

CCDC Membership Meeting
9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 2, 2024
Culpeper Town Police Department

Before the business meeting began, we heard from 7th Congressional District candidates [Elizabeth Guzman](#) and [Briana Sewell](#)

1. Welcome & Call to Order 9:45 a.m.
2. Guest speaker: Culpeper County Registrar Melissa Hart described her office's commitment to providing equitable opportunities to register and vote, with Democrats and Republicans serving at every level of the process. She said that between in-person voters and mail-in ballots, 1,183 early votes have been counted so far. She left to direct the last day of early voting.

CCDC member Tracy Neely, chair of the Electoral Board, on which she has served since 2010, said the new electronic pollbooks are working well, voting machines are thoroughly tested before Election Day, and elections officers are well trained. Board members – one Democrat and two Republicans currently because the governor is Republican – are appointed by the court, not the Board of Supervisors. Part of their job is to oversee the operation and to deal with any issues raised by the public.

3. The agenda was approved as amended to allow the elections officials to speak ahead of other items. (Motion by Matt Borja, second by Carolyn Walker)
4. Thirteen new members were accepted unanimously (Carolyn, Matt): Bill Schlegel, Tim Evans, Toni Evans, Anthony Strauss, Merril Stock, Jeremy Stock, Andy McCoy, Charles Jameson, Michele Jameson, Michael Dennis, Lauren Hauser, Jane Bell, Robert Wollam
5. The February minutes were approved unanimously (Matt, Dennis Verhoff)
6. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously (Jan Fitts, Matt)
7. Committee Chair Reports/Discussion
 - Chair's Report – Mary Jo Monahan
 - Expressed her thanks for everyone who helped organize the meeting.
 - Announced Sharon Guenther as the new office manager.
 - Reported that she and Beth Perrow represented Democrats this week at the counting of mail-in ballots and that Larry Giesting was present for inspection of the voting machines.
 - Said she, Roger Gorg, and Steven and Kim Jones will represent CCDC at the Chamber of Commerce's State of the Community breakfast.
 - Said CCDC t-shirts will be designed and ordered and a "swag party" held on the office doorstep in the spring.
 - Briefly described the complicated delegate selection process for this summer's Democratic National Convention and asked people to contact her if they're interested in one of the CCDC's 11 slots at the initial state level.

- Asked for three more volunteers to cook in the coming week at the Culpeper Heat Shelter at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.
- Gail Matthews reported that the IT/Communications Committee is developing a new website with two goals: to represent CCDC to members and the community and to be easily updated.
- Matt Borja, reporting for Events Chair Marilyn Dunphy, previewed the State of the Union watch party at Mountain Run Winery, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 7, the chamber's State of the Community breakfast March 20, and the 7th CD candidates' forum 2-5 p.m. March 24 at CTEC.
- Vice Chair of Precinct Operations – Roger Gorg outlined plans for crowd-canvassing at East Fairfax and West Fairfax precincts on Election Day.
- Membership Chair – Carolyn Walker reported that the new members bring our total to 73 in only the first two months of the year.

8. Rice Wagner – “Politalk,” a conversation about local, state and/or national issues will debut April 3 at the Culpeper County Public Library. All topics and perspectives are on the table; members and nonmembers are welcome.

9. Guest Speakers: Supervisor David Lee and School Board Member Kelley Pearson, both newly elected last November, spoke about cooperation between the boards and the importance of public attendance at their meetings. They agreed that one of the most pressing issues before the legislature is increasing the state's school funding formula. Lee said Virginia spends \$1,900 less per student than the national average, provides less funding for school systems than the national average, and ranks 25th in teacher pay. Briana Sewell reported that the state House and Senate have passed increased funding measures and that the matter is before the conferees. They're the ones who should be contacted to urge passage.

10. Sara Ratcliffe announced that she'll run again for the state House.

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 6, 2024, 9-11 a.m. at the Culpeper Police Department