



WAKE DEMOCRATIC WOMAN



August 2011

Published by Democratic Women of Wake County

The Thursday, August 25th luncheon meeting of Democratic Women of Wake County featured the Democratic candidates for the Wake County School Board. NC Democratic Party Chair, David Parker served as moderator. The event was held at the NC State University Club at 4200 Hillsborough Street, at 11:30 a.m. and the program began at 12:00 noon.

The candidates are:



Kevin Hill (incumbent-District 3) - <http://www.hillforboe.com/>



Keith Sutton (incumbent-District 4)-
<http://www.votekeithsutton.com/>

Jim Martin (District 5) - <http://jimmartin4schools.com/>



Christine Kushner (District 6) -
<http://christineforwake.com/site/>



Susan Evans (District 8) - <http://www.evansforwake.com/>

Other School Board Candidates:

George Morgan *District 6*

Mary Ann Weathers *District 6*

President's Message

As your new president, I look forward to working with all the

CALENDAR

August 25th
Luncheon Meeting



members of our club to make Democratic Women of Wake County the best we can be for Wake County and the state of North Carolina. I thank the officers and committee members of the Board of Directors for volunteering their time and energy. Their support

and their strong desire to serve our club have been overwhelming.

We have much work to do during this election cycle supporting Democratic candidates for the Wake County School Board and municipal offices in Wake County.

The job ahead is daunting, but working together will be the key to our success. We will continue to support the Democratic Party by stimulating and encouraging women to participate in the political process and to seek elective office.

One of my goals is to increase membership in DWWC throughout Wake County. With your help this can be achieved. I hope you all have enjoyed your summer and are ready to get back to work.

Your advice, suggestions and comments are welcomed. I look forward to seeing you at August luncheon.

Respectfully,

Mary H. Starkey, President

May Luncheon Meeting

David Parker, chairman of the North Carolina Democratic Party addressed the May meeting, reminding the audience that the party has three main goals: membership, money and message. His message focused on the importance of jobs, education, individual dignity and responsible stewardship.

Parker attacked Republican policies regarding women, citing their cuts of 13,000 teaching assistant positions, held primarily by women, many of whom are the primary bread-winners in their families. He noted that more and more claims for workers' compensation are made by women and that the state has not created jobs for women.

School Board
Candidates

August 29th
Board Meeting (Sept.)
Cameron Village Library
Room 202
5:00 PM

September 16th
Democratic Women of
North Carolina 51st
Annual Convention

September 29th
Luncheon Meeting

New Membership Update

We have twenty new members as of May 2011, thank you for your support.

Under Republican leadership, the state loses tax revenue through the tax credit scheme put into place, giving a \$50,000 tax credit on state taxes, presented by Republicans as a break for small businesses. This credit, in fact, does not benefit small businesses because it applies to no one making less than \$106,800 a year.

With regard to education, the state legislature has reduced expenditures by \$200 per child. For a class of 25 children, this amounts to a reduction of \$5000, meaning the parents will be buying more paper and pencils and selling more candy and gift wrap to make up for those losses in state funding.

Regarding individual dignity, Parker referred to the Republican changes in health care, especially to recent proposed changes in abortion funding. He underscored the insulting nature of requiring a time period and consultation before abortions, as if the women involved have not already considered the choice carefully. He pointed out that the national health plan offered by Rep. Ryan is misogynist.

In conclusion, Parker said that the Republican Party is trying "to repeal the twentieth century."

Marylee S. Crofts

Mabel Claire Maddrey Honoree: Rachel Eagles



Each year, in May, we honor one of our founding members, Mabel Claire Maddrey, by giving an award in her name to a current member who has provided outstanding service and hard work without expectation or recognition or reward. The winner of the 2011 Mabel Claire Maddrey Award is **Rachel Eagles**.

She joined Democratic Women of Wake County in 1973 and has held many positions within our organization. She has served as President, Vice President, JJ Breakfast Chair twice, Bylaws Chair twice, and Awards Chair twice. She also wrote a history of the Jefferson-Jackson Breakfast for our monthly newsletter. She was honored as a STAR at the state convention of Democratic Women of NC and has been State Convention Chair.

In addition to her service as a member of DWWC, she has served as both Chair and Vice Chair of her precinct. Rachel, now retired from a career in data processing, volunteered her skills to program the first two computers used by the NC Democratic Party in the '70s.

Rachel Eagles has never sought the spotlight for herself. Her only goal throughout her 38 years of service to our club has been to highlight Democratic Women of Wake County. It is interesting to note, that she was one of the women who first suggested the Mabel Claire Maddrey Award. Rachel Eagles is a richly deserving recipient of the 2011 Mabel Claire Maddrey Award.

