

# Craven County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting

Craven County Democratic Headquarters  
1232 South Glenburnie Road, New Bern, NC  
7:28 PM  
June 12, 2018

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM
  - b. Officers present – Dorothea White, Chair; Helen Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; James Gilmore, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair; Linda Moore, Secretary and Elaine Ely, Temporary Treasurer
2. Approval of Agenda

Wray Simpson moved to accept the agenda for the meeting, Bryson Jones seconded, approved unanimously.
3. Pledge of Allegiance

Dorothea White, Chair, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call/Quorum Count

Roll was called by Linda Moore, Secretary. Quorum-Count Attendees:

a. Havelock	g. George Street
b. River Bend	h. Fort Totten
c. Grantham 1A	i. H J MacDonald
d. Fairfield Harbour	j. Glenburnie Park
e. Brices Creek	k. West New Bern
f. Grantham 2B	Ex-Officio: Bob Costanzo, Chair

Initially with 11 precincts present but only 13 people eligible to vote there was not a quorum. Helen Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, contacted a precinct officer who was said she would come and about 15 minutes later the person arrived. Linda Moore affirmed that the quorum needed of 14 members was met and the meeting proceeded although late.

5. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings
  - a. Executive Committee Meeting: April 17, 2018  
Evelyn Richards moved to accept all of the minutes, Marilyn Simmons seconded, approved unanimously.
6. Updates from Officers
  - a. Dorothea White, Chair
    - A. State Convention – 82 counties were represented
    - B. Governor O'Malley spoke and said "Let's not short change our people."
    - C. Josh Stein, Attorney General also spoke about protecting voting rights. Some of the other speakers included Elaine Marshall, Abe Jones, David Brown, Kyle Horton and Linda Coleman
    - D. Dorothea – discussed some of the 48 resolutions that were presented at the Convention including some that were pulled for various reasons
  - b. Helen Robinson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair –

- A. Next Pipeline Meeting will be on August 8. Currently 8 people are tracking candidates; plan to make strong connections over the summer.  
Wray Simpson asked why some candidates do not want help from the Democrats. It was explained for some candidates such as Scott Thomas, District Attorney, he is running unopposed, does not want to alienate voters that are not Democrats and has a strong family legacy to help him in his run. For others, we do not know why they seem to not want support
- B. GOTV – information from the board of Election on voter turnout for the primaries was provided. It was a low turnout all over the county. In an effort to support the precincts in their GOTV efforts, Helen Robinson will be holding a training session on August 13 at 7 PM at the Headquarters. Open to all precincts and members, not just precinct officers. The plan is to hold similar trainings in Vanceboro and Havelock areas. Jodie Lones, Havelock Precinct Chair, will help with lists of people to invite.
- c. 3rd Vice Chair James Gilmore: Communications Committee & Digital Infrastructure
  - A. Held a virtual phone back training. Jim Gilmore believes it is a good tool for organizing. He will provide more trainings in the future.
  - B. Candidate Confab will be held on Monday, June 18, at 7 PM at the Headquarters. There was steady growth in interest in the event. It will be a time to meet with candidates to determine what we can do to support them in their run for office.
  - C. Membership cards should be sent out next week. There was interest in offering more membership cards but we must reach enough orders for cards to make it financially viable when placing an order.
- d. Elaine Ely – Interim Treasurer
  - A. Prepared a detailed report which showed the bank account balance of \$15,955.33 as of June 8 2018. Elaine Ely was able to verify all expenses. The report detailed expenses and donations for the first quarter and second quarter to date.
  - B. She submitted an amended first quarter report; it was required because the report submitted by Richard Friend was incomplete. The bank changed its name as of March 13, 2018 which created some issues with finalizing an amended first quarter report but it was successful submitted and accepted

## 7. Old Business

- a. Strategic Plan Changes
  - A. The revised Strategic Plan was provided prior to the meeting for all to review. David Herndon talked about the changes from the original plan and the revision. Richard Friend moved to accept the revised Strategic Plan, David Herndon seconded, it was accepted unanimously.

## 8. New Business

- a. Election of First Vice Chair – Dorothea White introduced Charles Dudley. Charles provided information about himself and his experience. Charles was unanimously accepted as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair.
- b. Election of Treasurer – Dorothea White introduced Elaine Ely. Elaine provided information about herself and her experience. Elaine was unanimously accepted as Treasurer.
  - A. Campaign Finance rules are stringent and make the Treasurer's work very detailed. Bob Costanzo, CCDP Past President, suggested that we have an Assistant Treasurer. Elaine Ely said that Joe Ely has offered to assist her in the Treasurer duties. Discussion followed and it was determined that Joe Ely was eligible and an Assistant Treasurer position was allowed by the Plan or Organization. Jodie Lones motioned that Joe Ely be elected as the Assistant Treasurer, Marilyn Simmon seconded the motion. He was unanimously accepted as Assistant Treasurer. A job description for the

position will be developed. The state will be notified of the addition of an Assistant Treasurer position.

Wray Simpson asked Elaine if she planned to stay until the end of her term, she stated that she did and would work to ensure that the Treasurer's duties were fulfilled completely.

c. Discussion of CCDP Financial Protocols and Practices

A. A discussion followed about financial protocols and practices as a result of the issues experienced by the CCDP from January until May with no active Treasurer. How to handle finances if the Chair and or the Treasurer steps down or is inactive was asked. Richard Friend stated that as a result of the issues the Board experienced that he and Don Davis, NC Representative, will work together to revise a section of the NCDP Plan of Organization regarding such issues.

d. Discussion of CCDP Primary Election Protocols

Wray Simpson stated that it he thought it was inappropriate for people to run for office after they accepted a two-year term on the CCDP. It was noted by Dorothea that the NCDP Plan of Organization allows Party Officers to run for office, they just have to take a leave of absence from their position on a Board if there is a primary for the position.

Bryson Jones and Wray Simpson raised issues of what they felt were irregularities during the primaries. A specific example was a blue piece of paper that was handed out at several polling stations that listed the candidates for positions, they were hand checked for certain candidates. It was reported that in some polling places that the people handing out these slips of paper were saying that the CCDP was endorsing the candidates that had the check marks beside their names. It was explained that the Board learned of these allegations and took actions as soon as we aware of them to ensure they ended by –

- Contacting the Chair of a Precinct about mid-day to ask him to ensure it was not happening
- Two Board Members went to another polling site late in the voting day. Both asked folks about what was occurring; one Board Member got a copy of the blue slip of paper. Certain candidates names were checked on it but it did not have any indications that it was an endorsement by the CCDP.

Unfortunately, tempers flared and harsh words were exchanged between members of the audience. An individual used foul language, he was told it was not acceptable and that if he continued he would have to leave. Things seemed to calm after that exchange.

9. Announcements – were made about upcoming events

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

Minutes prepared by Linda Moore, Secretary