

Asheboro/Randolph County NCAAP Celebrating Juneteenth

by Megan Crotty

The Asheboro/Randolph County Branch of the NAACP is celebrating Juneteenth next month with several events. A Juneteenth Memorial will be erected on Thursday, June 15; Friday, June 16; and Monday, June 19, in front of the Historic Randolph County Courthouse. The Memorial honors those individuals in Randolph County who were bought or sold into slavery. Using records from the county's Register of Deeds as a source, the Memorial will display the names of more than 1,100 people — from infants to the elderly — as well as when they were sold and the price someone paid to buy a fellow human being.

On Monday, there will be a march at 3 pm from Greater St. John Baptist Church, 819 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Asheboro, the site of Civil Rights training and activism in the 1960s, to the Memorial where flowers will be laid at the base of the Memorial to honor those who were enslaved.

The Hope of Eastside also is hosting a Juneteenth Celebration at Asheboro's Eastside Park, 627 Brewer St., on Saturday, June 17. The event will take place from 11 am to 5 pm and will feature vendors, food, and performers. For more information, email thehopeofeastside@gmail.com.

RCDP will have a booth at the Celebration

The Randolph County Democratic Party plans to have a booth at the Juneteenth Celebration at Eastside Park on Saturday, June 17. Look for our booth which will be near Brewer Street. If you need to register to vote, update your registration, or if you'd like to switch your party to Democratic, we'd love to help you! We will also have information about our upcoming scholarship award, info about voter ID, and updates on the shenanigans from our GOP-led General Assembly. Please come by and see us. We had a great time last year and we're looking forward to this year's festivities!

2023 County Convention News



Thank you to everyone who attended our County Democratic Convention on Saturday, April 15th. It was a short but productive convention. Two resolutions were passed; one dealing with the way sustaining fund monies are calculated for the counties, the other was a resolution supporting non-partisan elections for all county and municipal races, including the office of Sheriff. Karen Katula, 1st Vice Chair, presided over the election for Chair. We then reelected our slate of officers by acclamation. Those officers are as follows: Diane Hubbard, Chair, Karen Katula, 1st Vice Chair, Chad Conville, 2nd Vice Chair, Megan Crotty, 3rd Vice Chair, Ruth Held, Secretary. Larry Thomas was reappointed Treasurer. We also elected our slate of State Executive Committee (SEC) members. Susie Scott and Elworth Cheek both returned for another term. Todd Dulaney was elected to the seat formerly held by Richard O'Brien. We thank Richard for his years of service on the SEC. As County Chair, Diane Hubbard is also a member of the SEC.

ACS School Board Needs Progressive Members

by Todd Dulaney

The April meeting of the Asheboro City Schools Board of Education was a reminder to me that, fortunately, our district has been spared much of the nonsense that is happening in districts around the state and across the country. So far.

While our republican-led legislature looks for more ways to take away funding for public school programs and keep teachers pay low, and boards of education across the state are banning dozens of books from schools libraries, ACS has been relatively free from budget cuts and censorship.

However, during that meeting in April, a rather routine presentation on the Children's Internet Protection Act — a more than 20-year federal program created to protect children from obscene material on the Internet — stirred my interest. The District's director of technology told the board that the school system "does not restrict Internet access to ideas, perspectives, or viewpoints if the restriction is motivated solely by disapproval of the viewpoint involved." What a relief!, I thought. Then he noted that there have been requests by teachers to block things that did not meet the criteria for being blocked.

I immediately thought of the "Don't Say Gay" law in Florida, as well as the case in Utah in which a district banned Googling phrases like "gay rights" and "Black Lives Matter." Did ACS staff want to prohibit students from accessing information about these topics? No one on the board asked, so I did after the meeting.

Turns out, teachers wanted to block gaming, movie, and social sites from being accessed on devices at school, not searches for individual words and phrases.

It was a relief, but how long before local conservatives orchestrate an attack on free speech and demand that access to information be censored? This is one reason I'm running for a seat on the school board in November. The board needs progressive members to watch and listen, and then respond to, such nonsense.

