

## Juneteenth Celebration

This year, Juneteenth is going to be celebrated with a four-day display of the Randolph County Slave Memorial sponsored by the local chapter of the NAACP. From Wednesday, June 19, to Saturday, June 22, the memorial wall that was unveiled last year will be on display in front of the Old County Courthouse at 145 Worth Street. This impressive and moving display features facts about Randolph County slaves obtained from historical records,

An opening ceremony will be held on June 19, at 10:00 am, in front of the Old Courthouse, with Chapter President Chip Foust introducing a lineup of events including prayer, music and local speakers. The memorial will remain on display during daytime hours from June 19 - 22, for people to come and observe and contemplate the significance of this part of Randolph County's history.

On Saturday, June 22, there will be a march from Greater St John's Church, 819 Martin Luther King Jr Drive to the Old Courthouse, culminating in a closing ceremony at 10:00 am. Chip promises that this will be an impactful event. All are encouraged to attend.



## Three Books Reviewed

by Bob Williams

I recommend the following three books: *The Big Cheat, How Donald Trump Fleeced America and Enriched Himself and His Family*, by David Cay Johnston and *Unholy: Why White Evangelicals Worship at the Altar of Donald Trump*, by Sarah Posner. The essence of both is summarized in their subtitles. The third book is *Battling the Big Lie, How Fox, Facebook and Maga Media are Destroying America*, by Dan Pfeiffer, who was one of Obama's longest serving communications advisers. He has many suggestions for our party, including the idea that Democrats must embrace direct communications with voters and build an "echo chamber" similar to that built by the Republicans but truthful. The books are available to borrow at RCDP HQ.

## SEC Meeting and State Convention Report

The North Carolina Democratic Party's 2024 Summer SEC Meeting and State Convention was held on Saturday, June 1, at Ragsdale High School in Jamestown, NC. After a moment of silence, Pledge of Allegiance, and the salute to the NC flag, NC Democratic Women President Paula Shelton delivered a short Land Acknowledgement message to the meeting. A quorum was declared, and the meeting began.

Third Vice Chair Elijah King spoke about the day being the start of Pride Month and how protecting our LGBTQ community is "woven into everything we do as Democrats." The agenda, rules of the day, and the minutes from the 2024 Winter SEC meeting were all eventually approved.

The NCDP rolled out a new voting app called Election Buddy to eliminate the need to hand count votes.

While we waited for the tech people to iron out the glitches with Election Buddy, Chair of the County Chairs Association Cassie Rice let us know that she is setting up trainings and working on a bulk purchase of yard signs for Coordinated Campaign candidates. Second Vice Chair Kimberly Hardy told us a story about helping a woman who hadn't been able to purchase her diabetic medication, take advantage of the lowered insulin prices. First Vice Chair Jonah Garson thanked the staff that helped facilitate these meetings and spoke about why it is so important to vote for our judicial candidates. King spoke about how he is talking to his peers who are reluctant to vote for Joe Biden.

Current Attorney General and candidate for Governor Josh Stein spoke to us via Zoom about his campaign. Vinod Thomas gave the Plan of Review Committee report. He went through recommendations that the committee had for changes to the Plan. Later there was an opportunity for questions and for pulling any recommendations to go back to the committee for more work.

After the lunch break, the State Convention was called to order. After all the formalities, a quorum was declared. We approved the Rules of the Day, the proposed agenda, and the 2022 State Convention minutes. Several of our Council of State candidates spoke. Superintendent of Education candidate Mo Green and NC Auditor Jessica Holmes in particular brought down the house. We began the election of delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. There were more issues with using Election Buddy. Most of the afternoon was taken up with troubleshooting, so that everyone could have their vote counted. The problems were fixed, and we voted to fill 25 at-large slots and 15 PLEO (Party Leaders and Elected Officials) slots. After several false starts, the remaining delegates from Randolph who attended in person decided to leave the meeting. We had been there for nine hours and from what we later learned, we would have been there for three more.

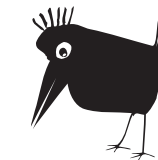
The meeting processes need to be looked into by the officers and staff at the NCDP. There should not be this much downtime and chaos during these events.

