



Ready to Go!

by Susie Scott
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Fired Up? ... Ready to Go! 2020 is here, and we are preparing for the Primary and Democratic conventions. Inside this issue, you will find information about upcoming precinct meetings, conventions, voting in the Primary, and Democratic candidates running for U.S. Senate as well as state-wide offices. We did not include information about candidates who are unopposed and will only appear on your ballot in November — they will appear in later issues. We also did not include information about the Presidential candidates because many of them have already appeared in seven debates. The next debate will take place on February 7 in Manchester, New Hampshire. We hope you will find the articles in this issue helpful, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and at the polls!

Frequently Asked Questions About Precinct Meetings

What is a precinct meeting?

Precinct meetings are scheduled for **Saturday, February 15, 2020**, for all precincts throughout North Carolina. The precinct meeting is a gathering of your Democratic neighbors. The county is divided into 22 precincts. You will meet with others in your precinct. It is a great time to get to know other Democrats and learn about the county Democratic Party. Officers are elected and resolutions are voted on. Delegates to the county convention are elected at this meeting.

What can I expect when I go?

You will hear a year-end report on what the Randolph County Democratic Party has accomplished during the past year and hear about plans for 2020. You may meet some candidates who will be on the ballot this year. You also will vote on delegates to the March 28 County Convention. Resolutions for the national platform are initiated and voted upon at the precinct meeting.

Will I be asked for a donation?

A voluntary donation is taken up for the state Sustaining Fund. This fund allows us to access the state party website and training events. The amount is calculated by the state party on a *pro rata* basis and usually averages between \$2 and \$5 per person. (Per the treasurer: All donations of any amount will be gratefully accepted!)

When is the meeting and how long will it last?

All 22 precinct meetings are held the same day — February 15 — at various locations and times. See the schedule on page two. The meeting usually lasts about an hour.

Will you miss me if I don't come?

Absolutely! To be “organized,” five people from the precinct need to be in attendance. Phone attendance is acceptable, so if you can't physically make the meeting, you may be contacted via phone.

Can I serve as Precinct Officer (Chair, Vice-chair, or Secretary)?

Yes! Precinct officers are elected every two years, but we have several vacancies after last year's elections. As long as you are not a poll worker (paid to work inside the polling place on election days), you can serve as a precinct officer. The only qualification for becoming an officer is the willingness to serve. If you are interested, contact our First Vice-chair Diane Hubbard at rcdp.1stVC@gmail.com or leave a message at (336) 629-9003.

Is it really important that I attend?

Yes. The Randolph County Democratic Party is making a positive impact, and at this important junction in our nation, all hands should be on deck! This is an opportunity to show your support for the Party and bring your thoughts about what the future should be. (Plus all who physically attend will be entered for a door prize which will be drawn after all of the precinct meetings have concluded.)

Precinct Meeting Locations

Precinct meetings are scheduled for **Saturday, February 15, 2020**, for all precincts throughout North Carolina. In case of bad weather, there is a makeup day scheduled for March 15, 2020. In Randolph County, precinct meetings are as follows:

- Archdale, New Market, Trinity, and Trinity Tabernacle Precincts: **10 am**, Archdale Library Meeting Room, 10433 S. Main St., Archdale, NC.
- Level Cross, Providence, and Randleman Precincts: **11 am**, Randleman Senior Adults Center, 144 W. Academy St., Randleman, NC.
- Deep River, Liberty, Ramseur, Southeast, and Staley Precincts: **1 pm**, Ramseur Municipal Building, 724 Liberty St., Ramseur, NC.
- Asheboro South, Grant, Southern, Southwest, Tabernacle, and Union Grove Precincts: **2 pm**, Randolph County Democratic Party Headquarters, 114 Sunset Avenue, Asheboro, NC.
- Asheboro East, Asheboro North, Asheboro West, and Back Creek Precincts: **3 pm**, Randolph County Democratic Party Headquarters, 114 Sunset Avenue, Asheboro, NC.

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.

