

# GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!

FEBRUARY 4, 2019

## SPECIAL FEATURE – GRAEME MCGUFFICKE!



### NCDP LEADERSHIP TEAM, 2019 – 2021!

**These Democrats were elected State Democratic Party Officers during the January 26<sup>th</sup> State Executive Committee meeting in Charlotte.**

**State Chair – Wayne Goodwin**

**Second Vice Chair – Matt Hughes**

**Secretary – Melvin Williams**

**Third Vice Chair – Nida Allam**

**First Vice Chair – Dr. Bobbie Richardson**

**Treasurer – Anna Tilghman**



**Charles Johnson and Gwen Wilkins**



**Nida Allam and Ryan Watts**



**SEC MEMBERS PACKED THE CONVENTION HALL!**



**Left: 9<sup>th</sup> District Congressional Candidate Dan McCready with Senator Mujtaba Mohammad.**



**Right: Wake County Commissioner Matt Calabria with Molly and Eleanor Calabria**

**Left: Durham County Sheriff Clarence Birkhead**



**Right: Former State Senator Jane Smith of Robeson County with Supt. of Public Instruction candidate Jen Mangrum**





**Starla Tanner of Charlotte with her mother, Pitt County Commissioner Ann Huggins**



**Willie Fleming of Charlotte with DNC Member Shelia Huggins of Durham**



**Lisa Ellsworth is First Vice President of the Mecklenburg Democratic Women. Over the years Lisa has been one of the strongest supporters of GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS.**



**State Rep. Chaz Beasley, Nash County Party Officer Kevin Jones with NCDP Vice Chair Nida Allam**



**Elaine Marshall & Barbara McKoy**



**Janice Lewis with State Rep. Christy Clark**



**Angela Bridgman, Sabrina Huston, and Kathryn Vandegrift**



**Wake Soil & Water Board Member Nervahna Crew & Wake County Party Secretary Montica Talmadge**



**Senator Floyd McKissick who made many of the pictures in this article with Matty Lazo-Chadderton and 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Chair Betsy Wells**



**Sean Grier, Sebastian Feculak, Sen. Mujtaba Mohammed, & Amanda Eubanks**



**Rutherford County Chair Jerry Wease, Gwen Wilkins and  
Senator Don Davis with Nida Allam**



**Azalea Howe of Cabarrus County, Linda R. Wilson of Guilford County,  
NCDP First Vice Chair Bobbie Richardson, & Ingrid Nurse of Cabarrus County**



### **THE INVESTITURE OF JUDGE ALLEGRA COLLINS!**

**Chief Judge Linda McGee administered the Oath of Office to Judge Allegra Collins on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Judge Collins won friends all across the state during her 2017-2018 campaign. Joining her in the picture above are Justice Mike Morgan, State Representative Cynthia Ball, Wake County Clerk of Superior Court Blair Williams, and her husband, Judge Bryan Collins.**



**What a happy family portrait! From the left the members of Judge Collins' family and their relation to her are: sister-in-law Alison McCormick, mother-in-law Ida Maude Collins, daughter Maegan Collins, husband Superior Court Judge Bryan Collins, son Nolan Cazzari, Judge Allegra Collins, mother Olivia Milholland & father John Milholland.**



### **RALLY FOR FAIR ELECTIONS IN BLADEN COUNTY!**

**Democrats from many parts of the state drove to Elizabethtown for the big RALLY FOR FAIR ELECTIONS organized by Ninth Congressional District Chair Cynthia Wallace and Ninth District Democrats. Dan McCready was the man of the hour. He was cheered and hugged as he entered!**



**NCDP Chair Wayne Goodwin and First Vice Chair Bobbie Richardson delivered inspiring messages to the crowd! Dwight Willis of Brunswick County made all these rally pictures**



**State Senior Democrats President Tom Rothrock drove from Charlotte and Senator Terry Van Duyn drove from Asheville. A representative of the Bladen NAACP & Jeff Zales held a wise sign!**



## 2019 WOMEN'S MARCH IN RALEIGH!

These ladies took the lead in organizing the highly successful 2019 Women's March in downtown Raleigh on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

From the left they are: Chief Coordinator Penny De Pas, Andrea Azcarate, Amy Hellmers, Elizabeth Crudup who is First Vice Chair of the NCDP Progressive Caucus, Shana Becker, La-Mine Perkins, Gailya Gahr and Kandace Watkins.



