



## WAKE DEMOCRATIC WOMAN

September 2011



### Published by Democratic Women of Wake County

**Democratic Women of Wake County will hold a luncheon meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2011 at the NC State University Club, 4200 Hillsborough Street in Raleigh.**

**The buffet lines open at 11:30 a.m. and the program begins at 12 noon. The cost of the luncheon is \$16.00 payable at the door.**

**For reservations, email [democraticwomenwakecounty@gmail.com](mailto:democraticwomenwakecounty@gmail.com) or call (919) 467-0151. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, September 27, 2011.**

**The program will feature a Candidate Forum moderated by Mack Paul, Chair of the Wake Democratic Party. Candidates for the Raleigh City Council, the Cary Town Council and other municipalities in Wake County have been invited to speak.**

*Paula Wolf  
Program Chair*

### President's Message



A special thank-you to all who worked to make our August luncheon meeting successful and very well attended. Our featured guest speakers were the Wake County School Board candidates. Now that we are off and running, let's focus our attention on getting our Democratic incumbents and candidates elected to office. The school board and municipal elections are right around the corner; it is important that we talk with our family, neighbors, friends, and people in our communities about the importance of these elections. We have to be more responsive; our children are experiencing many difficult changes within our school system.

As an auxiliary of the Wake County Democratic Party, let's continue our dedicated efforts to work with the WCDP's Coordinated Campaign to assist with the Get out the Vote

### CALENDAR

September 21st  
School Board  
District Five  
Candidate Forum  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Fellowship of  
Raleigh  
3313 Wade Ave.  
Raleigh, NC  
7:00PM-9:00PM

September 27th  
School Board  
District Eight  
Candidate Forum  
Carey C. Jones

campaign. The DWWC Campaign Donations Committee met and made recommendations for the school board candidates and the municipal races. Checks were distributed at our August Luncheon.

Thanks to our Publicity Committee and to all of you who participated in the Michelle Obama/Jill Biden Joining Forces Initiative by donating items for "Operation Wake Warriors." The items will be taken to the DWNC Convention in Greenville and packed for the Give 2 the Troop Facility.

Our purpose is to maintain and promote the further growth of the Democratic Party in the County, State, and Nation, so let's roll up our sleeves and concentrate our energies on winning in October.

Thanks for your continued support.

*Respectfully,  
Mary H. Starkey, President*

Community  
Building  
309 Holleman  
Street  
Apex, NC  
7:00 PM-9:00 PM

September 29th  
Luncheon Meeting  
NC State University  
Club  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

October 27th  
Luncheon Meeting  
NC State University  
Club  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM

## **August Luncheon Meeting Wake County School Board Candidates**

**The August luncheon meeting featured the following candidates:**

**Kevin Hill of District 3 (incumbent)** strongly believes that the board must be held accountable for practicing good government. He pointed out that there has already been a violation of the Open Meetings Law and a ongoing Civil Rights' investigation.

Mr. Hill believes he is a good candidate and worthy of re-election based on his experience and skills. He has served in numerous leadership roles to include assistant principal and principal on in an Elementary, Middle School and High School. His experiences have given him first hand opportunities to managed budgets and he directly identifies with the challenges our local school leaders are facing as a result of difficult economic times.

Finally, Mr. Hill noted that he "will advocate for all in all schools." Inferring higher expectations for the Wake County Public School System and Board Of Education, Mr. Hill quoted Dr. Carl Boyd of Phoenix, Arizona, "Nobody rises to low expectations."

**Keith Sutton of District 4 (incumbent)** will be running for his first complete four (4) year term. In quoting Warren Buffett's comment to the media about the debt crisis, Mr. Sutton acknowledged that the challenges facing Wake County Public School System are also in need of "shared sacrifice." Candidate

Sutton suggested that even in these difficult economic times, we must somehow work together and share in the sacrifice to meet the challenge for our 145,000 students in our 165 schools.

He acknowledges that this is a tough season, with many challenging decisions ahead. Moreover, he believes that he is ready to stand in the gap and meet the challenges with others who are willing to share and sacrifice for the children. Mr. Sutton brings expertise in the area of Juvenile Justice, Delinquency Prevention and Program Management.

**Jim Martin of District 5** is concerned about what has happened with the Wake County Public School System Diversity Policy, Student Achievement and Proximity. He noted that the distribution of facts needs improvement. He pointed out that the Wake County Public School System Board Of Education should follow their governing rules (i.e. No board member will be subordinate...) He would like to join the Board Of Education to assist in bringing people together and to offer the children a quality comprehensive education.

Mr. Martin notes the need for more global graduates and closing the achievement gap. With two children in the Wake County Public School System he brings a true parental prospective. His educational background includes Science, research, government and educational leadership.

**Christine Kushner of District 6** is a parent, leader, advocate, 11 year volunteer, PTA Leader, a tutor and policy analyst. She has had experience in working with Board Of Education policy issues under three (3) superintendents. She would like the opportunity to address the Board Of Education with "a strong voice for children" and constructive critiques.

