



Moving Forward in 2021

Diane Hubbard
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

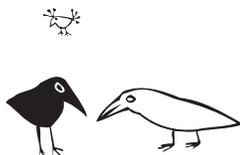
The past year was a thrilling one with the election of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. Locally, it was a more challenging time for Randolph County Democrats. We made the decision to close our HQ to the public, except for a couple of weeks preceding the 2020 election, in order to keep our folks safe. We held all our meetings and our County Convention via Zoom. We even managed to pull off an online Blue Wave Gala. It seemed impersonal to some, but it was worth it to keep everyone safe and healthy.

At our 2021 County Convention we elected new officers. Our Second Vice Chair is Chad Conville, who will help train volunteers. Our Third Vice Chair is Megan Crotty, our communications guru. Secretary Nancy Sharpless always takes impeccable meeting minutes, and Treasurer Larry Thomas will be handling our financials. Krista Durrant was elected to be First Vice Chair, but resigned that position when she was offered a great career opportunity that will take up most of her time. We wish Krista much success at her new job! As

your new Party Chair, I am excited to work with these new officers, as well as the ones who have remained in their positions for another term. Thank you all for trusting me with this position and thank you to the outgoing officers for doing such a fantastic job in the previous term.

We are beginning to see the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel. As more people receive their vaccinations, we will be able to open HQ more often and have some meetings in person. Randolph County is still behind in vaccinations. Only 1 in 5 adults in Randolph County have gotten their vaccinations. Now that President Biden has opened up vaccination availability to all adults and children over the age of 12, I'm hopeful that local vaccination rates will increase. Please encourage your family and friends to get the shot to protect themselves and others around them.

The Randolph County Democratic Party thrives on our fellowship with like-minded people. If we all look out for each other, we will be able to get together soon. In the meantime, please continue to wear your masks indoors around potentially unvaccinated people, and practice social distancing and good hand hygiene. I can't wait to see you all again!



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.

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)

Thinking of Running for Office?

Are you interested in becoming a candidate for an office in Randolph County? The Municipal General Election is November 2. Filing opens on July 2 at noon and closes on July 16 at noon. Exceptions are Randleman and Trinity, where filing opens July 26 at noon and closes August 13 at noon. The filing location for all contests is at the Randolph County Board of Elections, 1457 N. Fayetteville St., Asheboro. There are filing fees that must be paid with cash, check, or money order. For more information and filing forms, go to randolphcountync.gov/Departments/Elections/Candidate-Information. You also may phone the Board of Elections office at 336-318-6900 or contact them by email at Elections@RandolphCountyNC.gov. Additionally, we are forming a committee to recruit Democratic candidates for the 2021 municipal elections and the 2022 federal, state, and local elections. If you are interested in helping us find great people to run for local office, or if you (great person) are interested in running, please email RandolphDem@gmail.com or call 336-629-9003. Below is a list of the upcoming municipal contests and the names of the incumbents.

Asheboro

City Board of Education:

Baxter Hammer
Beth Knott
Archie Priest, Jr.
Art Martinez

Asheboro Mayor:

David H. Smith

City Council:

Clark Bell
Linda Carter
Katie Snuggs
Walker B. Moffitt

Franklinville Mayor:

Perry L. Conner
Board of Commissioners:
Richard Goodwin
Brandon Hurley
A.C. Hurley

Liberty Mayor:

Filmore York
Board of Commissioners:
Larry Coble
Christopher Compton
Tyson E. Nixon

Ramseur

Board of Commissioners:

Joy Hooker
Tanya Kenyon

Randleman Mayor:

Bucky Jernigan
Board of Aldermen - Ward 2:
Melissa Blalock
Board of Aldermen - Ward 3:
Nancy Henderson

Seagrove Mayor:

David Fernandez
Board of Commissioners:
Cindy Neef
Ed Walker

Staley Mayor:

Karen R. Scotton
Board of Commissioners:
Renee Harrelson
Faye Johnson
Lori Lynn Langley-Hankins
Janet Langley Lambert
Steve Rollins, Sr.

Trinity Mayor:

Richard McNabb
City Council - Ward 1:
Stephen Lawing
City Council - Ward 4:
Dan Payne

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 start improving, 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 online due to COVID-19 unless otherwise announced.*)

June 1 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.

June 5 at 10 am — **Gala Committee Meeting**

July 5 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting**

July 15 — **August/September newsletter deadline**

August 2 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting:**

August 7 — **Summer SEC Meeting**

Sydney Lyons awarded Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee of the Randolph County Democratic Party is pleased to announce the winner of the 2020-21 scholarship contest. Sydney Lyons, a senior at Wheatmore High School, will receive the \$500 scholarship. She will enroll at UNC Wilmington in the fall. A bilingual-bicultural, outstanding student, Sydney makes time to volunteer to assist elementary students in a Spanish language immersion program.

