

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ZOOM MEETING
NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY
FEBRUARY 27, 2021

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Revised wording is in red.

In writing these minutes it is assumed that SEC Members have retained the full contents of the SEC Packet which was sent to them. This packet included the Agenda, the Rules of the Day, PoO Review Committee recommendations, Report of the Resolutions and Platform Committee, and many other pages of information.

The meeting was called to order at 1:14PM by State Chair Wayne Goodwin.

NCDP Parliamentarian Sybil Mann presented the Statement of Inclusion from the NCDP Plan of Organization.

State Young Democrats President Devonte Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Chair Wayne Goodwin led the Salute to North Carolina. After Chair Goodwin reminded everyone that more than 11,000 North Carolinians have died from COVID-19, he called for a Moment of Silence.

Governor Roy Cooper addressed the SEC through a video. He congratulated everyone on their performance in 2020 and called for all of us to work to turn North Carolina Blue in 2022.

Secretary Melvin Williams announced that with 534 SEC Members online, a Quorum had been established.

The Chair asked if anyone objected to the Agenda which had been sent to SEC Members in advance. No one objected. Cliff Moone made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Jesse Goslen seconded the motion which was passed without objection.

Mike Schaul asked if it was too late for him to make some motions. He was told that it was too late.

The next item was approval of the minutes of the February 29, 2020 SEC meeting. Julia Buckner made a motion to approve the

minutes and Scott Huffman seconded it. Bob Hyman called attention to the fact that Jenny Marshal's name is included twice in the same sentence. The Secretary removed her name once. The minutes were then approved by a voice vote.

The SEC then moved to consider approval of the minutes of the June 6, 2020 SEC meeting. Cliff Moone made a motion to amend. The State Chair explained why this motion was out of order. Cliff Moone withdrew the motion to amend.

The State Chair asked if there was any objection to passing the Minutes of the June 6, 2020 meeting. There was no objection and the Chair declared that the minutes had been adopted.

State Chair Wayne Goodwin made his Chair's Report which included an emotional farewell speech. Even though it was difficult to do through Zoom, SEC Members across the state gave Wayne lots of cheers and applause.

The State Chair then announced the following events in the Party's 2021 calendar:

Precinct Organization, March 6 – March 20, 2021

County Conventions, April 10th, 2021

Make Up Date – County Conventions, April 17, 2021

Congressional District Conventions, May 22, 2021

Summer SEC Meeting, August 7, 2021

Retiring Third Vice Chair Nida Allam made a report on her activities and gave a heartwarming farewell speech. She assured everyone that she will still be deeply active in the Party.

DNC Member attorney Shelia Huggins presented a detailed report on approving the charters of NCDP auxiliaries for the next two years. She made it clear that her committee recommended approval of the charters of all our auxiliaries. The approval recommendations were made in three different groups.

Her report is as follows:

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- 1. Recommend approval of the following auxiliaries: AAC, AAPI, Coastal, Democratic Women, Interfaith, Labor, LGBTQ, Native American, Progressives, Seniors, Small Business, Transgender, YDNC, Veterans, and Rural Caucus that fully met the requirements**
- 2. Recommend approval of the following auxiliaries (substantially met the requirements, noting that they may want to consider clarification on one requirement): Hispanic, Disability Issues.**
- 3. Recommend approval with the condition that certain changes are made to the bylaws or that approval be granted because the bylaws are in substantial compliance with national requirements and any needed changes be made in accordance with 11:03 of the PoO (if necessary): College Democrats, Teen Democrats**

Matt Hughes made a motion to approve the report of Shelia Huggins' committee. Audra Killingsworth seconded his motion. This motion was approved by a voice vote. Therefore, the State Chair proclaimed that all auxiliaries are now chartered.

Shelia Huggins then presented three new auxiliaries which are ready to be certified for the first time : the Disability Issues Caucus, the Inter-faith Caucus, and the Rural Caucus.

Michael Evola spoke about the Disability Issues Caucus, its goals, its membership, and the reasons why it should be certified. The Disability Issues Caucus was then certified by a raised hands vote of 297 to 3.

Bryan Jenkins said the SEC need to approve all the auxiliaries which are up for certification as a block instead of one at a time.

Rosanne Griffin said she could not get her Zoom voting device to work. Cynthia Wallace said she couldn't vote. Then she reported her voting device was fixed. Marcus Blankenship questioned the voting system being used at this meeting.

Shelia Huggins recommended approval of the Inter-faith Caucus.

Nida Allam, Brenda Pollard, Kennis Wilkins, and Wendy Ella 4 May spoke in favor of this caucus. Larry Cormier spoke against the certification of this caucus.

The SEC then voted to certify the Inter-Faith Caucus by a vote of 359 – 37. Erica Smith reported that she had voted “For” the Inter-Faith Caucus.

Shelia Huggins then recommended certification of the Rural Caucus. Janice Covington spoke against certifying this caucus because the officers can not be from 20 counties which are designated as “urban.” Deborah Killingsworth said: “You can be involved without being in charge.”

The SEC then approved certification of the Rural Caucus by a vote of 356-20.

