



NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2019, Issue No. 3



You Can Make a Difference

by Susie Scott

Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

I live in a bright red Republican county. Why did I become active with the local Democratic Party?

For many years, I've had an interest in both public education and the environment. Over a decade ago, I ran for our local Board of Education and lost. Not a problem, there were a lot of good candidates that year. I continued volunteering with the local school system and began pursuing a certification in Environmental Education — a North Carolina program that was a model for other states at the time. I met a lot of great people while picking up some educational tools being used in parks systems and the growing outdoor programs at many schools. The programs were well attended, the interest was high, educators and park/museum staff were engaged and excited. Then we started hearing rumors about changes coming from the state legislature and newly elected Governor McCrory. I started tracking state environmental protections that were being overturned. I saw funding for public schools being reduced. Vouchers for both private schools and large, privately-owned virtual schools were approved and added to the budget, taking away even more funding for local school systems. That was when I became involved with our local Democratic Party.

The Randolph County Democratic Party has advocated for protections and safeguards for everyday people — not policies and laws that only benefit the rich. We believe in human rights, support for teachers and our local education systems, safe drinking water, clean air, and respect for everyone regardless of whether or not they have money. We believe that all Randolph County citizens deserve access to health-care and that maintaining a local hospital for our residents should be a top priority.

So how does our county GOP feel about that? None of our current state representatives support Medicaid expansion, even though it would help one in six Randolph residents who do not have health insurance,

ease the financial burden on Randolph Health, and create and maintain good Randolph County jobs.

I watched some of the debate from the NC Senate Finance Committee discussing Senate Bill 622 (sponsored by our local Senator Jerry Tillman). Sen. Tillman believes that businesses coming to North Carolina should pay zero taxes. Currently businesses pay a corporate tax rate of 2.5%, the lowest rate in the U.S. He wants to cut that to 0%. He is very concerned about the personal income rates paid by "his friend Richard Petty" who had to pay 7.75% on some undisclosed millions of dollars that he received last year. He seemed happy that Mr. Petty, one of the richest people in Randolph County, would only pay 5.25% this year. Senate Bill 622 will cut millions of dollars in franchise taxes from state income, and Sen. Tillman has expressed his desire to see the franchise tax completely eliminated in the next five years. Additional cuts will not attract new businesses. They will shift the majority of the state tax burden from corporations to families.

Our party is working hard to send good people to Raleigh and to our county commission who will represent workers, families, and you. That is why I am going to dig deep to make my summer donation to our Randolph County Democratic Party. A few members already gave last month and some make recurring donations each month or quarter.

Will you help me and our other donors keep our party alive in Randolph County? Although the majority of our annual income goes to rent (\$9,600), this year we intend to put aside \$7,500 to support our local candidates at the county and state level in 2020. You and the rest of our county deserve choices on your ballot next year. We are working hard to make sure that you have the opportunity to vote for someone who represents your values — no more uncontested races in Randolph County. **Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by the end of August. Any amount you can give will help!** (Use the enclosed envelope to send to Randolph County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204.)

Farewell, Longtime Friends

May has been a hard month for the Randolph County Democratic Party. In the past two weeks, we have lost two of our Party's beloved former chairs. Richard Earl Johnson and Dwight Holland will be sorely missed for their contributions, not only to our Democratic Party, but to our county as a whole. Both were fierce advocates for the quality of life here in Randolph County and worked to make this a great place to live.

Richard Earl Johnson devoted much of his life to serving others. He had his hands in many projects and organizations that worked to make life better for all. Richard Earl was an active member of the Rotary Club and worked with the New Market Grange to bring health insurance to folks who did not have access.

Dwight Holland was an influential art instructor and potter whose vast ceramics and pottery collection is now housed in the Dwight M. Holland Ceramics Classroom at East Carolina University. He was the founder of the Randolph Arts Guild and its annual Fall Festival. Dwight was also instrumental during the early years of creating the habitats and rock formations throughout the NC Zoo.

In addition to all their good works outside of politics, both men took time out of their busy lives to lead the Randolph County Democratic Party. This is not an easy job. As most of us know, being in charge of a group of Democrats is a lot like trying to herd cats, and yet they persisted. Both of these men will be deeply missed by friends and family, but we in Randolph County are better for having known them.