## PENDER DEMOCRATIC WOMEN JOIN WOMEN'S MARCH IN WILMINGTON!

**The Democratic Women of Pender County are strong, well-organized, and happy to stand up for women's rights!**







**REPRESENTATIVE GRAIG MEYER  
LEADS DRIVE TO SET UP  
“LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES”  
IN CASWELL COUNTY!**

**After the last redistricting, Rep. Graig Meyer became the Representative for Caswell County for the first time – in addition Orange County where he lives. He was struck by statistics that showed that while Orange County is the top most educated county in the state, Caswell County is near the bottom of the state rankings.**

**He decided to work with community partners to set up LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES around Caswell County.**

**He and his supporters raised funds through a non-profit called Mighty Neighborly which has built and installed 15 Little Free Libraries in Caswell County over the last six months! His campaign partnered with the Caswell County Library, Caswell Partnership for Young Children, Caswell Local Foods Council, and the Caswell County Sheriff’s Department headed by Democratic Sheriff Tony Durden to find locations for each library, stock it with books, and find someone to be that library’s steward. His campaign volunteers have also donated thousands of books to the project.**

**Little Free Libraries are small receptacles where people can take books for free or leave books for others.**

**Some of the Libraries in Caswell have now been emptied and restocked with books several times.**

**Graig’s favorite moments of the project have been installing Little Free Libraries in low-income apartment complexes and helping children pick out their first books. He says: “I love the way their eyes light up!”**





**In November Representative Meyer hosted a luncheon for the project partners and the stewards of the libraries. Graig and his volunteers brought books to the luncheon which had been donated by his Orange County constituents.**

**They actually brought more than 1500 books! Those 1500 books filled two SUVs (You can see the two SUVs in the picture below.)**



**Congratulations to Graig Meyer and all the people in Orange and Caswell counties who made this project a heartwarming success!**

**You may write to Graig at: [GraigMeyer@gmail.com](mailto:GraigMeyer@gmail.com).**



## **SPECIAL FEATURE – GRAEME MCGUFFICKE – MCDOWELL COUNTY!**

**Graeme's family from the left – his wife, Karla Weidner, his children, Ian and Megan**

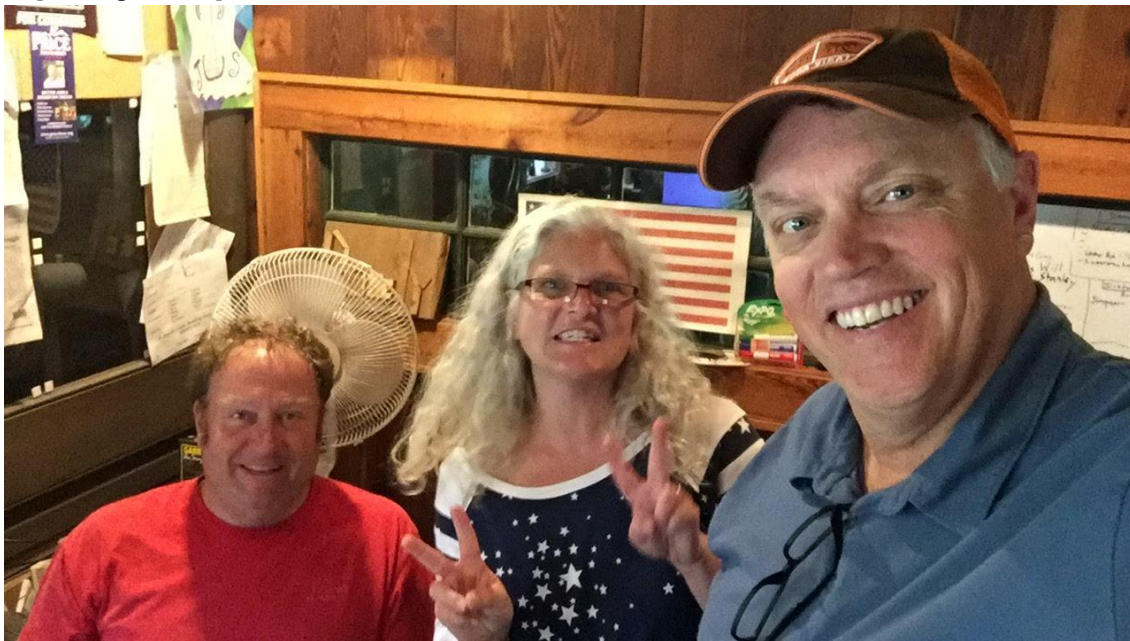
**Graeme McGufficke is a multitaled Democrat who enjoys campaigning. He devoted his talents to Phillip Price's 2018 campaign for Congress in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.**

