

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF GUILFORD COUNTY

July 11, 2018

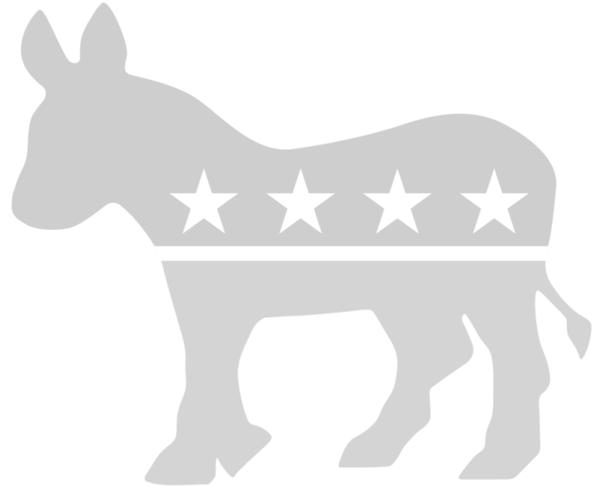
Social 6 p.m.

Program and Membership Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Guilford County Democratic Headquarters

2300 West Meadowview Road, Suite 110

Greensboro, NC 27407



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Justice and courtesy for all. | One thing at a time.

The rule of the majority. | The rights of the minority.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order and approval of July agenda

Sarah Jane Otte, President

*3 minutes | **Vote to approve***

2. Introduction to change in meeting format

Sarah Jane Otte, President

After the close of the business meeting, we will have a ten-minute period for DWGC member reflection and discussion about the program. We're also trying out a suggestion box, which you can find at the food table.

5 minutes

3. August Potluck information

Barbara Carter, Potluck Chair

5 minutes

4. Program: The North Carolina Judicial System

Introduction by Mary Bell-Hemingway

20-minute program by Judge H. Thomas Jarrell

25 minutes

5. Recognition of past and current elected and appointed officials, and candidates

Sarah Jane Otte, President

1 minute

6. Candidate presentations

2 minutes each

7. June Membership Meeting minutes

Female- 179

Male- 19

New or rejoined 7/12- 10

(8 female/2 male)

Total- 208

Sarah Jane Otte, President, with Sangeetha Shivaji, Recording Secretary

3 minutes | **Vote to approve**

8. Program Chair report

Sarah Jane Otte, President, with Bobby Crane, First Chair

Upcoming Membership Meeting programs include: **August 2nd Potluck** at Congregation United Church of Christ at 400 Radiance Drive | **September 6th “Canvassing” program** with Lisa Hitch of Indivisible Greensboro | **October 4th Meet and greet with the candidates**

5 minutes

9. July Treasurer’s report

Candice Greig, Former DWGC Treasurer

3 minutes | **Vote to approve July financial report**

10. Membership Chair report

Sarah Jane Otte, President, with Judy Shaw, Membership Chair

If any of your information has changed, please notify Judy at jashaw1991@gmail.com. New member dues are \$10 for the rest of the year.

3 minutes

11. Correspondence

Sarah Jane Otte, President, with Jo Isler, Correspondence Chair

Please send information to Jo at perpelone@gmail.com by August 26th to have it included in the September Newsletter. Also please email Jo at perpelone@gmail.com if you know of a member who has suffered a loss or severe illness, so the organization can reach out.

3 minutes

12. Hospitality

Sarah Jane Otte, President

Thanks to all who brought food and helped.

1 minute

13. Committees

Sarah Jane Otte, President

Chair needed for February Membership Soup Bash

3 minutes

14. Upcoming Membership Meetings

Sarah Jane Otte, President

DWGC meetings will be at Guilford County Democratic Party Headquarters and will be held on the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted.

August 2 – Potluck at Congregation United Church of Christ at 400 Radiance Drive

September 6 – “Canvassing” program with Lisa Hitch of Indivisible Greensboro

October 4 – Meet and greet with the candidates

November 1 – “Opioid Crisis” program

December – Holiday Party hosted by the Honorable Kay Cashion

January 10 – “Taxation” program

February – Membership soup bash

March 7 – “Racial Equality” program

April 4 – “Guilford County State of the Union” program

May 2 – President’s banquet

3 minutes

15. Other Business

Sarah Jane Otte, President

STAR nominations accepted through July 30th.

Discussion about a DWGC press release opposing RNC 2020 in Charlotte.

5 minutes | **Potential vote**

16. Business meeting adjourns

Sarah Jane Otte, President

1 minute

17. Reflection and discussion

DWGC membership

Members are welcome to offer comments and questions about the day’s program content for group discussion.

