

**AGENDA  
MITCHELL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
  
El Ranchero Restaurant  
203 Locust Street  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777  
  
Monday, July 17, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.**

* Welcome from the MCDP Chair Eddie Gouge
* NCDP Inclusion Statement Eddie Gouge
* Approval of the Minutes from June 20, 2023
* Approval of the Agenda
* Update from MCDP Officers –
  + Chair’s Report Eddie Gouge
  + First Vice Chair’s Report Sarah Melotte
  + Second Vice Chair’s Report Noah Worley
  + Treasurer’s Report Risa Larson|
* MCDP Participation in the 2024 Rhododendron Festival at $25 Eddie Gouge
* Discussion Items – All  
  + Activities in which the MCDP should be involved or sponsor –
    - MCDP Picnic in late August or early September
    - Speakers' Forums/Meet-and-Greet Candidates
    - Fundraising
    - Conversation with NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton and Arizona Secretary of State Adrian Fontes on 7/19/2023
    - Other Activities (e.g. float in Spruce Pine Christmas parade)
* Other Items
* Adjourn

**MINUTES   
OF THE   
MITCHELL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE   
July 17, 2023**

Present: Eddie Gouge, Noah Worley, Sarah Melotte, Jan Hamilton, Risa Larsen, Karen Fetter, Danna  
 Gibson, and Gloria Schulman

Chair Eddie Gouge called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and read the North Carolina Democratic Party Diversity and Inclusion Statement.

The minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting the Mitchell County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting were approved as presented.

**Chair’s Report**Chair Gouge presented the following report to the group:

* a check for $400 was sent to the Mitchell County Athletic Department for advertising the Mitchell County Democratic Party on the digital scoreboard at football games
* On June 24, 2023, he attended the North Carolina Democratic Party State Executive Committee Meeting where they adopted about 30 pages of resolutions and heard from a variety of statewide candidates – including Rachael Hunt a candidate for Lieutenant Governor; Elaine Marshall, North Carolina’s Secretary of State; Beth Wood, North Carolina’s Auditor; and other candidates including David Wheeler who is a candidate for the North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance. He also had the opportunity to speak with Watauga County Democratic Chair Emily Bish about working together to find a candidate to run against Senator Ralph Hise.
* On July 7, 2023, the Mitchell County Democratic Party received word from the Contest Every Race (formerly known as the Rural Power Lab) that our grant application had been accepted. Since then, Chair Gouge, along with Sarah Melotte, have participated in two online sessions – one for Onboarding for the Grant (held on July 15th) and one for social media (held on July 12th). I also have had a one-on-one Zoom call with our CER state organizer, Joshua Stephens, who is located in South Carolina.  
  + We are in the CER’s third cohort
  + CER has gone from about 75 teams in the past to over 300 teams in 30 states
  + We were provided this ***Handbook*** and if any of you want a copy, I can share the link
  + We have been exposed to and enlisted with two social media programs – Encounter and Slack (a communication tool between grant recipients)
  + Each month has a separate action and the first month in which we are responsible for is August and the action is related to youth voters (e.g. voter registration drives, socials, etc.)
  + There are multiple training sessions throughout the month which are usually recorded and can be shared – I think I have two sessions next week
  + CER hopes to have the initial $500 checks out to us by the end of the month
* On July 11th, he participated in the County Chairs call. The NCDP will be sponsoring a Zoom training session for new (and not-so-new) county chairs on July 18th. I will be participating in that.  
  + the NCDP provides Mobilize to the county parties free of charge and will conduct one-on-one trainings if requested
* On July 14th, I have a telephone conversation with Michael Creccecia who is the Chair of the Caldwell County Democrats and the Western Coordinator for the Mainstreet 2023 campaign – they are working to get Democrats to run and be elected at the municipal level.
  + Mike indicated that the State Party had identified 13 individuals from Mitchell County who want to be involved with the MCDP as candidates or as volunteers. We will be having another call this week to learn how to pull these names from the database.
* We have received the 2024 Rhododendron Festival application – a total of $25
* Received a request from Luther Stroup for the MCDP to participate in the Spruce Pine Christmas parade that is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club – the cost of that would be $25
* I have been in touch with Anderson Clayton (Chair of the NC Democratic Party) about participating in our upcoming picnic. I shared the 9/16 date with them and am waiting to get their response. I did indicate that we could be flexible with the date in order to secure her participating. Another location that we might think about is pavilion at Swiss Pine Lake. The UMC just held an event there and their sponsor was David Goodnight, who is a Democrat.
* Received a communication from the Mitchell County Board of Elections asking for nominations of precinct election officials. They will be making a decision on these nominations on August 22, 2023, so we would need to get out nominees to them by August 17th or 18th.

**First Vice Chair’s Report**

Sarah Melotte reported the following:

* The MCDP Instagram account has almost 100 followers
* Chuck Hubbard (candidate for the Fifth Congressional District seat) asked her about the numbers of unaffiliated voters in Mitchell County. They will go on the web to get this information.
* Sarah has been in touch with Lynn Allinger about using SquareSpace and the website Her advise didn’t solve the problem with the website.

**Second Vice Chair’s Report**

Noah Worley reported the following:

* He attended training for the Second Vice Chairs.   
  + “we need to stop talking and start doing” (Julie Buckner)
  + training positions will be appointed for each region.
  + on July 20th, there will be a training for VoteBuilder.
  + there will be a GOTV program for municipal elections.
* there will be a virtual summer camp conducted by the NCDP on August 11-13th. It will be a weekend training retreat.
* the NCDP is encouraging phone banks for the upcoming municipal elections. A partnership model would be a good thing to have. Contact person is: Julia Buckner.
* he indicated that he would check with Julia Buckner about potential website vendors we might use should the decision be made to leave SquareSpace and report back to the group at our next meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Risa Larsen gave the financial report: total as of today the total is $2,136.37.

**General Business**

* Chair Gouge will be meeting with John Ford, Bruce Koran, Jo Northup, and Matt Hinson regarding items for sale
* Jan Hamilton reported on a meeting regarding a Democratic women’s group with Pam Gennett, and it was suggested that we wait until after we have the picnic event to move on this idea
* Chair Gouge encouraged everyone to listen to the Zoom conversation between NCDP Chair Clayton Anderson and Arizona’s Secretary of State Adrian Fontes on July 19th.
* It was suggested that we join with Yancey and Avery counties, and possibly McDowell, on our social event. Chair Gouge will follow through.

**Adjournment**Gloria made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40p.m.