Phyllis Russell requested that an autopsy report on the 2020 election be given to every SEC member. Chair Wayne Goodwin and Executive Director Meredith Cuomo explained that many, many autopsy reports had already been delivered. Meredith invited people to email her to receive a copy of an autopsy report.

Roxanne Griffin reported that the Zoom device would not let her vote and that she was in favor of certifying the Rural Caucus.

NCDP’s 2021 Budget was then brought before the SEC. Jessica Holmes said that she liked the idea of having a stipend for the State Chair but that the figure of \$25,000 recommended in the Budget “was not where the Party Chair’s pay should be.”

David Dixon said that SEC Members had not been given a copy of the Budget in time. He said Members need it at least five days in advance.

Phyllis Russell stated that she did not object to the expenditure side of the submitted budget, but she requested that the revenue side of the budget be provided to the SEC for review as well. Chair Goodwin stated that the SEC does not decide how the party raises its money. Meredith Cuomo said that the party “is in a good financial spot” and expects to raise the 2.5 million dollars needed for the budget in 2021.

Dr. Bobbie Richardson said she was recusing herself from the discussion of the Budget.

Nazim Uddin asked why there was a large increase of 5 \$500,000 for salaries in the Budget. ED Meredith Cuomo explained that many new positions are going to be added to the NCDP staff. She named each of these positions and explained why each of these positions is needed.

Bob Hyman said there are a lot of contradictions in the Budget as presented.

The SEC then voted to approve the 2021 Budget.

Third Congressional District Chair Chris Hardee made a report from the Plan of Organization Review Committee which he chairs.

He first presented Alternate Plans of Organization for Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Wilkes, and Rockingham counties. Kevyn Creech expressed opposition to the Alternate Plan for Rockingham County.

Therefore, Rockingham County's Alternate Plan was pulled away from the plans for the other four counties.

The Alternate Plans for Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, and Wilkes were approved by a vote of 289-16.

The SEC then turned to consideration of the Rockingham County Alternate Plan of Organization. Kevyn Creech again expressed her disapproval of this plan.

George Greene made remarks and gave some suggestions about this plan.

Bob Hyman stated that the PoO does not allow the SEC to amend Alternate Plans of Organization after they are approved by the PoO Review Committee.

The SEC then approved the Rockingham County Alternate Plan of Organization by a vote of 314-14.

Chris Hardee then presented a group of amendments to the PoO which deal with the structure of the PoO itself.

Section 2.02 shall be amended by adding these words: "All voting members of the County Executive Committee shall be registered Democrats in the County."

Section 3.02 shall be amended by adding these works: “All voting members of the Congressional District Executive Committee shall be registered Democrats in the Congressional District.”

These two amendments were approved by the SEC.

Chris Telesca proposed a change to Section 8.04. His motion was to reduce the number of members of the PoO Review Committee which can be appointed by the State Party Chair from nine to six. Dr. Bobbie Richardson expressed her opposition to this proposal. Nazim Uddin spoke in favor of this proposal.

This proposal was seconded by a person who did not clearly state their name.

Shauna Williams spoke in favor of keeping the number of appointees to nine as it is now.

Chris Telesca’s motion about Section 8.04 was defeated.

Chris Telesca then made a motion to require that the PoO Review Committee must give advance notice of all its meetings to all Democrats. Pauline Lopez of Person County spoke about this motion.

Cliff Moone then made a Point of Order that stated that a different section of the PoO would need to be amended to accomplish Chris Telesca’s goal. That section is 14.02 which already requires a 14-day notice of PoO Review Committee meetings.

Jay Calendine stated that 14.02 puts the burden of giving notice on the PoO Review Committee.

Jesse Goslen spoke against Chris Telesca’s motion and moved that it be referred back to the PoO Review Committee. Jim Davis seconded this motion. Eva Lee spoke in opposition to this Telesca motion. Scott Huffman expressed support for sending this motion back to the PoO Review Committee.

Jesse Goslen’s motion to refer this Telesca motion back to the PoO Review Committee was passed by a vote of 274 – 102.

Michael Evola made a motion to suspend the rules and extend this SEC meeting until 6:00PM. Mark Gibb of Guilford said it should

only be extended to 5:30PM. Chris Hardee spoke in favor of extending the meeting until 6:00PM. Cynthia Wallace seconded Michael Evola's motion to extend the meeting until 6:00PM. This motion was passed by a vote of 360-30.

Senator Don Davis asked why are votes being held by division. Then he made a motion to adopt the PoO Review Committee's changes to section 8.04. Chris Hardee and Paulina Lopez of Person County spoke about this motion.

All of the proposed changes in Section 8.04 can be found on page 39 of the SEC Program.

The vote to approve Senator Davis' motion to adopt the proposed changes to Section 8:04 as recommended by the PoO Review Committee was approved by a vote of 216 – 84. Therefore, the proposed amendment was adopted.

The SEC then moved to the PoO Review Committee's proposal to change Section 6.01 Congressional District Conventions. This change would add this sentence: **Elect from among the registered Democrats of the congressional district, one (1) member of the Plan of Organization Review Committee.** This proposal is found on page 39 of the SEC packet. This proposal was passed by a vote of 280 – 20.

