



With Gratitude. . .

Susie Scott
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

This will be my last newsletter message as Chair of our county Party. I'm stepping down to make room for fresh perspectives and new ideas. On April 10, we'll be electing our next leaders, and I look forward to seeing where they take us and what new ground we'll break in Randolph County!

I remember starting my first term in 2017. I was worried about Trump's first year in the White House and doing right by our supporters. I've also had a long-standing dread of public speaking. But no matter how many times I may have clumsily stumbled, the caring, creative, and talented people on our team generously gave their time and support and put my mind at ease.

Some things really stick out in my memory. The creativity of Diane, Megan, Todd, Martha, Ruth, Becky, Mark, Pat, and Judy, plus their passion for a just society, resulted in designs for our website, newsletter, social media, fundraising galas, and even the windows at our

headquarters. Lois's wise guidance not only with our finances, but also with treating people right. Ruthie, Tim, and Bob's ideas, spirit, and dedication to our party ideals. Nancy, Dale, and Paul's sage leadership and readiness to try new things. Elworth, Richard, Rebekah, Clarice, and Jim who cared so much about the direction of our state party that they regularly traveled to participate in meetings with hundreds of delegates that took up the better part of a day. Margaret, Tiffany, Pete, and Lillian's dedication and leadership in protecting our votes at the polls. Karen, Chad, Vera, Janice, Deborah, Linda, Doris, Jacinda, Carnell, Erick and so many other volunteers who canvassed, handed out flyers, manned booths, and put out signs.

I also found out that a sure way to end a productive conversation in our majority Republican county is to ask someone to run for office. I am beyond grateful for our candidates that rose to the challenge in the last four years often at great personal cost: Elworth Cheek, Bob Kollm, Jane Ledwell-Gant, Bill McCaskill, Jim Meredith, Bob Morrison, Mary Rulli, Brooke Schmidly, Gwen Williams, and Dale Bennett. You have my full support in any challenge you take on whether it's your next campaign or a new aspiration.

We are one family. Thank you all for the memories and your support! I hope to see most of you online at the County Convention. After that, I hope you'll join me in doing everything we can to help our new party leaders get our democracy back on track!

Calendar *(All meetings will be conducted online due to COVID-19.)*

April 6 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting:** Committee members (which include precinct chairs and vice-chairs) should have received an email or phone call with the links for this meeting. The meeting is also open to all registered Democrats in Randolph County. To attend, email rcdp.CountyChair@gmail.com or leave a message at (336) 629-9003.

April 10 at 10 am — **County Convention** (April 17 make-up date if needed)

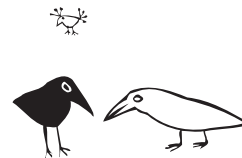
April 24 at 10:30 am — **Outreach Committee Meeting** (formerly Democratic Women)

May 4 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting**

May 15 — **June/July newsletter deadline**

May 22 — **Congressional District Convention**

August 7 — **Summer SEC Meeting**



Precinct Meeting Results

As of this printing, over half of the Randolph County Precinct meetings have been completed and organized. Congratulations to all the newly elected officers who stepped up to take an active role in the party. Thanks to everyone who attended the meetings and donated funds to support our candidates.

RCDP (virtual) County Convention April 10, 2021 at 10 am

Our second virtual Randolph County Democratic Convention will take place over Zoom this year due to the pandemic. Delegates may attend online or by phone. You can register for this event at mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/381173/.

In odd-numbered years like 2021, we elect new County Officers and representatives to the State Executive Committee (SEC). All elected officers serve two-year terms. The following county officer positions are up for election:

CHAIR — responsible for representing the County Executive Committee at meetings and functions and presiding over County Executive Committee meetings. Attends meetings of the District and State Executive Committees as well as the monthly County Chairs Association calls, and acts as a liaison between the County Executive Committee and the District and State Executive Committees.

1ST VICE CHAIR — responsible for supporting the county chair in their duties and presiding over County Executive Committee Meetings and Conventions when the chair is absent. Attends meetings of the District Executive Committee. Coordinates precinct and party organizing efforts in the county.

