



RanDem News

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019, Issue No. 4



Sanitation, Education, and Private Enterprise

by Susie Scott

Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

We're in Champaign, Illinois, this week. I'm looking out the window at well-cared-for houses built in the early to mid 1900s, wide sidewalks surrounded by flowers, and shade trees — residential treasures in a city surrounded by cornfields. We're staying in an apartment above a popular neighborhood bakery. But even here, there is room for improvement.

Although much smaller, the city of Asheboro provides garbage and sanitation services to all city residents. This service is run effectively, reliably, and efficiently by our city. It's a service provided by government that benefits everyone while it protects public health.

In the City of Champaign, residents purchase garbage collection services from private providers. On any weekday here, I may see two, three, four, or more different garbage trucks rolling down the street. They each pick up their customers' trash cans (only one or two bins on the street) and skip everyone else on the block. It's inefficient and wastes fuel as it lowers air quality. Residents who pay more get better service. Anyone trying to save money may get a provider who misses a pickup or removes recycling bins simply because they don't want the hassle of dealing with it. The free market is a poor substitute for city sanitation services.

The free market is also a poor substitute for public education. Public schools have been the target of attacks by private enterprise over the last decade. Public funds are now being diverted to pay for private schools as well as virtual charter schools for some families, even though many of these alternative schools have had dismal results. For-profit education providers have successfully lobbied North Carolina's legislative leadership and our current Superintendent of Public Instruction to pay them for services that have no record of success and are failing the students enrolled in their programs.

Recently, the current State Superintendent of Public Instruction completely ignored the findings of his own expert committee that was formed to evaluate K-3 diagnostic reading assessment services offered by four providers. He single-handedly awarded a multi-million dollar contract to Istation over the recommendations of the advisory committee. Moreover, he did it despite the fact that Istation cannot detect dyslexia — a neurological condition that affects reading development in 5-10% of children in the United States. Children struggling with dyslexia are just as intelligent as non-dyslexic children, but they require early intervention and individualized education programs to help them succeed.

So what can Randolph County voters do to help our public schools and teachers? First, evaluate our state legislators. We need to vote them out if they have been voting to expand virtual charter schools and vouchers without holding them to the same requirements as our public schools. We should also vote legislators out for failing to support our teachers and school staff by providing a decent wage as well as respect and support for their service, expertise, and hard work.

Finally, we need to find a new State Superintendent of Public Instruction. There are currently six Democrats running for the position in 2020. Four of the six (James Barrett, Amy Jablonski, Michael Maher, and Jen Mangrum) will speak at our Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala on Aug. 10, 2019. We hope you will join us to learn more about these candidates and give them the support they need to unseat Mark Johnson. Even if you can't join us, learn more about all six candidates and vote: first in the March Primary and then in the November Election. Our children are depending on you.



Don't Miss the Blue Jean Gala

The Randolph County Democratic Party's 11th Annual Blue Jean Gala is slated for Saturday, Aug. 10, at The Exchange, 204 S. Fayetteville Street, in Asheboro. Social hour with music and a silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m. with a dinner catered by Magnolia 23 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The featured speakers are Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates James Barrett, Amy Jablonski, Michael Maher, and Jen Mangrum. **Barrett**, who owns tech firms MyBetterWeb and WAV, has spent eight years on the Chapel Hill Carrboro Public Schools Board. **Jablonski**, who currently works with SWIFT — a national technical assistance program — served on the NDCPI committee that recommended the State remain with Amplify, the program that has the classroom teacher individually evaluate each student's reading ability, rather than adopt a program preferred by current Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson that uses a computer for evaluation. **Maher** is currently the Assistant Dean of Professional Education at North Carolina State University. He is President of the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators. **Mangrum** is a professor in teacher preparation at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and took on Phil Berger in 2018 in a hotly-contested race for his state Senate seat.

North Carolina Democratic Party Second Vice Chair Matt Hughes also will deliver news from the state party.

