

**MINUTES
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 29, 2020
CONE AUDITORIUM, UNC-CHARLOTTE**

Note: It is assumed that every SEC Member has kept and preserved their SEC Meeting Package which contains the Agenda, the Special Rules of the Day, the Code of Conduct, the Recommendations of the POO Committee, and the Resolutions.

State Chair Wayne Goodwin opened the meeting at 11:30AM and invited the following Democratic stars to come onto the stage and speak about their campaigns:

**Secretary of State Elaine Marshall
US Senate Candidate Cal Cunningham
NC Court of Appeals Candidate Tricia Shields
David Wilson Brown, Fifth Congressional District Candidate
NC Court of Appeals Candidate Lucy Inman
Chris Brown
11th Congressional District Candidate Phillip Price
Lt. Governor Candidate Bill Toole
13th Congressional District Candidate Scott Huffman
Ninth Congressional District Candidate Cynthia Wallace**

At 12:00 Noon Chair Goodwin officially called the SEC meeting to order. Sustaining Fund Co-Chair and Military Veteran Charles Johnson led the SEC in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United State.

The entire body recited the Tribute to North Carolina.

Chris Hardee made a motion to accept the proposed Agenda of today's Meeting. Vilma Leake of Mecklenburg seconded his motion.

Mike Schaul of Wake County addressed the SEC about several things about which he was concerned.

The motion to accept the Agenda was passed on a voice vote after one amendment was approved.

The meeting moved to consideration of the Special Rules of the Day. Chris Hardee made a motion concerning Rule 6 which was entitled “Plan of Organization Review Committee Report.” His motion was to eliminate the words ‘The body shall consider one amendment at a time.’ His motion was seconded by Tom Rothrock. This motion was passed on a voice vote.

Then a motion was made to change the Rules of the by:

- amending Rule 7b by adding the words “from the floor.” This was passed.**
- amending Rule 7d by allowing the debate period for each resolution to be changed from five minutes to “six minutes.” This was defeated by a voice vote.**
- amending Rule 7e by completely eliminating the following words: “The Code of Conduct Resolution requested by the State Executive Council shall be presented in a special order of business immediately prior to consideration of the relevant amendment proposals from the Plan of Organization Review Committee.” This was passed by a voice vote.**

The Special Rules of the Day were then passed as amended.

Chris Hardee made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2019 SEC meeting in Raleigh. Several Members seconded his motion. This motion was passed by a voice vote.

The State Chair invited Congresswoman Alma Adams to the stage where she delivered an uplifting message.

The State Chair then invited Matthew Basil to the stage to address to the SEC.

State Chair Goodwin announced that the State Convention is scheduled to be held in Raleigh on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

The SEC then voted to move the election of DNC Members ahead of consideration of the Budget.

The first round of voting was held to elect Two Male and Two Female DNC Members

The following distinguished candidates for seats on the DNC spoke to promote their campaigns:

DD Adams

Monica Gibbs

Wendy Ella May

Brenda Pollard

John Easterling

Sean Thompson

Aisha Dew

Jennie Marshall

Jan Nichols

Joshua “Fox” Brown

Matt Hughes

John Verdejo

SEC Members then voted by paper ballots. Each Member could vote for Two Male and Two Female DNC Members.

Executive Director Meredith Cuomo presented an overview of the 2020 Budget of the State Democratic Party.

Phyllis Russell asked for an explanation of the difference in the Budget between “Budget” and “Spent.” Meredith gave an explanation.

Dr. Lavonia Allison asked: “What is under the ‘Training’ item of the Budget? She said: “We need to reach the Unaffiliated voters.”

The Honorable Floyd McKissick made a motion to adopt the 2020 Budget. Charles Johnson seconded his motion. This motion was passed on a voice vote.

The following Democratic candidates addressed the SEC:

Senator Terry Van Duyn for Lt. Governor

State Rep. Chaz Beasley for Lt. Governor

Walter Smith for Commissioner of Agriculture

Luis Toledo for State Auditor

State Senator Erica Smith for US Senate

Jenna Wadsworth for Commissioner of Agriculture

Gray Steyers for NC Court of Appeals

David Parker for US Congress, 10th Congressional District

Yvonne Lewis Holley for Lt. Governor

James Barrett for Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ronnie Chatterji for State Treasurer

Michael Maher for Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ron Newton for Lt. Governor

Trevor Fuller for US Senate

The results of the first round of voting for DNC Members were announced. Male: John Verdejo (65%) and Matt Hughes (64%). Since both John and Matt received more than 50%, they were elected to the DNC.

