

Minutes
Meeting of the Democratic Party of Wilson County
Saturday, December 10, 2022
Wilson County Public Library

George Revis welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming today and called the meeting to order. He also extended a welcome and thanks from Jim Hawley.

Melanie Mauze gave an inspirational message to the group. She then mentioned the recent death of Betty McCain and read part of her obituary and asked for a moment of silence to remember Betty McCain and what she meant for Wilson and North Carolina.

George led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

The agenda was adopted. The prior meeting minutes were approved as written with necessary corrections.

Treasurer's report - Tom Sallenger reported there is a balance of \$12, 223.70 with no outstanding bills or debts. Of that, he has \$525.00 to take to the bank on Monday that is earmarked for headquarters.

First Vice Chair's report – George mentioned that in spite of losses in Wilson County, we have a lot to be thankful for as Democrats. He said we are not looking back, but looking forward. He mentioned young people and ex-felons as groups we could work with more to get more involved. He said we need more people and more involvement to have a strong Democratic Party. He spoke about Betty McCain being the encouragement for him to become more involved.

Comments from Elected Officials: Councilman Creech spoke about having to work with young people to get them to vote for Democrats. He said some felt overlooked or not welcomed and were swayed to vote for other candidates in this last election. He said we have to get them back. He mentioned his efforts to reach young people by starting a baseball team and a softball team and inviting them to attend the Democratic party meetings. He said he has a group Arms Around Wilson that he meets young people through. He stated he thought we could do better in the future. The next meeting is open to anyone and will take place on January 25th at Reid St. Center at 6 PM. He also mentioned he'd be starting workshops on the political process, especially the local process.

Precinct Updates: Jackie Williams, Chair of Precinct N, said her precinct, and especially the Black community, and we need to get more young people involved. Lori Oxendine, Precinct E Chair, wanted to get contact information to get college students/groups at Barton college involved. She also wanted information from Councilman Creech's efforts to put on the party website. She also talked about having a basic civics outline that could be used.

Flor Herrera-Picasso provided a report on the activities of Casa Azul, and noted that her organization registered 92 first-time voters and that an additional 11 registration forms were not completed due to missing social security or identification numbers. She said when she turned in those forms she was told they weren't valid and she learned that first time voters did have to have a social security number or id, so that was a learning process for her. She went on to say her organization knocked on 3000 doors (not just in Wilson county) and gave out information in Spanish.

There was a question about a civics book, or educational handout on political processes. Mary McLees-Lane noted that a document had been done in summer and it explained the role of each office and was on the stay-informed tab of the WilsonNCDems.com website and could be used, although it would have to be modified since it had the names of Democratic candidates running in November 2022. Lori mentioned that one could visit the website and print it out. The document was developed in response to a request for educational information.

Focus Groups: George asked for people to send Jim ideas and stated the focus group meeting report would be held in January.

George read the plan for precinct organization. Someone asked if there wouldn't be a specific schedule. George said the chair wanted everyone aware of the need for precinct organization to start soon.

George also read the part about the formation of the nominating committee and said if anyone was interested in being on the committee to notify Jim.

Mary McLees-Lane showed the slide presentation of the building space we are trying to acquire and then went through the report of the formation of the committee and its work to date. She reported that of the 433 letters printed out thus far, 292 had already been mailed, that the remainder would be mailed by next Saturday and that follow up phone calls would begin in the middle of next week. The response was positive overall and there was agreement we needed our own space and home. Tom Sallenger mentioned Act Blue on the WilsonDems website could take donations for this purpose.

George asked Dante to speak as the only young man there. Dante thanked the DWWC for taking on the headquarters project and said we needed our own space. He said he is thinking about what went wrong but looking forward and thinks we need to focus on local issues, that we need to strengthen relationships and that he is working hard to try to get more money from the state. He said for the state to succeed they need Wilson too.

Councilman Creech said in January the City Council is voting to put Congressman G.K. Butterfield's name on the newly renovated train station to honor him and that he thought he had the votes for this to pass. He said it would be good if Democrats could be at the meeting to applaud when this occurred. He said the meeting is January 19th at 7 PM. He also mentioned a new clothing giveaway in March; more info can be obtained at his group's January 25th meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.