



## Volunteers Bind Us Together

by Susie Scott  
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Fall is always a busy time of year for the Democratic Party. We started October by participating in three Fall Festivals in a row (Asheboro, Randleman, and Ramseur). Early voting for the municipal elections began in October and lasted through the beginning of November, and then Election Day was on November 5. After the election, we participated in the Asheboro Trick or Treat event that had been rescheduled and moved to McCrary Park due to bad weather. And in late November, we hosted our Holiday Potluck and Volunteer Appreciation event. Through all of this, we kept headquarters open for our regular hours (except for one or two days when volunteers needed to take the day off). Now our newsletter team is working hard to get the December/January issue ready so it can be delivered to your home.

### *What binds all of these activities together? You do!*

**Without you**, we would not be able to participate in community events to get the word out about voting and our candidates. (It takes at least two people to set up the pop-up tent in a reasonable amount of time. And there would be no use in setting up a tent if no one was there during the day to hand out information and register voters.)

**Without you**, the Democratic Women would not have had any baked goods to sell at the Fall Festival.

**Without you**, we would not be able to have regular hours in downtown Asheboro. Just last week, I overheard a man talking to his wife as they passed by outside, "The Democratic Party is just a few doors down from the Republican Party, but at least they're open!"

**Without you**, there would be no committee officers and no committee members.

**Without you**, there would be no Democratic Women's breakfasts and no potluck dinners.

**Without you**, there would be no Democratic candidates and no one to hand out their literature at the polls.

**Without you**, there would be no judges and assistants working inside the polls to carry out the election.

**Without you**, there would be no one to drive voters to the polls.

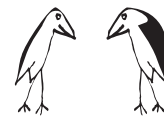
**Without you**, we could not afford to pay our rent or pay for our computer access or have anything printed and mailed.

**Without you**, we wouldn't have anyone writing letters to support our ideals in the local papers.

**Without you**, there would be no articles for our newsletter and no one to mail it to.

There would be no Democratic Party without you.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We appreciate everything you are doing to help our party and spread the word!



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

## District Court Judge Brooke Schmidly at RCC on Veterans Day

District Court Judge Brooke Schmidly was the featured speaker November 11 at Randolph Community College's Veterans Day Celebration in the JB & Claire Davis Corporate Training Center on the Asheboro Campus.

Schmidly spoke of her experiences as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the United States Air Force Reserves. She has 19 years of service in the Air Force, six of those on active duty as a JAG from 2001-2007 and 13 years as an Air Force reservist. She is currently assigned to Headquarters, Ninth Air Force, Shaw AFB, South Carolina, doing legal reviews on high-level issues requiring action by the Commander of Ninth Air Force, and she serves as a litigation instructor at the Air Force JAG School and at Air Force bases worldwide.

As an active duty Air Force JAG, Schmidly prosecuted major criminal cases involving drugs, child abuse, and sexual assault; she served as Chief of Military Justice at two Air Force bases, and she served as the environmental lawyer at Offutt Air Force Base. During her last two years on active duty, she was designated as an Air Force Defense Counsel, defending airmen in courts-martial, discharge boards, and flying evaluation boards.

"Being a member of the Air Force has been, without a doubt, the joy of my professional life," Schmidly said. "I have now been with the Air Force my entire adult life, and I can say that it has shaped the person that I am, I think, in all positive ways. The JAG career field is not quite as dramatic as *A Few Good Men* made it look, and it is not quite as exciting as the TV

show *JAG* portrayed it, ... but it is quite possibly the best job in the field of law ever. It is a very meaningful career field — I never knew from day-to-day what the day might hold.

"Military service is not for everyone. If you think about it, does any Chief Executive Officer or Ivy League whoever actually have more responsibility than a 20-year-old squad leader patrolling in Afghanistan? To serve in our nation's military does require a commitment to the nation and a commitment to our service that is greater than our commitment to ourselves. What an unusual value right now. What we typically hear is, 'You've gotta look out for number one.' Veterans know what it means to serve, to work with and trust people from totally different backgrounds, to care only about the person's competence and commitment to doing their job, and not about the ways in which they're different."

