

NC11 Democrats 2024 District Convention

Minutes

April 20, 2024, 11AM -3PM,
Ferguson Auditorium, AB Tech

Welcome and Call to Order

Beth Hampton Jones

NCDP Statement of Inclusion

Beth Hampton Jones

Pledge of Allegiance

Beth Hampton Jones

Moment of Silence – Beth introduced herself as the new Chair of District 11 Democratic Party and received a warm welcome from the Convention attendees. She spoke about today being the 25th Anniversary of the Columbine School shootings. She talked about how much has changed since that time and reminded us that we have lots of good work to do.

Videos were presented from Anderson Clayton, NC Democratic Party Chair, Gov. Cooper and Josh Stein, candidate for Governor, 2024.

Establishment of Quorum - Secretary, Lorna Barnett took roll call. A quorum is present.

Approval of Convention Agenda - Carol Jordan from Mc Dowell County made the motion and Jane Koenig, Jackson seconded. The motion carries to accept the agenda.

Adoption of Convention Rules – Joey Malone, Buncombe County made the motion and Leslie Carry of Haywood County seconded. The rules are adopted.

Approval of 022 and 2023 Convention Minutes 2022 - Sam Edney made the motion and Dianne Snyder seconded, The motion passed. For the approval of the 2023 Minutes Eugenia Berry, from Buncombe county made the motion and Chris Reynolds of Polk seconded. The motion carries. The minutes for both years are approved.

Elected Officials Acknowledgement – Billy Martin, Eric ager, Brian Eubanks, Transylvania County, Kim Poteet from Jackson County, Betsy Irvin, Julie Mayfield, and Caleb Rudow.

District Officers Reports

Shon Urbas, 2nd Vice Chair introduced board, talked about what he's working on. The data support team is meeting regularly, planning trainings for all counties.

Karen Smith – 3rd Vice Chair said that she's been very and thanked all the counties for their reports. She spoke about the monthly round-table and reminded everyone about the deadline for the next newsletter April 26.

Lorna Barnett, Secretary, talked about reading all the county newsletters she receives and would like to highlight more of what she reads in the District Newsletter. She reminded folks where to send them.

Julie Montenea discussed the budget report and announced that we have provided funds to 6 counties to help with GOTV expenses. We'd like to do more for everyone in the fall. (The report is attached to these minutes.)

Guest Speaker, Caleb Rudow is our candidate for NC 11 Congress.

He said he's happy to be here and campaigning in this District. He did a great job of getting District 11 fired up for the November election. He talked about getting back to government run by normal, adult people. We need to get back to putting people before profit – especially for health care. It isn't about one candidate, it's about everyone working together. He invited everyone to join him for a drink after the resolutions

Current Candidates for Office in District 11

Leslie Carey – School board- Henderson County,

Michelle Antelac – Senate 47

Steve Martines – District 117

Barbara Zimmerman, commission Mars Hill

Evelyn Davidson – District 118 - Madison

Brian Oneal – County commissioner Transylvania

Levenia Peterson Burnette - Board of Education

County Commission - Jim Parnier

Eric Ager, 114, House seat Transylvania

Cody Lewis, County Commision

Julie Mayfield senate 49 – Buncombe County raises money for all the other senate candidates

John Ager – 2024 NC senate 46

Julie Montenea took a few minutes to explain thoroughly how the voting process will be happening. There are new rules relating to the election of NC Delegates for the DNC Convention.

Guest Speaker State Senator Rachel Hunt – Believes in service that she learned from here parents Jim and Carolyn Hunt, Former Governor and First Lady of NC. She fights for families – teacher assistants – childcare – she is a mom and knows how difficult it is to work and raise a family. We have to make it easier for parents in NC. She is fighting for women and children to reach real equality.

Ms. Hunt wants us to unite against MAGA who support private vouchers and ban abortion. She will always stand up for our freedoms and wants to make this state everything it can and should be.

She is fighting for schools and teachers with adequate pay and bringing new good paying jobs and to keep politicians out of our Dr. offices.

This election will be a turning point for North Carolina. If we don't win, it will take decades to be able to do anything. Tell everyone you know. We will put North Carolina back on the map.

Lunch 12:30 – 1:15 pm NC District 11 provided a sandwich lunch for the convention.

DNC and State Committee Candidates Elections

Explanation of NCDP Voting Procedures – Julie Montenea explained the process for voting for the Delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Sixteen candidates have been approved by the Biden election team. Each round of voting will be shortened by at least one vote, either a winner or the person or persons with the fewest votes.

Plan of Organization Committee candidates Karen Smith and Soren Pederson. Nomination for the slate Sam Edney made the motion and Brenden Hipps seconded it. Nominating Soren Pederson is Leslie Carey for Plan of Organization Committee. Each candidate spoke for a minute about why they would like the job.

The vote was tallied, and Soren Pederson wins the vote.

Credentialing Committee – Beth Ostergard is the only candidate, Peter Thomasson, Buncombe County made the motion and Chris Books, Cherokee County seconded the motion to close nominations. The motion passed.

Council of Review – Beth Ostergard is the only candidate for this position A motion was made to close nomination by Mark Newman, Buncombe County, and seconded by Joel Harvey, Cherokee. A motion was made Soren Pederson, Buncombe County to vote by acclamation. Seconded by Esther Lusk.

Beth explained what the Council of Review and the Credentials committee do – Council of Review adjudicates disagreements between good democrats and the Credentials Committee determines if delegates are legitimately elected. Now officials can use VoteBuilder for all the background, making less work for this committee.

Resolutions and Platform Committee, Larry Dodson and Perry Dror are the candidates. Motion to close nominations was made by Soren Pederson, Buncombe County and seconded by Carolyn Cagle, Jackson County. Jake Quinn nominated Larry Dodson and talked about Larry's credentials. Perry Dror talked about his marketing and magistrate experience as well as his experience with strategy. He asks for our vote.