**At various times during the year he was the Field Director, Finance Director, Volunteer Coordinator, Press Secretary, Communications Director, Social Media Director, and Body Man.**

**He is proud that he helped a first time political candidate raise more than \$250,000!**

**He is especially happy that Phillip's campaign garnered 116,508 votes!**

**He says: "When the 11<sup>th</sup> District gets un-gerrymandered I am pretty sure that a Democrat – hopefully Phillip Price – will take back Western North Carolina for Team Blue!"**



**Phillip and Michelle Price with Graeme**

**Phillip Price says: "Graeme is a hard working Democrat who is dedicated to helping get people elected who have the people's interest first.**

**"I enjoyed having Graeme on our campaign team during the 2018 midterm election. He was a great asset to our team and he is fun to be around."**



### **All American Swimmer!**

**Graeme McGufficke was a competitive swimmer from an early age and he competed all the way through college. He swam for Australia at the international level and the University of Illinois at the collegiate level. He was a three-time All-American and a three-time Big**

### **Ten Conference Champion!**

**He was an enthusiastic geocacher (a high-tech scavenger hunt using a GPS device.) At one time he was #2 in the world for caches hidden (now at over 2,200.)**

**Graeme and Karla are avid hikers and love the mountains of western North Carolina! They have been lucky enough to hike on some amazing trails in lots of far-flung locations.**

**In the picture on the right, they are in the Dolomite Mountains of Italy.**



**Graeme and Karla are proud of their children.**

**Megan graduated from Duke in 2016 and Ian is a senior at Appalachian State.**

**When asked about his goals, Graeme replied: "My short term goals are to continue to work in the political arena in some capacity. My long term goals are to work on more political campaigns to continue to make a difference.**

**The picture on the left shows the family hiking in Big Bend National Park in Texas in December of 2017.**



**Graeme protesting with other members of the Carolina Veterans Peace Coalition in 2018**



**Graeme with some new friends after helping to clean up Jackson Park in Henderson County in 2018.**

**Democrats can write to Graeme at [Graeme.McGufficke@gmail.com](mailto:Graeme.McGufficke@gmail.com)**

**How about this?**

**[SINCE JULY 29, 2018 GRAEME HAS LOST 41 POUNDS!](#)**



## **WILKES COUNTY CENTURY CLUB BANQUET!**

**The strong, courageous Democrats of Wilkes County gathered at the Holiday Inn Express in North Wilkesboro on January 26<sup>th</sup> for their Annual Century Club Banquet.**

**Left- County Chair Rev. Brandon Anderson welcomes Keynote Speaker State Representative Ray Russell of Ashe and Watauga counties.**

**Right – Lt. Governor candidate Cal Cunningham and Zachery Copley with Brandon.**



**Brandon greeting Shelley Wallin and Charlie Wallin who is Chair of the 5<sup>th</sup> District Democratic Party and was elected Watauga County Commissioner in November**

