

GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!

November 27, 2017



DEMOCRATS CELEBRATE MELVIN'S BIRTHDAY!

Democrats from many sections of the state came to Clayton on November 18th for NCDP Secretary Melvin Williams' 75th Birthday Dinner.

The arrival of Governor and Mrs. Jim Hunt brought joy to all the Democrats who had gathered. Governor Hunt gave an address from the stage that focused on how much "GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS" means to Democrats all across the state.



Chanda Branch of Raleigh, "Mrs. Black North Carolina 2017" gave a stirring rendition of "You Raise Me Up" to begin the program. Hampton Dellinger of Durham brought Birthday Greetings and presented Pete Souza's new pictorial book "Obama" to Melvin. 14 year old Ethan Brooks of Garner drew laughter as he read a Birthday Card from Donald Trump! State Auditor Beth Wood drove from her family's vacation in Myrtle Beach to be part of the event!



**North Carolina's greatest Governor,
Governor Jim Hunt,
talked about how much he and Mrs. Hunt
enjoy "GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS."
He told how they cut
pictures out of the publication and
send those pictures with letters
of congratulations to
Democrats all across the state.**

**State Democratic Party Chair
Wayne Goodwin
spoke with eloquence as he
talked about the Party
and the good things
that are ahead for us.**



**Everybody loves Betty McCain!
Our former State Chair was born and grew up in
Duplin County where Melvin lives.
She brought her cheerful spirit and humorous
speaking style to the event.
She and her daughter, Eloise Hassell,
also brought a delicious caramel
Birthday Cake!**





Melvin's daughter, Stephanie Whitley, spent weeks organizing his Birthday Dinner. She was Mistress of Ceremonies and her beautiful spirit made the entire event happy!

**Most of the pictures in this article were made by:
Chris Stevenson, First Vice Chair of the Brunswick County Democratic Party
Dave Cain of The Cain Gallery in Goldsboro
State Senator Floyd McKissick of Durham**



Tommy and Stephanie Whitley with Governor Hunt. Tommy played a major role in organizing the dinner.

Melvin happily welcomed his grandson, Collin Childers, and Collin's wife, Deanne Childers.





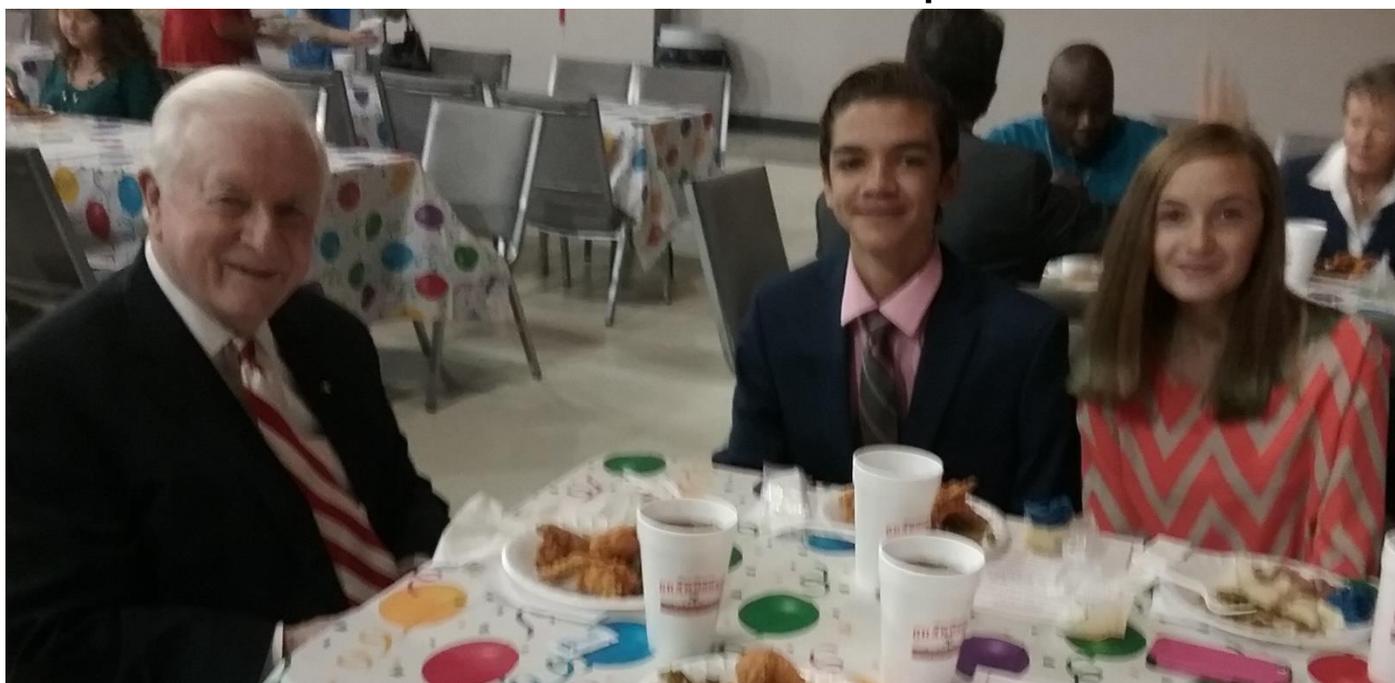
Cal Cunningham was a major sponsor of the dinner. He gave wise and uplifting remarks from the stage. Attorney Tiffany Powers of Lumberton talked about memories of when she and Melvin enjoyed working together in the Seventh Congressional District.