Moral March on Raleigh in February

The Moral March on Raleigh and HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) People’s Assembly will take place Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 10 am in downtown Raleigh. The Moral March has been an annual event, taking place on the second Saturday in February, since it was organized by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber Jr. and others in 2007. It has grown from 3,500 marchers the first year to over 80,000 in 2017. If anyone is interested in carpooling to HKonJ get in touch with us at RandolphDem@gmail.com or leave a message at (336) 629-9003. For more information, or to volunteer to help, go to hkonj.com.



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, 9 am-3 pm; W, F 11 am-2 pm; T, 9 am-noon; Th, 11 am-1 pm

Make Your Voices Heard

Here are the names and telephone numbers of our representatives in the state legislature. Please contact them to voice your opinions. More contact information can be found on the Randolph County Democratic Party website: randolphcountydems.org



Rep. Pat Hurley (District 70)
(919) 733-5865



Rep. Allen McNeill (District 78)
(202) 225-3065



Sen. Jerry Tillman (Dist. 29)
(919) 733-5870

North Carolina Democratic Party Events

Saturday, February 29, is the date of both the Winter State Executive Committee (SEC) and the NCDP Blue North Carolina Celebration. They will be at separate locations, and attendance at one does not depend on attendance at the other. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both events.

The Winter SEC Meeting will be held at UNC-Charlotte's McKnight Theater in Cone Center, 9025 University Road in Charlotte. Registration begins at 9 am, and the meeting begins at noon and ends at 4:30 pm. Only SEC members will be allowed to vote at the SEC meeting, but all registered Democrats are welcome to attend. There is no admission fee.

The NCDP Blue North Carolina Celebration is a fundraising event and ticket prices can be found on the NCDP website: www.mobilize.us/ncdems/event/171580/. Prices vary depending on whether or not you plan to attend the VIP reception, whether or not you are a Young Dem (35 or under), or active military/veteran. The event will take place at the Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 J.M. Keynes Drive in Charlotte. There will be a VIP Reception at

6 pm and the dinner will begin at 7 pm. Speakers will include Governor Roy Cooper, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, and NCDP Chair Wayne Goodwin.

Randolph County Democratic Party Convention

The Randolph County Democratic Party Convention will be held at the County Courthouse, 176 Salisbury St. in Asheboro, on **Saturday, March 28**. We will be voting on delegates to the District and State Conventions as well as our representatives for NC Senate 26 and NC House 78 Executive Committees where we share legislative districts with other counties. We will also hear from candidates, and vote on resolutions that were introduced in the precinct meetings or by the Resolution Committee. It's important for representatives to be there for all 22 precincts at the County Convention if at all possible.

There will be a social hour from 8:30 - 9:30 am. The Convention begins at 9:30 am and ends at 11:30. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and represent their district.

Calendar

- Feb. 4 - Executive Committee Meeting, HQ, 7 pm
- Feb. 7 - Last day to register if you do not vote early
- Feb. 13-14 - Early voting, 8 am - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 15 - Precinct Meetings (makeup date March 14)
- Feb. 17-21 - Early voting, 8 am - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 22 - Democratic Women's Breakfast, HQ, 9:30 am
- Feb. 24-28 - Early voting, 8 am - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 29 - Early voting, 8 am - 3 pm
- Feb. 29 - Winter SEC Meeting, UNC-Charlotte, McKnight Theater, Cone Center, 9025 University Road, Charlotte; registration begins 9 am, meeting begins at noon
- Feb. 29 - NCDP Blue NC Gala, Hilton Charlotte University Place, VIP Reception 6 pm, Dinner, 7 pm
- March 3 - Election Day - Presidential Primary, polling places are open 6:30 am - 7:30 pm
- March 15 - April/May 2020 *RanDem News* deadline
- March 17 - Executive Committee Meeting, HQ, 7 pm
- March 28 - Democratic Women's Breakfast, joint meeting with County Convention, County Courthouse, 176 Salisbury Street, Asheboro
- March 28 - County Convention, County Courthouse, 176 Salisbury Street, Asheboro. Social Hour, 8:30 - 9:30 am, Convention, 9:30 - 11:30
- April 25 - District Convention
- June 6 - State Convention