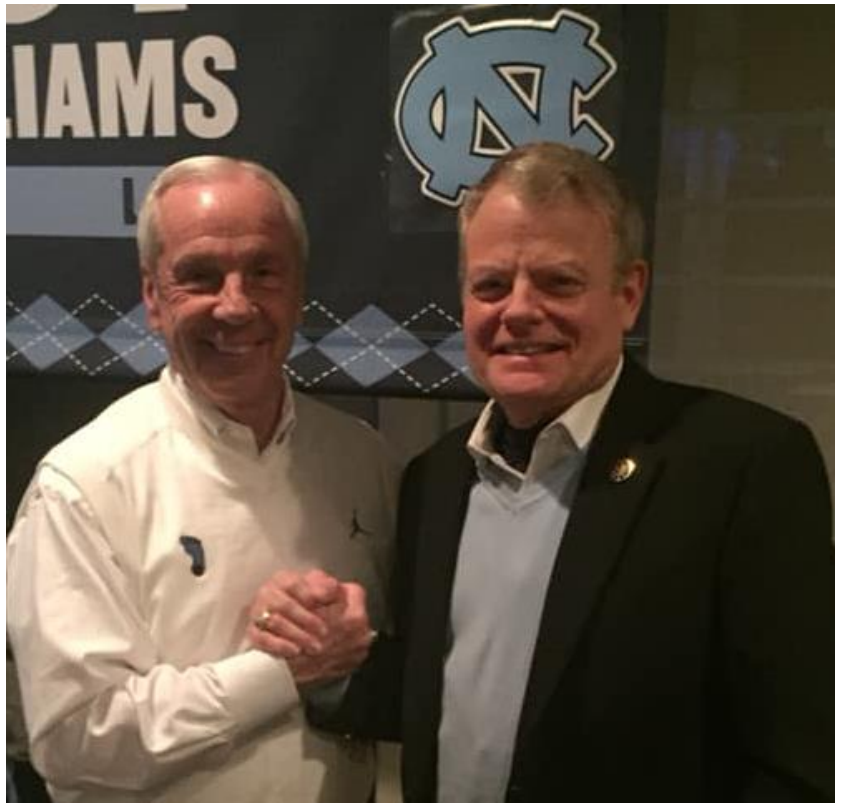


**Brandon with Grayson Barnette who recently starred in the YOUTH FEATURE of this publication**



**County Party First Vice Chair Sandy Forrest was MC of this happy Wilkes County event.**

**All Democratic candidates are invited to send pictures and written information to [GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS](#).**



## **UNC LAW SCHOOL TO HONOR MIKE MCINTYRE!**

**Longtime US Congressman Mike McIntyre will be presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the UNC School of Law Alumni Association's Annual Law Leadership and Awards Dinner to be held in Chapel Hill on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**The Distinguished Alumni Award is given each year to a UNC School of Law graduate whose accomplishments and contributions have enhanced the school and the profession of law at the local, state, national or international level.**

**After representing North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District in the United States Congress for 18 years, McIntyre joined the Raleigh law firm of Poyner Spruill as Senior Advisor and Director of Government Relations.**

**Since McIntyre attended UNC-CH for both his undergraduate and graduate education, he has always wanted to live near his alma mater so he could attend UNC sports events. After retiring from Congress, he and Mrs. McIntyre moved to Orange County.**

**On January 28<sup>th</sup> he had a fun evening at the live broadcast of the Roy Williams Show from Chapel Hill before Coach Williams headed with the Tar Heels to Atlanta for the Georgia Tech game.**

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Send to: [melvin535@gmail.com](mailto:melvin535@gmail.com)**



## **MORE CHAPTERS IN THE AMAZING LIFE OF DR. GRACE GALLOWAY!**

**On January 26<sup>th</sup> Dr. Grace Galloway, President of the NCDP Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus, participated in a Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration. She was joined by Dr. Robbie Akere on the right in the picture above. Grace is getting more and more Asian Americans into the Democratic Party.**



**Dr. Galloway was the Keynote Speaker at the January Breakfast Meeting of the Cabarrus County Democratic Party where she talked with Vietnam Veteran Linda Swallow.**





**On February 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Galloway participated in a Taiwanese New Year celebration in Charlotte. In this picture she joined Mr. Eric Wu, President of Taiwanese Americans, and Taiwan Economic Director Mr. Victor Lip, and his wife, Mrs. Lip.**



