



MINUTES
Chatham County Democratic Party Convention
March 30, 2019
Horton Middle School, Pittsboro, NC

Following a social hour that began at 9:00 am, and greetings from Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Chair Jan Nichols called the convention to order at 10:00 am and welcomed the delegates. Representatives of the Chatham County Sheriff's Department led by Chief Deputy Charles Gardner presented the colors. Delegates recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and Kristy Cross sang the National Anthem.

Secretary Erika Lindemann announced that a quorum was present.

Efrain Ramirez-Aponte moved the adoption of the proposed convention rules, which was seconded by Deb Shantzek and carried by voice vote.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2018, CCDP Convention as distributed was made by Mike Kalt, seconded by Pat Brown, and carried by voice vote.

The Chair called on Commissioner Mike Dasher to introduce the speaker. Commissioner Dasher urged the delegates to work hard for all Democratic candidates in 2020 and introduced Cal Cunningham, candidate for Lt. Governor in 2020.

Mr. Cunningham commended everyone for the work that created exceptional turnout in 2018. Stating that we are all workers who serve each other in different ways, he charted his background, which began in Lexington, NC, and included studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and the London School of Economics, as well as service with the Army in Afghanistan and Iraq. A former member of the North Carolina Senate, Vice Chair of Gov. Cooper's Crime Commission, and businessman working in a Raleigh environmental services and waste reduction company, his platform includes expanding health care, raising teacher pay, and addressing environmental issues. When he expressed to his daughter his concern about environmental degradation and current efforts to divide us politically, she asked him, "What are you going to do about this, dad?" In running for Lt. Governor he is answering her call to do all we can do to make the world a better place. Mr. Cunningham promised to be a champion for families and children, to expand Medicaid, to put highly paid teachers in the classroom, and to make it possible for every North Carolinian to attend college if they wish. He wants to help transition the economy to more green jobs and support innovation. He received applause for committing to work for commonsense gun safety legislation. "Rather than curse the darkness," he concluded, "let's light a candle. Things will get better if we stand up and fight."

The Chair called on Pat Brown to deliver the report of the Nominating Committee. Her report detailed the Committee's charge and work, which included recruiting candidates, reviewing their responses to a brief questionnaire, and conducting interviews with 14 nominees. She called attention to the Committee's written report, which included brief biographical sketches of nominees for six officer positions and four State Executive

Committee (SEC) delegates, as follows: Jan Nichols (CCDP Chair), Alirio Estevez (1st Vice Chair), Kristy Cross (2nd Vice Chair), Sarah Beck (3rd Vice Chair), Cheri DeRosia (Secretary), Shannon Ramaswami (Treasurer), Virginia Penley (SEC member), Sheila Thompson (SEC member), Jerry Markatos (SEC member), and Patrick Walker (SEC member).

Randy Voller took the podium to conduct the election for CCDP Chair. He called for additional nominations from the floor. Mayor Cindy Perry nominated Jon Spoon, who addressed the assembly. He expressed his thanks to the current CCDP leadership and said that he hoped to grow the party in three ways: by bringing into the party greater diversity of African Americans, young people, and diversity of thought; by building the best volunteer network in the state; and by increasing transparency concerning decision making.

A motion by Leonard Kreisman to close nominations for CCDP Chair was seconded by Claire Kane and approved by a voice vote.

Jim Crawford rose to speak on behalf of Jan Nichols. He observed that the county party wins elections because Ms. Nichols has strengthened fundraising efforts, has used texting and other social media to drive voters to the polls, and has consistently succeeded in electing Democrats up and down the ballot.

Jan Nichols highlighted her accomplishments as CCDP Chair, among them, producing results that count—electing Democrats. She added that she had recruited the most diverse slate in the recent history of the party and asked for the opportunity to train the next group of leaders to move Chatham forward.

Parliamentarian Erika Lindemann took the podium to instruct the delegates in filling out their ballots. During the voting, Mark Barroso reported on the results of a presidential preference poll. The leading contenders were Joe Biden, followed by Pete Buttigieg, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders.

Sen. Valerie Foushee addressed the group and thanked the delegates for their support. She observed that the 2020 elections were critical in taking back the General Assembly; Democrats need to win at least five seats in Senate and six seats in the House. Sen. Foushee also criticized the current UNC Board of Governors for injecting politics into its decisions. She expressed gratitude for being able to work with Rep. Robert Reives and concluded by calling for unity: “Forward together; not one step back.” The delegates thanked Sen. Foushee with a standing ovation.

Chair Nichols recognized the following elected officials present: Sen. Valerie Foushee, Rep. Robert Reives, Karen Howard, Diana Hales, James Crawford, Mike Roberson, Lunday Riggsbee, Cindy Perry, John Bonitz, Pam Baldwin, Bett Foley, Sherri Murrell, and Dana Hackney. She also thanked the delegates, precinct officers, and engaged citizens for their service.

Chair Nichols called Rep. Robert Reives to the podium. He thanked the group for its support. Although the work of General Assembly gets better every year, he said, working in a Republican-controlled House is difficult. He thanked Chatham County for helping to elect additional Democrats to the House and encouraged continued efforts to flip the House by December 2020. He reminded attendees that Chatham County voters can also affect election results at the state level. “Everything you do matters,” he said, “including kind words.” “I’ve got your back,” he concluded, “so you keep up your end of the bargain, and I’ll keep up mine.”

Randy Voller took the podium to announce that the vote for CCDP Chair was tied. A second ballot would be necessary.