If you're interested in watching the video, visit the NCDP's YouTube channel.

Randolph County  
Democratic Party

# RanDem News

JUNE/JULY 2024, Issue No. 32



## Every Vote Matters, Especially Now

by Diane Hubbard, Chair, Randolph County Democratic Party

Greetings, friends! I hope everyone had a Happy Mother's Day if you celebrate the holiday. I was fortunate enough to be able to spend time with my parents, as well as with my in-laws and my granddaughters. While visiting with my daughter and sister-in-law, the Presidential election came up. They both stated, with not a small amount of revulsion, that both candidates are too old and out of touch, had both done things as President that were objectionable, and they just weren't excited about either choice. I get that. I don't agree with everything that President Biden has supported or worked toward during his first term. I certainly didn't agree with, well, anything that Trump did during his. I am, however, absolutely certain of who I'd rather have as President while we try to work toward a better future for our children and grandchildren, and that is unequivocally Joe Biden.

I recently saw the April 16 interview that Mehdi Hasan had with NY Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The following exchange summed up exactly how I hope people will approach this coming election if they have reservations about voting for President Biden. Please read it and note the highlighted part. (I have lightly edited the transcript and provided a will link to the video at the end of this article.)

**Mehdi Hasan:** ...what do you say to a young Progressive or an Arab American who says to you I just can't vote for Biden again after what he's enabled in Gaza? What do you say to them?

**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:** ... I think everyone comes to this prospect in this conversation with a different history, different background, what they bring. You know, for an individual Palestinian American that has had their family killed, there is nothing ... I am not here to lecture anyone. I also think that ... this election is more... in my personal view, I believe this election is about more than president, and also, it's not just one election that's happening. We're having hundreds of elections, the balance of Congress, the balance of the House, the balance of the Senate, and the Presidency, and I have a vested interest in protecting democracy not just here domestically but globally. ... I truly do not believe this is a lesser of two evils type of situation. **I think about what conditions do I want to be organizing under in the next four years? We can look at both of these individuals oppositionally, as well depending on what issue you have, but, even in places of stark disagreement, I would rather be organizing under the conditions of Biden as an opponent on an issue than Trump...** He seeks to dismantle American democracy and I am taking that personally, very seriously because we will not be able to organize for any movement toward anything if we are facing the jailing of dissidents. I mean this is the kind of authoritarianism that he threatens...

**MH:** Fascism.

**AOC:** ...and we have to take it seriously.

Think about it. Can we, as a nation, afford to leave this up to chance? Even if you have "places of stark disagreement" as AOC mentions, would you rather try to work through those differences with Biden or Trump?

I assure you, if Trump is reelected this year, we may not see another lawful election in this country. Don't believe me? Do an internet search for Project 2025 and see what the right wing has planned for America. Project 2025 is a nearly 1,000-page document, drafted by the Heritage Foundation, a right-wing think tank hell-bent on turning the United States into a white, Christian nationalist, autocratic nation with Donald Trump at the helm. They want to cut funding for the Department of Justice, abolish the Department of Education, dismantle the FBI and Homeland Security, reduce any attempts to mitigate climate change, reject any and all abortion care, radically restrict access to contraception, introduce tax cuts for billionaires on a massive scale, and fire as many of 50,000 federal employees and replace them with hand-selected Trump/conservative loyalists. Sounds pretty dystopian and alarming, doesn't it? Yet that is the plan if Trump (or any other conservative) wins. To add an additional layer of horror, Trump has stated during his campaign events that he plans to appoint very young Supreme Court justices when Justices Thomas and Alito retire in the coming years. A Supreme Court with five justices hand picked by Trump would spell disaster for marginalized groups, the environment, women's rights, education, and anything else Republicans and their donors find objectionable for the next three to four decades.

