

**FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
OKLAHOMA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**



**Minutes from the 4th Congressional District Convention
Held Virtually on May 1, 2021 via Zoom Video Conferencing**

Call to Order and Welcome

- Convention was Called to Order at 2:26 PM CDT by Will Irwin, CD4 Vice Chair (acting as Chair)
- Recognition of CD4 indigenous lands, sovereign nations, and indigenous individuals was addressed by Taylor Broadbent (Cleveland)
- Recognition of Service Members in attendance by the Chair, asking for a show of hands
- Recognition of Elected Officials by the Chair, but none were in attendance

Pledge of Allegiance

- Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the Chair with open microphones

Recognition of Attendees

- Alicia Andrews, ODP Chair, was recognized in attendance

Comments from Elected Officials

- No elected officials were in attendance

Comments from the Chair

- The Chair recognized and thanked the convention organizers and planners
- The Oklahoma Democratic Party needs to work on its brand and connect with voters on the issues that matter in their lives and meet people where they're at
- Democrats will need rural counties in the 2022 gubernatorial election
- Incoming officers need to communicate, coordinate, and work together to show Oklahomans that there is a better way.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's report was presented by Jayme Shelton (Cleveland), acting on behalf of the CD4 Central Committee
- Beginning bank balance (April 2019) was \$ 346.44
- Fundraising (1) total (2019 – present) was + \$ 553.61
- Expenditures (5 checks) total (2019 – present) was - \$ 404.04 (?)
- Ending bank balance as of 3/31/21 was \$ 496.01
- Additional deposit (Irwin) during April was + \$ 100.00
- Available bank funds as of 5/1/21 is \$ 596.01
- One check was written to Comanche County for building use during the 2019 CD4 Convention in Lawton
- One check was written to the Purcell Senior Citizens for the 2019 state chair race forum

Report of the Credentials Committee

- Credentials Committee report was presented by Leslie Bonebreak (Cleveland), Credentials Chair
- 87 Delegates were credentialed at the convention (a quorum was declared)

- Kimethria Jackson (Garvin) asked for the total number of delegates that were available (submitted) for the convention
- Leslie Bonebreak (Cleveland) replied that there were 107 delegates available (NOTE: the attached delegate list shows 104 delegates)

- Kimethria Jackson (Garvin) moved to approve the Credentials Committee Report
- Johnny Jernigan (Comanche) seconded the motion
- The report was approved without dissent

Report of the Rules Committee

- Rules Committee report was presented by Ben Alpers (Cleveland), Rules Chair, who read the Rules Committee Report verbatim (see attachment)
- ODP rules specify that a voice vote must be taken on everything other than officer elections
- Officer elections will be conducted by affirmation without dissent (the chair will ask if there is any dissent).
- If a delegate requests a division of the assembly and this request is seconded, a counted vote will take place
- Each county will go into its own break-out room and tally its votes. There will then be a roll call of counties.

- Ben Alpers (Cleveland) made a motion as follows: "By direction of the Rules Committee I move adoption of the 2021 District 4 Democratic Party Convention Rules as just read"
- Steve Jarman (Garvin) seconded the motion

- Mark Ashton (Comanche) asked for future reference to take into consideration internet access, timing of deadlines, use of Google Forms, etc.
- Ben Alpers (Cleveland) addressed that some of these fair points are due to virtual convention and some are due to Party rules determining deadlines.

- Point of Inquiry by Kathy Rothfusz (Cleveland): if a non-binary delegate needs to leave the meeting, can they give proxy to anyone?
- Ben Alpers (Cleveland) answered that current DNC rules require that the proxy must be of the same gender identity.