Before her District Court appointment, Judge Schmidly was an attorney in a private practice in Asheboro starting in 2007.

Schmidly also is an RCC Trustee, the Chair of the Asheboro ABC Board, is on the Board of the North Carolina High School Mock Trial Program, and teaches children and adult Sunday School at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Asheboro.

She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Houston Law Center. She has a master's degree in Military Operations and graduated from Air War College in 2016.



## 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](http://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

## Christmas Parade & Christmas on Sunset

We will be serving Soup and Sides before and during the **Asheboro Christmas Parade** on Friday, December 6, at HQ. We will offer choice of soup, choice of cornbread or grilled cheese sandwich, drink, and dessert available for a \$5 donation. Soup will be served beginning at 5:30 pm, but we will have the doors open at 4 pm for early drop-off. The parade begins at 7 pm. We will stay open and continue to serve until the end of the parade. We need donated crockpots of soup, cornbread, and desserts as well as volunteers to help serve and take donations.

**Christmas on Sunset** takes place on Friday, December 13, from 6-9 pm. We'll be offering make-and-take coffee filter snowflake (appropriately!) crafts for the kids at HQ. We need volunteers to help with the ornaments and to greet visitors. Contact [randolphdem@gmail.com](mailto:randolphdem@gmail.com) or call (336) 629-9003 to volunteer.

## Sign Up for Email Releases

Go to the website ([randolphcountydems.org](http://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.

## Please Consider a Donation to RCDP

Even though we are rent secure through March of next year, we are falling short of our fund raising goals for 2019/2020. Please consider a small donation of \$5, \$10, \$25, or whatever amount you choose. Your donations help us mail our bimonthly newsletter to more than 300 households, pay for utilities and insurance at our headquarters in Asheboro, carry out our programs, and pay for access to the internet and data on Votebuilder. In addition, we are hoping to save enough money to make campaign donations to our local Randolph County candidates for the 2020 Election. (After the primaries, money will be dispersed to Democratic candidates living in Randolph County who will be on the November 2020 ballot to help them purchase signs, ads, send out mailings, or whatever else they may need to reach voters.)

Please use the enclosed envelope and form to mail your contributions to the Randolph County Democratic Party at PO Box 4814, Asheboro, NC 27204. (We request that you do not send cash through the mail.) Or you may make a donation online at [randolphcountydems.org/donate/](http://randolphcountydems.org/donate/). Thank you for your support and encouragement.

## Calendar

- Dec. 2 — 2020 Candidate filing begins at noon, ends on Dec. 20
- Dec. 3 — Executive Committee Meeting, HQ, 7 pm
- Dec. 6 — Asheboro Christmas Parade/Soup and Sides, HQ, 5:30 pm (4 pm drop-off)
- Dec. 13 — Christmas on Sunset, Snowflake Crafts, HQ, 6-9 pm
- Jan. 7 — Executive Committee Meeting, HQ, 7 pm
- Jan. 15 — Feb./March newsletter deadline
- Jan. 25 — Democratic Women's Breakfast meeting, HQ, 9:30 am
- Feb. 15 — Precinct Meetings throughout NC (makeup day March 14)
- Feb. 29 — Winter SEC meeting, UNC-Charlotte, McKnight Theater, Cone Center, 9025 University Road, Charlotte, NC; 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; more details to come
- March 28 — County Convention
- April 25 — District Convention
- June 6 — State Convention

## Democratic Women Meeting

Randolph County Democratic Women met on Saturday, November 23. The guest speaker was Jennifer Bremer of Fair Districts NC, a non-partisan organization devoted to educating citizens about redistricting reform. As we all know, redistricting takes place every 10 years, after the census has been taken. While meant to reflect shifts in population over that 10-year period, redistricting has become an opportunity to rig the maps through gerrymandering, creating safe seats, undercutting competition, and threatening our democracy.