This is the part where I am supposed to tell you that I'm not trying to scare you. If I did that, I'd be lying. I am trying to scare you because the prospect of another Trump presidency is absolutely horrifying. *I need everyone to realize that even though we live in a very red county, our votes can and will make a difference.* The Presidential election cannot be gerrymandered like our Legislative or Congressional districts. The same goes for our Governor and Council of State offices. These offices are elected at-large at the state level so every single vote matters. Randolph County Democrats can make a difference in this election. I hope we're all ready to get down to the business of electing Democrats and protecting the values and ideals we stand for.

\*Watch the entire AOC interview at:  
[tinyurl.com/aocinterview](https://tinyurl.com/aocinterview)

\*Learn more about Project 2025 at:  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project\\_2025](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_2025)

\*To volunteer with RCDP: [tinyurl.com/RCDP2024](https://tinyurl.com/RCDP2024)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Facebook: [facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty](https://facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty)

Social media/contact info in one place:  
[linktr.ee/randolphncdemocrats](https://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. c2024)

### Susie Scott, NC House District 70

My name is Susie Scott and I'm running for NC House District 70. I'm not supposed to be running for office. My family wasn't political. After serving in the Navy, my dad worked for many years in grocery stores and then a local textile company before he retired. My mom was mainly a stay-at-home mom before she started working in food services at the zoo, eventually rising to director of food services. She retired when Sodexo came in. I was the first person in our family to graduate from a university, but my interest was in computer science and history – definitely not politics.

I worked my way through school — first as a waitress at local restaurants, then in food services, and finally in computing services. After graduation, I was a software analyst designing and implementing databases. Then, I became a stay-at-home mom when my daughter was born. But I continued to use my skills as a volunteer: in PTA, with Asheboro PAGE, as an algebra tutor, in the band parents organization. And I worked at the polls during elections before being elected to an office in our county Democratic Party.

I watched political attacks from GOP legislators on our schools, on health care, and on working people. Public schools were given ratings that unfairly made them compete against each other for funding. Longevity and master's pay for teachers was ripped away. The NC Fellows program was also terminated. It returned a few years later but in a drastically reduced form. Meanwhile, the private voucher program has been expanded funneling hundreds of millions of dollars away from public schools.

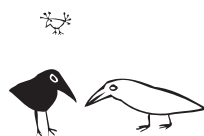
I watched our legislature drag their feet for eight years on expanding Medicaid to the detriment of both working people and rural hospitals. Our local non-profit hospital was forced into bankruptcy during that time and was taken over by a for-profit company. The legal period to seek an abortion in our state has dropped from viability to 12 weeks with limited exceptions placing doctors in difficult positions and their patients at risk when a crisis occurs.

And I've watched as fees and interest rates increase for working people. Just last year, the legislature overrode the Governor's veto to change the maximum interest rate for car loans from 18% to 20% for one-to two-year-old vehicles, and from 22% to 26% for four-to five-year-old vehicles.

There came a time when I could no longer stay on the sidelines. That's why I'm running for NC House.

Together, we can fully fund our public schools. We can raise teacher pay, bring back longevity and master's pay, and expand the NC Fellows program to attract and retain highly qualified teachers in our schools. We can ensure that every county in our state has access to affordable high-quality health care without traveling long distances to seek treatment during a medical emergency. And we can keep legislators from coming between a doctor and their patient when someone is facing a crisis during pregnancy. Finally, we can roll back the fee and interest rate hikes on the working class.

Will you support my campaign? Contact me at [Susie@SusieScottForNC.com](mailto:Susie@SusieScottForNC.com) to find out how you can help. You can find more information and links to social media on my website at [SusieScottForNC.com](http://SusieScottForNC.com).



### Donna Vanhook, NC Senate District 25

Greetings, Randolph County Democratic Party, from Alamance County. I am Donna Vanhook, your Democratic nominee for NC State Senate District 25. To those of you whom I have not met, I look forward to both meeting you and strategizing with you for the win in November. Here's a little information about how I serve in Alamance County.

In addition to being your Democratic candidate for the state senate seat, I currently hold an elected office in Alamance County. Alamance County elected me to become the first woman Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor. NC Democratic Party Congressional District 4, at this writing, comprised of Alamance, Caswell, Durham, Granville, Orange and Person counties for US Congresswoman Valerie Foushee, elected me as its third Vice Chair. Since being elected, I am a member of the national organization Local Progress (Women Caucus and Black Caucus).

