

MINUTES

County Executive Committee (CEC) Meeting Wilson County Democratic Party October 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Second Vice Chair Beth Punte at 9:30 AM at the Save A Youth Center, 639 Walnut Street South, in Wilson. The Vice Chair welcomed all present. Ann Barnes led meditation and prayer. Ray Chambers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Presentation: Vice Chair Punte introduced Julia Buckner, First Vice Chair and President Elect of the Democratic Women of North Carolina. Ms. Buckner presented on the topic of sharing our stories. The presentation encouraged Democrats to reflect on their personal stories – life experiences, challenges, choices – so as to make the connections between our personal lives, the values we hold, and our active service. She stressed the importance of thinking through those things that we value and ways we can share those values with words and images that will connect with others.

Roll Call: Secretary Terry Shackelford called the roll. 16 precinct officers representing 12 of the 14 organized precincts were present at the time of the roll call as well as 4 other WCDP party leaders, thus a quorum was established. 6 elected officials were also present at the time of the roll call for a total attendance of 25 CEC members.

Adoption of Agenda: A.P. Coleman made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, Charles Cook seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 9, 2017 meeting were presented by Vice Chair Punte with a notation as to corrected information regarding the notice time required for CEC meetings. Derrick Creech moved that the minutes be approved, Ray Chambers seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Review of Standing Rules: Vice Chair Punte reviewed the standing rules for elections.

1. Nominations accepted from the floor; may be seconded but not required.
2. Speeches not to exceed 3 minutes per candidate.
3. Candidates speak 1 minute; others may speak on the candidates behalf for 2 minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tom Sallenger reported a gross income from the Fall Fling of \$12,960.00 with \$5,382.70 in expenses having been paid, leaving a yield of \$7,577.30. Current fund balance is \$10,386.11.

Chair's Report: Vice Chair Punte reported on behalf of Chair Linda Cooper-Suggs in her absence. The Chair thanks all those who were involved in making the Fall Fling a success, especially Beth Punte and the Fling Committee, the Democratic Women, Councilman Creech's volunteers, Rodney Richardson and Tony Pender, the beverage hosts, and to all who helped to secure sponsorships. The Chair noted with thanks the contribution of Calvary Presbyterian Church, especially Brenda Avery and all those Democrats in that fold, who helped in graciously hosting our September 30 workshop. Senator Don Davis' time and effort in leading the workshop is much appreciated as well. Gratitude is also extended to Dr. Michael Bell and the Save A Youth staff for hosting today's meeting. The Chair noted recent county chair conference call highlights including an emphasis on publicizing municipal elections and field organizing. Students are needed to serve as field organizers. The Chair has had contact with the Progressive's Club at Hunt High School as well as Young Democrat Marvette Coley

regarding this need. The Chair attended the NAACP convention where Dr. William Barber delivered his final presidential address urging continued advocacy and involvement. Dr. Barber was named President Emeritus and Dr. Anthony Spearman was installed as the new President.

First Vice Chair's Report: No report was made in the absence of the First Vice Chair.

Second Vice Chair's Report: Vice Chair Punte reported that the Fall Fling was a great success and the speakers brought dynamic messages. She noted thanks to Erick Jenkins for his work in promoting the event on Facebook, Ken Barnes for his efforts with advertising, Betty McCain for making numerous phone calls to garner support, and Linda Cooper-Suggs for her dynamic leadership. Beth directed attention to the sponsor board on display and noted with thanks all those who had given their support.

Third Vice Chair's Report: Vice Chair Punte reported on behalf of Third Vice Chair Erick Jenkins in his absence. 3000 were reached through social media posts promoting the Fall Fling. The funds allotted for social media helped to make this effort possible. Ken Barnes was helpful with advertising and Lori Oxendine with posting to the web site. Voter education is the next publicity project.

Old Business

Election of SEC Member: Vice Chair Punte introduced the matter of the election by reminding the body that the matter was tabled at the last meeting. Dewey Sheffield made a motion, seconded by Brenda Avery, to place the matter back on the table and motion carried. The Vice Chair invited nominations. Dewey Sheffield nominated Arcelio Newell and Asa Gregory seconded the nomination. Joan Boykin nominated Randolph Sessoms and Dr. Ronald Williams seconded the nomination. A.P. Coleman moved that the nominations be closed, Dr. Michael Bell seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The Vice Chair called for speeches. Each candidate spoke briefly. Asa Gregory spoke in support of Newell. Joan Boykin and Dr. Ronald Williams spoke in support of Sessoms.

Vice Chair Punte called on Secretary Terry Shackelford to review the voting process. A brief recess was then called for precinct officials to caucus. The body was called back to order and Zette McCarn moved that votes be cast by ballot. Asa Gregory seconded the motion and the motion passed. Ballots were distributed with instructions, completed, and collected. Ray Chambers, Tom Sallenger, and Terry Shackelford served as a team to review the ballots.

The business of the day continued with Vice Chair Punte recording minutes while Secretary Shackelford participated in the ballot review.

New Business

Whirligig Festival: Vice Chair Punte led the discussion on the WCDP booth at the Whirligig Festival on Saturday, November 4th and Sunday, November 5th. Wanda Davis offered her tent, Beth Punte offered a table and chairs, and Asa Gregory offered decorations. Members signed up for times to work the booth.

Motion Re: Change to Meeting Procedure: Asa Gregory made a motion: *In order to be an inclusive and open party, I make the motion that the Wilson County Democratic Party replace a meditation and prayer with a moment of silence or inspirational thought.* Motion was seconded by Lori Oxendine. During discussion, Lori Oxendine mentioned that we should be more inclusive. Beth Punte mentioned that the Democratic Women have changed over to inspirational thoughts a few years ago to be more

inclusive. A member mentioned that both state and district North Carolina Democratic Party meetings now have a moment of silence. JoAnn Daniels offered an amendment to include both an inspirational thought and a moment of silence. Asa Gregory accepted this amendment and seconded the amendment. The amendment passed. The motion passed with no dissenting votes given. **Final Motion: In order to be an inclusive and open party, I make the motion that the Wilson County Democratic Party replace a meditation and prayer with a moment of silence and inspirational thought.**

Wanda Davis offered a report from the Democratic Women. She noted a letter from the Democratic Women appearing in the Wilson Times concerning the negative impact of the GOP agenda on women's health issues including certain executive orders issued by the President. The Democratic Women continue to be involved in supporting Wesley Shelter and Hope Station. The Democratic Women's Christmas Dinner, open to all Democrats, is set for December 14.

Councilman Derrick Creech reported that he has established a campaign headquarters in the Mercy Hospital building and that the campaign is seeking volunteers.

Asa Gregory reported that an initial meeting exploring interest in organizing a local Progressive Caucus will be held on November 4. The Progressive Caucus is now an official auxiliary of the NC Democratic Party.

Secretary Shackleford reported that a WCDP Proxy Appointment form is available and that he has a document to share with those who are interested in understanding how the quorum is calculated for CEC meetings. He reviewed the plans for email verification for CEC members in weeks to come.

Regarding the election of the SEC member: The Secretary reported that Arcelio Newell had received 43 votes and Randolph Sessoms had received 27.5 Vice Chair Punte congratulated Mr. Newell on his election.

There being no further business to come before the CEC, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted:

Terry Shackleford
Secretary

Beth Punte
Second Vice Chair/Acting Chair