Fair Districts NC is seeking endorsements for their Five Principles for a Reasonable Redistricting Commission to draw our electoral maps:

1. Include the legislature in the process, such as by naming some of the commission's members
2. Include citizens and/or impartial experts as commission members
3. Set strict rules for the commission's work that:
  - a. apply traditional redistricting standards (compact, contiguous, keep local government units and communities of interest whole)
  - b. do not allow the use of partisan data or partisan objectives
  - c. use voting rules that require bipartisan support for the maps
4. Provide for extensive citizen participation and transparency
5. Make the maps final on the commission's vote.

Speakers from Fair Districts NC are available to present this program to any group that is interested. For more information visit their web site, [FairDistrictsNC.org](http://FairDistrictsNC.org). Contact them at [fairdistrictsnc@gmail.com](mailto:fairdistrictsnc@gmail.com).

## Asheboro Now Part of 13th District

After the most recent redistricting, Asheboro is no longer in the 6th Congressional District, but is now part of the 13th District. Along with Randolph County, Alamance, Caswell, Person, and portions of Chatham and Lee counties will be joining the 13th District.

The incumbent is Ted Budd. The following is from the 13th District website ([nc13democrats.com](http://nc13democrats.com)):

“The 13th Congressional District of North Carolina stretches across some of the most beautiful and diverse territory in the state, from the fast-paced streets of Greensboro, North Carolina’s third-largest city, all the way to quiet, scenic Statesville, nestled just east of the Carolina foothills. The 13th is a home to good, honest folks, to incredible history and culture, and to the best barbecue in the whole country. And whether they live in Mocksville or Lexington, High Point or Salisbury, the people of the 13th District know that they deserve a better deal from Raleigh and from Washington.

“As the 13th District Democratic Party, our mission is to elect representatives to our government that embody progressive and Democratic values, who will ensure that those good, honest folks are represented by people who will fight for them, not for the 1% and lobbyists. The North Carolina State Toast declares this the land “where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great” — so you could say that a government that gives everyone a fighting chance is a Carolina value. Ted Budd is not the right person to represent that value. But we cannot turn our district blue without your help. Donate to support our efforts and help flip the 13th. We are the 13th District Democrats.”



## Fall Festival a Big Success

The Asheboro Fall Festival on October 5-6 was a big success this year. For the first time, our Democratic Women’s Bake Sale was held inside headquarters. Outside on the street, we had a tent and table where volunteers registered voters and handed out literature and sample baked goods. This worked well, and our persimmon pudding and other baked goods completely sold out. We made a total of \$1,594, most of which will go toward our college scholarships for high school seniors. A big thanks to everyone who contributed baked goods or who volunteered at Fall Festival.



**Everyone knows we have a Presidential election in 2020, but do you know the other offices that are up for election?**

<b>Offices up for Election in 2020</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Party</b>
US President	Donald Trump	R
US Senator	Thom Tillis	R
US House of Representatives	Ted Budd (current Thirteenth District Representative)	R
NC Governor	Roy Cooper	D
NC Lt. Governor	Dan Forest	R
NC State Auditor	Beth Wood	D
NC Attorney General	Josh Stein	D
NC Commissioner of Insurance	Mike Causey	R
NC Commissioner of Agriculture	Steve Troxler	R
NC State Treasurer	Dale Folwell	R
NC Commissioner of Labor	Cherie Berrie	R
NC Secretary of State	Elaine Marshall	D
NC Superintendent of Instruction	Mark Johnson	R
NC Supreme Court	Cherie Beasley (Chief Justice)	D
	Mark Davis (Associate Justice)	D
	Paul Newby (Associate Justice)	R
NC Court of Appeals	Christopher Brook	D
	Wanda Bryant	D
	Chris Dillon	R
	Linda McGee	D
	Reuben Young	D
NC 19B District Court Judge	J. Brooke Schmidly	D
	Rob Wilkins	R
NC State Senate	Jerry Tillman	R
NC House	Pat Hurley (District 70)	R
	Allen McNeill (District 78)	R
Randolph District Attorney	Andy Gregson	R
Randolph Soil and Water	Shane Whitaker	R
Randolph County Commissioners	Kenny Kidd (District 1)	R
	Maxton McDowell (District 5)	R
Randolph County Board of Education	Tracy Boyles	R
	Matthew Lambeth	R
	Gary Cook	R
	Sharon Petty Farlow	R
Archdale City Council	Roger Blackwell (Ward 2)	R
	Trey Grey (Ward 3)	R
	Tim Williams (At-large)	U