2ND VICE CHAIR — responsible for planning and organizing training sessions for County Executive Committee members including precinct chairs and vice chairs.

3RD VICE CHAIR — responsible for publicizing the county party and their events in newspapers, on social media, and through other venues as required by the County Executive Committee.

SECRETARY — responsible for keeping and maintaining records of the County Executive Committee and issuing meeting notices.

TREASURER — responsible for maintaining the County Executive Committee treasury at an insured commercial bank, maintaining records of contributions and disbursements made, and filing reports to the County Executive Committee as well as the NC Board of Elections following North Carolina campaign finance laws. Must complete state-required financial campaign manager training either online, in person, or both.

Our next County Chair will hold one of our four SEC seats, leaving us to elect three additional members at the Convention. Our SEC members represent

the interests of our county at the State Executive Committee meetings. While these meetings have been online recently due to COVID-19, attendance is required when the meetings move back to in-person, and these members must be willing to travel to other locations in the state at least twice a year (usually on a Saturday) and remain from the beginning until the end of the meeting. (In the past, in-person SEC meetings have lasted around five hours but may be longer.)

We must also vote on 63 delegates to represent Randolph County at the Thirteenth Congressional District Convention on May 22, 2021.

Finally, we'll be voting on county resolutions which will be submitted to the Thirteenth Congressional District Convention.



New NCDP Caucus

A few new caucuses have been added to the NCDP organization. The Rural Caucus, the Disability Issues Caucus, and the Interfaith Caucus were approved at the last State Executive Committee (SEC) meeting in February. Two of the three caucuses held their first meetings to elect officers following the SEC meeting. Congratulations to their newly elected chairs: Brandon Combs (Rural Caucus) and Michael Evola (Disability Issues Caucus). The Interfaith Caucus will be holding their first meeting to elect officers soon.

North Carolina Democrats can join a state or regional caucus even if a local chapter does not exist in their county. For more information about these and the other 16 caucuses within the NC Democratic Party, go to ncdp.org/leaders/auxiliaries-and-caucus-chairs/.

Reviews

Once I was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America by Maria Hinojosa

Emmy Award winning journalist and anchor of NPR's Latino USA tells her family's story, while examining how decades of U.S. Immigration Policy has enabled a monumental human rights crises.

— reviewed by Martha Crotty

State Leadership Announced

The State Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting of the North Carolina Democratic Party met in February. Members elected **Dr. Bobbie Richardson** to serve as state party chair. As the first African-American woman to chair the NCDP, Chair Richardson leads one of the most diverse leadership teams in party history.

“I am honored that my fellow SEC members have chosen me to take on this important role and lead North Carolina Democrats as our party prepares for the 2022 midterm elections,” said Dr. Richardson. “Together, we’ll fight for a fairer, more just North Carolina, recruit candidates that reflect the diversity of our state, and organize everywhere to elect Democrats who will be champions for working families across our state.”

Bobbie Richardson was elected chair after serving one term as first vice chair. She previously represented Franklin and Nash counties in the North Carolina General Assembly, serving from 2013-2018. She is a retired educator and administrator, with 35 years of experience in North Carolina public schools.

North Carolina Democrats also elected a diverse leadership team, representing the African-American and LGBTQ+ communities.

Floyd McKissick was elected first vice chair. McKissick served 13 years in the North Carolina Senate before being appointed by Governor Cooper to the N.C. Utilities Commission where he is currently a Commissioner. He previously served as a County Chair for the Democratic Party in both Durham and Warren Counties and on the NCDP Executive Council.

Matt Hughes was re-elected for a third term as second vice chair. Hughes, the state party’s first out LGBTQ+ officer, has been serving as second vice chair since 2017. A Hillsborough Town Commissioner, he brings a wealth of experience to the NCDP with seven cycles of experience leading transformational change within our party.

Shannon Auer was elected to her first term as third vice chair. She is a lifelong Democrat from Catawba County and has held leadership roles in the Democratic Women of North Carolina and the Young Democrats of North Carolina.

Melvin Williams of Duplin County was re-elected as secretary for his sixth term. He is responsible for keeping minutes of the organization’s meetings and writes the “Good News About Democrats” newsletter.

