

**Wilson County Democratic Party Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 8, 2017**  
**Minutes**

The Wilson County Democratic Party Meeting met at the Wilson County Public Library and was called to order by the Chair, Linda Cooper-Suggs at 9:32 AM. She began by welcoming and thanking everyone for their dedication. Meditation and prayer were given by Ann Y. Barnes, followed by the pledge of Allegiance led by Ray Chambers.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Moved by Lori Oxendine and seconded by Dewey Sheffield: the adoption of the agenda. Motion approved.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**May 13, 2017:** Moved by Tom Sallenger and seconded by Ann Barnes that the minutes be approved with corrections. **Corrections: Correct spelling of the names of Dewey Sheffield and Shaunna Kashdan.** Motion approved.

**June 17, 2017:** Moved by Eva Richardson and seconded by Nina Rogers that the minutes be approved. Motion approved.

**Chairman's Report:**

\*Continuing to work with volunteers to compile volunteer list. Calls have been made verifying the information of each volunteer. Going name by name to make sure the information is correct. Making sure the names are transferred over so that everyone is receiving a notice that has volunteered.

\*The chair instructed members to think of strategies to be used which would help our citizens to vote and we will hear these ideas under New Business.

**Treasurer Report: Given by the treasurer, Tom Sallenger:**

Balance as of July 8, 2017 ..... \$4,169.79  
(\$161.00 dedicated to the Sustaining Fund)  
Total to be Accounted For ..... \$4,169.76

**Officer Reports:**

**First Vice Chairman, Jim Hawley:**

Only 14 out of 24 precincts are organized and we need to work on that. Shared that the Republicans in the state legislature are trying to impeach Elaine Marshall, NC Secretary of State. He stated that we presently have 74 Republicans and 46 Democrats in the House of Representatives. Wilson County needs to come together and change the "state of affairs" in our legislature.

Discussion ensued. Some of the comments included; "An impeachment is an indictment. It's a two part process that does not remove her from office. Impeachment is a process that is a formal investigation on the matter. Neither state nor US law says that you must be a citizen to be notary public. We, Democrats, are mixed up, we need to stop working against each other on small issues; we must grow up and concentrate on the big issues. We are trying to work with our peers in the community to get individuals to come out and vote and show the rest, who are interested, that they can change their situation. We are trying to get more people involved. We must understand that some people feel that they do not belong because of their economic status. We must continue to work in many diverse ways."

The Chair stated that "we can't slack up. When we talk about brain power, I can't think of a better "think tank" than the people and experience right here in this room. We will not take "no" for an answer. We know must what needs to be done and the result will be, Wilson remaining a Blue County."

**Second Vice Chair, Beth Punte:** In her absence her report was read by the Chairman.

The Chair and the Committee Chair met with Jollie Barnes, Accu Printing, to discuss the invitations and the mailing date. The Fundraising Committee met on June 27, Wilson County Public Library. Those attending reviewed and discussed the proposed budget submitted by Tom Sallenger. The mailing list

from last year's Fall Fling was handed out for editing and review. Members were asked to spend time reviewing the list for accuracy.

Fall Fling will be held Thursday, September 21, 2017, from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at Something Different Restaurant. Ticket Cost... \$50.00 and each democrat is asked to sell 10 tickets.

#### **Auxiliary Reports:**

#### **A. Democratic Women report given by Lori Oxendine, Secretary in the absence of Mary Williams, Chair:**

\*The group did not meet in June. At the May 23rd meeting, thank you cards were disseminated for the raffle donations. Over \$2000.00 was raised.

\* The next fundraiser will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup>, at Brew Works, 6 pm (may change).

\*Membership drive will be starting July 25<sup>th</sup>.

\* Stated that the NC Treasurer is conducting an audit and is saying that the NC Healthcare system is underfunded by four billion dollars.

\*Planning to invite Republicans to their meeting to hold them accountable.

\* The Democratic Women feed the gentlemen at the Hope Station at the end of each month (to assist due to the depletion of local funds).

\* Keisha Loveless is the Chair of Congressional District 2.

#### **B. African American Caucus ..... Zett McArn, Chair.**

No report.

#### **Business:**

1. **Officers Training held to be held July 15 at 10 am, Hunt Library, 1070 Partners Way, Raleigh, NC; Registration begins at 9 am.**
2. **Unity Dinner is the same day. Tickets cost \$165. Eric Holder, former Attorney General under the Obama presidency, is the keynote speaker. Reception at 5 pm and dinner begins at 6 pm.**
3. **Municipal filings have begun and Councilman Derrick Creech has filed, District 7.**
4. **Remove August 5 from the calendar and ask Lori Oxendine to add the Sanford -Hunt-Frye Breakfast on the website.**
5. **Strategies to improve voting:**
  - \* **Educating the people is important. Continuous education is the key.**
  - \* **Create a 5-6 minute slide show which used be used with organizations etc. to educate people.**
  - \* **Present the nonparty aspect and what is going on that is affecting you. Educate the citizens by stating who is serving you.**
  - \* **Mentor candidates and provide financial support.**
  - \* **Develop "Talking Points" to be used by volunteers.**
  - \* **Conduct voter registration drives**
  - \* **Church involvement is essential**
  - \* **Upgrade data base**

**"The Democratic Party is the Party of Hope".**

**There being no further business a motion was made by Willie Williams to adjourn. Meeting ended at 10:54 am.**

**Eric Jenkins, Acting Secretary**

**Transcribing Notes, Linda Cooper-Suggs, Chair**