Female: Sheila Huggins (46%), D. D. Adams (44%), Jenny Marshall (29%), Monica Gibbs (21%), Brenda Pollard (18%), Wendy May (14%), Jan Nichols (9%), and Aisha Dew (8%)

Since no female candidate received 50%, a second round was required. Aisha Dew withdrew from the race.

The State Chair announced his nominations to seats on the following Temporary Committees of the National Convention: Platform, Credentials, and Rules. His appointments were:

Platform: Jenny Marshall, Kenneth Stutts, Matt Hughes, Nancy Wiggins, and Michelle Torres

Credentials: Jenny Marshall, Kenneth Stutts, Dwight Willis, and John Verdejo

Rules: Jenny Marshall, Kenneth Stutts, John Verdejo, Michelle Torres, Francisco Torres

Note: After this SEC meeting, an update from the DNC regarding people not being able to serve on multiple committees, Chair Goodwin made new appointments to eliminate duplication on these Temporary Standing Committees.

His new appointees are:

Platform: Jenny Marshall, Kenneth Stutts, Matt Hughes, Nancy Wiggins, and Jenny Marshall

Credentials: Dwight Willis, Emily Hogan, Betsy Wells, Da'Quan Love, and Francisco Rivas-Diaz

Rules: John Verdejo, Francisco Torres, Stephanie Piques, Brenda Pollard, and Elizabeth Goodwin

The meeting moved to consideration of the Code of Conduct which was approved by the NCDP Executive Council earlier that day. Here is the full text of the Code of Conduct:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OFFICERS AND LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS

Our Party's Plan of Organization states:

“We, the members of the North Carolina Democratic Party, in order to make more effective the principles of our Party, to embrace and serve all peoples of our Party without regard to race, age, gender, color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, or physical disability (hereinafter referred to as “status”), to insure the blessings of liberty and equal opportunity, and to work together for the welfare and happiness of all citizens, do hereby adopt and establish this Plan of Organization.”

This applies as much to the internal working of our party as to the type of state and nation we wish to build. Our Party is comprised of paid staff and countless unpaid volunteers from diverse backgrounds, united by our shared values for a better government that works for all Americans. We are further united in our belief that the Democratic Party is a force for positive and progressive change for our state and country in our quest to overcome the gridlock and dysfunction that too often grips our political system.

As Democrats, our united effort is focused on working together toward common goals, treating each other with respect and not allowing our differences to divide us, standing against discrimination against anyone in the party on the basis of status, trusting one another to act in our party's best interest, being aware of our limitations and collaborating to overcome obstacles, and always seeking feedback to improve our party's work.

As an officer or leader in our party you have the right to be treated fairly, equally, and within the bounds of party rules. You also have the responsibility to behave in a way that does not negatively impact other members, officers, staff, volunteers, people who interact with the Party in a professional or volunteer capacity, or the party's reputation.

We encourage robust and passionate debate on policy, strategy, and the way in which our party is governed. We also expect our members to behave lawfully and honestly, to be sensitive to other people's feelings, and respect their right to have and express views different from their own.

Our responsibilities as party members apply not only to our personal conduct but also to our conduct in communications, including electronic means, and with the media in all its forms. Here is a checklist of questions you should ask yourself as you communicate internally or externally:

- **Could what I am intending to do or say or write (in any format) be taken as intimidation, harassment or bullying?**
- **Is what I say or write the truth?**
- **Am I acting in the party's best interest?**
- **Is what I am doing compliant with electoral law?**
- **Is what I am doing compliant with data protection standards?**
- **Is what I am doing in line with our Plan of Organization and the Spirit of the Party Platform?**

If you are unsure about any of these then take advice before acting. Your precinct, county, congressional district, auxiliary organization, or state party officers are a resource and can act as sounding boards.

Behavior which is unlawful, dishonest, deceitful, violent, or threatening will be considered to bring the Party into disrepute and can possibly constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the Party's Plan of Organization vis-a-vis the Council of Review. The party reserves the right to refer any breach of this code of conduct which breaks criminal law to law enforcement as well as dealing with it under this code of conduct.

Though auxiliary organizations are independently governed and chartered by the North Carolina Democratic Party, it is our hope that they will also govern themselves under a similar code of conduct in keeping with their by-laws as approved and sanctioned by the Party's State Executive Committee.

With your support, we can challenge others who seem to be acting against the spirit of this code and support those who are role models. In this way, we can ensure that we encourage the best in ourselves to thrive and grow.

LGBT Caucus President Ginger Walker reported that prior to today's meeting the Presidents all the State Party auxiliaries had held a conference call to discuss the Code of Conduct. After reviewing and discussing it, the caucus presidents voted to unanimously support the Code of Conduct.

Chris Telesca expressed opposition to the Code.

