



Working Together to Create a Better World

Diane Hubbard
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Hello fellow Randolph County Democrats! I hope everyone had a fantastic 4th of July holiday. I think we were all ready to get out of the house and have some fun. We have been busy at Democratic Headquarters preparing for our 13th Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala, which will be held Saturday August 14, at the George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center (GWCCEC). This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We are very excited to be using the beautiful space that the GWCCEC has created. This year our keynote speakers will be Dr. Bobbie Richardson, chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, and NC Representative Ricky Hurtado from NC House District 63. We also expect to hear a few words from local municipal candidates.

The Blue Jean Gala is not just a fundraiser. For the past 13 years, you all have come together in fellowship with local, like-minded people. We all know it's not easy being a Democrat in Randolph County. Sometimes the hateful rhetoric coming from the right can be overwhelming. That is why being able to spend a few hours in the company of my left-leaning friends is just the balm I need when it gets to be a bit too much. It helps me remember why I continue to volunteer with the RCDP: to make this world a better place for the next generations. I have met some of the best people I have ever known since I started volunteering here. I hope to meet even more wonderful folks as we build up our volunteer base for next year's midterm election. I am confident we will all continue to work toward creating a better world for our families, our neighbors, and ourselves. Thank you all for your help thus far and I look forward to working with you in the future.



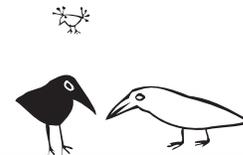
Come to the Blue Jean Gala!

WHAT: 13th Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala

WHERE: George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center, 950 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Asheboro

WHEN: Saturday, August 14, social hour 5:30 pm, dinner served 6:30 pm

WHO: Democrats! For more details or to purchase tickets, visit randolphcountydems.org/gala2021.



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
- HQ is currently open. Call for hours.

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

Candidates Running for Municipal Offices

In July, the Randolph County Board of Elections announced the names of candidates running for municipal offices in 2021. (Exceptions are Randleman and Trinity, where filing does not close until August 13 at noon.) Listed below are the names of candidates grouped by contest. The election will take place on November 8. In the next newsletter (September/October), we plan to include information about, and/or interviews with some of the candidates. In the meantime, we encourage you to learn about the candidates running for office in the elections that affect you. For more information, call the Board of Elections office at 336-318-6900 or contact them by email at Elections@RandolphCountyNC.gov.

Candidate List Grouped by Contest

Asheboro City Board of Education (4 seats):

Todd Dulaney
Baxter Hammer
Adam Hurley
Beth Knott
Hailey Trollinger Lee
Kathryn Thill

Asheboro Mayor (1 seat):

David H. Smith

Asheboro City Council (4 seats):

Clark Bell
Kelly W. Heath
William (Bill) McCaskill
Walker B. Moffitt
Katie L. Snuggs
Delilah Perkins Warner

Franklinville Mayor (1 seat):

Perry L. Conner
A.C. Hurley

Franklinville Board of Commissioners (3 seats):

Ricky J. Collins
William (Billy) Farias
Richard D. Goodwin
Brandon Hurley
Michael S. Johnston
Craig Smith

Liberty Mayor (1 seat):

Filmore York

Liberty Town

Commissioners (3 seats):

Terry L. Caviness
Larry Coble
Chris Compton
Tyson E. Nixon

Ramseur Town

Commissioners (2 seats):

Diana Brower
Wayne Carroll
Joy K. Hooker

Seagrove Mayor (1 seat):

David Robert Fernandez

Seagrove Town

Commissioners (2 seats):

Ed Walker
Sandra G. Walker

Staley Mayor (1 seat):

Karen R. Scotton

Staley Board of

Commissioners (5 seats):

Faye Johnson
Janet Langley Lambert
Lori Lynn Langley-Hankins
Steve Rollins
Renee Harrelson

HQ Volunteers Wanted

Now that some of the safety protocols regarding COVID-19 are being relaxed, we have begun the process of creating a schedule of office hours for HQ. We believe it is important to keep our HQ open as much as possible so that people know we have an active and engaged Democratic presence in Randolph County. We are looking for people who can come to HQ at least one scheduled day per week for at least a three-hour shift. Currently, Mondays are fully covered. All other weekdays are only partially covered or not covered at all. Saturdays also may be an option.

