

**GUILFORD COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
BOARD MEETING OF THE OFFICERS**

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 11TH, 2019

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The Guilford County Democratic Party Board of Officers held a meeting to approve minutes and budget, hear officers' reports, plus old and new business.

PRESENT: GCDP Chair Nicole Ward Quick, GCDP 1st Vice Chair Pam Stubbs, GCDP 2ND Vice Chair Adrienne Spinner, GCDP High Point Vice Chair Joshua Perry Brown, Democratic Women of GCDP President Sarah Jane Otte, African-American Caucus of GCDP President Felita Donnell, Progressive Caucus of GCDP President Larry Cormier, GCDP Treasurer James Bowles, GCDP Secretary Beverly Bard, and GCDP Executive Director Bess Lewis. Guests were our representatives to the Board of Elections: Attorney Jim Kimel, Rev. T. Anthony Spearman, and Carolyn Bunker.

ABSENT: GCDP 3rd Vice Chair Dillon Tyler, GCDP Greensboro Vice Chair Pete Shaw, GCDP Rural Vice Chair Leslie Holder Martin, Young Democrats of GCDP President Heidi Noriega, LGBTQ Caucus of GCDP President Byron Gladden Senior Democrats of GCDP President Terry Mitchell.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Since over 40% of board members were present, GCDP Chair Nicole Ward Quick called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

2. VOTER PROTECTION REVIEW WITH BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS GCDP Chair Nicole introduced our BOE representatives and thanked them for coming to discuss our concerns.

A. Lack of Curbside Voting at Some Locations:

- GCDP Chair Nicole raised concerns of voters who called in about curbside. Jefferson Elementary had no signage and few staff. Greeters/Candidates helped to alert staff of curbside voters. There was no signage reported at several polling locations so voters may not know that curbside was available.
- Rain also prevented voters from voting when polling locations were not allowed to bring machines outside for curbside because of no rain protection. Chair Nicole said that after she called the BOE Director, he then called the polling location to say they must offer curbside by using an umbrella. GCDP Progressive Caucus President Larry said that umbrellas are not sufficient. GCDP Executive Director Bess said that Bur-Mil Club has a covered curbside area and to direct curbside voters there.
- Attorney Jim Kimel said that all polling locations are required to offer curbside voting. He said that Chief Judges are required to pick up what they need from BOE. He said the future use of a bell system to alert inside staff when there is a curbside voter, better training of staff plus best way to identify curbside voters, and more distinct signage are needed.

B. Signage at Early Voting Locations That Are Closed on Election Day:

- Chair Nicole raised the concern that some voters confused their early voting location with election-day precinct polling location and the necessity of posting volunteers to redirect voters to the correct location. Chair Nicole suggested signage at Early Voting location signs to redirect voters on Election Day.
- Attorney Jim Kimel said they had personally implemented that idea, and needed to be more effective. He said Bur-Mil Club, Jamestown Town Hall, Craft Rec. and Brown Rec. had 11x17 signs on their doors directing voters to correct locations, and, in the future,

plan to put signs on all early voting location doors on Election Day, as well as larger signs at their parking lot driveways.

- Executive Director Bess asked if the signs will let voters know where to go and BOE Representative Attorney Jim said that the signs should and will have precincts and their locations for Election Day voting.

C. Printed Fill-in-the-blank- Forms to Redirect Voters Who Show Up at the Wrong Polling Place (A couple of sites seemed to have these, but others gave verbal instructions):

- GCDP Chair Nicole said that most voters who showed up at the wrong location on Election Day were given written information of their correct polling location. Some voters were given verbal direction, which was not as clear and caused some to be visually lost. She suggested that a written form, for the voter, be standardized practice across all locations.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said it should be done and the voter should be given a pre-printed ATV/form with address of their new polling place and address. This is a good idea. GCDP Treasurer James asked if staff can look up where a person should be if they aren't in the book.
- BOE Representative Jim Kimel said that if they're not in the book, staff can check in data base that tells where the voter should be.