Remembering Peggye Hammond

It is with great sadness that we announce that we recently lost a great friend to our organization. Peggye Hammond, one of our dearest volunteers, passed away suddenly, just before the end of 2019. She was active in the Randolph County Democratic Party, the Democratic Women of Randolph County, and Randolph County Senior Democrats. Peggye was on the Board of Directors of Regional Consolidated Services (RCS), the Board of Directors of the George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center (GWCCEC), Secretary for the Boys & Girls Club of Central Asheboro, Treasurer of the Randolph County chapter of the NAACP, and had volunteered through the years with numerous other service organizations around Asheboro and Randolph County. She was also an active member of Greater St. John's Baptist Church. It is obvious that Peggye lived her faith and wanted to make this world a better place for everyone. She was an inspirational woman, a good friend, and a force of nature. She will be sorely missed. We ask you all to keep her family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Democratic Women Meeting

Randolph County Democratic Women met on Saturday, January 27. The guest speaker was Scott Huffman, U.S. Congressional candidate for District 13. His website is: ScottHuffman.com. The next meeting will be held at Democratic Headquarters on Saturday, February 22, at 9:30

The March meeting will take place on March 28, in conjunction with the Randolph County Democratic Convention. It will be held at the Randolph County Court House, 176 Salisbury Street, Asheboro. There will be a social hour from 8:30 - 9:30 am. The Convention begins at 9:30 and ends at 11:30.

Reviews

Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver

This is a fascinating, timely novel by a great writer about an old house and the characters who have inhabited it.

—reviewed by Martha Crotty

Zucchini to speak at Asheboro Library

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and author David Zucchini debuts his book *Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy* at 7 pm, Thursday, January 30, at the Asheboro Public Library. Zucchini won the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing for his reporting from apartheid South Africa. *Wilmington's Lie* recounts the violent overthrow by white supremacists of the duly-elected, racially-mixed local government of Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1898.

February and March Charity Drives

As we did last year, we are holding two drives for charity. In February we will be gathering canned food to donate to Christians United Outreach Center. Please bring your donations to HQ during open hours and we will deliver them to CUOC. In March, we will conduct a drive for supplies for the Family Crisis Center. Supplies needed include paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels, laundry detergent, and cleaning supplies. A complete list of needed items will be available in early March at HQ. Thank you for participating.



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.



2020 Democratic Primary Non-Presidential Candidates

US Senate

Cal Cunningham; CalForNC.com
 Trevor M. Fuller; FullerForNorthCarolina.com
 Atul Goel; AtulGoelForSenate.com
 Erica D. Smith; EricaForUS.com
 Steve Swenson; SteveSwensonForSenate.org

NC Governor

Roy Cooper (incumbent); RoyCooper.com
 Ernest T. Reeves; ErnestReeves.com

NC Lieutenant Governor

Chaz Beasley; ChazBeasley.com
 Yvonne Lewis Holley; YvonneLewisHolley.com
 Ron Newton; ElectRonaldLNewton.com
 Allen Thomas; AllenThomasJr.com
 Bill Toole; VoteBillToole.com
 Terry Van Duyn; VoteVanDuyn.com

NC Auditor

Luis A. Toledo; LuisToledoForNC.com
 Beth A. Wood (incumbent); BethWoodCampaign.com

NC Commissioner of Agriculture

Walter Smith; VoteWalterSmith.com
 Donovan Alexander Watson; no website at this time
 Jenna Wadsworth; JennaWadsworth.com

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction

James Barrett; BarrettForSchools.com
 Constance "Lav" Johnson; ConstanceLavJohnson.com
 Michael Maher; MaherForNC.com
 Jen Mangrum; JenMangrumForNC.com
 Keith A. Sutton; VoteKeithSutton.com