We ask that HQ volunteers be fully vaccinated and be willing to wear a mask when someone comes into the building. Our county still lags behind in vaccinations, with only 1 in 5 adults fully protected. Until those numbers improve we need to do as President Biden advised and “model good behavior” with regard to masking and social distancing.

If you are interested in volunteering at HQ, please email RandolphDem@gmail.com or call 336-629-9003 and leave us a message. If you are hesitant about working at HQ by yourself, we can pair you up with another volunteer.

Check our Facebook page and website often for updates!

Calendar (*Meetings will be conducted in person unless otherwise announced.*)

August 3 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting:** The meeting is open to all registered Democrats in Randolph County. A Zoom link will be available by request. Email rcdp.CountyChair@gmail.com or leave a message at 336-629-9003.

August 7 — **Summer SEC Meeting**, 10 am on Zoom

August 10 at 5 pm — **Randolph County Board of Elections Meeting**

August 14 - **Blue Jean Gala** doors open at 5:30 pm

September (date TBA) at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting**

September 14 at 5 pm — **Randolph County Board of Elections Meeting**

September 15 — **October/November newsletter deadline**

Reviews

High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America

High on the Hog begins with host Stephen Satterfield's emotional visit to Benin and follows him to the United States on his quest to learn the stories behind African American foodways and how they intersect with Black history and culture. *High on the Hog* is not merely a travel and food doc, it is a reverential look into how influential and wide-reaching African American cuisine really is. This four-part series on Netflix is based on Dr. Jessica B. Harris' book by the same name.

— reviewed by Diane Hubbard

Thank you for Arguing, What Aristotle, Lincoln, and Homer Simpson can teach us about the Art of Persuasion, 4th edition by Jay Heinrichs

Jay Heinrichs humorously covers the entire subject from offense/defense to advanced agreement. For a more scholarly approach try, *Argumentation: The Study of Effective Reasoning, 2nd Edition* by Professor David Zarefsky, a Great Courses transcript.

— reviewed by Bob Williams

Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond

Set in the poorest areas of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the book follows eight families struggling to pay rent to their landlords during the financial crisis of 2007–2008. The author spent months, if not years, living among some of Milwaukee's poorest citizens, documenting their daily lives and constant struggles. This book evoked rage and sorrow in me more times than I can count. Systemic poverty is our collective national disgrace, and anyone who doesn't understand that is either not paying attention or willfully ignoring reality. *Evicted* is a real eye-opener and is available at the Randolph County Public Library.

— reviewed by Jay Hubbard

The Kindest Lie by Nancy Johnson

While relating a suspenseful tale of one Black woman's life, the issues of race, class, family and secrets make this novel one about modern America itself. Although the novel goes on a bit long, it's an insightful and touching story by a talented author. It's available at the Randolph County Public Library.

— reviewed by Martha Crotty

Fall Festival Voter Registration, Bake Sale

The Randolph Arts Guild will be having its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 2, and Sunday, October 3. As usual, RCDP will have a crew of people in the booth in front of HQ registering voters and handing out information. Inside Democratic HQ, we will be holding our Education Scholarship Bake Sale.

Proceeds from the sale will go toward at least one \$500 scholarship to a local high school senior enrolled at a college, university, or trade school. Funds above and beyond the scholarship amount may be used to fund a second scholarship, community outreach, or to help pay bills incurred by keeping HQ open year-round.