Larry Dodson is elected for the resolutions and platform committee.

DNC Candidates

The following candidates spoke for a minute about themselves and why they want to serve as a DNC Candidate at the DNC Convention in Chicago in August.

Clare Barry

Claire Del Mar Chapman

Kathie Kline

Renee Meyers,

Beth Ostergard,

Glenda Overbeck

Mary McKeller - withdrew

Soren Pederson
Debbie Resnik - withdrew
Kristen Robinson
Tricia Shapiro
Diane Snyder
Jesse Ross
Tom Sullivan
Axia Wilson
Tom Sullivan
Mark Israel

First Round – no one is elected. Claire Del Mar Chapman, Soren Pederson and Beth Ostegard dropped out of the running.

Nina Tovish, Buncombe County made a motion to vote for the top three women vote-getters and the top 2 vote-getters be adopted by acclamation. Seconded by Joey LiPuma. The motion is not allowed as per the state co-chair of the Delegate Plan.

After the second round.

Top two women

Kathie Kline
Kristen Robinson

Top two men

Tom Sullivan
Jesse Ross

Next vote is for 1 more woman to fulfill the DNC Convention delegate needs of District 11. None of the women received 50% +1 so there is a runoff between Trish Shapiro and Diane Snyder.

While waiting for the vote, the convention used the time to vote on resolutions.

Buncombe County introduced a special Resolution honoring Liam Bruce Pederson who died on March 23, 2024 was read by Mark Newman.

Resolutions for acceptance:

There are 28 resolutions from the counties of District 11, Democratic Party.

A motion was made Keith Thompson, Buncombe County and seconded by Carol Jordan, McDowell County to accept the resolutions for consideration. The resolution is accepted.

All 28 resolutions are being presented in a block. Soren Pederson spoke about the committee who worked on the resolutions and thanked them for their work. He discussed the process of working

through each one to determine if it might already be in the current plan and if it is a duplicate of any others.

A motion was made Eric Dror, Buncombe County to suspend the rules of the day and to pull out all motions about the middle east war. Jesse Ross from Haywood County seconded. The ayes have it. The resolutions regarding the middle east will be discussed separately.

The block of resolutions to be voted as a block are: 1 3 5 6 7 8 9 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28. They do not involve Israel and Gaza.

Nancy Henkelman, Yancey County made a motion to pass the block of resolutions.

Garrett Lagan. Swain County brought out a Point of Order regarding the PoO at the end of Item 6.1 regarding the way resolutions should be voted on. Erec Dror furthered the discussion noting that the PoO on page 62 allows for some flexibility in the rules for adopting resolutions.

Garrett's point of order is out of order under this part of the PoO.

Jeff Miller, Yancey County seconded the original motion. The motion passed and the block of resolutions is adopted.

A new resolution 30 was presented and read aloud regarding the resolution on the war between Israel and Palestine. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Soren Pedersen, Buncombe County and seconded by Jeff Miller in Yancey County.

Lesli Carrey rose to oppose this resolution. She feels that we should be supporting the cease fire. Naomi Friedman, Buncombe is in favor of this resolution because the Jewish community in District 11 is subjected to antisemitism, and she sees the resolutions as antisemitic.

Soren Pederson, Buncombe County, is against this resolution because it will not allow us to even consider the other three that have been presented for vote. We need to have the discussions on hard subjects.

Mr. Dror now wants to reduce the resolutions to just pull two of them in his motion.

Garrett Lagan, Swain rose to object to this resolution so we can look at and discuss the other three.

Curt Nestler, Buncombe rose to oppose this resolution. We should see the other 3 resolutions.

The nos have it and the new resolution fails. Discussion will include all three resolutions that were pulled from the entire block.

Resolution #3 – Barbara Zimmerman, Madison County made the motion and Chris Reynolds, Polk County second to accept this resolution.

Discussion

Naomi Friedman, County, opposed this resolution. She believes it has problematic language and feels it is calling for the eradication of Israel. Soren Pederson, Buncombe, is for the resolution and presented his interpretation.

Call for vote Resolution 3. Ayes have it. The resolution passes.

Number 4

The motion was made by Brenden Hipps, Buncombe County and seconded by Chris Brooks, Cherokee County.

Perry Dror rose for a point of order, is against the resolution because of language.

Joe Shelton, Buncombe County. Is for this resolution. Urges us to vote for the amendment.

Naomi Friedman, Buncombe County is against the resolution because of the language that she feels is antisemitic.

Lesley Carrey, Henderson Co. is for the resolution weighing the two sides of the war that has been going on for decades and believes we should be for more humanity towards the Palestinians.

Mark Newman is against the resolution.

There was a call for a vote.

The resolution fails.

Resolution 10

Soren Pedersen, Buncombe County made the motion and it was second by Perry Dror, Buncombe County, is for the election in Palestine and for this resolution

Naomi Friedman is against the resolution because she believes that it would put Hamas in charge of the country.

Soren is for the resolution because no one in Palestine has been subject to an election for decades.

Call for a vote.

The ayes have it. The resolution is accepted.

All the resolutions but number 4 have been accepted.

Vote for third woman in the NC Delegation to the DNC went to Diane Snyder.

Announcements - June 1 is the SEC meeting.

Jane Carver announced an event and invited everyone to come to Cherokee County.

Jesse Ross announced an event for Adam Tebrugges, candidate for NC Senate 50 in Big Bear Park in Franklin NC.

Leslie Carey announced an event on April 27 with candidates speaking. Benefit concert, Burning blush, Haywood County.

Motion to adjourn at 5:18 pm. Everyone cheered.