

**New Kent County Democratic Committee Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2016**

In attendance:

- Christine Williams
- Pearson Cost
- Richard Williams
- Selena Gray
- Houston Gray
- Susan Moon
- Jack Winson
- William Banks
- Marion Banks
- Eugene Williams
- Joyce Williams
- Julia Taylor
- Gina Maglionico
- Bill Durrand

- I. The Acting Chair, Christine Williams, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
- II. Old Business
 - a. Approval of the Minutes from May 10, 2016 Meeting
 - i. Houston Gray moved to approve the minutes as recorded.
 - ii. Susan Moon seconded the motion.
 - iii. The motion was approved without objection.
 - b. Update of turnover of checking account to new Treasurer & signature cards
 - i. Susan Moon reported that she and Christine Williams went with Julia Taylor to be added to the account signature card and that she now has the checkbook and other account books.
 - ii. Susan reported that the balance continues to be \$1,843.43.
 - iii. Susan reported no anticipated expenditures at the moment.
 - c. Election of a new Chair to replace outgoing chair, Donna Friend
 - i. Only one nomination was received in response to Donna's request for nominations ahead of the meeting. That nomination was for Christine Williams, our current Vice Chair & Secretary.
 - ii. The Acting Chair asked for nominations from the floor. None were made.
 - iii. The Acting Chair asked for motion.
 1. A motion was made to elect Christine Williams as Chair.
 2. Susan Moss seconded the motion.
 3. The motion was approved without objection.

- iv. Christine indicated that this now leaves us in the position of needing a new Vice Chair/Secretary.
 1. No nominations were made from the floor.
 2. Christine indicated that nominations could be made over the next month by email to Chair@nkdem.org or by mail.
 3. We'll take up the issue & hopefully hold an election at the next meeting.

III. New Business

- a. Guest Speaker: Gina Maglionico of AFL-CIO on Proposed Right to Work Constitutional Amendment
 - i. Virginia has been a right to work state for 70 years.
 - ii. Some legislators felt that this issue should be elevated to the constitutional level.
 - iii. This will be on the ballot this fall for voters to approve or disapprove.
 - iv. Federal law says that no one can be required to join a union. However, in most states, the union can charge non-members a "fair share" for any efforts on their behalf: contract collective bargaining, grievance representation, etc. Usually that fee is 1/3 to 1/2 of what union members would pay. In a right to work state, like Virginia, the union cannot charge non-members anything for the work they do on behalf of those non-members.
 - v. The amendment would not change anything about the existing right to work law in Virginia! Only a portion of the statute (a paragraph) would be added to the constitution.
 - vi. American Legislative Exchange Counsel has contributed to the funding for this. And not only Virginia is facing this push. There's a coordinated effort. Alabama is facing the exact same constitutional amendment this fall. Gina says this is largely a political effort to keep big donors happy.
 - vii. Several of the members were concerned that the AFL-CIA's materials don't emphasize that this law depresses wages or attack the right to work law directly. Gina stressed that they'd done lots of polling & determined that this approach polled best and had the best reaction from voters across the spectrum. She also pointed out that it's a long road to November & this is only their first publication effort. She's here to help spread the word & get feedback, as part of their initial push to lay the groundwork and educate the public.
 - viii. She distributed a flyer, her card, and a pledge card that people can fill out. She also offered sample letters to the editor and other materials that people could use to help get the word out if anyone is interested.
 - ix. Gina indicated that estimates are that it will cost over \$131,000 of taxpayer dollars to get this amendment approved.

- b. Vote on proposed resolution regarding right to work amendment
 - i. The Acting Chair read the proposed motion to the committee for consideration.
 - ii. Members of the committee generally expressed agreement with the resolution before agreeing to take a vote on adoption.
 - iii. Bill Durrand moved to adopt the resolution as proposed.
 - iv. Jack Winson seconded the motion.
 - v. The motion passed unanimously.
 - vi. A copy of the adopted motion follows below.
- c. Guest Speaker: Pearson Cost – Democratic Party Organizer for NKC
 - i. Pearson introduced himself. He comes from a heavily red community in Pennsylvania, so he knows what an up hill battle is like. He’s a college student who has taken a semester off to do this, and he’s worked on two previous campaigns, so he knows a little about this. He’s also responsible for Hanover and Charles City County at the moment.
 - ii. He had a phone bank here in the School Board room before the meeting today. He’s going to do phone banking here again in two weeks, and would like to soon be phone banking every week.
 - iii. He’s hoping to recruit some volunteers from the committee. He believes the people in the room are the people who will be most helpful to the efforts to get Hillary Clinton elected president and to get people like Matt Rowe elected to Congress.
 - iv. They’d like to be able to have some people host house parties to help get the word out and encourage support in the local committee for Democratic candidates this fall.
 - v. He encouraged anyone who was interested to stop by to talk to him at the end of the meeting.
 - vi. He’s paid by the Democratic Party of Virginia, so he works for all the candidates up and down the state ladder.

IV. Questions, Comments, or other Business from the Committee?

- a. The Acting Chair asked for any other comments, questions, or other business.
 - i. Susan Moon indicated that she read that the New Kent County Fair will be in August at the school.
 - ii. Jack Winson suggested that we consider having a booth where we can distribute information about the Right to Work amendment and about candidates.
 - 1. Jack Winson moved that the committee approve a maximum expenditure of \$250 for a booth at the county fair for this purpose.
 - 2. Houston Gray seconded the motion.
 - 3. The motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. Julia Taylor proposed that we hand out voter registration cards there too.

- iv. Julia Taylor agreed to talk to Sylvia Hathaway tomorrow about getting a booth inside for this purpose. Sylvia graciously assisted Herb Jones' campaign committee last year with getting a good location for his booth, so it's hoped Sylvia could help us this year as well.
 - v. Susan Moon agreed to create a sign up sheet for volunteers to staff.
 - b. Hearing none, the Acting Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Richard Williams moved to adjourn the meeting.
 - ii. Bill Durrand seconded the motion.
 - iii. The motion passed without objection.
 - V. The Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING opposition to the proposed Constitutional Amendment on right to work.

WHEREAS, Virginia's Constitution is a sacred document that does not need to be changed; and

WHEREAS, this amendment is the latest move in an ongoing trend to attack the middle class and stifle workers' voices on the job; and

WHEREAS, these laws already give multi-national corporations more power to outsource jobs, cut wages, and reduce benefits at the expense of our workers, small businesses, and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, this amendment is a waste of time and public resources, including more than \$130,000 of taxpayer funds, that would be better spent addressing real issues throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, state legislators should focus on policies that support vital services in our communities, fund our schools, create good jobs, fix our crumbling infrastructure, raise wages, and protect hardworking Virginians; and

WHEREAS, business and labor should work together to create good jobs and improve the economy, and avoid distraction by special interest groups that seek to minimize the ability of Virginia workers to improve their economic status and deny economic opportunities to the middle class; and

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining rights of workers should be protected; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED on this the 14th day of June, 2016, the New Kent County Democratic Committee expresses its opposition to amending the State Constitution of Virginia to include the right to work statute, on the basis that it is unnecessary, wastes taxpayer dollars, undermines the promotion of fair labor practices, and detracts attention and resources away from policies designed to support working families and our local communities.

Adopted: June 14, 2016 by unanimous consent