D. Possibility of Voter Registration on Election Day:

- GCDP Chair Nicole asked if voters might be able to register and vote on the same Election Day. BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that it requires a change in the statutes. Odds are questionable and GCDP Chair Nicole said that legislatures need to work on this for us.
- BOE Representative Rev. T. Anthony Spearman said that the NAACP has a reputable firm behind them had some victories in California.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that it will benefit voters to make it as expansive as possible and not limited to the ID or DL you get at DMV, but also to use proof of address such as your utility bill. It's up to Raleigh.
- Chair Nicole said that Ashlei Blue was asked to come to our Board meeting but she had commitments with Voter ID group who is coming up with process of educating voters about the new voting/ID requirements.

E. Machines Out of Order Creating Back-up at Multiple Locations:

- GCDP Chair Nicole said that the Craft Rec. sight had machines down and at the end had only 2 working machines. She asked about the calibration issue and new machines.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimmel said machines commonly fall out of calibration and is an easy fix. Ticket and service logs from all the precincts were normal, but were occasionally unusable machines. There were about 3 paper roll/power issues, such as an occasional forgetting to plug a machine in. Most fixes are easy and there are technicians available who can fix machines mostly in 10 seconds. Precinct officials are told to reach out for tech help instead of guessing how to fix a machine, and this can be addressed in training.
- GCDP Chair Nicole said there was a call from a voter who noticed there was no tape/paper in her machine. The poll worker changed the tape, but put it in backwards.

- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said there is human error, but there is nothing that can't be fixed, and staff is encouraged to call for help. He said more and new staff is needed. He suggested voting on Election Day, when lines are few.
- Executive Director Bess said that there were longer/more Early Voting hours and asked if BOE will be hiring more assistants.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that they need more staff and they are not allowed to work back to back 12 hour shifts. It's easy to get tired.
- GCDP Progressive Caucus President Larry said he was at Jamestown almost every day, they had curbside signage and asked outside greeters to alert staff inside when there were curbside voters and this was adequate. There was also a tape issue that took 2 staffers to solve, so more training may help.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said it will be helpful to put additional signage at the parking lot drive way and to address those training issues.
- GCDP High Point Vice Chair Josh said that a poll observer was turned away even though they had their credential. The worker didn't see the poll observer's name on the list. Later, a different worker did see the poll observer's name on the day's list, so this was a clerical error. More training on this will be helpful.
- Also, he said some candidate signs were working their way within the 50' area where those signs aren't allowed.
- GCDP Chair Nicole said they can always call BOE Director, but first they need to know about the issue, so it's important to notify the office/war room so they may address those issues and call the BOE Director.
- BOE Representative Rev. T. Anthony Spearman said the next time around there will be an opportunity for more poll observers, as many as 100 at each polling sight (to cover all shifts). Executive Director Bess asked if the poll observers need to be submitted by the political party and BOE Representative Rev. T. Anthony Spearman said that yes, the party submits those names and polling locations.
- GCDP African-American Caucus President Felita asked if a specific person does curbside voting during Early Voting or does all staff help? She had experienced a voting location with no curbside or signage.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said it depends on the precinct and how they divide up the work. They have one person looking out for curbside, but sometimes it's a group effort. They were called about that.
- BOE Representative Rev. T. Anthony Spearman said that sometimes it's the call of the Chief Judge, how busy it is and who knows how to do curbside; although all locations are required to have curbside voting.
- GCDP High Point Vice Chair Joshua said that since this year's High Point election is a nonpartisan election, he wondered if the parties submit poll observers.
- GCDP Executive Director Bess said that parties have not submitted poll observers for nonpartisan elections in the past, and will confirm with the BOE Director.

F. Return of Barber Park as an Early Voting Site: GCDP Chair Nicole suggested that Barber Park be returned as a voting location. It's important to give the neighborhood ease of access. BOE Representative Rev. T. Anthony Spearman expressed that this will likely happen. BOE

Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that the Barber Park location has the fewest voters. GCDP 1st Vice Chair Pam said that the numbers in East Greensboro have been used against them, and their need should be above the numbers. All expressed agreement and BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that the location will likely be reopened for 2020. GCDP Executive Director Bess expressed concern that there were no rural early voting locations.

G. Training for Polling Place Workers:

GCDP Chair Nicole suggested that more training is required so that staff are educated about curbside voting, and to call immediately if problems arise.

H. Voter ID Requirements:

The BOE Representatives said that the details are being worked out. Ms Blue had another commitment with the Voter ID group, and not able to be at this meeting.

