

MINUTES
STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
10:00 AM, SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022
ZOOM MEETING

In writing these minutes, it is assumed that SEC Members have retained the full contents of the SEC Packets which were sent to them before the meeting. Those packets included the Agenda, the Rules of the Day, the minutes of the previous meeting, the PoO Review Committee recommendations and many other pages of information.

The activities began with cheerful music and comments by Training Director Julia Buckner. Then she introduced a Democratic film which lasted four minutes.

State Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson called the meeting to order and recognized Hispanic American Dems President Elke Weil-Millan who led the group in a minute of meditation. Elke then led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the flag of North Carolina.

Political Director Lorenzo Pedro explained the meeting's registration procedures.

Dr. Richardson introduced Kinston City Councilman Chris Suggs who addressed the meeting. He is the youngest elected official in the entire state. He spoke about the needs of towns that are about the size of Kinston and what the Democratic Party can do to help those towns.

Dr. Richardson led the group through all the Zoom steps and directions.

Secretary Melvin Williams gave the Quorum report. He reported that there are 612 Members on the SEC and that 245 Members are needed to establish a Quorum. Since 452 SEC Members had already registered, a Quorum was declared to be present. (452 was also the final total of registrations of SEC Members for the meeting.)

State Secretary Melvin Williams has no role in the registration process at SEC meetings. He has no role in deciding who will be allowed to register and who will not be allowed to register.

The entire registration process is conducted by the State Headquarters staff. Then they report the numbers to the State Secretary who announces whether the meeting has a Quorum.

Brenda Pollard made a motion to approve the proposed Agenda for today's meeting which is on page 5 of the SEC Packet. Cliff Moone seconded her motion. The SEC then voted to approve the Agenda by a vote of 374 – 1.

There was a short discussion about the Rules of the Day which were on page 5 of the SEC Packet. Marilyn Carter of Orange County made a motion to approve the Rules of the Day. Kevin Stallings of Wayne County seconded her motion. The SEC Members then voted to approve the Rules of the Day by a vote of 372 – 0.

Our State Chair promoted the NCDP Store and its fine contents.

Paula Shelton of Moore County made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Fall 2021 SEC meeting. Elke Weil-Millan of Wake County seconded her motion. The body then voted 357 to 3 to approve the Minutes.

Angela Bridgman raised a Point of Order. She complained that the budgeting process that was used in preparing the 2022 Operations Budget did not allow SEC Members to discuss the Budget with each other before today's meeting.

The State Chair ruled that her Point of Order was out of order. Angela then said the rights of SEC Members are being denied.

The State Chair asked Angela if she had received the SEC Packet which was sent to every SEC Member. Angelia replied "Yes." The State Chair said that receipt of the SEC Packet in advance gave Angela time to talk with other SEC Members about the Operational Budget.

2022 OPERATIONAL BUDGET

State Treasurer Anna Tilghman gave the Treasurer's Report. Anna and our State Chair thanked the members of the Finance Committee for their dedicated service. A copy of this Budget was in the SEC Packet.

It was pointed out that the Operational Budget is completely different from the Campaign Budget and the Coordinated Campaign Budget. Those budgets will include our GOTV and many other items.

Our Treasurer explained that the 2022 Operational Budget was approved by the Finance Committee. She then explained that this Budget was unanimously approved by the State Executive Council on January 10th and that it was sent to all SEC Members on January 12th.

Executive Director Meredith Cuomo went through the Operational Budget explaining in detail most of the items it contains.

Meredith pointed out that the county parties will receive many benefits from this 2022 Operational Budget. Examples she gave included the State Party paying to join Mobilize which benefits the county parties and down ballot candidates. This 2022 Operational Budget will also provide printed materials including sample ballots.

Our Executive Director said that a three-person group meets often to discuss the Budget. This group is composed of the State Chair, the Executive Director, and the State Party Treasurer.

Our Executive Director explained the fundraising expenses in the 2022 Budget. She said some of our upcoming fundraising events and expenditures will include:

- A block party one month before the General Election**
- The Party will pay two attorneys – one for state legal matters and one for federal legal matters**
- This Budget sets aside some money for heating and air conditioning repairs which will be coming up at the State Headquarters in future years**

Anna Tilghman reminded the SEC that the Finance Committee and the Executive Council had recommended this Budget. It was pointed out that no amendments from the floor would be allowed.

Jarrett Patrick spoke in favor of approving this Budget.

Matthew Sadinsky of Mecklenburg County called for the question on the 2022 Operational Budget. Cliff Moone of Catawba County explained that there was no need to have a vote on calling the question. He said the SEC could go directly to voting on the Budget.

The SEC then voted to approve the 2022 Operational Budget by a margin of 362 - 12.

At 11:34 AM the Chair announced a twenty-minute recess and said the meeting would resume at 12:00 Noon.

NCDP OFFICERS REPORTS

After the meeting resumed, State Party Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson gave a report on many of her activities and achievements since the October, 2021 SEC meeting.

