

Culpeper County Democratic Committee

Culpeper Police Dept. Community Room

9 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2025

1. Call to Order 9:30 a.m.
2. Welcome: So many people have said, "I needed to be here today."
3. At least a dozen first-time visitors introduced themselves.
4. The agenda was approved on a motion by Alison Howard, second by Steve Jones.
5. Ten new members were accepted unanimously (Jim Restel, Matt Borja).
6. The February minutes were approved unanimously. (Ed Dunphy, Marysa Mullen)
7. The treasurer's report was approved unanimously. (Matt Borja, Jim Restel)
 - Laura Adler and John Dyess, former United Way CEO, will head a fundraising committee.
8. By-laws changes, adding a new vice chair for intraparty coordination and requiring the secretary to be a notary public, were approved unanimously. (Ed Dunphy, Jim Restel)
9. Dan Else was elected as the new vice chair (Ed Dunphy, Rice Wagner).
10. Chair's Comments: Farewell to Matt Borja as he moves to North Carolina.
 - "The Next 90 Days" No matter the outrage of the day, our job is to fight on, especially at the local level where we can really make a difference. This month's mantra is Smart Engagement.
 - Forty-five people attended our Presidents' Day Rally. The Postal Workers rally drew 5 people the first day, 13 the second when Culpeper residents joined us with their own signs, and 7 the third day. We had good conversations with customers.
 - Marysa Mullen, the new communications manager, promoted Bluesky Bingo to boost our traffic and urged lots of likes for our posts. There will be a Mardi Gras gathering at the CCDC office in conjunction with a town event.
 - Office Manager Laura Adler reported that the office is now fully staffed from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

- Erin Restel described the possible activities of the new CCDC Rapid Response Team, promoted using goodsunited.com and the Five Calls app. There's an Amazon boycott March 7-14.

11. Reports

- Vice Chair of Community Operations – Ed Dunphy: The Marketing/Budget committee met for the first time last Thursday to outline plans for 2025, will continue to meet Wednesday evenings in March. Priorities will be presented to the Executive Committee in April. Our ballot petitions will be turned in by March 10, well ahead of the April deadline. The first to turn theirs in will be first on the ballot. We need volunteers to call people who displayed yard signs to ask them to come sign petitions. We're looking for new ways to capitalize on Vote Builder. Ed invited anyone with interest in using it to express interest through the website.
- Precinct Operations Committee Chair Seven Jones: We heard last month from HD62 candidate Sara Ratcliffe, AG candidate Jay Jones, gubernatorial candidate Abigail Spanberger, and Mayor Frank Reaves. Canvassing lies ahead.
- Membership Chair Carolyn Walker reported that membership is now 154, with 58% of 2024 members having paid their 2025 dues. Payment reminders will continue.

12. Poli-Talk Report – Rice Wagner: It's an open forum to talk about issues supported by research, facts. There were 13 participants this month. The next one will be held from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at the library.

13. Adjourn: (Matt Borja, Erin Restel)

Next Meeting: 9 a.m. Saturday, April 5, 2025

Guest speakers: Hannah Fowler with Abigail's campaign and Sara Ratcliffe.