

New Hanover County Democratic Party

Monthly Meeting

August 19, 2013

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The meeting was convened at *Cameron Hall* located on the campus of UNCW at 6:05 .(*temporary change of venue*)

1. **Call to order:** Pledge. Richard apologized for the late start and reported change of venue was at the request of UNCW at late notice.
2. **Welcome guests, introduce:** Officers in attendance- Richard Poole, Susanne Werner, Jeremy Wilson, Brenda Fong, Andrew Barnhill and Jennifer MacNeish. Absent: Veda Wilson. Recognized Sheriff Ed McMahon and welcomed new visitors. Jeremy Wilson thanked everyone for the school supplies and encourages future donations at next meeting.
3. **Presentation by:** Councilman Charlie Rivenbark- was not available to speak.
4. **Treasurer's Report, BOE Reporting Update, Budget- Brenda Fong.** Total balance - \$14,755.06(report attached).Brenda stated an operating budget was being proposed for the next year and any input was to be given to officers for consideration and will be presented at September meeting. Diana Hill asked for clarification on expenses for W-29 and Brenda stated a \$44 rental fee of which funds were received from W-29. Nick Rhodes suggested an office space to be opened before the municipal elections. Elizabeth Redenbaugh stated former coordinated campaign office space was paid for in part by candidate contributions. Lynn McIntyre suggested a limit on checks over \$500 and anything over to be approved by the voting members. Richard Poole stated he would support any expense over \$500 to be approved by executive board. Millie Elledge stated recent Unity expenses would prohibit such a suggestions as many are over this amount and that the board should decide all expenses as needed . Jim Leutze stated that the executive board is entrusted to carry out the business of the party and if they don't then vote them out. Jennifer MacNeish added this is the first time a budget has been made and all expenses are subject to campaign finance reporting and this discussion should be tabled until the budget is presented. A motion was made by Millie to close the budget discussion and more comments from voting members should be directed to officers reference the budget. Seconded by Steve Kelly. A vote was taken – unanimous yas- no nays.
5. **Approval of Minutes –Jennifer MacNeish-** The July 15 meeting minutes were distributed online for review prior to this meeting as approved in the July meeting. Jennifer MacNeish asked for any comments or changes – none given. Motion to accept July notes as posted online by Maggie Parrish and seconded by Richard Mandel. All yas- no nays.
6. **Report on Precinct Organization Efforts: Susanne Werner-**Reported upcoming events related to municipal elections and encouraged all precinct chairs and leaders to communicate and coordinate neighborhood events , and asked for all precincts outside the city to assist those in the city for municipal elections. Announced upcoming meetings to be held at Steve Kelly's house on Sat mornings to coordinate volunteers.
7. **Report on Voter Registration Project- Suzanne Werner and Steve Kelly:** Steve Kelly distributed and discussed materials outlining the strategies, forms and best practices for successful voter registrations drives. Also briefed on the new voting laws that may need to be explained during registration drives. Reminded everyone who wants to help to attend the Sat morning meetings at his house.
8. **Report On Unity Gala Planing and Budget- Robert Stidd:** Planning coming along, speakers being confirmed. Tickets will be on sale Aug. 14- 28 for \$50 and then will go up to \$60 on midnight of 8/28. Announced silent auction and asked for sponsors and help in selling tickets.

9. **Report on Strategic Plan Advisory Group:** Richard Mandel reported that the advisory committee continues to work toward an objective to help democrats win elections and stated the following members are on this board: Tom Gale, Debra Maxwell, Paul Lawler, Nick Rhodes, Dale Smith, Owen Wexler, Jeremy Wilson and Rob Zapple. A report on their progress will be given at September meeting.
10. **Old Business:** *none*
11. **New Business:** Ed Ablar spoke about initiative to gain support for Love Grove community and funding for an alternative entry and exit due to safety concerns following the recent train derailment. Meeting will be 8/23.
12. **Remarks by Chair: Blue Surf Café':** Event 8/27 at Clancy Thompson's requires a RSVP.
13. **Adjournment:** Motion by Nick Rhodes, seconded by Bill West.

Submitted by:  
Jennifer H. MacNeish  
Secretary NHCDP

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