadership and service during this pandemic. (We will rely on Brenda Pollard to write this salute.)

Matt invited DD to join him in writing a Resolution about Vivian H. Burke.

12th District Chair Cozzie Watkins said we need a Resolution to honor nurses. She volunteered to join others in writing this motion.

Chair Goodwin volunteered to write a Resolution honoring First Responders. Bobbie Richardson asked that the Chair's Resolution include teachers.

The Rev. Dr. Wendy May asked everyone to join the Veterans and Military Families Caucus as they honor and pray for the members of the military who are fighting the coronavirus.

Janice Covington reminded everyone that June 6th, the day of the State Convention, is the anniversary of D-Day in 1944. She asked that we honor the military at the State Convention.

After a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed, the State Chair adjourned the Zoom meeting.

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