



Gala Great Success! Let's Keep up the Spirit of Volunteerism

Diane Hubbard
Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who made our 13th Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala a success. We had a fantastic meal catered by Don Simmons' award-winning Magnolia 23 restaurant. We had several great speakers who got us fired up for the work ahead, and as far as fundraisers go, this was one of our best! It was not an easy task, because we had to put all our procedures up to scrutiny due to COVID, but our hardworking Gala Committee kept things running smoothly. We managed to pull off what I think was a great event, with everyone masking, socially distancing when possible, and cooperating with our information gathering/contact tracing efforts. And, the Gala profits provided more than \$5,000 for the RCDP. As always, I am proud of the way we all conducted ourselves like adults, and didn't complain about taking necessary steps to protect our neighbors and friends. It is a testament to the ideals of our party and I feel fortunate to be a part of this group.



One-stop Early Voting Dates and Times

All early voting for municipal elections will take place at the Randolph County Board of Elections, 1457 N. Fayetteville St., Asheboro (Northgate Commons), from October 14 through October 30.

HOURS:

October 14, Thursday — 8 am–7 pm,
October 15, Friday — 8 am–5 pm
October 18 through 22: Monday, Wednesday &
Friday — 8 am–5 pm;
Tuesday & Thursday — 8 am–7 pm
October 25 through 29 — Monday, Wednesday
& Friday — 8 am–5 pm;
Tuesday & Thursday — 8 am–7 pm
October 30, Saturday — 8 am–3 pm

Vote at your usual polling place on **Election Day, Tuesday, November 2** — 6:30 am–7:30 pm.

Secondly, we are disappointed that Asheboro's Fall Festival was cancelled, and along with it our voter registration drive and bake sale to fund education scholarships. Thank you to everyone who had already volunteered. We are currently working on other fundraising ideas for later in the year, so keep an eye on your email and social media to find out what we're up to.

Finally, I hope we can carry our spirit of volunteerism into next year's midterm elections. We will need plenty of volunteers for canvassing and lit drops, phone and text banking, handing out candidate lit at polling places, recruiting other folks to volunteer, running for office, being a precinct officer, staffing Headquarters, and many other activities. You don't have to do them all, but we'd love for you to pick a job and help us out when you can. We also need to fill our 1st Vice Chair position on our Executive Committee. If you are good at organizing people, I need your help. This position is focused on organization in our precincts, of which only about half are currently organized. If you're interested in volunteering during the 2022 campaign season, or if you're interested in being 1st Vice Chair, drop me an email at rcdp.countychair@gmail.com. I'd love to talk to you about it!

Stay safe out there, folks!

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Phone: 336-629-9003
- Email: randolphdem@gmail.com
- Newsletter email: rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com
- Website: randolphcountydems.org
- Facebook:
[facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty/](https://www.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)

Please Vote in the Municipal Elections

Voters will decide several important contests in the upcoming elections. To learn about the candidates running for office in the elections that affect you, call the Board of Elections office at 336-318-6900 or contact them at Elections@RandolphCountyNC.gov.

In September, a questionnaire was sent to all the Democratic candidates running for either Town Commissioner/City Council or Asheboro City Schools Board of Education. They were invited to respond to one of these four questions:

1. Why should people vote for you and what skills will you bring to the office?
2. What is the biggest challenge for your (town/city or Board of Education) and how will you address it?
3. How will you ensure that your (town/city or Board of Education) remains open and accountable to its constituents?
4. If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you use it for in your (town/city or Asheboro City Schools)?

Many thanks to the candidates who replied. The following are their responses.

Diana Brower, running for Ramseur Town

Commissioner: Why should people vote for you and what skills will you bring to the office?

I will use deliberative democracy to bring our citizens' voices into our town decision-making. Deliberative democracy naturally improves decision-making by increasing the knowledge made available to our citizens and explains why the decision was made.

I will represent the citizens with an open mind as to what is best for the town and be that new representation that we need for the people in the town of Ramseur. I will be fair and unbiased with my vote and decision-making and not be one that goes along with the majority just because.

Bill McCaskill, running for Asheboro City

Council: What is the biggest challenge for Asheboro and how will you address it?