[Special Note/Addendum from NCDP Chairman Goodwin to the 29 February 2020 minutes: It is acknowledged that at this point during the SEC meeting Chris Telesca of Wake County offered up from the floor a short, non-controversial amendment to the proposed Code of Conduct that was quickly adopted unanimously. However, neither he nor any NCDP officers nor anyone on NCDP staff, nor anyone else on the SEC for that matter, has a contemporaneously written copy of the Telesca amendment, nor does anyone recall with certainty, including Mr. Telesca, who actually received the written amendment from him. Further, apparently no one - including Mr. Telesca - has a photo of the proposed amendment on their phone or any other device. As a result of Mr. Telesca's inquiries, in the months since the 6 June 2020 SEC meeting of those February 2020 minutes there has been a thorough analysis of all related SEC materials. Multiple requests were also made to Mr. Telesca and others as to what his amendment specifically stated. Mr. Telesca has refused to provide the wording or even a general idea as to what his non-controversial amendment purported to do so it could be re-constructed. No specific wording has been located or provided by anyone, including Mr. Telesca. Meantime, NCDP has implemented procedures to prevent this situation from recurring at future SEC meetings. Chairman Goodwin has also asked Mr. Telesca, if he so chooses, to work with someone designated by the new Chairman to re-construct the proposed amendment for re-presentation and consideration at a future SEC meeting. Based on the above, all truly has been done to address the matter.]

Julia Buckner of the Democratic Women spoke in favor of the Code.

Labor Caucus President Randy Voller gave his views on the Code.

Kevin Creech spoke in opposition to the Code.

Because the five speakers above had used all the allotted time to discuss the Code of Conduct, Vilma Leake made a motion to extend discussion for three minutes. It was announced that a 2/3 favorable vote would be needed to pass this motion to extend discussion.

The “Nays” carried the vote and it was announced that discussion of the Code was over.

Vilma Leake expressed concern about this closure. It was ruled that she could not speak as a Point of Personal Privilege on this matter.

Then the Chair announced that there would be a vote on whether the SEC would override the vote against allowing three more minutes to speak on the Code. It was announced that a 2/3 majority would be needed to override the SEC’s prior vote. The motion to allow three more minutes of discussion was defeated.

More: Then a standing vote was taken on the issue of whether three more minutes of debate would be allowed. By this standing vote, the SEC voted not to allow three more minutes of debate.

By a voice vote the SEC then voted to adopt the Code of Conduct.

By ballots, the SEC Members then voted for DNC Members from among the nominees who were not elected on the first ballot. After the votes were tallied, it was announced that the following two candidates had received more than 50% and, therefore, they had been elected to the DNC:

Shelia Huggins (68%) and DD Adams (62%)

The floor was then opened for nominees for North Carolina’s fifth seat on the Democratic National Committee. This position could be male or female.

Janice Covington Allison nominated Wendy Ella May.

Tom Rothrock nominated Brenda Pollard.

Someone from Buncombe (who did not say their name clearly) nominated everyone who did not win on the first round of voting.

Sean Thompson placed his own name in nomination.

Dylan Frick stood and reminded the SEC that the rules say that nominations for the fifth position should be the two candidates of each gender who garnered the most votes during the first round.

Matt Hughes explained that another part of the POO allowed all these nominees to be candidates for the fifth DNC position.

A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. This motion to close was passed on a voice vote.

The State Chair ruled that the candidates for this next round of voting would be listed on the big screen in alphabetical order.

The candidates on this round of voting were:

Joshua “Fox” Brown

John Easterling

Monica Gibbs

Wendy Ella May

Jenny Marshall

Jan Nichols

Brenda Pollard

Sean Thompson

SEC Members then voted by paper ballot.

At this point the State Chair electrified the meeting by saying: “Ladies and Gentlemen, let us welcome to the stage DR. JILL BIDEN!” The entire SEC rose and welcomed Dr. Biden with thunderous, long lasting applause. In addition to talking about Vice President Joe Biden’s campaign, Dr. Biden related that she had awakened in California that morning and that North Carolina was the fourth state in which she had spoken that day.

REPORT OF THE PLAN OF ORGANIZATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

POO Committee Chair Cliff Moone presented Recommendation for changes in the POO. These proposed changes had already been approved by the full POO Committee.

Recommendation # 1 – Alternative Plan of Precinct Organization for Burke County. The motion to approve this section was approved.

Recommendation # 2 – This was entitled “Encourage Participation.” The motion to approve this section was approved.