November 18th was the birthday of Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. She and Melvin have been friends since he helped her in her 1996 campaign against Richard Petty.



Each of these outstanding young people have starred in the YOUTH FEATURE of "GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS." Ethan Brooks and Piper Broad are from Garner.



Ethan and Piper sat beside Governor Hunt at the Birthday Dinner.

Later Ethan and Piper went on stage to read a Birthday Card to Melvin from Donald Trump.

It was hilarious and entertaining!

Governor Hunt is an inspiration to young people and to everyone who meets him!



One of the most riveting parts of the program came when DNC Member John Verdejo talked about how he would not have his wife and children today if it had not been for connections made through “GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS.”



**Heartwarming picture:
John Verdejo and his son, Jacob,
with Judge Vince Rozier
and his daughter, Faith**



Melvin's Pastor, Rev. Debbie Summerlin of the Beulaville United Methodist Church made remarks about Melvin's church work and gave the Invocation.



Matty Lazo-Chadderton made Birthday remarks and read a Birthday Message from Governor Roy Cooper.



Tenth Congressional District Chair Betsy Wells of King's Mountain talked about the friendship she and Melvin have enjoyed through the years. The famous lady on the left is Wake County Democratic leader Linda Gunter.

Gwen Wilkins of Rocky Mount gave a tribute to Melvin and then pulled a surprise: She sang "Happy Birthday" in the style that Marilyn Monroe used to sing "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy at Madison Square Garden in New York!





**DEMOCRATS FROM
EAST AND WEST!**

Barbara Tuttle and Dr. Judith Sinclair drove from the River Bend community near New Bern. Dr. Sinclair was recognized during the program as one of the strongest supporters of "GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!"

Carter Jewell and Clayton Hamerski drove from Wilmington to celebrate. They are very active Young Democrats organizers



Melvin's biggest surprise of the day came when Luke Hyde and Leila Tvedt arrived from Bryson City. Their round trip was 654 miles! Luke read an original poem which he had composed. Luke and Leila have been Melvin's friends for many happy years!

Attorney Charlie Reece is one of Melvin's most admired Democrats. Charlie served as NCDP Treasurer until he was elected to the Durham City Council. Many times Melvin has praised Charlie's devotion to his daughters, Elle and Gwen.



Michael Carmichael of Hillsborough was recognized at the Dinner as one of the strongest supporters of "GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS." From its inception, Michael has written words of praise about EVERY edition of this publication!

George El-Khoury drove from Salisbury for Melvin's Birthday Celebration. George and his remarkable family of Democrats have been featured in "GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS" many times. George has been a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention several times. In 1988 he and his father were the nation's only father and son to both be National Convention Delegates!





Melvin was especially happy that NCDP Third Vice Chair Nida Aziz Allam and her family came to the Birthday Dinner. Nida's husband, Towqir Aziz, is standing next to her. Nida's sister, Afreen, is on the left. Her parents, Abdul and Iffat Allam are on the right. Wonderful friends!



Wake Democrats Swapna and P. K. Gangopadhyay joined in the festivities. They have always been especially kind and courteous to Melvin!



**DUPLIN DEMOCRATS AT THE
BIRTHDAY DINNER!**

Rebecca Judge had a special role on the Birthday program: She delivered an elegantly worded message of greetings from Duplin County Democratic friends.

Then she presented a yellow rose boutonniere to Melvin. She explained that in the world of roses, a yellow rose represents friendship.



Betty Lowe, County Commissioner Jessie Ladson, and Duplin Party Chair George Francis



7th District Party Chair Francisco Rivas-Diaz & State DW Recording Secretary Brenda Rivas-Diaz.



Vernon Moore is the excellent Second Vice Chair of the Duplin Democratic Party.



Treasured Duplin Friends: Armin Jancis (left) is former Duplin Party Chair and has been an SEC Member for 26 years. He has erected more than 30,000 yards signs over the years. Right: Bob Kornegay and Penny Kornegay have held many Duplin County Party offices. The three people above have been a special blessing to Melvin in many ways!



