

**MINUTES
STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023**

State Party Chair Anderson Clayton called the Zoom meeting to order at approximately 7:00PM.

Secretary Melvin Williams called the roll as 14th Congressional District Chair Lisa Ellsworth compiled a running total of attendees. The roll call showed that 37 of the 55 voting members were present. The Secretary declared that a quorum was achieved.

Dorian Palmer made a motion to adopt the proposed Agenda. Ryan Jenkins seconded this motion which passed without opposition.

Chair Anderson Clayton reported on the continuing search for an Executive Director. She said she has three interviews scheduled during the next two weeks.

John Verdejo asked a series of questions about how the ED search had been conducted and whether this job opening had been listed on the NCDP website every day since it began.

Chair Clayton said she had talked with the national party and with many state party chairs about the ED hiring process. About 60 people applied.

Ryan Jenkins expressed appreciation for the way the State Chair is conducting the search.

Jonathan Adams was introduced. He related his education and his job experience. He said he had been with NCDP since May of this year. He said the state of the NCDP is "sound." He reported that NCDP has raised more than \$2 million this year. The Party's goal for this year is \$3-4 million. Matt Hughes asked if these numbers included amounts raised by the House and Senate caucuses. Jon replied "Yes."

Mary Thompson asked how this year's amounts compared with 2017's amounts.

Brandon Combs, Doug Auer, and new State Party Treasurer Deniese Chaney of Orange County made comments and asked questions. Deniese said she wants to conduct training for County Party Treasurers. She has already started writing a training book for

County Treasurers. Doug Auer said he would donate information for the County Treasurers book.

Carl Newman informed the Council that no vote had ever been taken to appoint Lillian Badgett Taylor to the position of Interim Executive Director.

Carl made a motion to officially appoint Lillian to the position of Interim Executive Director. A person who did not say their name seconded his motion which was approved by a show of hands.

Chair Anderson Clayton introduced several new Headquarters staff members to the Executive Council Members including:

- Communications Director Tommy Mattocks at TMattocks@NCDP.org**
- Party Affairs Political Director Nia Lanier at NLanier@NCDP.org, 704-930-6052. Lillian said that Nia will focus on volunteer infrastructure and candidate recruitment.**

Chair Clayton announced that the Council of Review will be under the Executive Director, not under the Political Director.

Pam McAfee, President of the Disability Issues Caucus spoke but audio issues prevented the Council from hearing her. She may be contacted at PDMcAfee@gmail.com.

Saletta Urena asked the Chair to repeat the list of unfilled positions.

NCDP First Vice Chair Jonah Garson and DNC Member Shelia Huggins gave a report on the work they have done to organize precincts in Forsyth County. They plan to continue this precinct organizing in other counties. They hope the next county in which they work will be in the eastern part of the state.

Jonah talked about the organizing work that he and Dr. Kimberly Hardy have done in Edgecombe County. He also talked enthusiastically about upcoming fundraising events in Hillsborough, another Orange County location, and several more places in the state.

NCDP Second Vice Chair Dr. Kimberly Hardy reported on her goal which is to tour 30 counties in eastern North Carolina. She has already been to Cumberland, Harnett, Edgecombe, and Pasquotank. Her goal in

each county is to visit a food bank, meet with the NAACP, meet local candidates, train the County Chair, help mediate tensions and end with a talk to the county's CEC.

Dr. Hardy and Floyd McKissick will be in Wilmington on Saturday for the 60th Anniversary of the 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON.

NCDP Third Vice Chair Elijah King reported that he has already visited 26 counties and has more on his upcoming schedule. He has also worked on recruiting and training new candidates and he will continue to do so. He has also focused on getting young people out to vote.

Cassie Rice, President of the Association of County Chairs, said that she will be happy to work with County Chairs on a one to one basis.

State Chair Anderson Clayton reported that she had recently returned from a national meeting of the State Action Network. Arizona Secretary Adrian Fontes was there and he renewed his offer to come back to North Carolina any time he can be helpful. Anderson also reported on many other things she learned at that meeting.

Collette Alston, President of the African American Caucus, talked about penalties and fines. She also reported on an AAC program to try to reach out to every precinct in the state which has at least 30% African American population. She said no updated tool on precincts is available to help with this program. Chair Clayton said she will be happy to help get an updated tool for the AAC. The Interim ED said Jeff Rose will be happy to help with this project.

Saleeta Urena told Jonah Garson and Lillian Taylor that on a previous District Chairs conference call she had stated that the AAC already had an initiative to organize African American precincts.

Young Democrats representative Katherine Jeanes reported on a meeting in Washington which she had attended. She also reported that the Young Democrats of North Carolina have raised a new record amount of \$31,000 in the past six months. She celebrated the fact that 70 Democrats from the YDs and Gaston County Democrats represented the Party at Charlotte Pride last weekend.

Pam McAfee talked about how the new NC voting laws will affect voters with disabilities. She was excited that the Disabilities Caucus now has more than 100 new members.

College Democrats President Kema Leonard reported on the progress his auxiliary has made since electing new Officers last spring. They have raised the number of organized chapters from nine to eighteen! Their goal is to have 30 organized chapters. His auxiliary has made over 51,000 calls about student IDs that are needed for voter ID.

Daniel Patterson, President of the NC Association of Teen Democrats gave a report on his auxiliary's progress since electing new Officers in the spring.

- 1 – NCATD “hosted its first event in over 3 years.”**
- 2 – NCATD visited the state legislature and received political training from Express Lane Strategies.**
- 3 – NCATD is hosting a menstrual drive. This drive aims to provide essential menstrual products to underprivileged teens, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources for their personal hygiene and well-being.**
- 4 – They have significantly improved their chartering process to make it more accessible and navigable for teens.**
- 5 – In line with the Teen Dems mission to provide valuable opportunities for teen development, NCATD is currently working on launching a municipal internship program. The primary goal is to offer teens from across the state the chance to gain hands-on experience by working in municipal political campaigns.**

State Democratic Women President Elizabeth Goodwin promoted the State DW Convention which will be held in Charlotte in September.

Dr. McAllister, President of the Inter-Faith Caucus, promoted the upcoming “Chop It Up” program which aims to reach out to African American males.

Third Congressional District Party Chair Dr. Wesley Boykin reported that he has worked and will continue to work on organizing the Lenoir County Democratic Party in Kinston. He invited State Party Officers to work with him.

Rhonda Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by many members and it passed unanimously.

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