The premiere challenge facing all municipalities is how to slice their financial pie. Even the most affluent cities have only so much money to spend. Basic city services must be met first such as water, sewer, garbage collection, city street maintenance, etc. That's not as easy as it sounds. Pipes, and garbage trucks get old and wear out, just like people. Budgets need to deal with decades-old infrastructure and new infrastructure that will last for years to come. The city is also responsible for public safety. In fact, the largest

part of Asheboro's general fund goes for public safety (police, fire). Another slice of the budget pie is for what I'll call quality of life issues, such as parks, and services for youth and senior citizens. Asheboro has a large and varied park system that must be staffed and maintained. The city, thankfully, also works toward rejuvenating blighted areas by assisting low-income folks in remodeling their homes. City staff develops the budget items mentioned above, but the City Council is responsible for making final decisions on how the budget pie is sliced.

If elected to the Council, I will thoroughly study all budget proposals, and strongly encourage citizen participation in the budget process. It will be fine for citizens to contact me directly if they don't want to attend public budget hearings. I am not a big fan of executive (closed) council meetings and will oppose them unless such meetings strictly adhere to NC statutes about executive sessions.

Delilah Warner, running for Asheboro City

Council: I am running because I love service. Service should be the reason for all candidates running. I have served on several boards and have been president or vice president of several organizations. I have the fortitude and stamina to serve on Asheboro's City Council. Currently, the challenge is continuing the appropriate growth by bringing restaurants to the city (which the Asheboro Economic Development Committee is/has been discussing), as well as the continued development of the Senior Adult Center and walk-over into apartments for the senior community. Also, discussion is necessary on what is best for Asheboro to continue to be progressive at a moderate pace.

Todd Dulaney, running for Asheboro City

School Board: If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you use it for at ACS?

In any other year, I'd suggest waving that magic wand to solve the challenge of providing equitable education opportunities to *all* Asheboro City Schools students — making sure that all of our students are able to start at the same starting line and have a chance at graduating with a diploma regardless of race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. As ACS Supt. Dr. Aaron Woody says, "All means all."

In another year, I'd wave the wand to recruit, retain, and compensate more amazing teachers at our schools and pay the teachers we have what they deserve — without having to wait on our state legislature to acknowledge those needs.



But it's not any other year and the one thing anyone would use a magic wand for: stopping the spread of COVID in our community. The tragically ironic fact, though, is that we have the next best thing to a magic wand in masks and vaccines, but many in the community — including some candidates for school board — refuse to believe that science is real.

When school resumed in August, the positivity test rate for COVID was in double digits and has continued to rise, while the vaccination rate has been stuck at around 33% since spring. The ACS BOE wisely approved a mask mandate for everyone in all buildings before the first day of school, which likely saved the district from sending entire classes and/or schools home to isolate. The high school has held vaccination clinics for eligible students. And Dr. Woody's message has consistently said that masking and vaccinating are the ways to beat COVID. And he's right.

The effect of the virus has been tremendous.

More than 280 people in Randolph County have died. Many children, including my daughter, spent an entire school year remote learning. And the pandemic has disrupted countless family and community events. Recently, COVID forced the cancellation of Asheboro's Fall Festival for a second year. As a candidate, not being able to be a part of Fall Festival means that I won't be able to talk to many voters about school issues that are important to them.

I encourage anyone who is interested to visit my campaign's Facebook page:

facebook.com/VoteDulaneyForAsheboroBOE or send an email to todd.dulaney@gmail.com. Thank you.

Kathryn Thill, running for Asheboro City

School Board: Why should people vote for you and what skills will you bring to the office?

In short, I am passionate about being a fierce advocate for each and every student in Asheboro City Schools, especially those with no or limited representation on our Board. This was a large factor in my decision to seek election. Prior to working in real estate, I spent over a decade working with children and young adults with developmental disabilities, advocating for resources and support for these individuals and their families. I understand some of the unique challenges that these families can face, as well as the hard work that our Special Education educators do every day. I am proud to be an ally for the LGBTQ community, and an advocate for equity and celebration of our BIPOC students. I feel strongly about elevating the voices of students, and engaging community organizations that are stakeholders within our district.

I believe in the power of conversation, of connection, to transform the "Us/Them" narrative into "We." Having difficult conversations — about the realities of racism, homophobia, ableism, and other forms of discrimination our communities face — is key to growth and progress toward a unified district. As a non-partisan board, it is imperative for members to work together, respectfully and intentionally, to foster an inclusive environment that provides opportunity for all students.

Bob Williams, running for the Asheboro City

School Board: I am running because I want to serve children and teachers.

