

**MINUTES**  
**STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**JUNE 10, 2021**

**The Executive Council meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by State Party Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson.**

**The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A Moment of Silence was held. The State Chair suggested that everyone remember longtime State Party Chair Barbara Allen who died recently.**

**Secretary Melvin Williams called the roll which showed that the following 44 members were present:**

<b>Bobbie Richardson</b>	<b>Sonya Bennetone</b>	<b>Lee Nackman</b>
<b>Floyd McKissick</b>	<b>Valencia Handy</b>	<b>Veleria Levy</b>
<b>Matt Hughes</b>	<b>Jim Davis</b>	<b>Nazim Uddin</b>
<b>Shannon Auer</b>	<b>Doug Auer</b>	<b>Michael Evola</b>
<b>Jeff Rose</b>	<b>Michael O'Shea</b>	<b>Carl Newman</b>
<b>Melvin Williams</b>	<b>Cozzie Watkins</b>	<b>Kennis Wilkins</b>
<b>Anna Tilghman</b>	<b>Al Heggins</b>	<b>Jarrett Patrick</b>
<b>Denise Adams</b>	<b>Anderson Clayton</b>	<b>Wayne Goodwin</b>
<b>Jenny Marshall</b>	<b>Jon McLamb</b>	<b>Marilyn Carter</b>
<b>John Verdejo</b>	<b>Felita Donnell</b>	<b>Ryan McGill</b>
<b>Shelia Huggins</b>	<b>Ginger Walker</b>	
<b>Don Davis</b>	<b>Jenna Kubiak</b>	
<b>Rebecca Llewellyn</b>	<b>Julia Buckner</b>	
<b>Chris Hardee</b>	<b>Tina Rodriguez</b>	
<b>Jesse Goslen</b>	<b>Taylor Beckett</b>	
<b>Charlie Wallin</b>	<b>Dr. Grace Galloway</b>	
<b>Dave Wils</b>	<b>Randy Voller</b>	

**After the roll call showed that 44 of the 55 Council Members were present, a quorum was declared.**

**Dr. Bobbie Richardson gave a welcome to everyone.**

**Floyd McKissick made a motion to adopt the proposed Agenda for tonight's meeting. His motion was seconded by both Kennis Wilkins and Ginger Walker. This motion was approved by a voice vote.**

**Cozzie Watkins made a motion to adopt the Minutes of the Executive Council meeting which was held on February 27, 2021. Felita Donnell seconded the motion and it was passed by a voice vote. John Verdejo asked that his name be added to the roster of Members who attended the February 27, 2021, Executive Council meeting. His name has been added to those Minutes.**

**Chair Richardson gave a report on many of her activities and accomplishments since she was elected. She reported on her work with the Headquarters Staff, Trustees, Passport Patrons, Sustaining Fund, Strategic Plan, County Conventions, District Conventions, and collecting names for County Boards of Elections.**

**First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick reported on his work on the Strategic Plan, the Streamline Committee, and the Stipend Committee.**

**Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes reported on his activities which included the Strategic Plan, two NCDP Officer retreats, and Men of Color planning. He also reported that he, Sybil Mann, and Floyd had been appointed to a Code of Conduct committee.**

**Third Vice Chair Shannon Auer reported on her work with the Streamline Committee and the Courtesy Committee.**

**Jeff Rose, President of the State Association of County Chairs, reported on his work helping County Chairs and District Chairs set up their 2021 Conventions. He has also spent a considerable amount of time helping county parties get their Board of Elections nominees to the State Party, helping new Chairs with all aspects of their job, and helping them develop their strategic plans.**

**Treasurer Anna Tilghman reported that she has worked with Finance Director Jackie Gonzales and she worked with the stipend committee.**

**Secretary Melvin Williams reported that since the beginning of 2021 more counties have participated in getting information to GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS than before. He also reported that he continues to write all minutes within the recommended time frame and that he attended both Officer Retreats that have been held this year.**

**Chair Richardson added Julia Buckner to the Agenda of this meeting. Julia then told the Council about all the arrangements that have been made for the upcoming weekend training for which 715 Democrats have registered. She said there will be 30 breakout groups.**

**Executive Director Meredith Cuomo then made an extensive presentation about the Strategic Plan which many people have helped develop. Council Members received part of the Strategic Plan as a pdf and part on their computer screens. (Since the Strategic Plan is only to be shared with**

**Council Members, it can not be included in the Minutes of today's meeting because the Minutes are open to the public on the NCDP website.)**

**Floyd McKissick made a motion to adopt the Strategic Plan as presented today subject to future adjustments and additions. Kennis Wilkins and Chris Hardee seconded his motion. This motion was approved on a voice vote with one "No" vote being recorded.**

**Floyd McKissick then presented the following report from the Streamline Committee which he and Chris Hardee co-chaired.**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The purpose of the recommendations set forth below herein is to streamline or reduce the time that it takes to conduct State Executive Committee Meetings. To accomplish this objective, we are proposing revisions to the issues or matters that would be taken up in State Executive Committee Meetings depending upon whether it is a Winter SEC Meeting or a Summer SEC Meeting and whether the meeting occurs in an even-numbered or an odd-numbered calendar year. The recommendations are as follows:**

- . Shift the approval of affiliated organizations or caucuses to Summer State Executive Committee Meetings in odd numbered years**
- . Only hear resolutions once a year at the Summer State Executive Committee Meetings. We would set time limits for how long resolutions could be debated or discussed**