Book Review

The Back Channel, A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for its Renewal by William J. Burns

Sometimes the importance of a book can be learned from the names of those who praise it. James A. Baker III, Walter Isaacson, Hillary Clinton, Henry Kissinger, Madeleine K. Albright, George P. Shultz, John Kerry, John Lewis, and Condoleezza Rice all praise a 2019 book by William J. Burns. Burns became Biden’s director of the CIA. The book covers more than three decades of his career with the State Department and provides a sense of the reasoning behind American diplomacy. Burns is critical of the changes Donald Trump made.

— reviewed by Bob Williams



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.

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.

In past years, the bake sale was run by the Democratic Women of Randolph County. With the dissolution of the Democratic Women, the Democratic Party will be taking over the reins. Nothing else will change. 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.

Unfortunately, earlier this year the refrigerator at HQ died. We lost all the frozen persimmon pulp we had been accumulating and were planning to use for the bake sale. After a quick fundraiser via Act Blue, we ended up with \$1,050 to go toward a new fridge. We plan to purchase a new one with an extended warranty and plenty of freezer space to build back our persimmon pulp supply. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach this goal!

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.

*Save the date for the Blue Jeans Gala!
August 14, 2021*



Training Opportunities

by Chad Conville

As a Democrat in Randolph County, I wanted to find a way to get connected, help out, and work to make this a better place to live. I jumped right in and quickly found myself as the precinct chair for the Union Grove district. My first act in my new role was to figure out what exactly a precinct chair is and what the heck I was supposed to do. I am sure that I am not the only one who has realized that they have put the cart before the horse, but I know there are always resources out there to help figure things out if you know where to look. Lucky for you, I know exactly where to look now, and I am more than happy to tell you about the National Democratic Training Committee (NDTC). This is an excellent online resource where you can find comprehensive training and insight into how the Democratic Party works and how you can work within the party. So, if you are ready to start building your knowledge, I highly recommend going to the NDTC website traindemocrats.org. It offers an array of courses and interactive webinars. If you are like me and want to know how to become a more effective precinct chair, are thinking about running for an office, or if you are just trying to better understand how to help the RCDP develop a stronger presence, please take advantage of the excellent and free resources offered by the NDTC. Herschel Walker, Heisman Trophy winner and NFL star, once said, "If you train hard, you'll not only be hard, you will be hard to beat." So let's get to training. Thanks.



Interested in a locally-owned weekly newspaper?

Former *Asheboro Courier-Tribune* editor Ray Criscoe is testing the waters for interest in a locally-owned, weekly newspaper. To fill out the survey, go to <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/5wUkZ8a>. If you're interested in updates, send an email to randolphhub@outlook.com.

NCGA Crossover

by Susie Scott

Each year, most new bills have to be passed by one chamber of the State Legislature by the end of a "crossover date" to be considered by the other chamber. May 13, 2021, was this year's crossover date. Bills that didn't pass by that date "died" receiving no further consideration. There are exceptions: bills that affect the budget did not have to be passed before the crossover date. Legislators also can get around crossover by substituting language from bills that weren't passed before crossover into existing bills that were, such as the notorious Republican "gut and amend" bills.

Majority leaders choose which bills are heard in session. Most bills sponsored by Democrats "died" in the legislature because GOP leadership in both chambers refused to bring them up for debate.

The NC Senate only passed six bills primarily sponsored by Democrats before crossover. Five of those were local bills that only affected one district and the other was a bill authorizing a study. SB716 (Fix Our Democracy), SB581 (Redistricting Criteria for 2021), and SB511 (County Cluster Process) were redistricting reform bills filed by Democrats that never made it out of their first committee.

Senate bills that made the crossover include SB346 which curtails the Governor's Executive Powers, SB101 which forces local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE. SB636 makes it easier to hide dark money in elections through contributions to both 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations.

The bills that didn't pass in the House also included bills to establish a fair redistricting process. Those bills (HB437, HB495, and HB542) never made it out of committee.

Bills that survived crossover in the House: HB47 allows elected officials to carry guns while executing their duties. HB324 prevents public school teachers from teaching the full history of our nation's past concerning racism and sexism. HB755 forces teachers to publish their daily lesson plans on school websites. HB805 (Prevent Rioting and Disorder) makes it a felony to participate in a riot and could potentially affect peaceful protests.

You can check on the status of any bill at nclg.gov.