Nancy Looper

All Eyes on the School Board - Elections October 2011

Currently, the Wake County School Board has a majority Republican influence that often leads with a 5-4 vote on most policy issues. Although the school board race is touted as nonpartisan, the reality is that both the Republican and Democrat Parties are very interested in supporting candidates that represent each side's ideals. The most contentious topic to concerned citizens, the business community, and beyond is the changing school assignment policy so that diversity factors do not drive the decision-making. Such a change resulted in civil rights lawsuits and protests by North Carolina citizens and concerns from individuals nationwide.

Several groups are holding forums to help voters get acquainted with the school board candidates including Democratic Women of Wake County (DWWC). There

are currently a total of fourteen (14) candidates running for the five (5) available school board seats, two (2) of whom are incumbent school board members running to maintain their seats.

The election for Wake County school board members and municipal officers in Raleigh and Cary will be held on **October 11, 2011**. If a run-off election is needed it will be held on **November 8, 2011**.

Monica Price
Issues Chair

Legislative Update

The North Carolina General Assembly has approved the redistricting maps for the 2012 elections. Controversy surrounding the maps include dividing voting precincts, adding additional strain to local boards of elections, confusion for voters, and limiting minority influence by packing minority voters within the same the district. In addition, the plan puts several Wake County incumbent legislators within the same district. Though the maps have received approval on the state level they must also be approved on the federal level.

In addition to redistricting, six of the fifteen vetoes issued by the Governor were overridden by the General Assembly. The following vetoes were overridden :

- 1) **House Bill 200- Appropriations Act of 2011**
- 2) **House Bill 854-Abortion-Women's Right to Know**
This law will require that women seeking abortions are subject to additional requirements before an abortion may be obtained.
- 3) **Senate Bill 532-ESC/Jobs Reform**
- 4) **Senate Bill 496-Medical and Health Choice Reform Requirements**
- 5) **Senate Bill 781-Regulatory Reform Act of 2011**
- 6) **Senate Bill 33-Medical Liability Reforms**

While several vetoes were sustained, the General Assembly used a parliamentary procedure to keep **House Bill 351- Restore Confidence in Government alive**. House Bill 351, otherwise known as the voter identification bill could affect voter participation in the upcoming elections.

The General Assembly will return to Raleigh next month to consider constitutional amendments and various items on their legislative agenda.

Monica Yelverton
Newsletter Editor

NFDW National Convention

"Empowering Women to Make a Difference"

On May 20-22, 2011 the National Federation of Democratic Women celebrated 40 years of Service by holding their annual national convention in our nation's capital in Washington DC at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. Pre-convention events included: White House Tour and/or briefing; Dinner cruise on the Potomac and Lunch on the Hill. DWNC members had a productive meeting with Senator Kaye Hagan in the afternoon. Two of the speakers were Hon. Kathleen Sibelius, Secretary of Human Resources; Christine Pelosi, Nancy Pelosi's daughter and author of *Campaign Boot Camp: Basic Training for Future Leaders*. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D) Florida, Chairman of the DNC, spoke at the Sunday morning breakfast. She challenged the Federation to recruit more young women into our organization and help train them for the future.

Congresswoman Eleanor Norton Holmes received a special award. Local DC office holders and campaign staff representing President Obama's administration and campaign committee for 2012 election were program participants. Two of our DWNC are committee chairs and were presenters at the convention. Barbara Faison, Sampson Co. and National Awards Chair presented the Federation internship awards. Both recipients were very deserving and present to receive their award. Carolyn Honeycutt, National Bylaws Chair, presented several

bylaws changes, one being limiting term limits for 2 of our 3 Federation seats on the DNC.

The change would limit our terms to serving a total of 8 years which would be two (2) four year terms. The third seat is always occupied by the current president of the Federation. After a very lively discussion, the changes, including the term limits, were passed by a large majority. The Federation PAC had a successful reception which increased the amount we will be donating to Democratic candidates. Nine DWNC members were present and led by our State President Sarah Anderson. This was one of our best conventions. The 2012 convention site is Louisville, Kentucky. Save your pennies, because one day will be spent at Churchill Downs.

Carolyn Honeycutt
Newsletter Committee Chair

Convention Call
**Democratic Women of North
Carolina 51st ANNUAL
CONVENTION**

The DWNC's 51st annual convention will be held on Friday September 16-18th. Please contact the Greenville Hilton at 252-355-5000 for reservations. Attendees will need to inform the hotel that they are participants of the conference.



If you have any articles you would like printed or pictures to contribute, please email them to me at monicayelverton@gmail.com.

Please visit our website at <http://dwwc.net/>.

Monica Yelverton, Newsletter Editor