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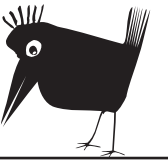
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Randolph County Democratic Party

RanDem News

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We can Turn Anger into Action

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

I don't know how else to say it, so I'll just say it flat out: I am so angry right now. Maybe you are, too. Maybe that's too negative. Maybe it makes us sound unhinged. Oh well. *Que sera, sera*. If you've been paying even a little bit of attention, you know that our Republican-run General Assembly is drunk with power and taking it out on the least of these. Children, teachers, people of color, women, senior citizens, trans kids, and pretty much anyone who isn't a conservative, Christian, right-wing Republican, straight, white man is on the chopping block. We've seen our state Supreme Court rehear and change their minds on voter ID and partisan gerrymandering, now that they have a Republican majority. They've voted to override Gov. Cooper's veto of HB20, taking away a woman's right to make her own health decisions. This, they were able to do because Rep. Tricia Cotham from Mecklenburg County decided that Democrats weren't bowing and scraping enough over her pro-choice speech supporting a woman's right to an abortion. Since Democrats were so mean to her, she decided to chuck the ideals she formerly espoused and threw in with a bunch of men who will never have to go through a dangerous or unwanted pregnancy. I say good riddance. We don't need legislators who are flaky and not committed to their principles.

We've got a tough road ahead of us, but I believe we are up to the task. To that end, we need to start being very disciplined in how we approach elections. There is a lot on the line during this year's municipal elections, as well as next year's Presidential election. To prepare ourselves, we held a strategic planning retreat on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Gatekeeper's House in Asheboro. It was a productive day. We had a lively

discussion about what we think our goals should be and how we plan to achieve them. We decided our goals are:

- 1. Be more visible in the community.**
- 2. Increase candidate and volunteer participation in the election process.**
- 3. Develop effective messaging.**
- 4. Fundraising**

We brainstormed all sorts of strategies to achieve these goals. We then assigned individual tasks to each strategy, breaking it all down into manageable chunks. I don't want to put too much of what we discussed out for public consumption, but we will have all this info available at HQ very soon. In the meantime, I want to talk to you about how you can help us.

There are several areas where we could use organizers. Do you know lots of people around Randolph County? We could use your help in finding volunteers, candidate recruitment, and on the care committee. Is event planning your forte? We could use folks on the program committee. We could use some folks for HQ cleaning and maintenance, as well as creative types to help plan and decorate our front windows. We'll need someone to coordinate sorting, picking up, placing, and delivering campaign signs. We also need opinionated people to write articles for our newsletter.

As I have said before, this country is run by the people who show up. I need everyone in our little fellowship to show up and help out. We will not give you more than you can handle, but if everyone can give us just a couple of hours occasionally, we can make positive changes in Randolph County and beyond.



In her March 10 message, Heather Cox Richardson quoted Abraham Lincoln on equality: "In 1858,

Abraham Lincoln, then a candidate for the Senate, warned that arguments limiting American equality to white men and excluding black Americans were the same arguments "That kings have made for enslaving the people in all ages of the world.... Turn it whatever way you will — whether it come from the mouth of a King, an excuse for enslaving the people of his country, or from the mouth of men of one race as a reason for enslaving the men of another race, it is all the same old serpent." Either people — men, in his day — were equal, or they were not. Lincoln went on: "I should like to know if taking this old Declaration of Independence, which declares that all men are equal upon principle and making exceptions to it...where will it stop?"

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Social media/contact info in one place:
linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats

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. c2023)

Report from the Veto Rally, May 14

by Susie Scott

I attended the SB20 Veto Rally along with 2,000 other supporters of reproductive rights. When I arrived, Planned Parenthood South Atlantic's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Katherine Farris, was already on stage. She told us that, "In states where abortion has been banned, patients have been denied life-saving care when pregnancies go wrong. There's mounting evidence that abortion bans lead to substandard medical care and higher rates of maternal and infant mortality. That's unacceptable." She talked about the Legislature denying her patients the right to make their own medical decisions. And she addressed the human rights side of the issue, "The government should *never* force a person to carry a pregnancy or give birth against their will."