Reservations are required. Reserve your seat by Thursday, Aug. 1, for \$40 per ticket or for \$45 per ticket after Aug. 1. To register by mail, send a check to: Randolph Co. Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204. Registration requests also can be made via email at *RandolphDem@gmail.com*, or by leaving a message at (336) 629-9003. The deadline to register is Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Sponsorships are available, call (336) 626-0433, or email *RandolphDem@gmail.com* for details.

Asheboro Fall Festival Needs Your Help

The Asheboro Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 6, from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. We need volunteers! Our booth will be located in front of HQ and the bake sale will take place inside. Shifts usually run every two hours. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, Oct 5

- 9-10 a.m. setup
- 10 a.m.-noon
- noon-2 p.m.
- 2-4 p.m.
- 4-6:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct 6

- 11 a.m.-noon setup
- noon-2 p.m.
- 2-4 p.m.
- 4-6 p.m.
- 6 p.m.- clean up/tear down

We could also use more persimmon pulp or puddings. There is enough pulp for 14 puddings in the freezer at HQ, so we need volunteers to bake the puddings. Anyone with a good recipe is encouraged to get a container or two of pulp. We also need donations to the bake sale such as cookies, cakes, brownies, trail mix, etc. And, we need volunteers to run the bake sale. It should be easier and more comfortable this year because we will be inside in the air-conditioning. To sign up, please contact HQ at (336) 629-9003.



CONTACT INFORMATION

- Phone: (336) 629-9003
- Email: *randolphdem@gmail.com*
- Newsletter email: *rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com*
- Website: *randolphcountydems.org*
- Facebook:
facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty/
- Address: Democratic Headquarters, 114 Sunset Ave., Asheboro, NC 27203 (henceforth referred to as HQ)
- Mailing address: Randolph County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204
- Hours: M,W,F 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; T, 9 a.m.- noon;

Book Reviews

What Money Can't Buy, by Michael J. Sandel
 Sandel explores the modern problems of money versus morals. Should anyone be able to pay to move up on the immigration list or for faster access to their doctor? This quick read will make you think and consider what should and shouldn't be for sale.

-reviewed by Susie Scott

Once Upon a Town, by Bob Greene
 The people of North Platte, Nebraska, set up a canteen for troop trains during World War II. The volunteers gave out sandwiches, pie, coffee, magazines, and love for the men going to war.

-reviewed by Judy Saunders

Dutch Girl: Audrey Hepburn and WWII,
 by Robert Matzen.

The years leading up to the Holocaust are chillingly similar to what is happening today. We must resist and speak to those who blindly follow this "president." The stakes are high, especially for our children and grandchildren.

-reviewed by Martha Crotty



Lunch & Learn

Lunch & Learn continues with our series introducing the 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidates. Come and join us at HQ on Thursday, Aug. 1, from noon – 1 p.m. Bring your lunch and watch announcement videos on our new big screen TV, plus pick up biography/policy sheets on the candidates. You can also view and download candidate information by going to our website at randolphcountydems.org/2020dems/. This is the last scheduled Lunch & Learn, as Ruth Scanlan will be on vacation. Please watch for upcoming dates by going to our website or Facebook page.

Calendar

- Aug. 1 — Lunch & Learn, noon-1 p.m., HQ
- Aug. 6 — Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., HQ
- Aug. 10 — Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala, 5:30 p.m. Social Hour; 6:30 p.m. Dinner. The Exchange, 204 S. Fayetteville St., Asheboro
- Aug. 24 — Democratic Women monthly breakfast, 9:30 a.m., HQ
- Sept. 3 — Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., HQ
- Sept. 15 — October/November *RanDem News* deadline
- Sept. 23 — Democratic Women monthly breakfast, 9:30 a.m., HQ

Other Events of Interest

- The new superintendent of Asheboro City Schools, Dr. Aaron Woody, will host two additional informal meet-and-greet sessions at the Randolph Public Library. (The first one was held on July 25.) Please attend and share your thoughts about continuing our tradition of excellence in Asheboro City Schools. The sessions are:

Thursday, Aug. 1, from noon -2 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 15, from 4-6 p.m.

