

**Wilson County Democratic Meeting
March 25, 2023
Assembly Room of Wilson County Public Library**

The meeting was called to order shortly after 10:00 AM by Chairman Hawley and opened with a video clip of NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton appearing on national TV in an interview discussing the new Democratic leadership in North Carolina and plans to re-energize the Party. The video clip can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0PLfk6AYPc>

Second Vice Chair Ann Barnes then shared inspirational thoughts and led the Moment of Silence. George Revis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports were given by the officers present.

- 2nd VC Ann Barnes provided information on the many local news items from Representative Ken Fontenot, and noted that many of them appear in the paper as news articles, not as opinion pieces.
- She also called attention to SB 49: Parents Bill of Rights that was passed on 2/14 (review bill [HERE](#)).
- Chair Hawley presented a report from Treasurer Tom Sallenger: - Current Account Balance: \$19,750.87
- \$15,705.00 dedicated to the building fund for permanent headquarters

Chairman Hawley reported on the March 4, 2023, event which was held at the Eagles Business Center at the Wilson Community College. About one hundred Wilson Democrats attended that event, which celebrated our Wilson Democratic volunteers and all the work they have done. There were 24 tables set up, with tent cards identifying each Precinct, with handout materials and precinct packets available. Several of our precincts were able to complete their organization process, including establishing their meeting quorum, electing officers, and electing convention delegates, at the meeting. There was great energy in the room that day, and it was really good to see all the Democrats interacting. Here is a list of our precincts which are now organized and have their data entered into VoteBuilder.

Organized Precincts: 2023-2025

<u>Count</u>	<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Chair-2023-2025</u>
1	Black Creek	Freeman, Beatrice Jean
2	Oldfields	Lucas, Teresa Chestnut
3	Spring Hill	Sessoms, Randolph
4	Taylors	Krabill, Lawrence David
5	Toisnot	Lindsey, Eunice Irene
6	Wilson B	Evans, Dorothy Odom
7	Wilson C	Bulnes, Wendy Anne
8	Wilson D	Martin, Ann Byrd
9	Wilson E	Oxendine, Lori Jamez
10	Wilson J	Ward, Lenwood Earl
11	Wilson K	Joyner, Mary Ellen
12	Wilson M	Battle, Yvonne
13	Wilson R	Atkinson, Leticia Denise

Mary McLees-Lane, Chair of the Headquarters Committee, then shared updates. The lease has been signed, and preparations for getting the space at 1502-A Nash Street ready for our Headquarters to operate are on-going. There are many details to consider and take care of: a list of needed items for the Headquarters can be found on the WilsonDems website, www.WilsonNCDems.com. Various inspections, forms to be completed, signs to be put into place, and development of plans for opening, are now taking place. We hope to have a grand opening in the near future. (Copy of headquarters report added to minutes.)

Dr. Larry Krabill, Chair of Taylors Precinct and member of the Wilson County Democratic Party Nominating Committee, then made a presentation on the proposed slate of officers to be elected at our Annual Convention on April 15, 2023. The Nominating Committee has held numerous work sessions and presented the following slate. Dr. Krabill noted that this slate of officers will provide excellent leadership for Wilson Democrats, and represent us well to people of Wilson County and the North Carolina Democratic Party. He further stated, "that the Nominating Committee believes that the leadership team being presented, with the support of past leaders with their experience, knowledge, and wisdom, will communicate our message effectively, reach out to and attract new members—young, old, and in-between, to grow our county party and expand the pool of folks willing to volunteer their time to the party. They will help recruit and then support excellent candidates up and down the ballot, and motivate Democrats, Independents, and perhaps even some traditional (non-MAGA non-Tea Party) Republicans to vote for our ideas, our ideals, and our candidates. We can win future elections with our positive messaging, positive agenda, and excellent candidates. We can defeat the negativity, hypocrisy, and dishonesty of our opponents and their ideas."

Wilson Democratic Party Officers for 2023-2025

Chair: Dante Pittman
First Vice: Joyah Bulluck
Second Vice: Wayne Willingham
Third Vice: Erin Lynch
Secretary: Terry Shackleford
Treasurer: Tom Sallenger (To be appointed by the Party Officers)

State Executive Committee Members for 2023-2025

Dante Pittman
Joyah Bulluck
Lucy Russell
Chris Hardee

Candidates Dante Pittman, Joyah Bulluck, Erin Lynch, and Terry Shackleford each made brief remarks.