**Graceful dancers performed the Dance of the Handkerchiefs and the Phoenix Dance to celebrate the arrival of the New Year. Dr. Galloway explained that the actual date of the Lunar New Year is February 5<sup>th</sup> “but we Asians know how to party. We celebrate the Lunar New Year for 15 days!”**



**Dr. Robbie Akhere and Dr. Grace Galloway with Mr. Jerry Chia-Ha Chang, Deputy Director, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Atlanta**



## **RICK AND SHILPA ARE MOVING TO WASHINGTON!**

**This picture was made in October when UNC Law School graduate Rick Ingram proposed to Shilpa Hegde at the Governor's Western Residence in Asheville. After Shilpa accepted his proposal they returned to their careers in New York City.**

**This month they are moving to Washington!**

**Rick will be starting at the law firm Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr.**

**This is the law firm where Special Counsel Robert Mueller was working before the start of the Russia investigation.**

**The firm has a strong tradition of supporting Democrats, with past and present attorneys at the firm like President Clinton's White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler, President Clinton's Solicitor General Seth Waxman, and former US Senator from Colorado Ken Salazar.**

**In Washington Shilpa is going to be continuing her role as a public affairs and political consultant with SKDKnickerbocker. This firm is another Democratic powerhouse.**

**Numerous Obama Administration Alumni work at SKDK including former White House Communications Director Anita Dunn and President Obama's Communications Advisor Hilary Rosen**

**Rick and Shilpa hosted several New York fundraisers for NC Democratic candidates.**

**Rick says: "We're looking forward to continuing to work as hard as possible to elect Democrats in North Carolina and will look forward to connecting with our friends once we officially move to DC in mid-February!"**

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### **AISHA DEW SUPPORTS DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATORS!**

**NCDP First Vice Chair Aisha Dew went to Raleigh for the Opening Session of the General Assembly to support our Democratic delegation.**

**In the picture on the left above she is with State Representative Derwin Montgomery of Forsyth County.**

**In the picture on the right above Aisha is with Senator Mujtaba Mohammed and State Representative Kelly Alexander, Jr. Senator Mohammed's son is proudly standing with his father.**



**Aisha with her Mecklenburg friend  
Senator Joyce Waddell**



**Aisha is a former Chair of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party and she was welcomed by the County's legislative delegation. State Representative Nasif Majeed joined Aisha for this picture.**



**LAMANDA PRYOR ELECTED DURHAM DW PRESIDENT!**

**At their January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting the Democratic Women of Durham County elected these outstanding new Officers: Treasurer Sharon McGaughey, Secretary Natalie Murdock, President LaManda Pryor, retiring Co-President Brenda Howerton, and VP Rose Domanico.**



**Retiring Co-President Shirley Ellis is addressing the DW in this picture.**



**Lamanda Pryor, retiring Co-President  
Brenda Howerton, and  
NCDP Executive Council Member  
Brenda Pollard**



**Representatives Marcia Morey and Zack  
Hawkins answered questions  
from the DW members.**



### **HARNETT COUNTY DEMOCRATS!**

**Harnett County Democrats held their annual Groundhog Day Breakfast on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. They were happy to welcome their own native son, longtime Congressman Bob Etheridge, as their Keynote Speaker.**



**Elizabeth Crudup happily welcomed Dr. Naveed Aziz from Spring Lake.**

## FOUR YOUTH FEATURES!



### **“Let Brotherly Love Continue”**

**That Biblical quote was the Facebook caption that DNC Member John Verdeo wrote for these pictures of his sons, Jacob and Lucas Verdejo. These heartwarming pictures were made by their mother, Aolani Verdejo.**