I. Other Questions: GCDP Chair Nicole asked if there were any more questions.

- GCDP 1st Vice Chair Pam asked if there is a formula used when considering machine allocations to polling locations, especially having enough machines in the East Greensboro area.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that they consider historically the number of voters who turn out at each location and the length of time it takes each person to vote (normally 5-7 seconds). There is an algorithm used based on each precincts historical data. They usually put 1 or 2 more machines in place, just to make sure. There is consideration of getting new voting machines.
- African-American Caucus of GCDP President Felita said that, when she was a poll observer, it took voters longer than a few seconds to vote, because of no straight ticket available. All agreed, especially since this ballot contained amendments to read.
- BOE Representative Carolyn Bunker asked if the algorithm took into account busy times of the day.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that it doesn't, but a few more machines than what the algorithm says, are given to the locations so that busy times, paper changes, and recalculations are covered. He suggested voting on the last day of Early Voting or on Election Day.
- GCDP Chair Nicole asked about the filing dates.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel gave handouts of the filing schedule for 2019 and 2020.
- Progressive Caucus of GCDP President Larry asked about voters not having their voter registration card, or having an out of date card. Discussion followed on how districts have changed and new cards are sent out.
- BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said that the BOE does send out new cards each time a district changes. The county is required to fund adequate elections.
- Democratic Women of GCDP President Sarah asked who sets the filing fees for municipalities. BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said he thinks it is based upon a percentage of what the position pays. He welcomed questions sent to him by email.
- GCDP 1st Vice Chair Pam asked about how a person receives an inactive status and how we can educate voters how to prevent this. Voters must keep their information up to date and reregister when necessary.

- BOE Representative T. Anthony Spearman said there was an NAACP lawsuit that was successfully won concerning purging that was found to be unconstitutional, so he will check into this concern.
- GCDP Treasurer James asked, if new machines are bought, will they be paper or electronic. BOE Representative Attorney Jim Kimel said he wasn't sure, but believes they are scheduled to get new machines. The vendors will be, hopefully, tied to good people.
- GCDP Chair Nicole thanked our BOE Representative for their time.

3. APPROVAL OF BOARD AND CEC MINUTES, PLUS THIS MONTH'S AGENDA: After Board minutes were corrected, a motion was made seconded and passed to accept Board minutes of November 12th, 2018; January 7th 2019; CEC minutes of January 29th, 2019; and this month's agenda.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT: GCDP Treasurer James said that, as of today, our balance is \$16,413.00.

- Fundraising will start in March and April, plus precinct sustaining funds will be in.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Democratic Women of GCDP President Sarah. The motion was seconded and passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT:

A. Precinct Organization:

- GCDP Chair Nicole asked the Vice Chairs to comment.
- Indivisible has done a great job of canvassing unorganized precincts to get names, contacts to forward to us and this will lead to more organized precincts this year.
- She asked for an update on which packets haven't been picked up or emailed out and to send out a plea to those precincts.
- She asked to have the form completed to better assess what we need to cover.

B. 2019/2020 Elections:

- Bruce Davis is the only one, so far, who has gotten back to say he is sending out his press release today, that he is running.
- Discussion followed on who was thought to run. Candidates are already running for 2020. We have 3 governor candidates, a couple of congressional candidates, plus senate and others.

C. Legislative Breakfast/County Convention-March 30th :

- The location will be at Embassy Suites and the speaker will be Representative Alma Adams. The legislative update will be given by Senator Michael Garrett. There will be a buffet breakfast followed by the County Convention.
- Invitations will go out on Tuesday. The Act Blue link is up. We have a post on social media. Candidates who announced for 2020 will be invited and asked to sponsor.
- Registration for the convention starts at 11:00 A.M. and the convention starts at noon.

D. Sustaining Fund Payment:

- We have a bill for \$4500.00 to cover conventions, Act Blue access, and in-person training. A response is in the works.
- We offered \$500.00 last year. No in-person training has been given in the last 2 years, and our data needs updated.

E. One-on-One-Meetings:

- GCDP Chair Nicole asked to meet with those few she still needs to.
- Terry will be back to represent Senior Dems.

F. Board and SEC Candidates:

- The goal is to put out a notice the day after precinct organization ends for those running and to send in their bios.

G. Volunteer Picnic:

- It is needed to rent the shelter early so we can have a better chance to reserve it on the date we choose. We would like to reserve at Barber Park.
- Discussion followed on a date that works, and April 13th was agreed upon.
- The cost of shelter rental has been built into the budget which was already approved for \$700.00, which was what we paid last year. The Board agreed.

