

Minutes
Wilson Democratic Party Meeting
January 12, 2023
Virtual Meeting on ZOOM

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7:00 PM. Chair Hawley welcomed Wilson County Democrats to the meeting and expressed appreciation to participants. Democrats continued to log in as the meeting started: a total of 31 WilsonDems participated in this meeting. A roll call by the Chair, with members responding "Present," documented that 18 of the participants were members of the County Executive Committee, which exceeded the number required to establish a quorum, so the meeting was declared an official meeting for conducting Party business.

Without objection, the agenda (previously distributed electronically), was accepted. Similarly, the minutes from the previous meeting of December 10, 2022, (also previously distributed electronically), were accepted without objection.

Chair Hawley and Committee Chair Mary McLees-Lane provided an update on the progress of the fundraising project to establish a permanent headquarters for the Democratic Party of Wilson County. Mary reported that 533 letters had been mailed to prospective donors between December 8, 2022, and January 1, 2023. Follow-up phone calls are being made by committee members. As of January 12, a total of \$5,200.00 from 41 donors has been received, with more coming in each day. Information on making donations using ActBlue can be found on the Party's website, www.WilsonNCDems.com. Chair Hawley reported that information regarding the headquarters project is on the website and information will soon go out on social media.

Treasurer Tom Sallenger reported that the Party currently has an account balance of \$16,608.95, which includes \$5,200 in designated funding for our permanent Headquarters project.

Nancy Hawley, Co-President of the Democratic Women of Wilson County, provided a report and update on DWWC activities. She announced that the installation of the new officers for the 2023-24 term will take place at the January 30th DWWC meeting at 6:45 at the Wellington Drive meeting room. The newly elected officers are: Jackie Williams, President; Carletha Ward, 1st VP; Dalphine Perry, 2nd VP; Melanie Mauze', 3rd VP; Gloria Vazquez, Secretary; and, Ann Byrd Martin, Treasurer.

Chair Hawley noted that the Party had a vacancy in SEC (State Executive Committee) members. We were allocated 4 SEC members for the 2021-2023 term, which ends in April 2023. One of those members subsequently moved out of our county. Since there is a very important SEC meeting coming up on February 11, 2023, when the State Party Officers will be elected for the next term (2023-2025), WilsonDems need to elect a person to complete the vacant term, and thus be able to attend the February meeting and vote. Second Vice-Chair Ann Barnes was recognized and nominated Lucy Russell to fill the vacancy. Ms. Russell is a registered Democrat who resides in Precinct Wilson D. She accepted the nomination. Chair Hawley asked for any other nominations from the floor, and hearing none, noted that Ms. Russell was elected by acclamation. Ms. Russell graciously addressed the meeting, stating her appreciation for the support, and pledging to participate fully in SEC activities and other work in the Democratic Party of Wilson County. Shortly after the meeting adjourned, her credentials were entered into the VoteBuilder database, and notification was sent to NCDP officials to add her as our fourth SEC member for Wilson.

Next, there was discussion of the many upcoming events for Democrats as we enter the next two-year term cycle. Among the events fast approaching are the following.

- **2023 Winter SEC Meeting** on February 11, to elect State Party Officers and approve a budget for the next two years.
- **2023 mandated Precinct Meetings**, when Democrats across the County gather in meetings at the Precinct level to organize, elect Precinct Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Secretary-Treasurers, and plan for local grassroots to get out

the vote for Democrats. The official time frame for all 100 counties in North Carolina is for precincts to hold organizational meetings between Saturday, February 25, and Saturday, March 11. However, it should be noted that precincts can schedule and hold their meetings at a time and place of their choosing, and can hold those organizational meetings beginning immediately. Precinct Organizational packets will be available soon, with some materials being sent directly to current Precinct Chairs. Meetings must be announced and publicized in advance. There must be a minimum of 5 active, registered Democrats in attendance, and each Precinct must elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary-Treasurer. Details can be found in the Plan of Organization at www.ncdp.org/plan.

- **2023 County Convention**, to be held on Saturday, April 15 at which officers for the 2023-24 term for the Wilson County Democratic Party will be elected. A Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Chair and will be announced at the February meeting. Chair Hawley asked that recommended names for Nominating Committee members be submitted to him as soon as possible so the committee can begin work on securing a recommended slate of officers and urged anyone who is a Wilson County Democrat that is interested in serving on the Nominating Committee to contact him by email at WilsonDems@Gmail.com, or telephone call to Jim Hawley at 919-418-0953.
- **2023 Congressional District Convention**, to be held on Saturday, May 20
- **Recommendations for Membership and Chair for County Boards of Elections.** WilsonDems will recommend two persons for membership on the local Board of Elections, and also recommend to the Governor a person to serve as Chair of the local Board. Currently, Wilson has Wanda Davis and George Leach serving as Democratic members, and Chip Futrell serving as the Board Chair. All of these are eligible for serving additional terms. The deadline for our submission has not yet been established. All members serve two-year terms, and must be recommended or re-recommended in odd-numbered years.

There being no further business, questions, or discussion, the meeting was adjourned shortly after 8 pm.