While the balloting continued, the Parliamentarian invited a motion to revise the agenda and take up the resolutions. Linda Jovin moved that resolutions be taken up immediately; the motion was seconded by Pat Brown and carried by raised voting cards.

The Parliamentarian called attention to the 18 resolutions printed in the convention program and asked if any delegates wished to remove a resolution for further discussion before adopting the rest with an omnibus motion. None of the resolutions was removed. On a motion by Sheila Beaudry, seconded by Kristy Cross, the resolutions were adopted as distributed. There were no resolutions from the floor.

On a motion by Ed Regan, seconded by Linda Jovin, the list of delegates to the Sixth Congressional District and State Conventions was approved. The list of delegates appears at the end of these minutes.

Chair Nichols invited the commissioners present to comment on their work. Commissioners Crawford and Hales, and Pittsboro Town Board member Bonitz addressed the convention and responded to questions.

Randy Voller took the podium to announce that Jan Nichols had been elected CCDP Chair on the second ballot on a close vote. In a brokered arrangement, Alirio Estevez agreed to step aside as a candidate for 1st Vice Chair in order to establish and chair Chatham County's Hispanic Caucus. Jon Spoon agreed to serve as 1st vice chair.

On a motion by Michael Barnes, seconded by Karl Kachergis, Jon Spoon was elected CCDP 1st Vice Chair.

Karl Kachergis moved to elect Jan Nichols CCDP Chair by acclamation; the motion carried.

Randy Voller called Kristy Cross to the front of the room and moved that she be nominated as 2nd Vice Chair. Pam Cash-Roper seconded the nomination, which was approved. Mr. Voller moved that she be elected by acclamation; the motion carried.

Randy Voller called Sarah Beck to the front. On a motion by Linda Jovin, seconded by Kate O'Brien, the motion to nominate Sarah Beck as 3rd Vice Chair was approved, and she was elected by acclamation on a motion by Mr. Voller.

Randy Voller called Shannon Ramaswami to the front. On a motion by Leonard Kreisman, seconded by Chris Kaman, the motion to nominate Shannon Ramaswami as CCDP Treasurer was approved, and she was elected by acclamation on a motion by Mr. Voller.

Randy Voller called Lily Brabble to the front to speak for Cheri DeRosia. Lily Brabble moved and Erika Lindemann seconded a motion to nominate Cheri DeRosia as CCDP Secretary; the motion carried. Ms. DeRosia was elected by acclamation on a motion by Mr. Voller.

Mr. Voller announced that four members of the State Executive Committee, two males and two females, also needed to be elected. The CCDP Chair serves as a fifth SEC member from Chatham County.

On a motion by Pat Brown, seconded by Sheila Beaudry, Jerry Markatos was nominated as an SEC member.

On a motion by James Crawford, seconded by Lily Brabble, Patrick Walker was nominated as an SEC member.

Randy Voller called for additional nominations from the floor for the male seat on the SEC. There were no further nominations. Jerry Markatos and Patrick Walker were elected by acclamation on a motion by Mr. Voller.

On a motion by Pam Cash-Roper, seconded by Sheila Beaudry, Sheila Thompson was nominated as a SEC member.

On a motion by Shelley Colbert, seconded by Beverly Bland, Virginia Penley was nominated as an SEC member.

There being no further nominations from the floor, Sheila Thompson and Virginia Penley were elected by acclamation on a motion by Mr. Voller.

Chair Nichols took the podium. She called attention to the Fleet Reddish flyer in people's seats and urged them to buy a ticket to hear Sen. Terry Van Duyn. The dinner will be held on Sunday, April 28, at the Governors' Club clubhouse, from 4 to 8 pm.

The final order of business was to hold a raffle drawing for four cakes. Pam Cash-Roper announced that the raffle had raised over \$300. Raffle winners were Nancy Jacobs, Pam Cash-Roper, Jan Nichols, and Lily Brabble.

On a motion by Mike Bennett and seconded by Virginia Penley, the convention adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Erika Lindemann
CCDP Secretary

Delegates to the Sixth Congressional District and State Conventions

Maureen Ahmad	Jennie DeLoach	Meyer Liberman	Deborah Shantzek
Wesley Andrews	Cheri DeRosia	Erika Lindemann	John Shaw
Vickie Atkinson	Meredith Dillon	Phyllis Lippers	Nina Siegler
Pamela Baldwin	Kathy Dowd	Mark Lipton	Ann Sparrow
E. Barry Bassett	Ted Dunn	Rebecca Loflin	Steve Sunshine
Sheila Beaudry	Alirio Estevez	Cathy Markatos	Diane Ursano
Melissa Beck	Nan Friedman	Jerry Markatos	Randolph Voller
Sarah Beck	George Greger-Holt	Mark Mason	Irene Wells
Bert Bowe	Diana Hales	Dennis Nagy	
Kathryn Bowe	Harvey Himberg	Jan Nichols	
Lily Brabble	Verna Holoman	Katherine O'Brien	
Marlena Brokob	Nancy Jacobs	Andrew Palay	
Patricia Brown	Linda Jovin	Cindy Palay	
Alan Buis	Mike Kalt	Virginia Penley	
Pamella Cash-Roper	Claire Kane	Gary Peterson	
Michelle Colbert	Sara Kane	Jimmie Pugh	
Sam Cooper	Daniel Keller	Shannon Ramaswami	
Gary Cox	Kimberly Keller	Mary Roodkowsky	
Shannon Cox Bronick	Kali Korey	David Rosenberg	
James Crawford	Lesley Landis	Jan Ross	
Kristy Cross	Sarah Lee	Jesse Scotton, Jr.	
Michael Dasher	Robin Leto	Sue Shannon	