A retired law enforcement officer, I now serve as a local ordained minister at a United Church of Christ church. Ministry for me extends beyond the four walls of a church. In the past eight years, health and education equity have been my main focuses. Most recently, eco-justice advocacy has been a priority due to contamination at a vacant plant not far from where I live.

As a community strategist, formerly with an award-winning grassroots organization, I am well known for being a transformational leader, building coalitions to improve quality of life for underserved communities. My hope is that all persons will have access to resources to receive what they need to thrive while we work collectively to build sustainable counties. Together, we can make strides in removing barriers to upward mobility. You may support my campaign through the website: [donnavanhook.com](http://donnavanhook.com).

### Thank You From Scholarship Recipient

The Scholarship Committee of the Randolph County Democratic Party received the following thank you from this year's recipient, Kaleigh Penland:

"I'd like to say a big thank you to the Randolph County Democratic Party for their generosity in granting me the scholarship. I am excited to further my education and pursue this next chapter of my life. You guys are so kind in helping me take this next step. Thank you. Best, Kaleigh Penland."

The Randolph County Democratic Party awards a \$500 scholarship each year using the proceeds from our Asheboro Fall Festival Bake Sale. The award is based on the student's evidence of strong community service and dedication to our ideals as expressed in our Statement of Purpose. The committee evaluates the student's academic record, service resume, and an essay that addresses the Statement of Purpose.

### Jane Ledwell-Gant, County Commissioner

As a candidate for the 2024 County Commissioner's seat, I have thought a lot about what this community would want in their candidate. In talking with numerous citizens within our community, there seems to be a real concern on the direction of our country on a whole. One major concern was the divisiveness that has grown over the last several years and not addressing the real needs in a community our size.

I am running to address our entire community and the needs that have been brought to my attention. Education is at the forefront of concern with a vast majority of our residents. This includes hiring qualified teachers for our school system with competitive pay to draw those individuals to Randolph County. I find it is imperative that our public schools have the necessary funds to educate our future leaders. These funds must address the internet needs in our rural areas.

It's imperative that we address the influx of new families with critical housing needs that are joining our community. These needs should never impact our current neighborhoods that will alter their lifestyles. This is a major role for our commissioners that welcome the industries that are relocating to Randolph County.

I take great pride in Randolph County — I grew up here. I believe in an open door policy to meet with and address the concerns of our citizens. Many of our citizens are now struggling with the increase in taxes. It is the responsibility of our commissioners to address the impact these taxes have placed on our senior community with a fixed income. These issues must be addressed prior to implementing these changes.

It's time for a change at our commissioner level. If I am your representative to make these changes, I will hear you and will fight for your voice and your concerns.



### 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.

### Share a Review or an Opinion

Send your review/opinion piece to: [rcdp.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### CALENDAR

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

**June 8, 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 19 - June 22: Juneteenth Slave Memorial Display. See page four for details.**

**July 13, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting**

**August 3, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting**

**August 19 through August 22: Democratic National Convention**

**September 7, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting**

**September 14, Saturday, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Sixteenth Annual Defending Democracy Blue Jean Gala**

**October: No monthly breakfast meeting - please volunteer to work at our Fall Festival booths.**

**October 5, Saturday, Fall Festival: RCDP Voter Registration & Candidate info outside HQ. Bake sale inside HQ.**

**October Early Voting Period: Dates and hours to TBA**

**November 2, Saturday, 9:30 am: Monthly Breakfast and Executive Committee Meeting**

**November 5: Election Day**

To RSVP for upcoming meetings, please visit [mobilize.us](http://mobilize.us) and search for Randolph County Democratic Party.

Check our Facebook page: ([facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty](https://facebook.com/RandolphCountyDemocraticParty)) and website: ([randolphcountydems.org](http://randolphcountydems.org)) often for information and updates.

We have many opportunities to make a difference in Randolph County in the coming months.