Tina Marshall, founder of the Black Abortion Defense League (BADL), spoke on anti-abortion agitators blocking access to clinics. Her group of volunteers provides safe escort for abortion patients and shields them from hecklers with megaphones. She spoke of the struggles of clinic patients to get the basic health care they need. Many of the patients already have children, and some are forced to bring them to the clinic because they have no one to help care for them. "Some patients are children themselves. They have all struggled to find a trusted person who can help them get what they need. They have struggled to scrape together enough money for gas, take time away from their jobs, and leave their homes just to get basic health care. It's not right. But the protesters, don't care. They heckle them just the same."

NC Attorney General Josh Stein called on the crowd. "We have to mobilize to defeat this legislation right now." He spoke of the need to win seats on the State Supreme Court and the Governor's Office in 2024. "If we don't, they will completely ban abortion in North Carolina. We will not let them."

Governor Cooper took the stage amid a roar of support. He explained the effects of this bill which was crafted behind closed doors and then rushed through the legislature in less than two days with no chance for public comment or amendments. He listed the medical societies which oppose the bill including the NC Medical Society, the NC OBGYN Society, and the NC Academy of Family Physicians. He urged the Legislature to "leave the medicine to the doctors and the decisions to women."

As he vetoed SB20, he gave his reasons: "This bill will create dangerous interference with the doctor-patient relationship, leading to harm for pregnant women and their families. With its medically unnecessary obstacles and restrictions, it will make abortion unavailable to many women, particularly those with lower incomes, those who live in rural areas, and those who already have limited access to health care. Therefore, I veto this bill."

Update: Both chambers of the NC General Assembly convened on May 16, 2023 and overrode the Governor's veto of SB20 strictly along party lines despite opposition from women, doctors, and businesses. In Randolph County, Sen. Craven, Sen. Galey, Rep. Biggs, and Rep. Jackson voted to overturn the veto. Only Rep. Reives voted to sustain the veto. Despite earlier campaign promises to protect the 20 week limit on abortions, Rep. Bradford, Rep. Davis, and Rep. Cotham voted in lockstep with other Republicans to establish a new 12-week limit. What we should learn from this is that even so-called moderate Republican legislators will bend to the will of their leadership and break their campaign promises to court the extreme right. The only way to protect human rights in our state is to support true Democratic candidates that align with our values.

CALENDAR

(Meetings will be conducted in person unless otherwise noted or announced.)

June 3, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting at Democratic HQ, 114 Sunset Ave., Asheboro. All Democrats and like-minded unaffiliateds are welcome! Bring a breakfast item to share.

June 15 — 19: Juneteenth Activities (see page 4)

July 15: August/September Newsletter deadline

August 12, Saturday, 5:30 pm: Annual Blue Jeans Gala — invitation enclosed

Check our Facebook page

(facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty) and website

(randolphcountydems.org) often for information and updates.

We have many opportunities to make a difference in

Randolph County in the coming months.

Anderson Clayton in the News

Anderson Clayton, the chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, has drawn well-deserved attention for the party. Her age (she's 25 years old), her focus on rural voters and her lively enthusiasm have sparked interest in her and our party. Interviews with, and news about, Clayton have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Raleigh News & Observer*, *Charlotte Observer*, on MSNBC, ABC News, WUNC, WGHP and others. We were fortunate to have Clayton visit one of our breakfast meetings shortly before her election as the new chair of the party. And, lucky us, she has confirmed that she will be a speaker at our 2023 Gala, so get your reservations in ASAP!

Please send your thoughts about the recent abortion ban

We'd like to hear your thoughts on the recent abortion ban passed by the North Carolina General Assembly. Some of your comments may be used in our outreach efforts to constituents. We WILL NOT publish your name or comment without your permission. Any unpublished comments will be kept in-house and used for our reference only. Visit tinyurl.com/SB20Comment to let your voice be heard. Thank you for your help!