Then the following State Party Officers gave reports:

First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick

Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes

Third Vice Chair Shannon Auer

Treasurer Anna Tilghman

Secretary Melvin Williams

State Chair Richardson recognized North Carolina's members of the Democratic National Committee. They are: Mayor Pro Tempore D. D. Adams of Forsyth County, Commissioner Matt Hughes of Orange County, John Verdejo of Wake County, Shelia Huggins of Durham County, Jennifer Marshall of Forsyth County, NCDP First Vice Chair Floyd McKissick of Durham County, and NCDP Chair Dr. Bobbie Richardson of Franklin County.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Our State Chair called on Chris Hardee, Chair of the Plan of Organization Review Committee, to bring forth the changes to the PoO which his committee recommended.

Cliff Moone told SEC Members that all of the PORC's Recommendations are on the www.NCDP.org landing page.

RECOMMENDATION #1

**Entitled “PORC ALT PLAN 1, Orange County Alternative Plan”
Benjamin Spence and Phyllis Portie-Ascot spoke in support of
this Recommendation. No one spoke against it.**

**Pam Carver called for the question. It was decided that no vote
on calling the question would be needed.**

The SEC then voted for Recommendation #1 by a vote of 310 - 9.

RECOMMENDATION # 2

**Entitled “PORC ALT PLAN 2, Wake County Alternative Plan.”
Speaking in favor of this Recommendation were: Kevyn Creech,
Hillary Varner, and Eva F. Lee.**

Speaking against was: Chris Telesca

**Benjamin Spencer made a motion to take a 15-20 minute break.
Our State Chair said that since over 400 Members were on the call, we
still have a Quorum and that the meeting would be continued without
a break.**

**Lawrence Carter of Wake County was recognized. He said that he
had raised his hand earlier to be recognized to second a motion. State
Chair Richardson apologized for missing Lawrence Carter’s raised
hand.**

The SEC then voted 288 - 24 to approve Recommendation # 2.

RECOMMENDATION #3

**Entitled “The NCDP Disability Issues Caucus requested the
wording ‘physical disability’ be changed to ‘disability’ to include all
disabilities, mental, intellectual, etc. for a more inclusive statement.”**

**No one wanted to speak on this issue so the SEC voted to
approve this Recommendation by a vote of 301 – 8.**

RECOMMENDATION #4

PORC's explanation of this Recommendation is "The term "50%+1" is often used to explain the term "majority" but it is technically incorrect. A majority is 'more than 50%."

This recommendation would change the wording in each of the POO sections listed below by deleting the term "fifty percent plus one" and replacing it by the term "a majority."

These changes will be made in the following POO sections

- 6.01 Congressional District Conventions**
- 6.02 State Convention**
- 5.03 Rules For County Conventions**

Toni Mingo of Mecklenburg County spoke in favor of this change. No one spoke against this motion.

The SEC voted to approve Recommendation #4 by a vote of 286 - 2.

RECOMMENDATION # 5

The PORC stated that "This amendment makes no content changes and brings this section's formatting in line with other parts of the plan mostly through using a bulleted list."

This Recommendation applies to: 4.06 State Executive Council.

Speaking for this Recommendation were: Lauren Bradley, Matt Sadinsky, and Pam Carver.

Speaking against this Recommendation were: Eva F. Lee and Chris Telesca.

The SEC approved Recommendation # 5 by a vote of 273 – 29.

RECOMMENDATION # 6

The PORC stated: "Following the perceived intent of the SEC in October, 2021, this amendment tasks the Executive Council with recommending the annual budget to the SEC 14 days in advance of its meeting."

This amendment applies to section 4.06.

Speaking in favor of this Recommendation were: Toni Mingo, Cliff Moone, Tyler Beale, Benjamin Spencer, and Bob Hyman. Chris Telesca asked for a Point of Personal Privilege to say this Recommendation codifies the original intent of the October, 2021 SEC meeting. No one spoke against Recommendation # 6.

The SEC approved Recommendation # 6 by a vote of 303 – 2.

RECOMMENDATION # 7

Recommendation # 7 was not presented to the meeting because the PORC decided to take it back to the next PORC meeting to further review it.

RECOMMENDATION # 8

This Recommendation applies to congressional districts which are entirely within one county.

It states: “For a convention of a single county congressional district, a quorum shall exist at any time at which there is present on the floor either:

- At least one delegate from a majority of the county commission districts entitled to be present at the respective convention with duly elected delegates to said convention:**
- Or five (5) percent of the total number of delegates elected to the convention.**

Speaking in favor of this Recommendation was: Kevyn Creech.

Speaking against this Recommendation was: Eva F. Lee

Leslie Cohen asked who decides which formula will be used. Chris Hardee replied that the district may use either formula.

The SEC then voted to approve this Recommendation by a vote of 284 – 12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Director Meredith Cuomo made the following announcements:

- **February 24 – Blue NC Celebration**
- **A Blue Crew event will be scheduled**
- **Donations for bricks at Headquarters**
- **5:30PM, February 17 – The Year in Review**
- **June 18 – State Convention followed by Unity Banquet**
- **February 5 – 19, Precinct meetings**
- **March 19 – County Conventions**
- **May 21 – District Conventions**
- **Everyone is invited to visit the www.NCDP.org website to view events which are being posted frequently.**

Meredith congratulated all the counties which have already paid their 2022 Sustaining Fund amounts.

She also congratulated this year's Trustees and Passport Patrons.

State Chair Dr. Richardson then announced that the State Headquarters staff had been subjected to foul language and verbal abuse from SEC Members during today's meeting.

She said this abusive behavior would never be tolerated again.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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