## Reviews

*The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson

Could a book about a 20-year-old flautist stealing birds from the British Museum of Natural History to sell the feathers to fly fishing tyers be at all interesting? No! It's fascinating! As the cover says, it involves "Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History heist of the Century." And you can add Greed to that mix.

—reviewed by Lois Bohnsack

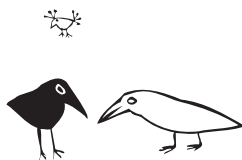
*The Wilderness* podcast is a deep dive into the Democratic Party's history and a look to its future. Through conversations with party insiders, historians, and experts, former Obama speechwriter Jon Favreau discusses issues like race, inequality, foreign policy, sexism, and how Democrats can build a lasting majority. Listen here: [crooked.com/podcast-series/the-wilderness/](http://crooked.com/podcast-series/the-wilderness/)

—reviewed by Diane Hubbard

*Harriet* directed by Kasi Lemmons

I recommend this movie to anyone who wants to get a deeper understanding of our country's history related to the rise of the anti-slavery movement. The leading role of Harriet Tubman is played by Cynthia Erivo, who successfully portrays the intensity and courage of this slave-turned-abolitionist. Lemmons, who wrote the screenplay with Gregory Allen Howard has been criticized for being too formulaic, but I felt that his work allowed me to comprehend the sheer magnitude of the struggle to transport slaves to freedom. It is exciting to know that there is a local connection: Costume designer Paul Tazewell is a graduate of NC School of the Arts, and has family in Asheboro. You will enjoy his award winning work (he won the 2016 Tony award for *Hamilton*).

—reviewed by Patricia Chamberlin



## NEW! *My Opinion* Feature

A 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](mailto:rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com). There is a 300 word limit. We will publish as many as space allows.

**My Opinion** — from Linda Hartford:

As the 2020 election gets closer, the need to get Trump out of the White House and have Democrats win over the Senate becomes more and more urgent. I, as an American first and a Democrat second, am concerned about people who may dislike whoever the Democrats have run for President and will consider not voting at all or voting for a third party candidate as a protest vote.

Frankly, there have been many years when I felt that I was voting for the "lesser of two evils" but did anyway.

In many countries and in many states in America, there are election laws that encourage three, four, or more candidates to run for a single office. Those laws set up elections so that if no one gets over 50% of the votes there is a run-off election. A run-off can be very costly if a whole new election is needed. The other choice is where each person votes for their first, second, and third choice and there is an instant run-off.

After the 2020 election, I think we should consider working toward changing the Federal Law to having run-offs. It will probably need a Constitutional Amendment and will also get rid of the Electoral College. Now, we know that both the Democratic and Republican parties will hate this idea as they will each lose a lot of their power to control elections as we will likely have three or more parties in Congress. But I think Americans will love it.

**My Opinion** — from Ruth Scanlan:

If by a "Liberal" they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people — their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights, and their civil liberties — someone who believes that we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a "Liberal," then I'm proud to say that I'm a "Liberal."

—Address by John F. Kennedy upon accepting the Liberal Party nomination for President, New York, NY, September 14, 1960.