Minutes of the Annual Convention of the 5th Congressional District

of the North Carolina Democratic Party

Saturday, May 20, 2023

The annual convention of the 5th Congressional District of the North Carolina Democratic Party was held on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at the offices of Next Digital Print at 6517 Old US 421, East Bend, NC 27018.

The convention began on time at 10:00 AM with general comments by Chair **Charlie Wallin**. He noted 15 attendees on-line and reviewed Convention processes regarding voting. He also noted that there were Biden/Harris signs for each county.

The Inclusion Statement was read, followed by a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Salute to North Carolina.

Video messages were played on the projector that included Sate Chair Anderson Clayton, Attorney General Josh Stein and Governor Roy Cooper.

Charlie Wallin introduced the District officers and elected officials. He noted that the position of Liaison of Minorities was still open. He then introduced the Convention Parliamentarian Shelley Wallin.

Charlie Wallin then made roll call of the counties. All counties in the District were represented:

* Alleghany County, represented by Susan Miles
* Ashe County, represented by Amanda Gentry
* Avery County, represented by Frank Hughes
* Caldwell County, represented by Michael Careccia
* Davie County, represented by Ann Fitzgibbon
* Mitchell County, represented by Eddie Gouge
* Forsyth County, represented by Jenny Marshall
* Stokes County, represented by Kay Richey
* Surry County, represented by Adreann Belle
* Watauga County, represented by Emily Bish
* Wilkes County, represented by Mandy Marxen
* Yadkin County, represented by Bradley Hardy

**This constituted a quorum of the District.**

The agenda was brought up for approval. Jenny Marshall moved to accept the agenda and Michael Careccia seconded. The motion passed via show of hands.

The Standing Rules were brought up for approval. Wanda Hurt moved to accept the agenda and Jeremy Holderfield seconded. The motion passed via show of hands.

The 2022 Minutes were brought up for approval. One correction was noted which was to change Ben Spencer to Ben Massey. Michael Careccia moved to accept the agenda and Ben Massey seconded. The motion passed via show of hands.

Treasurer **Phyllis Russell** reviewed the treasury report. The current District balance is $3,735.43 which includes sustaining funds of over $2,000. Matilda Phillips moved to accept the Treasurer Report and Ben Spencer seconded. The motion passed via show of hands.

3rd Vice Chair **Mandy Marxen** reviewed the Digital Media Report. She reviewed web site statistics noting that there had been 316 page view YTD. The home page was down on views YTD and the Twitter account has 697 followers. The Facebook page has over 2,000 followers and has grown.

**Jeff Marshall** reviewed the status of the Plan of Organization Committee and provided description of current initiatives, noting that much work was in progress.

**Jenny Marshall** provided a report on the Democratic National Committee and noted the following:

* The next meeting will be in St Louis
* President Biden is focusing on North Carolina as a swing state and has committed to providing greater resources for the upcoming election season
* The DNC is working on primary dates
* The Democratic Party in Alabama was attempting to eliminate the LGBTQ caucus and was admonished by the North Carolina committee to not take that action
* Julia Mitchell (Surry County) asked that the DNC agenda be published and made available
* The next DNC elections are in 2024.
* The next Democratic National Convention will be held in Chicago and elections will be held in 2024. The focus will be on diversity and it is strongly encouraged that anyone interested in going should be sure to attend all Democratic functions.

**Chuck Hubbard** of Wilkes County gave the keynote address which largely outlined his strategies for running against Virginia Foxx for the 5th District in 2024. He covered a wide range of topics including the need for assault weapons and body armour legislation, abortion rights, AI, the environment, organized labor, health insurance, the economy, education and possible expansion of the Supreme Court.

**5th District Elections: All were moved to close nominations and vote by acclimation**

Chair:

Susan Miles made the motion to elect Charlie Wallin. Jenny Marshall seconded and the motion passed with a hand vote.