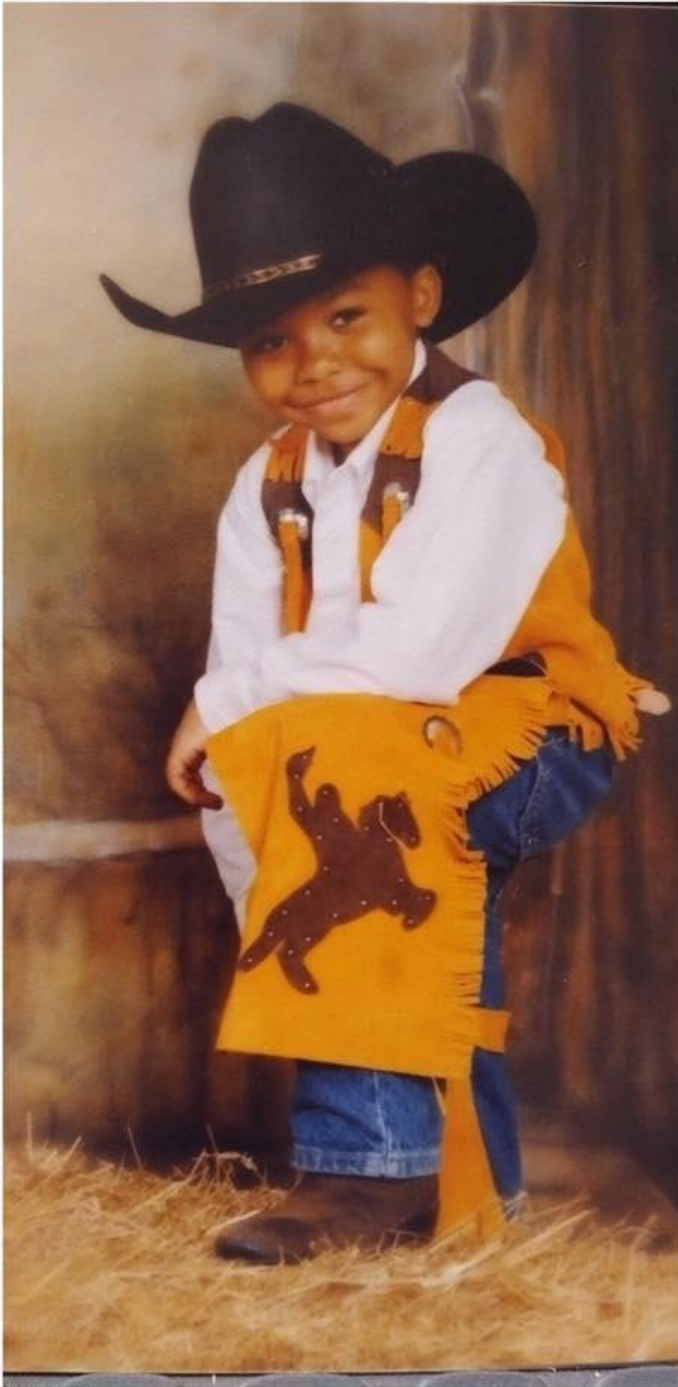


### **JAMES GARNER – CARTERET COUNTY!**

**Every year James Garner’s school holds a “Dress As What You Want To Be Day.” For the third consecutive year, James dressed as a US Secretary of State.**

**His first order of business is written inside the folder he is holding. It is his foreign policy statement. It reads “to take care of our children and planet for the future.”**

**James is 7 years old and he is in the second grade. He is very proud of his mother, Ginger Garner, who made a strong race for the NC Senate in 2018.**



### **SAIID POWERS!**

**Twenty year old Saïd Powers has been an active Democrat his entire life.**

**He is Chair of his Robeson County precinct.**

**He has been featured in this publication many times.**

**He is now a student at East Carolina University.**

**He is the son of Robeson County Board of Elections member  
Tiffany Powers and Kim Powers.**





## **WESLEY HARRIS BROUGHT HIS RELATIVES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY!**

**New State Representative Wesley Harris of Mecklenburg County  
proudly invited his nieces and nephews to join him for  
his first day in the legislature.**

**This is a day they will remember for a long time!**

**All Democrats are invited to send your GOOD NEWS to  
[melvin535@gmail.com](mailto:melvin535@gmail.com)**

**Your Democratic Friend,  
Melvin Williams, State Secretary  
North Carolina Democratic Party**