—Diane Hubbard



CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Facebook:
facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty/
- Address: Democratic Headquarters, 114 Sunset Ave.,
Asheboro, NC 27203 (henceforth referred to as HQ)
- Hours: M,W, F 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; T, 9 a.m.- noon;
Th, 11 a.m.-1 p.m

Burr and the Senate Intelligence Committee

Senator Richard Burr voted to impeach President Bill Clinton for lying to Congress regarding his sexual activity. However, since President Trump was elected in 2016, Senator Burr has been his staunch supporter and was known to have brought intelligence reports regarding the Mueller investigation to Trump himself. Last week, as reported in *Politico*, Senator Burr made a shocking move by slapping a subpoena on Donald Trump Jr. to appear before the Senate Intelligence Committee. Other Republicans are demanding he withdraw it, calling it “wrong” and “beyond inappropriate.”

But despite the GOP firestorm, Burr is standing firm on his decision. The North Carolina Republican, who is retiring after 2020, has long prided himself on the fact that his committee did not devolve into partisan warfare during its ongoing Russia probe. And some Republicans are indeed defending Burr. You can reach Senator Burr at his office at 336-631-3154 to express your feelings on this matter.

—Linda Hartford

Looking for a Few Good Candidates

Do you have experience serving your community? Are you comfortable meeting new people from diverse backgrounds and talking about local needs? Would you be willing to work with others on a team to make decisions that could better the lives of your friends and neighbors? Do you live within the limits of a Randolph County town or city or the Asheboro City Schools district? If the answer to these questions is yes, have you considered running for office?

Elections will be held in 2019 for the following cities, towns, and boards of education: Asheboro, City of Asheboro Board of Education, Franklinville, Liberty, Ramseur, Randleman, Seagrove, Staley, and Trinity. Candidates must file for office between Friday, July 5 at noon and Friday, July 19, at noon. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Dates and locations for early voting this year have not yet been established.

To find out more about running for office, you can contact the Democratic Party at randolphdem@gmail.com, or call or stop by the Randolph County Department of Elections (RandolphCountyNC.gov/Departments/Elections).

Book Reviews

Code Girls, by Liza Mundy

Mundy tells the story of the American women code breakers of World War II. Recruited from small Southern towns and posh New England colleges, these women broke the codes of Germany and Japan and shortened the war by about two years. Thousand of lives were saved because of what they did.

—reviewed by Judy Saunders

The Fifth Risk, by Michael Lewis

Lewis describes how willful ignorance by Trump and many of his appointees, who know little about the functions of the offices to which they have been appointed, may lead to disaster for our country.

—reviewed by Bob Williams

Friends of Democracy Merchandise

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.



Calendar

- June 4 Gala Committee Meeting, 6 p.m., HQ
Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., HQ
- June 8 Summer SEC meeting, 9 a.m.-noon, Raleigh
Unity Dinner, McKimmon Center, NCSU, 5-8 p.m.
- June 13 Lunch & Learn, noon-1 p.m., HQ
- June 22 Democratic Women monthly breakfast, 9:30 a.m., HQ
- June 26 & 27 Debate watch party, 9 p.m., HQ
- July 2 Executive Committee Meeting, 7p.m., HQ
- July 11 Lunch & Learn, noon-1 p.m., HQ
- July 15 August/September newsletter deadline
- July 27 Democratic Women monthly breakfast, 9:30 a.m., HQ
- July 30 & 31 Debate watch party, time TBA, HQ

District Convention Report

The 2019 Sixth District Convention was held in Pittsboro on April 27. Randolph County had a great turnout with 24 delegates. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to attend.

A big “thank you!” to outgoing Sixth District officers Jim Meredith (Chair) and Nancy Sharpless (Secretary) from Randolph County. Their hard work for the past two years helped all of the Sixth District counties prepare for and contest races across the board in 2018.

Congratulations to newly elected Sixth District officers Delilah Warner (First Vice Chair) and Tim Greene (Secretary) from Randolph County. Other elected officers include Chair Randy Voller (Chatham), Second Vice Chair Elsie Rogers (Alamance), Third Vice Chair Brandon Combs (Person), Treasurer Cindy Palay (Chatham), and Minority Affairs Bryon Gladden (Guilford).