**before an up or down vote. In addition, the committee responsible for reviewing proposed resolutions could hold some type of public hearing in advance of a State Executive Committee Meeting to allow for public input relating to proposed resolutions.**

- . Limit and cap the actual time that will be allowed on State Executive Committee agenda topics, not just the time allowed for speakers**

- . Plan of Organization Amendments – would simply come to the State Executive Committee to be voted up, down, or sent back to the Plan of Organization Committee. The Plan of Organization Committee could hold hearings separately relating to proposed Plan of Organization Amendments.**

- . For the State Democratic Party’s Annual Budget, we would use a system similar to the system used by the Democratic National Committee (DNC.) There would be a Finance Committee formally established that would be composed of Members of the State Executive Council that would review the budget with the Executive Director and the Treasurer and the Finance Committee would send the provided budget to the Executive Council for review where it could be tweaked or revised. After the State Executive Council approves the proposed budget, it would be sent to the State Executive Committee which would receive a high-level Executive Summary relating to the proposed budget, and the State Executive Committee would simply vote the proposed budget up, down, or refer it back to the Executive Council.**

- . Establish a filing period in which NC Democratic Party officer candidates could declare their candidacy. We would**

**prohibit persons from being nominated from the floor the day of the Executive Committee Meeting. This would allow SEC Members to know in advance all the potential candidates for a particular office or position significantly in advance of a State Executive Committee Meeting. In addition, it would allow all persons who are seeking an officer position to participate in Candidate Forums hosted by Congressional Districts or by County Democratic Parties well in advance of State Executive Committee Meetings. In addition, candidates would only be allowed limited time at a SEC Meeting to identify themselves and to state why they are running. Candidates could also be allowed an opportunity to submit a video that would be limited to 3 to 5 minutes that would be available on the website of the State Democratic Party.**

**. During years that officers are elected at the SEC Meeting, the election of officers would be placed at the top of the agenda, and, as noted earlier, strict time limitations would be placed on comments made by candidates the day the election occurs.**

### **SUMMARY OF WHAT WOULD BE COVERED AT SEC MEETINGS IN EVEN & ODD NUMBERED CALENDAR YEARS**

**. In odd-numbered calendar years, at the Winter SEC Meeting, we would approve the Budget for the State Democratic Party, and we would conduct an Election of Officers.**

- . In odd-numbered calendar years, at the Summer SEC Meeting, we would hear resolutions and approve the charters of affiliated organizations.
- . In even-numbered calendar years, at the Winter SEC Meeting, we would approve the Budget, and we would elect members to the National Democratic Committee.
- . In even-numbered calendar years, at the Summer SEC Meeting, we would deal with our party's platform and consider resolutions. We would also, during appropriate years, during our State Convention elect Delegates to the National Democratic Convention, and, in appropriate years, elect Presidential Electors.

**Verbally, it was suggested that “Democratic Stars” give their talks during the first half hour of SEC meetings. (No indication was given as to whether Senator McKissick’s committee would accept this suggestion as part of their report.)**

**Floyd McKissick made a motion that the report of his committee be approved with consent to proceed to consider other changes. This motion was passed by a voice vote.**

**Shannon Auer made a report on the new Courtesy Committee which she has been appointed to chair. She said its role will be to honor the deceased, send messages to sick Democrats, and give recognition to outgoing Democratic Party Officers. She said two members are currently serving with her. They are Brenda Pollard and Elijah King. She has two open vacancies on her committee.**

**Shannon said each county will be asked to designate a Courtesy Liaison person. No vote was needed on this matter because it was presented for information purposes only.**

**Kennis Wilkins gave a report on the Stipend Committee which he chairs. He said Floyd McKissick is Co-Chair of the Benchmark Subcommittee which is checking with other states to see how they reward their State Chairs. They have found that 13 states pay their State Chairs between \$100,000 and \$120,000. Anna Tilghman is Co-Chair of the Budget Subcommittee and Randy Voller is Co-Chair of the Compensation Strategy Committee. Other Stipend Committee members are David Bland, Jim Davis, Wendy Ella May, Kathy Sinclair, Marcia Allen, and Everett Ward.**

**Kennis said that during the next three months members of his committee will talk with representatives of Governor Cooper and will report back to the next Council meeting and the next SEC meeting.**

**Chris Hardee said that the POO Review Committee which he chairs has sent a written report to Council Members. It is for information purposes only. It does not require a vote.**

**Matt Hughes reported on the successful meeting of the Platform and Resolutions Committee which he chairs. He said that more than 100 Democrats attended the virtual meeting of his committee on the previous Saturday. They considered more than 200 resolutions. He said that subcommittees of his committee will make reports at a July meeting.**



**State Chair Richardson congratulated everyone for their hard work and dedication.**

**The State Chair called for Old Business. No Old Business was presented.**

**The State Chair then called for New Business. She congratulated the 41 counties who made Rapid Responses to the call for action when Donald Trump came to North Carolina recently. She then saluted the 715 Democrats who have registered for the training that will be held during the next weekend.**

**The State Chair then saluted the NCDP Caucuses. She gave special recognition to the AAPI caucus which staged a heritage event recently.**

**Jarrett Patrick made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. His motion was seconded by Jim Davis. This motion was passed without objection.**

**The State Chair declared the meeting to be adjourned after it has been in session for Two Hours, Thirty One Minutes, and 45 Seconds (2:31:45.)**

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