- The *Women of Color Leadership Forum 2019* will be held on Aug. 10, from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at North Carolina Central University in Durham. The cost is \$25. Go to the North Carolina Democratic Party page on Facebook and click on Events for more information.

- The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment allowing women the right to vote. To help celebrate, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is hosting a non-partisan kick-off event for *She Changed the World: NC Women Breaking Barriers* on the grounds of the State Capitol, on Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event is free and open to all. Go to ncdnrcr.org for more information.

Democratic Women Monthly Luncheon

On Saturday, July 27, Randolph County Democratic Women welcomed two candidates for the 2020 N.C. Democratic primaries. **Angela Flynn** of Chatham County (angelaflynnforcongress.com) is a candidate for the Sixth District. The winner of that primary will run in the general election against Mark Walker. Angela currently serves as Director of Liturgy & Music at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Durham. As a progressive person of faith, her focus is on inclusion, advocating for the less fortunate, and promoting the rights of all Americans. The birth of a grandchild is what motivated Angela to run for office. **Terry Van Duyn**, N.C. Senator from Buncombe County (votevanduyn.com), is running for Lieutenant Governor. She has served as Democratic Whip during the past two terms in the Senate. Terry emphasized that if we can flip four more Senate seats, each party will have 25 seats. A Democratic Lieutenant Governor will be able to break any ties. After their talks, the candidates answered questions about health care, Medicaid expansion, the closing of hospitals, homelessness, voter ID, SNAP, and other topics. See the calendar for future Democratic Women events.

Fundraising

Our goal is to reach \$10,000 by the end of August. The majority of funds raised goes toward rent, utilities, support of candidates, meetings, mailings, and access to Votebuilder. Any amount you can give will help. Mail your donation to Randolph County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204.

Newsletter Name Winner

The results of our Name the Newsletter contest are in, and our newsletter has a new name: *RanDem News*. Thanks to everyone who voted. Please keep sending in articles and book, film, and podcast reviews. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome. We want to hear from you. Contact us at rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com. The deadline for publication in the October/November *RanDem News* is Sept. 15.

Sign Up for Email Releases

Go to the website (randolphcountydems.org) and click on the "subscribe" button to sign up for email releases to help keep you up-to-date with all that is happening regarding our local Democratic party.

Festivals!

The Liberty July Celebration took place on July 13. Thanks to the volunteers who came to help on a very hot day. We introduced our survey, and 29 people completed it. They were mainly Democrats, but also a few Republicans and unaffiliated voters. It was interesting to discover what motivates these voters.

Other upcoming festivals:

Archdale Bush Hill Festival Saturday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., setup at 6 a.m., take down and clear by 5 p.m.

Asheboro Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 5, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 6, from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. The booth will be in front of HQ and Democratic Women will hold a bake sale inside HQ.

Randleman NASCAR Day Saturday, Oct. 12, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Ramseur Day on Main Street Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

November Elections

Elections in 2019 will be held for the following cities, towns, and boards of education: Asheboro, City of Asheboro Board of Education, Franklinville, Liberty, Ramseur, Randleman, Seagrove, Staley, and Trinity. Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. To find out more about who is running in your area, go to randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Elections and click on "2019 list of candidates filing for office."



Support Randolph County Dems

Make a statement and support the Randolph County Democratic Party by buying T-shirts, mugs, and stickers. Check it out! All proceeds go to the Randolph County Democratic Party building fund. Available at the online shop: teespring.com/stores/randolph-friends-of-democracy.

Online Training Opportunities

If you are interested in obtaining information about online training opportunities, please send an email request to randolphdem@gmail.com.