6. OTHER OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Progressive Caucus of GCDP President Larry Cormier

- He sent out an email to precinct chairs and vice chairs, to make labels for them to use on postcards. There were about 22 responses.
- GCDP Chair Nicole said she priced Robo calls with Tim Mooreland and it came out to 13 cents per call. Discussion followed about the accuracy of phone numbers.

B. GCDP 2nd Vice Chair Adrienne Spinner

- Many of the volunteer sessions have been about precinct organization, and Pete and Leslie have that pretty well handled.
- In March, training will be offered on voter registration and voter protection, with possible help from Lisa of Indivisible. This training will cover voter rights, especially for college students and the homeless.
- You Can Vote is doing an event in March on the voter ID, and they may help with training in May.
- In April, there will be training on parliamentary procedures.

C. GCDP 1st Vice Chair Pam Stubbs

- She spoke with precincts G73/74 about the meeting at Trinity Church, the importance of organization, talking to your neighbors, and the power of organized precincts.
- She said they were concerned about the voter ID, so another meeting will be planned to address this.
- She said she has a list of 2020 offices that are up, who is running again and who is not.

D. Democratic Women of GCDP President Sarah Jane Otte

- They had their Membership Soup Bash on February 7th. It was a great meeting with 60 in attendance.
- The next meeting is on March 7th with people from The Racial Equity Institute about their ground water approach.
- The April meeting will be the State of the Counties with the Board of Education and State Representatives who can let us know what is going on.
- The May meeting is our Spring Banquet.
- GCDP Chair Nicole suggested they use GCDP Facebook as a co-host on their event posts.
- GCDP Executive Director Bess suggested they email their events to her so she can put them in the newsletter/eblast.

E. African-American Caucus of GCDP President Felita Donnell

- Their next meeting is Thursday, February 21st.
- She spoke with Ashlei Blue about Voter ID and more details to come about that.

F. GCDP High Point Vice Chair Joshua Brown

- A precinct cluster met last Saturday when one precinct reached quorum. Those not reaching quorum are planning another cluster on the 16th.
- Meeting notice signs have been taken down as some places and their staff has been talked to so they are aware of it and will keep a close eye out.
- H21 is helping with the clusters. H28, H22, H23, H25, H27A, H27B cluster is coming up this Saturday for their second try.
- Executive Director Bess asked for the details so she may report the notice in the eblast.
- H02 invited current mayor and our candidate to their meeting, and pushed to make High Point a living wage city, to make High Point an example, and to start with city employees.
- The next cluster is on the 18th for H01, H03, H04, H05, H07 through H11, H13, H14, H16 through H19, H28 through H29B, and Jam2 through Jam5 to be at Shekinah Glory Church, 1300 Furlough Ave, High Point.
- He shared a notice sign that he created, showing why we organize precincts.
- He said that if a precinct isn't organized by the 18th, they are then unorganized, but can put in for an extension and try to be organized 2 weeks before the convention to be able to participate in it.
- Chair Nicole talked to Doug and he said they can put in an extension for a week after the 18th to meet and still be organized.
- Democratic Women of GCDP President Sarah asked if she could be a precinct chair, being she is on the GCDP Board. GCDP High Point Vice Chair Joshua said he is Precinct Chair and to check the Democratic Women by-laws.
- GCDP Executive Director Bess said that the precinct must attempt to meet during the window time.

G. GCDP Secretary/ Issues Committee Chair Beverly Bard

- She met with Abby from Swing Left and Lisa from Indivisible to look at their schedules for the year and then decide how best the Issues Committee can fill in. They will be focusing on precinct organization, canvassing, phone banking, so then the committee can go forward with issues important to Democrats.
- The next book club is on February 19th, 7:00 P.M., at Scuppernong's. Discussion will be about the book titled Becoming by Michelle Obama, so I expect the turnout may be better.
- The day will need to be changed from Tuesday to either Monday or Thursday. Those who come to the book club meeting can be asked which day they prefer. High Point prefers Monday.

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

GCDP Chair Nicole asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the GCDP Board of Officers' meeting at 7:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Bard
GCDP Secretary

Nicole Ward Quick
GCDP Chair