Minutes of the 2019 Fourth District Convention

- Minutes for the 2019 District Convention had not been distributed to the convention delegates either before or during the 2021 convention
- Ben Alpers (Cleveland) moved to dispense of the reading of the 2019 District Convention minutes
- Travis Darling (Cleveland) seconded the motion
- The motion passed without dissent

Election of Officers

- In accordance with ODP Bylaws, elections were held in the following order: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, First Affirmative Action Officer, Second Affirmative Action Officer

Chair

- Will Irwin opened the nominations for Chair
- Michael Trice (Comanche) nominated Larry Bush (Comanche) for Chair
- Elizabeth Jenkins-Austin (Carter) seconded the nomination
- After three calls, no further nominations for Chair were made
- Therefore Will Irwin, presiding Chair, declared **Larry Bush** (unopposed) to be the new Chair (without dissent) of the Fourth Congressional District of the Oklahoma Democratic Party
- Larry thanked the convention. Spoke about being a candidate. Said it takes more than just a candidate to win. It takes voter registration, voter turnout, and voter engagement efforts from Party organizers. Larry promised to work to provide the entire district with the tools necessary to do such
- Will Irwin “passed the gavel” (virtually) over to Larry Bush, who presided as Chair for the rest of the convention

Vice Chair

- Because the gender identity for the new Chair is male, the gender identity for the new Vice Chair must be other than male.
- Larry Bush opened the nominations for Vice Chair
- Ray Dryz (Comanche) nominated Elizabeth Jenkins-Austin (Carter) for Vice Chair
- Johnny Jernigan (Comanche) seconded the nomination
- Travis Darling (Cleveland) nominated Phyllis Klugas (McClain) for Vice Chair
- Mark Matthews (McClain) seconded the nomination
- After three calls, no further nominations for Vice Chair were made
- After all first nomination speeches, then all second nomination speeches, then all candidate speeches, the delegates convened in their respective county “break-out rooms” to debate and/or tabulate their votes.
- After all the delegates reconvened in the main convention “room”, the voting totals were obtained verbally from each County Chair (or their representative) by roll call to each county attending with the following results:

<u>County</u>	<u>Austin</u>	<u>Klugas</u>	
Canadian	3	1	
Carter	2	7	
Cleveland	6	32	
Comanche	14	0	
Garvin	3	2	
McClain	0	4	
Oklahoma	0	6	
Pontotoc	0	6	
Stephens	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	
 TOTALS	 29	 58	 (87 Total)

- By virtue of winning a majority of the votes cast, Larry Bush, presiding Chair, declared **Phyllis Klugas** to be the new Vice Chair (without dissent) of the Fourth Congressional District of the Oklahoma Democratic Party

Secretary

- Larry Bush opened the nominations for Secretary
- Mark Ashton (Comanche) nominated Mike Coucke (Comanche) for Secretary
- Gary Harris (Pontotoc) seconded the nomination
- Phyllis Klugas (McClain) nominated Kimberly Eaton (Garvin) for Secretary
- Kimberly Eaton declined the nomination
- Diane Crow (Stephens) nominated Donna Harding (Cleveland) for Secretary
- Mark Mathews (McClain) seconded the nomination
- After three calls, no further nominations for Secretary were made
- After all first nomination speeches, then all second nomination speeches, then all candidate speeches, the delegates convened in their respective county “break rooms” to debate and/or tabulate their votes.
- After all the delegates reconvened in the main convention “room”, the voting totals were obtained verbally from each County Chair (or their representative) by roll call to each county attending with the following results:

<u>County</u>	<u>Coucke</u>	<u>Harding</u>	
Canadian	4	0	
Carter	0	8*	
Cleveland	22	16	
Comanche	14	0	
Garvin	5	0	
McClain	4	0	
Oklahoma	6	0	
Pontotoc	6	0	
Stephens	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	
TOTALS	61	25	(86* Total)

*One delegate from Carter County was unable to provide their vote

- By virtue of winning a majority of the votes cast, Larry Bush, presiding Chair, declared **Mike Coucke** to be the new Secretary (without dissent) of the Fourth Congressional District of the Oklahoma Democratic Party
- Up to this point, Jared Deck (Cleveland) had been taking notes for recording the convention minutes on behalf of the CD4 Central Committee. As the new CD4 Secretary, Mike was now responsible for finalizing the minutes and reporting them to the ODP Secretary. Jared and Mike agreed to combine their efforts into producing the final version for the convention minutes.