Recommendations # 3 – 7 – “Add new 0.04 Code of Conduct and renumber as needed.” These recommendations added the requirement that the Code of Conduct be complied with by:

(#3) Officers of the County Executive Committee,

(#4) Officers of the Congressional District Executive Committee

(#5) Elected Officers

(#6) State Executive Council

(#7) Executive Director and State Party Staff (in the program this recommendation is incorrectly labeled as #8)

The motion to approve Recommendations #3 – #7 was approved.

Recommendation # 8 was entitled “Jurisdiction” and contained sections entitled:

- Matters and Disputes arising from any Party Meeting or Convention provided for in this Plan of Organization**
- Violations of the Code of Conduct**
- Methods of Notification of the Chair of the Council of Review**

The motion to approve Recommendation # 8 was approved.

Recommendation # 9 was entitled “10.01” Grounds for Removal.”

The motion to approve #9 was approved.

Recommendation #10 was entitled “Procedure For Removal.”

The motion to approve #10 was approved.

Recommendation # 11 was entitled “Add new 12.14 and renumber as needed.” The new 12.14 was entitled “Code of Conduct.”

The motion to approve Recommendation #11 was approved.

Recommendation # 12 was entitled “The current section 3.08 of the POO was written when the NCGA shifted all judges to non-partisan races. This change re-creates Judicial Executive Committees to allow the Party to name nominees for DAs and judges, if there is a vacancy after the nomination period is complete but before a general election and any other actions required by law.

The motion to approve Recommendation # 12 was approved.

Recommendations #13 - #14 were entitled “In many cases after complying with the demographic requirements of our Plan, newly elected officers may not have the best skill set to complete the tasks assigned by the Plan. These changes (#13 and #14) allow the elected officers to reassign the tasks among themselves as needed.

Recommendation #13 made changes to 2.05 - Duties of County Officers.

The changes in

Recommendation #14 made changes to 3.05 Duties of Congressional District Officers.

Kevyn Creech of Wake County introduced an amendment to 2.05 which added the words “Assignments or re-assignments of duties must be agreed upon by affected officers.”

Kevyn Creech's amendment was adopted by a majority of the SEC. The amended amendment to Section 2.05 was then adopted by a 2/3 majority of the SEC.

Recommendation #15 – Alternative Plan of the Orange County Democratic Party. The motion to approve this section was approved.

The following Democrats came to the podium to make remarks:State Representative Chris Hall of Iowa

**Supreme Court Justice Mark Davis
State Representative Chaz Beasley for Lt. Governor
Constance Lav Johnson for Superintendent of PI
11th Congressional District candidate Moe Davis
State Treasurer candidate Dimple Ajmera
Superintendent of PI candidate Keith Sutton
Jessica Holmes for Commissioner of Labor
Robin Bradford speaking for Tom Steyer**

The Chair announced that no candidate for the fifth DNC position had received 50%. Therefore there would be a runoff for the fifth seat on the DNC between:

**Jenny Marshall – 33%
John Easterling – 29%
Wendy Ella May – 15%**

NCDP Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes presented the Resolutions and Platform Committee Report. Matt Hughes chaired this committee as he has for many years.

Resolution # 1 was entitled RESOLUTION HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS, SERVICE, AND MEMORY OF ARCHIE LEVON CROSS of Chatham County. This Resolution was passed unanimously without discussion.

Resolution #2 was withdrawn because it was about the CODE OF CONDUCT which had been adopted by the SEC earlier in the meeting.

Resolution #3 was entitled RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF ORGANIZED LABOR TO THE U. S. ECONOMY AND THE NEED TO STOP THE WAR ON UNIONS AND COME TO THE AID OF ORGANIZED LABOR AND WORKING PEOPLE.

This Resolution was passed unanimously without discussion.

Resolution #4 was entitled RESOLUTION TO REPEAL UNCONSTITUTIONAL ANTI -BOYCOTT LAW.

Mike Schaul and several other SEC Members spoke against this Resolution.

A motion to indefinitely postpone consideration of this Resolution was introduced, seconded, and passed.

Resolution #5 was entitled RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PREVENTION OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL WAR.

Resolution #5 was passed unanimously without discussion.

It was announced that in the most recent vote for North Carolina's fifth seat on the DNC the results were:

Jenny Marshall – 48%

John Easterling – 39%

Wendy Ella May – 13%

Since no one received 50%, another round of voting was held. The candidates on this round were:

Jenny Marshall

John Easterling

After the ballots were counted, the following results were announced:

Jenny Marshall – 57%

John Easterling – 43%

Since she had received more than 50%, Jenny Marshall was elected.

To recap, the five NC Democrats who were elected to the DNC were:

John Verdejo

Matt Hughes

Shelia Huggins

DD Adams

Jenny Marshall

The SEC meeting was then adjourned so many of the members could transition to the Blue Extravaganza at the Hilton at University Place.

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