All of the submitted Resolutions passed without alteration. Since there is no state convention this year, the resolutions will move on to the state Platform and Rules Committee for consideration and consolidation. You can view this year’s Sixth District resolutions at nc6dems.com.

Scholarship Winners Announced

Thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous member, the Democratic Women of Randolph County are pleased to announce two winners of its 2019 College Scholarship Award: Alissa R. Butler of Trinity and Maedelene Taylor Martin of Liberty. Each winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, to be credited to their student account at their chosen school.

Alissa is a graduating senior at Wheatmore High School. She plans to major in English at Elon University. She wants to use her writing talent to help others and hopes to one day become a published author.

Maedelene is a graduating senior at Providence Grove High School. She plans to major in Communication Sciences & Disorders at Appalachian State University, with the ultimate goal of becoming a pediatric audiologist.

SAVE THE DATE for the 11th Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala to be held at The Exchange on *Saturday, August 10*, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. We are currently taking donations for the silent auction. More details to be announced; look for your invitation in the mail closer to the event.

Name the Newsletter

Time to vote for a name for the newsletter. Here are the suggested names: *RanDem News*, *From Left-field*, *You Bet Your Asheboro News*, *Gnus For Ewes*, *The Randolph County Intelligencer*, *The Antidote for 45*, *Blue News*, *Blue Views*. Please vote by sending an email with your choice to rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com. Unlike most elections, you can vote early and often (as they used to say in Chicago).

Lunch & Learn

Lunch & Learn continues with our series introducing the 2020 Democratic Presidential candidates. Come and join us at HQ on Thursday, June 13 from noon -1 p.m., and again on July 11, from noon -1 p.m. Bring your lunch and watch announcement videos, plus pick up biography/policy sheets on the great variety of candidates. We have already had three sessions, and plan to continue until we have introduced all the candidates, 23 at last count.

—Pat Chamberlain

Year in Review: March 2018-February 2019

RCDP at work – check it out!

- Moved to new headquarters. Now we're strategically located on Sunset Avenue
- Developed a Statement of Purpose and began a strategic plan
- Sponsored Nancy McLean, author of *Democracy in Chains*, at the Sunset Theater
- Fielded candidates for all open County Commission seats, State House seats, State Senate seats, and District Court Judge
- Sponsored Meet and Greet events for our candidates
- Worked the polls handing out blue sheets and candidate literature
- Raised \$5,000 at our annual Gala
- Participated in the Asheboro Fall Festival, Ramseur A Day on Main Street, Archdale Bush Hill Festival, Randleman NASCAR Days, Liberty July Celebration
- Supported the community with drives that provided 211 pounds of food for CUOC, and \$400 worth of supplies for the Family Crisis Center
- Had four members volunteer as guest columnists at *The Courier-Tribune*
- Had numerous members write letters to the editor for area newspapers
- Had lots of fun and developed new friendships!

—Lois Bohnsack

Statement of Purpose

We are a diverse, inclusive community of resilient, respectful local citizens who are open-minded, compassionate, and courageous.

We are focused on facts, truth, accountability, justice, and the common good.

We work to promote democratic ideals.

We fight for the preservation of democracy, fair representation and governance, social justice, a healthy environment, economic opportunity, and a better future for all.

We encourage our community to be informed and involved and to elect Democrats who stand for these ideals.

Democratic Primary Debates

The first 2020 primary debate will be held in Miami Beach, Florida, on June 26 and June 27, airing on NBC, MSNBC, and Telemundo, beginning at 9 p.m. EST.

The second debate is scheduled for July 30 and 31 in Detroit, Michigan, airing on CNN, time TBA.

Watch parties will be held at HQ for all who are interested.

Online Training Opportunities

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

Meet the Newsletter Editors

Ruth Held was a Reference Librarian in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library system for 20 years, and headed up the library's online book club, Reader's Club, for several years. Martha Crotty worked for 10 years as public relations/publications director at Cincinnati Country Day School, and she and her late husband, Roger, had a writing/design business after they left their "real" jobs.

Please note that all submissions may be edited for length and accuracy. Please contact either Ruth or Martha at rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com with submissions, questions or concerns. Both editors want to make this newsletter one you will want to look forward to receiving.