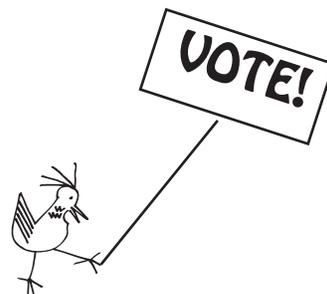
I graduated from High Point University and UNC-CH Law School, worked for UNC-CH in the Business and Finance Division as a lawyer, and practiced law in Asheboro many years prior to retirement. My son and stepsons graduated from AHS, which contributed to their successes as a lawyer, firefighter, and banker.

I have served many community groups as committee chair, officer, or board member, including Jaycees, Kiwanis, United Way, Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Randolph Senior Adults Association, Helpline suicide-prevention, and several Asheboro churches. I was also a Gideon.

Parents want what is best for their children. All children deserve access to high-quality educations that prepare them for real life and equip them with tools for success. Our schools should provide what it takes for children to learn and to grow socially, emotionally, and intellectually. A strong public education system has been a core value in our country for centuries. It has provided a gateway to success for many. Educated, caring teachers and personnel provide that gateway.

I will seek God's guidance, seek the best human advice I can obtain, and lead with insight, vision, and explanation. I seek to serve with prudence, temperance, fairness, and humility. I promise to listen to parents, teachers, the Superintendent, and other board members.

Please vote for me for the Asheboro City School Board and encourage others who live in the district to vote for me.



Commissioners Hear From Public

by Susie Scott

Five people spoke during the public comment period at the Randolph County Commissioners meeting on September 7. Judy Saunders, Jane Braswell, Pastor James Pemberton, and Megan Brueilly spoke out about the statue in front of the Courthouse. **Judy Saunders** felt it should be moved because it represents a racist past. **Jane Braswell** said her son has been doing a lot of research on our history, and history will judge us all on our actions now. **Pastor James Pemberton** said the Commissioners need to move the statue because it is time for us to put away the things of race, and brother is again against brother because we can't get past the Confederate statues. He also noted that we can move them peaceably now in a way that will let the statues stay in a museum and not attract trouble from outsiders. **Megan Brueilly** believes that we can be part of the change for the better or that we can be a barricade to the future. She stated that with empathy we can try to put ourselves in the shoes of those who feel pain because of the statue and what it represents. She would love to welcome more people to our community, but the statue segregates our neighbors and our friends. She ended by asking the Commissioners to lead with boldness, to have compassion, and to listen with open ears and open hearts. She doesn't want to see the statue suffer the fate of other that have been vandalized.

Find more information about the statue in front of the County Courthouse, its history, and a link to Randolph County slave deeds at:

[facebook.com/We-Are-Randolph-105157445220916](https://www.facebook.com/We-Are-Randolph-105157445220916).

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

October 5 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.

October 14 — **Early voting begins**

October 30 — **Early voting ends**

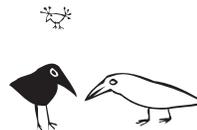
November 2 — **Election Day**

November 9 at 7 pm — **Randolph County Democratic Party Executive Committee Meeting**

November 15 — **December/January newsletter deadline**

Also, Nancy Sharpless spoke on the lack of Broadband access in the county. In many areas of Randolph, if one person in a census tract has internet access at a certain speed, then the internet provider can claim the entire tract has access at that speed. This is misleading and self-reported by the internet companies who have been given funding to provide internet in those areas. Her family does not have reliable service, and she knows many others who are also having issues. Although there is faster and more reliable fiber optic service just down the road, she cannot access it.

A new group, Randolph County Digital Alliance, is currently surveying citizens who need better internet access. If you are having issues with internet availability, please take their survey at NCBroadband.gov/Survey or text "internet" to 919-750-0553 to take the survey if you do not have internet access.



Reviews

Like a Family: The Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, et al.

Originally published in 1987, *Like a Family* is meticulously documented and yet very readable. It draws on material from the Southern Oral History Program collections at UNC Chapel Hill. Some of the anecdotes and stories helped me put into context certain details in my family's past that I hadn't understood before. There are stories of child labor, abusive husbands, children sick from malnutrition, well-off town boys and their dalliances with mill girls, the eventual abandonment of those girls, and the children that often resulted from these relationships. Their stories had all the makings of a soap opera within the framework of back-breaking, health-stealing work and sometimes abuse and exploitation by wealthy mill owners.

Like a Family is a book about the working class, the true backbone of our nation, at least until mill owners began sending our manufacturing base overseas. The social status of mill worker, or "linthead," as the derogatory term goes, was once used to shame the workers. After reading their story, I am even more proud to be descended from local lintheads.

Like a Family is available at the Asheboro Library.
— reviewed by Diane Hubbard