

Wake Full County Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2025 – 6:30 PM - Kevyn Creech, Chair

Prepared by Akkina Murthy, WCDP Secretary

CEC members are encouraged to **review these minutes prior to the May 29 CEC meeting**. Please send corrections directly to Secretary Akkina Murthy by **June 05** at: secretary@wakedems.org.

1. Meeting Opening & Quorum

A Full Wake County Executive Committee convened on January 28, 2025, via Zoom and Chair Kevyn Creech called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

In her opening remarks, the Chair extended a warm welcome and expressed gratitude to all attendees. The Chair then recognized Sarah Leehr, Cary/Morrisville Reg. Vice Chair who read through the Diversity and Inclusion Statement, followed by Donna Friend, South Wake Regional Vice Chair, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Moment of Silence has been observed to remember those we have lost and reflect on our purpose.

After which, the Chair recognized Christina Ward, 3rd Vice Chair, who informed the body on Zoom etiquette and how to obtain recognition from the Chair.

The Chair then called on First Vice Chair, Nick Long, who explained the body on voting procedures for tonight's meeting.

The Chair recognized Executive Director Wesley Knott, who then conducted a poll for the purpose of establishing quorum using a google form. After which, the Chair recognized Second Vice Chair Mike Culkin, who after conferring with the Executive Director on the results of the google form poll, made the declaration of a quorum stating we had 136 delegates in attendance.

2. Meeting Agenda

The agenda for today's meeting was displayed on the screen and was read by the Chair. The Chair then entertained a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made and seconded, hearing no objections the agenda was approved.

3. Special Rules

The Proposed Special Rules were then displayed on the screen. The Chair recognized 1st VC Nick Long, who read each rule one at a time. A motion was made and seconded, hearing no objections the special rules were approved.

4. Credentialing

The Chair then called on 2nd VC Mike Culkin, who confirmed the use of the 15-minute rule to close out and establish the final credentialing.

5. Previous Meeting's Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting for August 20, 2024, were presented by Akkina Murthy, Secretary. A motion was made and seconded, hearing no objections the Minutes were approved.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report, presented by Laura Kalbaugh, revealed that by the end of December 31, 2024, we had \$55,627.45 cash on hand.

7. Recognition of Elected Officials and Declared Candidates

The Chair called on Dr. Shirley Hicks, S. Raleigh Regional Vice Chair, who recognized all elected officials and all the declared candidates in attendance.

8. Presentation on Ouida Watson

The Chair called on Schnika Pender Hyman, Pct. 08-10, who honored and presented reflections on the life of Ouida L. Watson, Precinct 08-02.

9. Chair Stipend Committee Report

The Chair recognized Elaine Okal, Chair of the Stipend Committee, who presented the committee's report recommending a future annual stipend of \$20,000 for the WCDP Chair position, in recognition of the value and dedication the role requires. She emphasized that, due to current financial constraints, the incoming Executive Committee should revisit this recommendation once revenue growth allows WCDP to sustainably and confidently support such a commitment.

10. State of the County Party Report

The Chair delivered the State of the County Party Report, expressing gratitude to all the dedicated volunteers. The WCDP recently conducted a countywide survey, with findings to be published soon to help guide future priorities. In recent months, we've played a key role in several critical races, notably contributing to the successes of Allison Riggs and Terrance Everett. The Chair recognized Nick Long, 1st VC who shared plans for the upcoming PAMs, which will run over a three-week period from March 16 to March 29, allowing precincts to meet on any approved day within that window. He noted that significant training is being developed to help individuals become effective precinct officers.

11. Election of Wake Co. Commissioner District 2 Nominee

The Chair initiated the discussion on the election of a nominee to be submitted to the Board of Commissioners to complete the unexpired term of Matt Calabria, which expires in December 2026. Since Mr. Calabria was elected "at-large," all members of the CEC are entitled to vote for his replacement.

After a brief review of the position description, following pre-declared candidates were shown on the screen, with each allotted 3 minutes for speeches.

- Lindy Brown
- Demian Dellinger
- Bill Harris
- Safiyah Jackson
- Christine Kelly

With no additional nominations from the floor, a vote was conducted. **Safiyah Jackson** was announced as the winner, receiving 57% of the vote.

12. Election of North Wake Regional Vice Chair

The Chair initiated the election of a nominee to complete the unexpired term of Ambrosia Sharkey, which expires in April, 2025. According to the North Carolina Democratic Party Plan of Organization, only Executive Council members and precinct chairs and precinct vice chairs who reside in the Northern Wake Region are eligible to vote for this position.

After a brief review of the position description, following pre-declared candidates were shown on the screen with each given a 3 minutes for speeches.

- Brandi Brown
- Jim Duffett

With no additional nominations from the floor, a vote was conducted. **Jim Duffett** was announced as winner with him receiving 53% of the vote.

12. Election of House District 40 Representative

The Chair initiated the election of a nominee to be submitted to the Governor to complete the unexpired term of Judge Joe John, which expires in December 2026. Candidates must be residents of House District 40 and the Members of the CEC who reside in District 40 are entitled to vote for his replacement by simple majority vote.

After a brief review of the position description, following pre-declared candidates were shown on the screen with each given a 3 minutes for speeches.

- Jim Saranteas
- Maddie Segal
- Phil Rubin

With no additional nominations from the floor, a vote was conducted. **Phil Rubin** was announced as winner with him receiving 63% of the vote.

14. Announcements

First Vice Chair Nick Long reviewed the following upcoming events.

- Annual WCDP Valentines' Day Fundraiser - Feb 12
- State Exec. Council Meeting - Feb 22
- Precinct Annual Meetings - Mar 16 - Mar29
- Full County Convention - April 24 (Session 1) & April 26 (Session 2)
- Congressional District Conventions - May 17
- Summer State Executive Council Meeting - June 2

With no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Akkina Murthy, Secretary