Carver Arts Academy After-School Program

by Vanessa Brooks, retired educator

The George Washington Carver Community Enrichment Center, in partnership with RhinoLeap Productions, Communities in Schools, the City of Asheboro, and Asheboro City Schools launched an after-school program for students in grades 6-8 in August of 2022. The program ran from Monday through Friday, 3:30 pm- 6:00 pm, and ends on June 9 this year.

The program provides a structured and creative learning environment as well as availability of technology and helps to improve students' grades. At the end of each day, a warm meal is provided by Asheboro City Schools.

There are two components of the program: **Academic Skills Development** and **Arts Education**. The Academic Skills Development focuses on strengthening study habits and increasing self-motivation. Serving as head tutor is retired educator Sarah Watson, assisted by Edward Ramsey. Select high school students serve as interns.

The focus of the second component, Arts Education, is to build empathy, increase communication, and improve abstract problem solving. The classes are led by professional artists who rotate through sessions concentrating on different aspects of art.

1st session (Theater Program) Students were introduced to the different parts of a stage play, allowing them to gain confidence when performing or speaking in public.

2nd session (Dance Program) Students were introduced to a variety of dance and music and, with the guidance of the instructor, added their own expressions to their routines.

3rd session (Music Program) Students focused on music including music production and different forms of digital distribution. Students created a song with each person contributing their own style to the piece.

4th session (Visual Arts Program) Currently, students are focusing on different features of the visual arts, learning technical aspects of drawing. Students will assist with the painting of a mural at Russell E. Murphy Park to honor Mr. Murphy, a former Asheboro City Schools educator and community leader for whom the park is named.

In May, the Randolph County Commissioners voted unanimously to provide \$10,000 from the Strategic Planning Fund in support of the ongoing Carver Arts Academy program. Other contributors include private and in-kind donations.

Feel free to email gwccafterschool@gmail.com with any questions you may have, or to find out how to participate in, and/or donate to the Academy. A form for interested students and parents is available at gwccasheboro.com/after-school.

Share a Review or an Opinion

Send your review/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.

Ten Facts about NC's Photo ID Requirement for Voting



Voters will be asked to show photo ID when voting in North Carolina, starting with the 2023 municipal elections. Those elections occur in September, October, and November, depending on the town or city. Find your local election details at *Upcoming Elections*. (This information comes from the North Carolina State Board of Elections website: ncsbe.gov.)

- Most voters will simply show their NC driver's license, but many other types of photo ID will be accepted. See the list of acceptable IDs at *Voter ID*.

- Voters without ID can get a "No Fee ID Card" from the NCDMV. Soon, voters will also be able to get a free ID from their county board of elections.

- The State Board is developing a process for approving student and public employee IDs for voting. Lists will be added to the *Voter ID* website as soon as IDs are approved.

- When a voter checks in to vote at a polling place, they will be asked to show an acceptable photo ID. Election workers check to see if the picture on the ID reasonably resembles the voter. The address on the photo ID does not have to match the voter registration records.

- All voters will be allowed to vote with or without a photo ID. If the voter does not show an acceptable ID, the voter may vote with an ID Exception Form and a provisional ballot, or vote with a provisional ballot and return to their county board of elections office with their photo ID by the day before county canvass. (For municipal elections in September and October, this deadline is the Monday following Election Day. For all other elections, the deadline is the second Thursday following Election Day.)

- Permitted exceptions to the photo ID requirement include the following: The voter has a reasonable impediment to showing photo ID (lack of transportation, lost or stolen ID, disability or illness, family responsibilities, etc.); the voter has a religious objection to being photographed; or the voter was a victim of a natural disaster within 100 days of Election Day.

- When a registered voter cannot produce a photo ID, the county board of elections must count that ballot if the voter properly completes the ID Exception Form or brings an acceptable ID to their county board of elections before the county canvass.

- Voters who vote by mail will be asked to include a photocopy of an acceptable ID inside the photo ID envelope that comes with their ballot. If they are unable to include a photocopy of their ID, they may complete an ID Exception Form with the absentee ballot return envelope. Photo ID is not required for military or overseas voters who vote using special absentee voting procedures that federal law makes available for such voters.

- For more information, see *Voter ID* and *FAQ: Voter ID*. These web pages will be updated frequently with the latest information.