1st Vice Chair:

Darlene Sekerak nominated Laurel Rumph of Ashe County. Matilda Phillips moved to close nominations and Michael Careccia seconded. Laurel Rumph of Ashe County was elected via hand vote.

2nd Vice Chair:

Eddie Gouge nominated Sarah Melotte of Mitchell County. Jeff Marshall moved to close nominations and Ralph Sorrell seconded. Sarah Melotte was elected via hand vote.

3rd Vice Chair:

Mandy Marxen nominated Jeff Marshall of Forsyth County. Amanda Gentry moved to close nominations and Debra McClain seconded. Jeff Marshall was elected via hand vote.

Secretary:

Adreann Belle nominated William D Wilson of Surry County. Michael Careccia moved to close nominations and Julia Mitchell seconded. William D Wilson was elected via hand vote.

Council of Review:

Emily Bish nominated Jim Lewis of Watauga County were nominated. Ben Massey moved to close nominations and Chris Behrend seconded. The elections passed by hand vote.

Minority Affairs:

No action was taken.

**Resolutions:**

Following discussion, Resolutions 1 and 4 were pulled for review:

1. End North Carolina’s Prohibition Against Public Sector Collective Bargaining

4. Declaring FCDP support of sustainability and environmental justice for The City of Winston-

 Salem, especially now as the city will soon hire a new City Manager

Darlene Sekerak moved that all Resolutions except numbers 1 and 4 be approved as written:

2. Support for Medicaid Coverage of Abortion

3. Affirming that Forsyth County Democratic Party (FCDP) stands in solidarity

 with all workers in Forsyth County

5. Enactment of End of Life Options Legislation

6. Protecting our communities by opposing cryptocurrency mines

7. A Resolution Calling for a Ban on the Practice of Conversion Therapy for North Carolina Youth

Wanda Hunt seconded and the motion passed with a hand vote.

Michael Careccia led a discussion on Resolution #1, noting that the date is too early and requesting that qualifier be removed. After discussion it was proposed that “as soon as July 1, 2023.” in the last sentence be replaced by a period. Michael Careccia made a motion for this edit, Phyllis Russell seconded and the motion passed by hand vote.

Phyllis Russell led a discussion on Resolution #4 noting the City Manager would be subject to the policies of the City Council and therefore might have limited independent influence on the direction of the various initiatives listed and moved to amend the Resolution to reflect the hierarchy of management. Jenny Marshall seconded the motion and the motion passed via hand vote.

**Strategic Planning Committee:**

Charlie Wallin led a discussion on the Strategic Planning Committee. This committee helps establish the direction of the District over the next two years and provides vital guidance and can take the form of both physical and virtual meetings. Marilynn Baker of Watauga County volunteered along with several others (a list of volunteers will be provided). Charlie appointed Laurel Rumph chair since she is 1st vice and that is part of the duties and she volunteered to be on the committee.

Shelley Wallin

Todd Carter

Jan Hamilton

Marsha Lowery

Jeremy Holderfield

**Announcements:**

Ben Massey of Ashe County announced he is running for NC House and spoke of his strategies and commitments to his constituents. He also spoke strongly of the need for Republicans to NEVER run unopposed, noting that over thirty ran unopposed in the last election cycle. He also stressed the need to always request donations and provided the URL BenMasseyForNCHouse.com for donations to his election effort. Jenny Marshall noted that Roy Cooper is paying all filing fees for new candidates and is also committed to ensuring no Republican runs unopposed in upcoming elections.

Ray Russell is hosting a fundraiser for Wesley Harris who is running for State Treasurer on June 1 at App Theatre in Boone.

It was announced there will be District-wide Democratic rally in Elkin, NC on July 22.

It was announced the next SEC meeting/Unity Dinner will be on June 24 in Raleigh, NC.

There being no further business, Emily Bish moved to adjourn the meeting and Eddie Gouge seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.

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 William D Wilson, Secretary