NC Treasurer

Dimple Ajmera; DimpleAjmera.com
 Ronnie Chatterji; RonnieChatterji.com
 Matt Leatherman; MattForNC.com



Early Voting Information

One-Stop Early Voting for the primary election begins February 13. There are many reasons to vote early. Not only are lines generally shorter, but name and address changes can be made, and same day voter registration is allowed with the proper identification. **There is no picture ID required to vote.**

Hours are as follows:

Thursday - Friday, February 13 - 14

Monday - Friday, February 17 - 21

Monday - Friday, February 24 - 28

8 am - 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 29

8 am - 3 pm

You can vote at any of the following locations:

- Randolph County Board of Elections, 1457 N. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro, NC

- Randolph Community Services Building, 213 Balfour Drive, Archdale, NC

- Randleman Community Center, 144 Academy Street, Randleman, NC

- Franklinville United Methodist Church, 277 W. Main Street, Franklinville, NC

NEW! My Opinion Feature

*An (almost) new feature of the newsletter is the **My Opinion Column**, because, yes, while we are all Democrats we often have differing opinions! Send your opinion piece to rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com. There is a 300 word limit. We will publish as many as space allows.*

My Opinion — from Gary Parker:

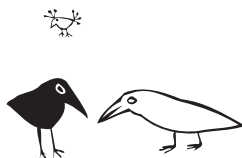
Elbridge Gerry: signer of both the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation, but who refused to sign the Constitution because it didn't include a Bill of Rights; Governor of my own birth state of Massachusetts in 1812 when the State legislature created new electoral districts. One of those in Essex County was so oddly drawn it struck a newspaper editor as looking like a salamander, and he called it a gerrymander.

Gerrymandering is wrong. The drawing of voting district boundaries to give one political party a certainty that their party will win election every time is un-American. We all believe in a level playing field, in fairness.

If your favorite football team is playing a game, you want a level field. You don't want them to have to play every game with the field tilted downward against them so that they have to run uphill the entire game. They'd always lose.

This is what Democratic candidates face in many N.C. State legislative districts and in Congressional districts. It's wrong and it's un-American. We are better than this. Americans have always believed in fairness. Let's make our elections fair again. Let's get an independent commission to draw boundaries.

It should be fair for both Democrats and Republicans. Let the best candidate win.



My Opinion — from Bob Williams:

Trump should be convicted in the U. S. Senate.

Based upon evidence from sworn witnesses and collected documents, the U. S. House majority's report during the impeachment inquiry found the following:

1. President Trump forced out the U. S. ambassador to Ukraine;
2. President Trump put his private attorney Giuliani and three others in charge of Ukraine issues;
3. President Trump froze budgeted, signed, and vital military assistance of 391 million dollars to Ukraine while it, our ally, was engaged in ongoing military conflict illegally instigated by Russia;
4. President Trump's meeting with the Ukrainian president was conditioned on an announcement of investigations;
5. President Trump, to advance his personal political interests, asked the Ukrainian president to interfere in investigating the Bidens, and 2016 election interference;
6. President Trump wanted Ukraine to announce the investigations publicly;
7. President Trump conditioning the military assistance and White House meeting on announcement of the investigations raised alarm; and
8. President Trump's scheme was exposed, constituted abuse of power against U.S. security interests and violation of federal law.

President Trump also obstructed the House of Representative's impeachment inquiry and constitutional authority for congressional oversight and impeachment by refusing to comply, refusing to produce any subpoenaed documents, refusing to allow top aides to testify, unsuccessfully attempts to block key witnesses and intimidating witnesses.

Russia is the remaining portion of the Soviet Union that Ronald Reagan called "the Evil Empire." Ukraine was an independent state when Russia used separatists to take over part of the country and later attack Ukraine. Russia's goals are access to the Mediterranean Sea and valuable natural resources in Ukraine. Once they obtain access to the Mediterranean Sea, they can better influence and compete with European and North African nations. Successful aggression against Ukraine will embolden Russia to aggressively seek dominance over their former satellite counties in their old empire.