First Affirmative Action Officer

- Larry Bush opened the nominations for First Affirmative Action Officer
- Phyllis Klugas (McClain) nominated Kimberly Eaton (Garvin) for First Affirmative Action Officer
- Christopher Ezeobele (Carter) seconded the nomination
- After three calls, no further nominations for First Affirmative Action Officer were made
- Therefore Larry Bush, presiding Chair, declared **Kimberly Eaton** (unopposed) to be the new First Affirmative Action Officer (without dissent) of the Fourth Congressional District of the Oklahoma Democratic Party

- Kimberly addressed the convention with thanks and ideas for social media communications, voter registration and inclusion

Second Affirmative Action Officer

- Because the gender identity for the new First Affirmative Action Officer is female, the gender identity for the new Second Affirmative Action Officer must be other than female.
- Larry Bush opened the nominations for Second Affirmative Action Officer
- Kathy Rothfusz (Cleveland) nominated Travis Darling (Cleveland) for Second Affirmative Action Officer
- Madison Pierce (Cleveland) seconded the nomination
- After three calls, no further nominations for Second Affirmative Action Officer were made
- Therefore Larry Bush, presiding Chair, declared **Travis Darling** (unopposed) to be the new Second Affirmative Action Officer (without dissent) of the Fourth Congressional District of the Oklahoma Democratic Party
- Travis addressed the convention, introduced themselves, advocacy background, spoke on accessibility to the Party

Report of the Resolutions Committee

- Resolutions Committee report was presented by Kathy Rand (Cleveland), Resolutions Chair
- No formal amendments (per Rules) had been submitted

Consideration of Resolutions

- Kathy Rand (Cleveland) moved to accept the resolution report as presented (see attachments)
- Ben Alpers (Cleveland) seconded the motion

- In the opinion of the Chair, the report was approved by voice acclamation
- Point of Inquiry by Phyllis Klugas (McClain), but was turned down by the Parliamentarian due to Resolutions already being accepted.
- Chair recognized Betty Harris (Cleveland) who made recommendation to changes to Resolutions; turned down by the Parliamentarian.
- Chair recognized Gary Harris (Pontotoc) who commented on order of procedures.
- Chair recognized Eric Hermanson (Cleveland) who commented on order of procedures.
- Chair recognized Parliamentarian who stated that non-delegates are not in order to take the floor.
- Alicia Andrews, ODP Chair, commented that resolution amendments, as well as new resolutions, can be submitted for consideration at the ODP State Convention (June 11-12). Consult the ODP website for procedures and instructions

Additional Business

- Jayme Shelton (Cleveland) announced that donations to the CD4 District Treasury could be made through the Cleveland County Democratic Party, either directly thru their office or thru a special link in ActBlue
- Kathrene Hewett (Cleveland) thanked Larry Bush for taking the helm as the new Chair

Announcements

- Taylor Broadbent (Cleveland), Chair of the OK College Democrats, requested that delegates and other Democrats contact their state legislators and Gov Stitt to object to the passage of HR 1775, which prohibits the teaching of racial equity and systemic racism throughout Oklahoma
- Jayme Shelton (Cleveland) announced that Troy Green (Cleveland) is the current administrator of the CD4 Facebook page but will be adding the new CD4 officer(s) as administrators

- Alicia Andrews, ODP Chair, commented on legislative battles and identified three areas of the Party’s new strategic plan:
 1. Voter Expansion (registration AND actually voting)
 2. Candidate Recruitment
 3. Statewide Messaging
- Jared Deck (Cleveland) thanked everyone who helped organize the CD4 District Convention

Adjournment

- Ben Alpers (Cleveland) made a motion to adjourn the convention
- Jared Deck (Cleveland) seconded the motion
- The motion passed by voice acclamation
- The convention was adjourned at 5:16 PM CDT

The following documents are submitted electronically as attachments, along with these minutes, to the ODP Secretary, Tim O’Connor, to provide a full record of the events for the CD4 Convention. Please contact the undersigned if additional information is needed.

2021+CD4+Call+to+Convention,+Agenda
 2021 CD4 Convention Rules FINAL
 CD4 Delegates (clean) REVISED
 2021 District 4 Democratic Party Resolutions FINAL ADOPTED
 2021 ODP Constitution and Bylaws Amendments (Proposed)

Michael (Mike Coucke, CD4 Secretary
mgcoucke@gmail.com
 580-291-8392