If you have any persimmon pulp you'd like to donate for the bake sale, please let us know by calling 336-629-9003 or emailing RandolphDem@gmail.com. We will distribute it to folks who volunteer to bake persimmon puddings for us to sell during the Fall Festival. More information on sign-up and drop-off dates will be forthcoming.

Survey finds increased interest in locally-owned weekly newspaper

Former *Asheboro Courier-Tribune* editor Ray Criscoe has started work on a weekly newspaper. It's called *Randolph Hub*. If you're interested in learning more, send an email to randolphhub@outlook.com.



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.

Randolph Hospital “Up in the Air”

by Susie Scott

The status of our only hospital has been on my mind lately. This is where things stand as of mid-July, 2021.

As most of us know, our County Commissioners held a public hearing in November 2019 to discuss applying for a \$20 million dollar loan through the Rural Health Care Stabilization Program to benefit Randolph Health. The loan application, as well as declaring bankruptcy, was recommended by Angie Orth (the hospital director at that time) and Darrell Frye (Chair of the Randolph County Commissioners and member of the Board of the High Point Medical Center owned by Wake Forest Baptist Health).

In the meantime, the hospital would be restructured and required to find a buyer. In March 2020, Randolph Health filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11. They found a buyer in October 2020. The bankruptcy court approved the sale to high bidder American Healthcare Systems within the month.

The purchase was still contingent on receiving money from the Health Stabilization Program. The NC Local Government Commission would not approve the request until the loan amount was reduced to \$12 million due to their doubts in the long-range feasibility of the plan.



With the loan approval, American Healthcare finalized the purchase earlier this month. Their founder, Michael Sarian, worked at Prime Healthcare in Ontario, California, from 2012 until June 2020. Prime's business model had come under fire over the years with charges that they canceled insurance contracts to receive higher reimbursements from companies and that they referred Medicare patients from the ER to hospital rooms so they could charge more before discharging them. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/prime-healthcare-services-and-two-doctors-agree-pay-375-million-settle-allegations-kickbacks>.

Our new hospital CEO will be Tim Ford. Ford was the CEO at Blowing Rock Hospital until it closed its doors in 2013. Following that, he was the CEO of Springfield Hospital in Vermont until December 2018. The hospital filed for bankruptcy in June of 2019. In February 2020, Ford attempted to sue for twice the amount of any severance pay he would have been due according to his claims. <https://www.vnews.com/Former-Springfield-Hospital-CEO-Alleges-He-Was-Forced-to-Resign-27752735> and <https://vtdigger.org/2020/02/27/springfield-hospital-to-settle-lawsuit-from-former-ceo/>.

I still wonder how things might have been different if our county commissioners had lobbied state legislators to expand Medicaid so many years ago.

House Republicans Force Midnight Vote on Backroom Energy Deal

by the NCDP Communications Team

Early in the morning of July 15, Tim Moore forced North Carolina General Assembly members back after midnight to vote on a backroom energy deal despite concerns from within his own caucus.

“If sunlight is the best disinfectant, then it is no surprise that a deal drafted behind closed doors by Duke Energy for Duke Energy was passed on a slim margin in the cover of darkness — at 12:07 am,” said NCDP Spokesperson Rachel Stein. “North Carolinians deserve transparency and public policy crafted in the best interests of working families. Tim Moore and Republican leadership care more about pleasing political donors than protecting the people of this state.”

After Governor Cooper and House Democrats and advocates for ratepayers and the environment were excluded from the legislative process, the 48-page bill that will shape energy policy for decades was only first made public yesterday. The backroom deal will lead to higher electricity rates because it takes authority away from the North Carolina Utilities Commission that regulates Duke Energy and other power providers and limits its ability to prevent unfair rate setting. It also locks North Carolina into dirty greenhouse energy instead of supporting clean energy initiatives which would create jobs and contain costs.

Duke Energy contributed more than \$346,000 to North Carolina Legislative Republicans last cycle and now it is clear why.