The SEC then moved to consideration of amendments to Sections 1.03, 1.05, 2.05, 2.11, and 12.07 which can be found on pages 40 – 43 of the SEC packet.

Cynthia Wallace made a motion to close debate on these amendments and Chris Hardee seconded her motion. This motion was passed by a vote of 306-25.

The SEC then voted to approve these amendments by a vote of 317 – 35.

A video tribute to Wayne Goodwin was then played. Some of the Democrats who gave tributes to Wayne in the video were: Governor Roy Cooper, Elaine Marshall, Congresswoman Alma Adams, Senator Dan Blue, Jr., Dr. Bobbie Richardson, Matt Hughes, Nida Allam, Anna Tilghman, Doug Wilson, Chris Hardee, Cliff Moone, DD Adams, Jackson Goodwin and Madison Goodwin.

The floor was then opened for nomination for State Party Chair. Crystal Morrison, Dr. Cathy Graham, and Raul Carillo nominated Clayton Brooks.

Eva Lee placed her own name in nomination.

Congressman G. K. Butterfield nominated Bobbie Richardson and Mecklenburg County Chair Jane Whitley seconded her nomination.

Adrian Domenech-Mercado of Pender County nominated Chris Telesca. Sam Brewer seconded his nomination.

THESE RESULTS FOR STATE PARTY CHAIR WERE ANNOUNCED

Bobbie Richardson – 394 votes – 80%

Clayton Brooks – 63 votes – 12%

Eva F. Lee – 21 votes – 4%

Chris Telesca – 13 votes – 2%

Chair Goodwin said the meeting will be extended until 7:30PM.

New NCDP Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson made an acceptance talk and began to conduct the meeting.

Wally White nominated Clayton Brooks for First Vice Chair. Floyd McKissick and Wendy Ella May placed their own names into nomination for First Vice Chair.

THESE RESULTS FOR FIRST VICE CHAIR WERE ANNOUNCED

Floyd McKissick – 352 votes – 74%

Clayton Brooks – 98 votes – 20%

Wendy May – 27 votes – 5%

At this point Chris Hardee made a motion to extend the meeting until 8:00PM. Julia Buckner seconded his motion. The motion passed by a vote of 272 – 32.

The floor was opened for nominations for Second Vice Chair. Marilyn Carter was nominated by Vance County Chair Marcia Allen. Brunswick County Chair Tom Sapp seconded her nomination. Byron Gladden nominated himself. State Rep. Zack Hawkins nominated Matt

Hughes. Mecklenburg County Chair Jane Whitley seconded his nomination.

THESE RESULTS FOR SECOND VICE CHAIR WERE ANNOUNCED

**Matt Hughes – 282 votes
Marilyn Carter – 140 votes
Byron Gladden – 22 votes**

Cumberland County Party Chair Sharon Johnson nominated Valencia Handy for Third Vice Chair. Julia Buckner nominated Shannon Auer and Nervahna Crew seconded her nomination. Congresswoman Alma Adams nominated Drew Kromer.

ELECTION RESULTS FOR THIRD VICE CHAIR – FIRST ROUND

**Shannon Auer – 181 votes – 42%
Drew Kromer – 143 votes – 34%
Valencia Handy – 103 votes – 24%**

ELECTION RESULTS FOR THIRD VICE CHAIR – SECOND ROUND

**Shannon Auer – 249 votes – 61%
Drew Kromer – 157 votes – 39%**

**Maria Cervania nominated Angela Bridgman for Secretary.
Carl Newman nominated Melvin Williams for Secretary.**

While the SEC Members were casting their ballots, Matt Hughes said: “It is important for everyone to recognize that we have at least one other thing to consider which is the Resolutions. We have a plethora of honorary resolutions to consider tonight honoring Wayne Goodwin and others and so I would ask for a unanimous consent that those resolutions be approved without objection and then after that if time allows, we do have one resolution that deals with **SUPPORTING FAIR PRIMARY ELECTIONS.”**

State Chair Richardson asked if there was a second to approve the honorary resolutions unanimously. A Democrat whose name was not announced seconded the motion.

Then when the State Chair asked for unanimous consent, several hands were raised to object to unanimous consent. Therefore, these Resolutions were not approved.

THESE RESULTS FOR SECRETARY WERE ANNOUNCED

Melvin Williams – 298 – 77%

Angela Bridgman – 88 – 23%

Angela Bridgman said: “It was an honor to stand for election and I congratulate Melvin Williams.”

Myrna Campbell made a motion to extend the meeting until 9:45PM. Cynthia Wallace seconded her motion. This motion was passed.

Someone asked if a quorum was still present. Chair Richardson replied that Zoom showed that 420 Members were still in the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by a Democrat whose name was not said clearly. A second was made by a Democrat whose name was not said clearly. A majority voted to adjourn by show of hands.

Chair Richardson stated that it was 9:56 PM and that the Resolutions that were not considered at this meeting will be considered as Old Business at the next SEC meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

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