



# WAKE DEMOCRATIC WOMAN

## November 2011



### Published by Democratic Women of Wake County

Democratic Women of Wake County held their 50th anniversary welcoming over 90 attendees with an evening meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the NC State University Club, 4200 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh. The keynote speaker for the anniversary dinner was former State Senator Margaret Dickson (D-Cumberland), the lead plaintiff in one of the lawsuits challenging the Republican Redistricting maps.

Former State Senator Margaret Dickson was extraordinary. It was a pleasure having women and their husbands from around the state come to be represented at such an event, during which all past and present Presidents were recognized.

After speaking with the former President Mrs. Dorothy Preston, it is comforting to know the organization has kept and stayed true to its original mission of supporting candidates and the Democratic Party. One thing has changed within the organization, men can now become members and are encouraged to join.

It is an honor being a part of such a longstanding, democratic and committed organization. We are looking forward to many more years of supporting fellow Democrats.





## President's Message



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all DWWC Democrats. A successful school board victory is behind us and we worked extremely hard to make it happen with phone calls, canvassing, precinct poll workers and most importantly

being able to make donations to campaigns. Let's rejoice and offer kudos, but we must not sit back and take things for granted. Next year will be one of the most critical and important elections of our history. Let's keep the momentum and excitement of victory going as we work collectively by building on our recent success. We have to ensure that our democratic candidates are elected and, we return President Barack Obama to the Oval Office. Remember all roads lead to Charlotte. I appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in 2012.

*Respectfully,  
Mary H. Starkey, President*

### CALENDAR

#### January 9th

Wake Democratic  
Women Board of  
Directors Meeting  
5:00 PM  
Goodwin House

#### January 26th

Monthly Luncheon  
NC State  
University Club

#### March 6th

Wake Democratic  
Annual Precinct  
Meetings

### DOES ANYONE NEED A CARD?

If you know of  
anyone who is sick,  
please contact  
Lindy Brown  
[lindy93@aol.com](mailto:lindy93@aol.com)

## 2011 Betty Ann Knudsen Award Democratic Women of Wake County

so we can send a  
card.



This award is presented annually in honor of Betty Ann Knudsen, long-time Wake County Commissioner and community activist. This year's recipient demonstrates and represents the traits which Betty Ann finds important and wishes to recognize and encourage.

**Willingness to take risks:** As a County Commissioner, she prevented the closure of libraries and the reducing of libraries' hours, saved the library department's budget and stood against eliminating county employees' health benefits.

**Innovative:** She has encouraged and motivated many women to get involved in the political arena. Recently, the Wake County Young Democrats' honored her with the PR Latta Award for financially supporting and mentoring young Democrats.

**Continuing to grow:** After the 2010 Election loss (having been targeted by the Republicans), she continued working in the party, becoming the First Vice-Chair of the Wake County Democratic Party and developing an Interview and Endorsement process. She is learning the roles of the House District Coordinators and 2011 Coordinated Campaign, and she is also Corresponding Secretary for the Democratic Women of Wake County.

**Organized:** She has been named the "Energized Bunny and the Peoples' County Commissioner" because of her commitments to attend and listen to citizens; furthermore, she always looks like a lady when she is there! She continues coordinating civic and social events in our communities encouraging citizens to get-out- the- vote; promoting senior citizens' activities and motivating young people to become involved in the political process.

Coordination and cooperation with many issues or several organizations: She represents many issues such as mental health, affordable housing, libraries, economic development and voter participation.

Demonstrating tangible results of her actions: As Vice-Chair and Acting Chair of the Wake County Commissioners, she voted to fund the County's budget each year for schools, libraries, human services and public safety departments. She is noted for voting for the new Justice Center, which created over 800 jobs, and for advocating for Garner's third Fire Station in the White Oak Industrial Park.

Showing involvement with human services, charities, education, and community work: Her compassion to help the disadvantaged led her to become a community advocate and her advocacy role carried over into her political career. She has been the voice for the homeless, for children, for the disabled and for adults at Dorothea Dix Hospital and at Central Prison. She is a member of NC State Board of Social Services; and, as a member of the Garner Woman's Club, she started the "Back to School Backpack" project.

Several years ago, Betty Ann mentored and pinned her into the "Butterfly Club" (women who have come out of their secure cocoons and blossomed). So today, she will surely approve of the selection of Lindy Brown as the 2011 recipient of the Betty Ann Knudsen Award.

***Christi Terrell***  
***Awards Committee Co-Chair***

## Wake School System Changes

After winning four of the five school board elections by a clear majority the District 3 race came down to a November 11th run off election. Through a combined effort and continued dedicated we were victorious in our efforts to regain the majority as incumbent Kevin Hill defeated his challenger by a clear margin.

While the majority of our recent efforts have been focused on the District 3 School Board run off election we must move forward with the challenges that lie ahead. Along with facing a budget shortfall and transiting into a new school assignment plan questions remain about the school systems accreditation. AdvancEd will return to Wake County later this month to access efforts by school officials and school board members to keep the school systems accreditation. The accreditation review resulted

from a complaint related to the new school assignment plan and it's potential affects on diversity. In light of all these changes we must continue to work hard to provide the best possible education for the children in our community.

*Monica Yelverton, Co-Chair  
Newsletter Committee*

**\*\*Save the Date\*\***

## 2012 Jefferson Jackson Breakfast

Please mark your calendars for the 2012 Jefferson Jackson Breakfast hosted by the Democratic Women of Wake County. The breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 16th at the Raleigh Convention Center. Additional information regarding our signature event will follow as they become available.

## Legislative Update

State lawmakers returned to the General Assembly on November for the second time this year after to focus on redistricting. Though the maps received pre-clearance from the Department of Justice members worked on passing a technical corrections bill in a attempt to correct problems with the redistricting maps. Problems included the commission of several voters which estimated to have affected around 475,000 voters.

While the bills passed along party lines many expressed concerns regarding the constitutionally of the changes. The debate is centered on rather the maps or the actual legislation is the defining document of intent and if there is a violation of the provision in the state constitution that restricts state lawmakers from changing maps prior to the next census.

Meanwhile two lawsuits have been filed regarding the redistricting maps by groups citing that the maps limit minority voters influence on politics.

After completing redistricting work members returned after the Thanksgiving holiday to repeal the racial justice act and to allow breweries to offer tasting and retail beer on site including beers from other states. In addition HB 796 changes law that affect community colleges and public school funding.

The next session is scheduled to reconvene on February 16th 2012.

***Monica Yelverton, Co-Chair  
Newsletter Committee***



If you have any articles you would like printed or pictures to contribute, please email them to me at [monicayelverton@gmail.com](mailto:monicayelverton@gmail.com).

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

***Monica Yelverton, Newsletter Editor***