Chairman Hawley reviewed upcoming dates for Democratic Convention. The Wilson County Democratic Party Convention will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, starting at 10:00 AM, at the Wilson County Courthouse, and Rachel Hunt Nilender, candidate for Lt. Governor of North Carolina in 2024, will be the keynote speaker. More information on the Annual County Convention will be coming soon.

First Vice Chair George Revis spoke on the importance of Wilson Dems continuing to have regular meetings for discussion and sharing energy.

Following general discussion of upcoming events, Chairman Hawley called for a motion to adjourn the meeting: The motion was made and seconded, passed by consensus, and the meeting was adjourned about 12 noon.

(Headquarters Committee Report follows.)

Headquarters Committee Report

March 24, 2023

Fantastic News!! On March 15th we signed a one-year lease for the property at 1502 A Nash St N. As of March 24th, 88 people had donated a total of **\$15,705.00**. WCDP has allocated funds to help with our headquarters effort and will be paying for installation fees and some other one-time startup costs, like the flat screen tv for the meeting rooms and mounting costs.

Things are moving along. Two members of the headquarters committee helped give the whole unit a thorough cleaning. Thank you, Rebecca and Gloria! Maintenance and repairs are being done. The new toilet and safety bars have been installed. Next week the fire inspection will be completed, Wi-Fi and the phone line will be installed, along with a security system. If all goes as scheduled, I would like some strong people to help move tables, chairs, desks, filing cabinet, etc... that we have into the space on March 31st and April 1st. Those dates the help needed will be those who can do some heavy lifting. For any who wants to bring donations of needed supplies (see list) we can accept those April 3rd – 6th (hours to be determined) and throughout the month of April. Please see me if you can help on the 31st and 1st. A dolly would also be useful. If anyone can lightly sand the bottom of a filing cabinet and then spray paint it, let me know that too.

Several people have mentioned painting some exterior wood above the windows facing Nash St. and above our entrance door. While we want this done, we have to hold off, since we have to get approval from the historical commission. Jim Hawley has discovered a different color was used in 2015, so hopefully that will help us with the city. I plan to follow up on this next week. There is a work order in place for someone to come repair/replace some of the exterior panels of the awning. That should be done in April sometime. The space is shaping up and will be good for WCDP and DWWC.

Someone had asked about renting out the space to generate income. We CANNOT do that per the terms of our lease. We can only use it for activities of the WCDP. That would include if a Democratic candidate needs a space to hold a small working group, which could generate income. NO birthday parties or any other events unrelated to the work of our local Democratic party.

We are hopeful we can hold the April DWWC meeting at our new headquarters, even though it will still be in the beginning stages as far as organizing space, along with future WCDP meetings. Between donors and WCDP's generosity donating money for one-time startup costs, we have the first year of funding, but we are still hard at work to acquire funding for subsequent years. As of March 15th, we have already started expending some of the money donated. We want our space to be PERMANENT and want to identify continuing and easy ways for people to donate for this purpose.

The headquarters committee will be meeting again next week to discuss continuing funding of headquarters as well as possibilities of plaques to honor Betty McCain, since financial contributions to headquarters were made in her memory. We are also discussing honoring other long time Wilson County officials for their years of service on behalf of Wilson County constituents (Gov. Hunt, Rep. Farmer-Butterfield, Congressman GK Butterfield, Senator Toby Fitch). Options and prices will be presented to DWWC and WCDP exec committees for approval.

We will be contacting current and former elected officials now to determine what they would like to contribute from their candidacy or time in office to headquarters and arrange for drop off/pick up. The committee is in the beginning stages of planning a grand opening event at our new headquarters, which is a ways off yet.

I will be contacting many of you to determine availability to staff headquarters once we are more moved in. Initially hours will be short but frequent. There will be informal training sessions for all volunteers so you are comfortable that you have the knowledge to answer questions and help in whatever way a person might need. Please either email me or write down weekdays and times you would be available to rotate with others.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY DONATED!!! If you have not already donated, please do so tonight.

Please email comments or ideas to maryml@myglnc.com

Now on to the list of what we need at headquarters...

Mary McLees-Lane, Headquarters Committee Chair

As always, many thanks to: Yvonne Battle, Dorothy Evans, Rebecca Hunt-Hawley, Dorothy Jarman, Melanie Mauze, Gloria Vazquez, Jackie Williams, Dalphine Perry