

Minutes of the DC Democratic State Committee (DCDSC)

May 2, 2019

The monthly meeting of the DC Democratic State Committee was held on May 7, 2019, in the Hyatt Place Hotel, 400 E Street, SW . The roll call vote reflected that 58 members were in attendance. Chairman Charles Wilson presided and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The following members gave advanced notice of their absences: Angelica Castanon, Reta Jo Lewis, Anita Shelton and Christine Warnke.

Geoffrey Griffis, the hotel owner, gave welcoming remarks.

The minutes of the April 4, 2019 meeting were approved. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Committeeman Reverend George Holmes gave a motivational message.

Committeepersons James Bubar and Andria Thomas, co-chairs of the Voting Rights and Statehood committee, introduced Bo Shuff, the executive director of DC Vote, who gave a presentation on the current efforts to achieve DC statehood and how people can be involved. In his presentation he emphasized:

- That there is a record level of Congressional support for statehood.
- The Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and the Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer support statehood.
- All the current Democratic presidential candidates support statehood.
- More grassroots groups are forming and emerging to support statehood.
- The successful marriage equality strategy is being applied to the statehood effort because practically all Americans know about states and have lived in them and, therefore, the issue of the disenfranchisement of DC residents should be readily understood.
- The efforts of the DCDSC are appreciated and should be expanded to include taking the lead on the No Donation Without Representation initiative.

Committeepersons James Bubar and Andria Thomas introduced the statehood resolution that will be presented to the Democratic National Committee. The resolution passed unanimously after it was agreed that Vice Chairwoman Linda Gray would add more “whereas” clauses to the resolution.

Chairman Wilson swore in the two new College Democrats DCDSC members: Bella Ryb (Georgetown University), DC College Democrats President; and Devon Bradley (George Washington University), DC College Democrats Vice President.

Committeewoman Renee Bowser introduced a resolution asking for the resignation of National Committeeman Jack Evans. After the resolution was seconded and discussed, a roll call vote resulted in the resolution failing with 22 for the resolution, 26 against the resolution, 10 abstentions.

For the resolution

1. John Green
2. Latifa Lyles
3. Chioma Iwuoha
4. Beau Finley
5. Elizabeth Mitchell
6. Shelly Tomkin
7. Todd Brogan
8. Renee Bowser
9. Andra Wicks
10. Andria Thomas
11. Wendy Cronin
12. Lauren Grimes
13. Phil Thomas
14. Chuck Burger
15. Brandon Frye
16. Debby Shore
17. Tiye Kinlow
18. Jennifer Blemur
19. Zach Israel

20. Kishan Putta
21. Gerri Adams-Simmons
22. Vivan Wilds

Against the resolution

1. Linda Gray
2. Jack Evans
3. Silvia Martinez
4. Philip Pannell
5. Anita Bonds
6. Mario Cristaldo
7. Dave Donaldson
8. Charles Gaither
9. James Bubar
10. Patricia Elwood
11. Monica Roache
12. Stanley Mayes
13. John Lazar
14. Susana Baranano
15. Sherri Kimbel
16. Timothy Thomas
17. Romaine Thomas
18. David Meadows
19. Dorothy Douglas
20. Patrick Allen
21. Jeannette Mobley
22. Derek Ford
23. Lynn French
24. Hector Rodriguez
25. Janice Davis
26. George Holmes

Abstentions

1. Hugh Allen
2. Alexa Wertman-Brown
3. Sharece Crawford
4. Gordon-Andrew Fletcher
5. Stuart Anderson
6. Camille Glover
7. Franklin Garcia
8. Dorinda White
9. Bella Ryb
10. Devon Bradley

Committeeman John Lazar presented the DC delegate selection plan for the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Committeepersons Patricia Elwood moved and Dave Donaldson seconded that the plan be approved and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

The reports of the ward organizations were given by the following committeepersons:

Ward 1 – Camille Glover, president

Ward 2 – John Lazar

Ward 3 – Phil Thomas, president

Ward 4 – Todd Brogan

Ward 5 – Jeannette Mobley, president

Ward 6 – Andria Thomas

Ward 7 – No report

Ward 8 – Troy Prestwood and Philip Pannell

Gerri Adams-Simmons gave the report of the Metropolitan Women Democratic Club.

Committeewoman Camille Glover announced that at the June 6th DCDSC meeting she will introduce a resolution to encourage candidates for public office to seek public financing instead of corporate contributions. Copies of the resolution were distributed.

Committeepersons Mario Cristaldo and Philip Pannell reported on efforts to organize Democratic presidential debate watch parties that will serve as low-cost fundraisers for the DCDSC. Attendees will be asked to contribute \$10 per person. After the debates, a survey will be distributed with the two questions:

1. Whom do you think won the debate?
2. If the election were held now, which candidate would you vote for?

The first debate watch party will be on Wednesday, June 26th, 6 pm to 11 pm, and hosted by the DC Latino Caucus at Haydee's Restaurant, 3102 Mt. Pleasant Street, NW. The DCDSC caucuses and councils will be encouraged to host the debate watch parties. The Democratic National Committee announced that there will be six debates in 2019 and six debates in 2020.

Committeewoman Sharece Crawford inquired on the status of initiatives proposed by the Communications Committee that includes publishing a calendar of caucus meetings to avoid future scheduling conflicts. She also inquired as to when will the Black Caucus schedule future meetings.

The 50/50 raffle raised \$202 and the winner was Bill Rice, who donated \$50 of his \$101 winnings to the DCDSC.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Pannell
Recording Secretary