10 minutes

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

Office hours for the Guilford County Democratic Party Headquarter are now 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Thursday. We are located at 2300 W. Meadowview Road, Suite 110 (Wrightsville Bldg.), Greensboro. We can be reached at (336) 292-2997 or gcdpchair@guilforddems.org.

Urgent Meeting of the Guilford County Democratic Party Executive Committee

Saturday, July 14, 2018 | 10:00 am

Percy H. Sears Applied Technology Building (AT Auditorium)

GTCC Jamestown Campus, 601 East Main Street, Jamestown, NC

Democratic Women of North Carolina Convention

September 7-9, 2018
Wilmington, NC

Election Day

November 6, 2018
Polls open 6:30 a.m. and close 7:30 p.m

JUNE 2018 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

President Sarah Jane Otte **called the meeting to order**. A motion to approve the agenda was seconded and passed at 6:35 p.m.

The Honorable Mary Lou Blakeney presented on High Point's Woolworth sit-Ins.

Beverly Bard introduced Blakeney, who grew up in segregated South. She was born in Lumberton and moved to High Point as a child. As a high school student, Blakeney helped launch the sit-ins at the Woolworth lunch counter in High Point. She went on to become a nurse, worked in Georgia and California, married, and had two sons. She eventually returned to High Point, where she has been extremely active, serving, for example, on the Governor's Council on Sickle Cell Disease and Other Blood Disorders, as an AARP State Advocate, and as a High Point City Council Member.

Blakeney attended William Penn High School in High Point in the 1950s. She reflected on her time at the segregated school with affection, noting the lack of resources but also the caring teachers.

She described the shock and fear experienced by her community when NC A&T students began Woolworth sit-ins when she was in the 10th grade. Community members were terrified that participants would be murdered, as Emmett Till had been. As an aside, she mentioned that many years later, in a twist of time and fate, she would serve on a board with the man who managed that Woolworths at that time.

She discussed fellow schoolmates, including those chosen to integrate Guilford County High Schools, and then went on to describe her own journey to participating in the sit-ins, under the reluctant guidance of the local Reverend Benjamin Cox. The reverend instructed the determined high schoolers on the rules of nonviolent protests. The process was arduous, and the numbers of participants were whittled down, from a church filled wall to wall with students to 26 remaining students who would not be intimidated.

Blakeney related the words of black business owners on Washington Street, who came to their doors as the students marched down to Woolworths for the first sit-in. "Be careful. Don't be stupid. Don't embarrass your mom and dad."

They went into the store and sat down to the sound of "What in the World's Come Over You," playing on a customer's transistor radio. When a waitress and manager couldn't get them to leave, the police were called, but they didn't know what to do with high school students. The young people were practiced, and organized, and would not be chased off. Eventually the manager closed the store.

As the students exited, they were confronted by a group of men and women, cursing and calling them names. Students who failed to conform to the stringent rules of nonviolence in the face of this provocation were ejected from the sit-ins. “We took a pledge. We had a plan. No one was going to deter us.” The group followed them down the street, cursing and throwing things and threats, but dispersed once they approached Washington Street. Afterwards, the students prayed and then went home to do their homework.

They kept going back every day. When the manager roped off the counter seats, they stood behind the roap and sang. The protests lasted 8 years, until the formation of an Interracial Human Relations Commission in High Point.

Blakeney departed High Point after the first two years of protests, to enter an integrated school in Atlanta to study nursing.

“I thank God for allowing me to be part of that and to see some of the change,” she said. “A lot of change has happened, but there’s still a way to go. There are those who would see us go backward. I’m not going backward.”

Almost four decades later, Blakeney and her compatriots returned to the site of the sit-in and held a prayer vigil.

Now they encourage younger generations to keep talking about civil rights and High Point’s civil rights history. “Don’t take things for granted,” she tells them. “Just a few years ago, we couldn’t sit in the same places. Drink from the same fountain.”

“We have a duty to kids,” she says. “We have to tutor them. We have to mentor them. All of these kids are ours. It’s all interrelated. We could be back there in a minute.” For the last ten years, Blakeney and her compatriots have held a prayer vigil at the memorial on February 11th. The week before they have a February 11th Association Youth Summit, growing the next generation of activists.

President Sarah Jane Otte **recognized past and current elected and appointed officials, and candidates. Candidates or their representatives presented** for 2 minutes each.

Rebecca Schason, a representative for **Martha Schafer’s campaign**, invited the membership to upcoming events, including one at the home of Linda Carlisle on June 24th, with special guest Elaine Marshall.