Mrs. Kushner has a background in the study of education, as well as, experience in public education. She is interested in looking at curriculum, especially the Middle School curriculum. She has been instrumental in working with a YWCA Study Circle that brings parents and teachers together. Mrs. Christine Kushner is asking for your vote on October 11, 2011 (at the Fair Ground)!

**Susan Evans of District 8** is a North Carolina native of Alamance County. She is a community business woman with 2 school-age children who attend Wake County Public School System. As a parent and community leader, she is concerned about protecting the rights of ALL children in Wake County.

Mrs. Evans is a CPA with community college teaching experience. She promises to: lead with professionalism and integrity; fight challenges of continued growth; commitment to

excellence for all children. Mrs. Evans departed from the podium leaving this thought: "Students first and politics last."

**Maryann Weathers of District 8** is a Raleigh, NC native. Her family is 200 years strong in Wake County (Panther Branch Community). She is 65 years old, a former educator and administrative consultant. Mrs. Weathers noted that "The School Board is broken, and we let it happen." She is asking for support as she does her part. Her "campaign is focused on students and teachers, and is dedicated to making schools the best possible working environment. She is calling for accountability and good stewardship of taxpayer dollars." She would like you to read her Bio- sheet for more information.

**George Morgan of District 6** was a former state hospital worker, and a retiree of 27 years in Wake County Public School System. He applauds public education and is ready to work at the Board Of Education level. He has educational training K-12. His slogan is "Education for the Board!" He feels that today's Board of Education must be more equipped with knowledge of the school system and what it takes to makes it work effectively.

*Dinita M. Ford*

## **Wake County School Board and Municipal Elections Timeline**

Sep 22 - Early Voting Begins for October 11th Election.

Oct 4 - 5:00 p.m. - Deadline to request Absentee Ballot for October 11th Election.

Oct 8 - 1:00 p.m. - Early Voting Ends for October 11th Election.

Oct 11 - 6:30 a.m. Until 7:30 p.m. - ELECTION DAY - School Board Districts 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8; Raleigh Municipal, and Cary Municipal Elections.

Oct 14 - Voter Registration Deadline for Voters Eligible to Vote in November 8th Municipal Elections (and Run-Off Elections if Needed).

Oct 18 - Canvass - School Board, Raleigh Municipal, and Cary Municipal Elections.

Oct 20 - Early Voting Begins for November 8th Municipal Elections (and Run-Off Elections if Needed).

Nov 1 - 5:00 p.m. - Deadline to request Absentee Ballot for November 8th Municipal Elections.

Nov 5 - 1:00 p.m. - Early Voting Ends for November 8th Municipal Elections (and Run-Off Elections if Needed).

Nov 8 - 6:30 a.m. Until 7:30 p.m. - ELECTION DAY - Municipal Elections (and Run-Off Elections if Needed).

Nov 15 - Canvass - Municipal Elections (and Run-Off Elections if Needed).

**\*SAVE THE DATE\***  
**DWNC 52nd ANNUAL CONVENTION**

*At the 51st DWNC Annual Convention in Greenville, NC, September 18 2011, it was announced that Democratic Women of Wake County will host the September 2012, 52nd Annual Convention. The exact date will be determined by DWNC.*

*The DWNC Convention Chair is Mrs. Tina Morris-Anderson. Please give her your support and assistance.*

*Thanks to all who attended the 51st Annual Convention; it was an exciting and inspiring weekend.*

**Mary H. Starkey, President**

**Our Shining STARS**

Democratic Women of North Carolina will honor STAR Democrats at the State Convention in Greenville, NC, September 16-18, 2011. The STAR Award honors the often unsung heroes of local parties, auxiliaries and campaigns. These men and women are volunteers who have done remarkable things to help Democrats move forward.

This is the 11th year STARS will be recognized at the Saturday evening banquet. A specially designed STAR pin will be presented along with a Certificate of Appreciation to each of the STARS and they will be pictured in a commemorative program. DWNC President Mary H. Starkey and the Board of Directors announce the honorees from Wake County: Judy

Austin and Mell Robson. Short biographies of our Wake County STARS follow:



### **Judy Austin**

A resident of Raleigh, North Carolina since 1983, Judy Austin was born and raised in the Bronx, New York and lived for many years in Connecticut and Vermont. Judy is married and lives with her husband, her cat, and her rescue dog; she is the mother of three children and two grandchildren. Judy earned a B.A. in Communication and an M.A. in American Studies from NC State University. She is an avid fan of the NC State Wolfpack football and basketball teams.

Judy is a member of the local Sierra Club and participates in the tutoring program of the Literacy Council of Wake County. In 2007, Judy joined Democratic Women of Wake County. In 2009, she was elected Treasurer of DWWC. She has served as database manager for three years and will continue those duties on the current board.