RCDP Fundraising and Outreach Committee Update

The RCDP Fundraising and Outreach Committee is working diligently to pick up where the former Democratic Women of Randolph County left off. Scholarship Chair Becky Megerian has mailed applications for the \$500 Education Scholarship to guidance counselors at all of Randolph County’s public schools. The deadline for applications to be returned is April 15, 2021. If you know of a graduating senior at a public school in Randolph County who plans to attend college or a trade school, please have them speak to their school counselors regarding our application. The application and other information are also available at randolphcountydems.org/scholarship. Our next meeting will be April 24, 2021 at 10:30 am on Zoom. RSVP at the following link: mobilize.us/randolphcountyncdems/event/379058

Notes of Interest



In February, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) released the 2020 year-end update to its *Whose Heritage?* report data and map, which tracks public symbols of the Confederacy across the United States. (Read the full report at splcenter.org/data-projects/2020-confederate-symbol-removals.)

The report found that 168 Confederate symbols were renamed or removed in 2020. By the end of 2020, Virginia remained the leader in removing Confederate symbols (71) followed by North Carolina (24).



Right now, when you join the NAACP, you can be part of the Bishop William H. Graves Sr. Memorial Membership Drive. Go to naacp.org/become-a-member/, click on “become member,” enter your zip code, select the Asheboro chapter, check the special scholarship button and go from there. By joining, you will become a member of the largest and most influential civil rights organization in America.

Opinion: How to Strengthen Our Local Party

by Bob Williams

I suggest the following steps be taken by each of us to strengthen our party.

1. Take pride in the party's history: inform ourselves of former elected officials, leaders, and issues that exemplify the best of the past.

2. Be substantive: Keep up with current events and issues and do the research necessary to identify problems important to the voters, find solutions and communicate clearly with voters.

3. Mutual effort and recognition: Share responsibility, recognition, work and praise seeking people to participate, donate and lead.

4. Earn financial support: Annually raise funds needed for obtaining and maintaining a voter database and all forms of voter contact.

5. Support responsible leadership: Constantly encourage leaders to train themselves and others to plan, lead, seek and encourage followers.

6. Reciprocity: Recognize the value of the state or national parties and of the candidates' time, efforts and goodwill and expect them to recognize the value of the local party's time, efforts, and goodwill.

7. Communicate: Communicate our message with supporters and the general public.

8. Use it: Use what you have, where you have it and when you have it. For example, influence your family, friends, associates, neighbors, etc.

9. Perseverance: Keep on; don't ever give up!

10. Unity: Loyalty and unity can allow harmony and creativity while valuing diversity.

11. Be great: Be great by first being humble, self-disciplined, and able to act together.

Do you have suggestions? Please share them.



Share a review or an opinion

Send your review or opinion piece to rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com. There is a 50 word limit for reviews, and a 300 word limit for opinions. We will publish as many as space allows. Please be aware that articles will be edited if necessary for space and clarity. Thank you.

Habitat for Humanity Celebrity Breakfast

by Dale McClain

Habitat for Humanity plans to hold the annual Celebrity Breakfast on Tuesday, April 27, at 8:00 am at Pinewood Country Club. Last year we were not able to hold this event due to Covid restrictions. I appreciate that we still must be very cautious, but if you are interested in attending, please contact me at (336) 301-2845 or email me at dmcc111@yahoo.com. I will be sponsoring a couple of tables and would love to have Democrats there.

Habitat for Humanity's mission is to provide a simple decent home for families in need of safe, affordable housing. We provide volunteer-built houses and financing for families in need who could not otherwise afford conventional financing. The houses are not free. Families must meet income guidelines and are required to contribute to their home by providing "sweat equity," such as helping with construction as well as attending classes.

Currently, Habitat of Randolph County has three houses under construction. Also, students at Providence Grove High School have completed the construction of a 574 sq. ft. "tiny house" in conjunction with Habitat.

This past year has been difficult for Habitat. Fund raising, volunteer numbers, and complications for homeowners have all been affected.

Thank you for your continued support of Habitat. And, if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact me. No special skills are needed; we supply tools and instruction as required.

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
- Headquarters is currently open by appointment only.

(Paid for by the Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee. c 2021)