

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
ZOOM MEETING
7:00PM, JANUARY 11, 2021**

State Party Chair Wayne called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

The Roll Call showed that 31 of the 53 members were present. Therefore, a quorum was determined to be present.

The Council joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Then a Moment of Silence was observed.

Brenda Pollard made a motion to adopt the Agenda for the meeting. Wendy May seconded her motion. The motion was passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Floyd McKissick made a motion to approve the minutes of the last Council meeting which was held on December 21, 2020. Wendy May seconded his motion. This motion was unanimously passed by a voice vote.

The Council then moved to a discussion of the RESOLUTION OF 2021 NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETINGS IN RESPONSE TO ONGOING COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Matt Hughes made a motion to extend the effective dates of this resolution from January 21, 2021 to February 21, 2021. His motion was seconded by Dr. Bobbie Richardson.

Jesse Goslen asked a question about exactly when do terms of the precinct, county, and district officers end.

NCDP Parliamentarian Sybil Mann explained that the POO says the term of each officer ends at the moment a new officer is elected to replace them.

The Council then voted by a voice vote to approve Matt Hughes' motion to extend the effective dates of the STATE OF EMERGENCY RESOLUTION from January 21st to February 21st.

OLD BUSINESS

Jeff Rose reported that he and the NCDP staff have researched many vendors to determine which voting system would be best for the February 27, 2021 SEC meeting. They found that no vendor does everything the NCDP needs. The main problem is how to quickly count the votes of SEC Members who are attending by phone instead of Zoom.

Jeff said the staff and officers on his committee recommend that Google Forms be utilized at the SEC meeting because it is most cost effective and provides more privacy. This vendor will also allow votes by phone to be counted.

Angela Bridgman asked how can we make sure only SEC Members vote and make sure that every eligible person is allowed to vote. Jeff replied how Google Forms will take care of both of these questions.

Jeff made a motion to use Google Forms. Several members seconded his motion.

Jeff's motion to utilize Google Forms was passed by a voice vote.

Anna Tilghman presented the report of the committee that was appointed to study the matter of paying the NCDP State Chair. This is the text of her written report:

“We are offering this stipend in recognition of the expenses incurred in the service of the Democratic Party through the position of North Carolina Democratic Party Chair. Though the value of services greatly exceeds the amount of this small stipend, we recommend a stipend for the Chair in the amount of \$18,715.

“This amount is based upon the annual compensation offer to rank-and-file members of the North Carolina General Assembly of \$13,951 plus the amount paid on behalf of an employee of the North Carolina Democratic Party for health benefits.

“The Chairs shall have the discretion to utilize these funds in any manner for their benefit.

“We envision this effort as an ongoing process and recommend, upon the election of a new Party Chair, that they establish a committee, which is independent of the Personnel Committee, to continue the evaluation and study of compensation for the North Carolina Democratic Party Chair.”

Anna said that her committee recommended that the Party would not provide any health insurance for the State Chair.

First Vice Chair Bobbie Richardson recused herself from this discussion.

Angela Bridgman asked was the pay for the State Chair only. She asked if pay would be provided for the other State Party Officers.

Anna Tilghman said her committee was only recommending money for the State Chair. She said the committee appointed by the incoming State Chair could discuss future changes in remuneration and if it should be extended to the other State Party Officers.

Floyd McKissick made a motion to adopt the report of Anna Tilghman's committee to pay the State Chair a stipend of \$18,715. Several members seconded his motion.

Jesse Goslen asked if the State Chairs would have to pay their own travel expenses. The reply was that the Chairs travel would be reimbursed in addition to the salary.

Veleria Levy said pay to the State Chair should be a higher amount so we could "make it a job."

Lee Nackman agreed that the Chair's pay should be higher. He said this amount is not adequate. He said the Council would be making a big mistake to keep the amount that low. He said the State Chair's salary should be in the same range as the Executive Director. He said that if the Chair's salary was kept this low the pool of available talent would be narrowed.

Randy Voller reported that the State Party raised \$4,400,000.00 last year.

Tina Rodriguez told the Council that she had studied the State Republican Party's reports and they did not show any pay for their State Chair. She said that means the Republicans are paying their State Chair under the table.

John Verdejo said he will support the report of Anna's committee today but that the amount should be increased in the future.

Brenda Pollard asked if enough money was in the budget. Anna replied "Yes."

DD Adams told the Council that "to get the best, you must pay them well. We need to pay the Chair to deliver."

Matt Hughes said the \$18,715 was "way too low." He said it should be set at \$50,000.

Julia Buckner said she would support Anna's recommendation.

Emily Hogan, Felita Donnell, and Kennis Wilkins said they agreed.

Doug Auer asked if the \$18,715 could be amended at the SEC meeting. Sybil Mann said it can be amended by the SEC.

Ginger Walker made a motion to call for the question. Chris Hardee seconded her motion. This motion was passed by a voice vote.

The Council then voted on Floyd McKissick's motion to recommend that the State Chair should be paid a stipend of \$18,715. His motion was passed on a voice vote.

Executive Director Meredith Cuomo gave a report on the security measures that have been taken to protect the State Party Headquarters and its staff.

She said many threats have been made by one person before and after the election. The Raleigh police, the SBI, the FBI, have been notified. Off duty police have been hired to protect the State Headquarters 24 hours a day. Shatterproof plexiglass has been installed at the Headquarters.

Kennis Wilkins said we need to make sure the police we hire are Democrats. Meredith replied that the police were vetted before they were hired by the Party.

Wendy May said “You are putting our staff at risk.”

Julia said administrators should check the SEC Facebook page.

It was announced that the www.NCDP.org web site has a place where State Party Officer candidates can promote their campaigns and place a picture.

Melvin Williams invited each NCDP Officer candidate to put three pages promoting their campaign in GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS.

Angela Bridgman said the Party needs a social media policy.

Executive Director Meredith Cuomo presented a “debriefing” from the 2020 campaign.

At the end of her debriefing, Kennis Wilkins made a motion that the Council members save their questions for Meredith until the next meeting and that the Council adjourn. His motion was seconded by Wendy May and was passed by a voice vote.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:41PM.

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