Desiree Best spoke about her run for the Guilford County School Board. Best was born and raised here, attending Dudley High School and Winston Salem State University. She spent 31 years as a teacher, retired, and now tutors. She also has two adult children teaching in Guilford County Schools. Best hopes to be an advocate for teachers who can speak their language. She is married to a captain in the Guilford County Sherriff’s Office.

Avery Crump thanked everyone for their support. She plans to spend the next seven months preparing to take office.

Outgoing Recording Secretary Kim Alexander-Henderson presented the **April meeting minutes**. A motion to accept the minutes was seconded and passed at 7:27 pm.

First Chair Bobby Crane presented the **Program Committee report**. In July, the Honorable judge Thomas Jarrell will speak. In August, we will have our annual potluck at Congregational United Church of Christ. In September, a representative from Indivisible will speak on canvassing. In October, candidates will come in for a meet and greet.

President Sarah Jane Otte presented on the results of the **President's Spring Banquet**. She thanked Barbara Carter and Kate Flippen for chairing the successful event.

Treasurer Connie Tyre presented on the **Spring Banquet results and the June financial report**. Revenue at the banquet was higher than last year, but food costs were higher as well. Our profits of \$4.5k are on par with last year. A motion to accept the financial report was seconded and approved at 7:31 p.m.

Membership Chair Judy Shaw presented her report. We currently have 178 female members, 19 male members, and another member joined at the June meeting, bringing our total to 198 members. She asks that membership bring friends to help keep our numbers rising!

Correspondence Chair Jo Isler discussed the **newsletter**. She asked that members email her at perpelone@gmail.com by July 2nd to have information included in the July Newsletter.

President Sarah Jane Otte presented on **hospitality**, thanking everyone who brought food to the June meeting. She thanked Dorothy Collins for agreeing to serve as our new Hospitality Chair. The committee is seeking volunteers. If you're interested in helping out, please sign up!

President Sarah Jane Otte presented on **committees** and asked for volunteers to serve as chairs for the August Potluck, Holiday Party, and February Membership Soup Bash. Barbara Carter volunteered to Chair the August Potluck. B.J. Covington volunteered to chair the Holiday Party.

President Sarah Jane Otte discussed **upcoming meetings and events**. *DWGC meetings will be at Guilford County Democratic Party Headquarters and will be held on the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted.*

- July DWGC Meeting – “The North Carolina Judicial System” by Judge H. Thomas Jarrell
- August DWGC Meeting – “August Potluck” at Congregational United Church of Christ, Greensboro
- September DWGC Meeting – “How to Canvass” by Indivisible Greensboro’s Lisa Hitch
- GCDP volunteer picnic
- “Democracy In Chains” book club meeting
- June Elder Abuse Walk

President Sarah Jane Otte discussed **STAR Nominations for the Democratic Women of North Carolina**. Nominations will be accepted through July 30.

Members were invited to present **new business**. Carolyn Bunker thanked Linda Kellerman, who is moving, for her service. B.J. Covington invited members to attend the **53rd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet**, hosted by the

Greensboro Branch of the NAACP. Bishop William J. Barber, II, is the speaker at the event, which will be held on June 30th.

A motion to **adjourn** the meeting was seconded and passed at 7:45 pm.

JULY 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT

DWGC Financial Report As of July 8, 2018

Account Balance, as of June 7, 2018 **\$12,514.29**

Revenue

Membership dues and donations \$70.00

Expenditures

Donation to Guilford County Democratic Party \$100.00
In Memory of Pearl Berlin
and Joanne Schlaginhaufen

Donation to United Way Greater Greensboro \$100.00
In Honor of State Senator Gladys Robinson
(President's Spring Banquet guest speaker)
for her efforts to help tornado victims

Account Balance, as of July 8, 2018 **\$12,384.29**

STAR NOMINATION FORM 2018

Democratic Women of Guilford County Nominee
Due July 30th

Sponsor Name: _____

Have you paid your membership dues for 2018? _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Names of other members of DWGC who join you in this nomination:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

STAR Nominee's Full Name: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

Nominee Phone: _____

Nominee Email: _____

Summary of your nominee's service (Please be as specific as possible. Attach additional sheet, if needed.)

Please return completed form to sarah.j.otte@gmail.com, or to the DWGC's inbox at Guilford County Democratic Headquarters, or mail to Sarah Jane Otte, 1718 Carolina Court, High Point, NC 27265 no later than July 30, 2018. Please contact Sarah via email if you have a question. Thank you!