As the 2011 election cycle approaches, Judy volunteers by phone banking, canvassing neighborhoods and holding "meet and greet" events for local candidates. Election Day is an exciting one for Judy who also works as a precinct officer during election cycles.



### **Mell Robson**

Mell J. Robson is a resident of Cary, NC by way of New York. She has a background in social work and non-profit organizations. She is married and has one son and two daughters. She also has six grandchildren whom she adores.

Mell joined Democratic Women of Wake County in 2007 after she was invited by a friend. She was impressed by the professionalism of the club and shortly thereafter volunteered to assist with membership duties. She was elected Historian in 2009 and continued to serve on the Membership Committee. In 2011, she was elected 3rd Vice President and is in charge of arrangements for DWWC luncheon and dinners. In addition, she handles the email and phone call reservations.

She has written a book which she hopes to publish soon. She recently earned a certificate in Early Childhood Education and will be co-director of a family-owned childcare business.

Her hobbies include acquiring and adding to her impressive collection of Depression glass and lead crystal, she also collects Barbie dolls and salt and pepper shakers. She enjoys gardening, reading, traveling and spending time with her family.

*Nancy Looper*  
*Co- Chair Awards Committee*

## **REQUESTING 2011 BETTY ANN KNUDSEN AWARD NOMINATIONS**

This award is presented annually in honor of Betty Ann Knudsen, long time Wake County Commissioner and community activist. The award winner will be announced at the October meeting of Democratic Women of Wake County. The purpose of this award is to recognize a Wake County woman who demonstrates and represents the following traits:

- Willingness to take risks, fearless
- Innovative, trail-blazing
- Continuing to grow
- Organized and principled
- Representing many issues or several organizations with coordination and cooperation
- Demonstrating tangible results of her actions
- Showing involvement with human services, charities, education, community work
- Outstanding professionally

Please send your nomination by September 30, 2011 with the following information:

- Name of the nominator and contact information
- Name of the nominee and contact information
- Summarize in one typed page or less why this individual should be honored. Please be specific about this individual's contributions.

Send your nomination to Christina B. Terrell, Awards Co-Chair, at [terrell4@earthlink.net](mailto:terrell4@earthlink.net) or 205 Woodburn Road, Raleigh, NC 27605

*Nancy Looper*  
*Co-Chair - Awards Committee*

### **Hosting a Precinct Party**

Members, we have a great opportunity to organize our precincts by socializing together. Let's have precinct house parties! DWWC's members have an excellent tool, (our membership roster) to use to organize our precincts. The roster indicates each member's Precinct, House and Senate districts. The roster lists names of three to eight current DWWC members residing in several unorganized precincts; these members could serve as a nucleus for hosting a precinct party. Another resource is the county party, which can provide names of registered Democrats in your precinct. In addition, these house parties would support our democrats who are campaigning for the upcoming 2011 elections. A precinct with five or more organized, resident Democrats is considered active. Our house parties could add to the active, organized list by bringing together neighbors and friends, who may also want to join the DWWC family. So, DWWC members, let's organize our precincts while having fun!

The membership committee is available to assist you. You may contact Marylee Crofts at [mcrofts@bentley.edu](mailto:mcrofts@bentley.edu), 919.783.7576.

*Marylee Crofts, 1st V.P.  
Membership Chair*

## **Wake Warriors Come Through**

Democratic Women of Wake County donated many bags full of items to add to those collected by other Dems. Through out the state. Annual Convention goes from Wake took everything from toiletries and socks to games, crayons, pads and toys for local children with them to Greenville this month. Thanks go too to those who contributed a whopping \$80 to the cause. This was used to augment items already collected. Also, birthday cards for troops were signed at the August luncheon and many more were donated in the days following that meeting.

The drive was started by a member from another county whose son is serving in Afghanistan. He wrote that many small items that people take for granted are hard to find in that country. It was from his list that Democratic Women chose what to purchase. The drive was headed by Stephanie El-Bialy and her Special Projects Committee. This and other projects have made it a busy year for this active group of members. We thank them all for their hard work, and give a special "well done" to all of our members who were so generous. We will never know how much these small every-day items contributed to the mental well being of our troops; but, we can rest a little easier knowing that we sent them a little bit of home.

*Pat Hawkins*

## Legislative Update

The members of the North Carolina General Assembly returned to Raleigh on September 12 to consider issues outlined in the July 28th adjournment resolution. **During the three day session members passed a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions.** However, members failed to agree on constitutional bans for term limits of the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore, and the amendment the would affect the State Board of Education. Citizens will see the same-sex marriage amendment on the May 2012 primary ballot.

Please see a list of bills that were passed during the reconvened session:

**HB 335 Prison Maint/Justice Reinv/Tech Corr**  
**SB 580 AOC Omnibus Courts Act**

Lawmakers plan to return to Raleigh on November 7 to discuss issues specifically outlined in the adjournment resolution which included the ability to address local bills that are currently in the House Rules Committee.

*Monica Yelverton*  
*Newsletter Editor*



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*