The wonderful Shaver family of Duplin County: Johnny, Estrella, Maria, and Guadalupe



Talented Democrats: Rebecca Judge, Brenda Judge Grubb, Sheila Judge Hall, & Cynthia King



**Jim and Tia Meredith from Randolph County!
Jim is Chair of the Sixth Congressional District
Party. Tia has starred in the "GOOD NEWS" many
times enabling readers to see her
achievements as she grows up.**

**Lenoir County Party Chair Jimmy Cochran
is one of the best County Chairs in the
state. He is also Eastern Vice President of
the County Chairs Association. His wife,
Jauan, is a very active Democrat.**



Jesse and Stephanie Goslen of Franklin County

**From Nash County:
County Commissioner Mary Wells
&
NCDP Sustaining Fund
Chair Charles Johnson**





Johnston County Democratic Leaders Sharon Castleberry (far left) and Sarah Anderson (far right) with beloved Democrats June Atkinson and Elaine Marshall.



Johnston Democrats Carolyn Crenshaw and State Senate Candidate Al Pacer



Wake AAC President Eunice Jones with June Atkinson



NC Court of Appeals Candidate Allegra Collins with Melvin's longtime friend, Daniels Wilkes, who is an official at the NC Supreme Court.



**TERRIFIC FRIENDS!
Janis Simmons is the
excellent Chair of the
Brunswick County
Democratic Party.
Tom Simmons is a strong
Candidate for
State Representative.**

**Joe and Vicki Alston of High Point -
The first article in the first edition of
"GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS"
was about Joe Alston!**



**A very enthusiastic Democrat!
Chris Stevenson is First Vice Chair
of the Brunswick County Democratic
Party and an excellent photographer.
He made many of the pictures
which are featured in this article.**





Senator Floyd McKissick is a star everywhere he goes! In this picture he is with Mrs. Black North Carolina 2017, Chanda Branch. Senator McKissick made many of the pictures in this article.

Wake County SEC Member Nervahna Crew played a major role in the Birthday event: She arranged for Mrs. Black North Carolina 2017 to sing at the dinner! Her son, Randall Crew, has appeared in this publication many times. He is an Honor Roll student!



**Happy Trio!
Eloise Hassell of Greensboro drove to Wilson to pick up her mother, Betty McCain, and bring her to the dinner. Charlie Reece joined in this cheerful picture with this famous mother-daughter team!**



For Melvin the Birthday Dinner was complete when he learned of the arrival of Dr. Grace Galloway from Concord with her famous husband, Joe Galloway, and Jacques, The Wonder Dog!



**Four Democratic men:
Cal Cunningham, Melvin Williams,
Senator Floyd McKissick,
with Rashidul Islam.**

**Wake County Democratic Women
President Cindy Sinkez
and her husband, Gordon, will
remember Melvin's Birthday Dinner
for many reasons - including the fact
that when they arrived back at home
they realized that Cindy's wallet had
been left at the church.
It required an hour's round trip back to
the church to recover the purse!**





**COLLEGE DEMOCRATS INVITE EVERYONE TO
“CDNC HOLIDAZZLE” PARTY!**

**John Easterling, President of the College Democrats of North Carolina,
invites Democrats of all ages to come to the happy**

HOLIDAZZLE PARTY

at the State Headquarters in Raleigh

6:00PM, December 16, 2017

This is a FREE PARTY

but donations are welcomed.

For more information write to John at:

JCEaster@uncg.edu



NO FLOAT - NO PROBLEM!

This picture shows popular State Senator Jeff Jackson at the Thanksgiving Parade in Charlotte. When asked why he was running, he replied: “I was trying to shake as many hands as possible, but I kept getting left behind by the parade car that was carrying my family. My wife snapped this picture as I tried to catch up!”

Does Jeff Jackson’s Message Make Sense?

Look At This Short You Tube Video And Let Jeff Know If You Agree:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UEy6_Wrg7E&t=

His email is:

JacksonFor NCSenate@gmail.com



**NC DEMOCRATIC WOMEN
ATTEND**

HAPPY EVENT IN LITTLE ROCK!

The four NC Democratic Women in this picture had a fascinating experience at the Southern Regional Conference of the National Federation of Democratic Women in Little Rock November 17-18. On the left is our own Barbara Faison of Sampson County who presided over the events in Little Rock because she is the Southern Regional Director of the DW. Brenda Roberts-Fong of Wilmington, Brenda Pollard of Durham, and NC DW President Joyce Mitchell of Greenville also represented the Democratic Women of NC.



All the Delegates were invited to the “Conversation With President Bill Clinton and Secretary Hillary Clinton” at the Convention Center in Little Rock.

This program celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the historic Clinton-Gore campaign of 1992!



Brenda Pollard proudly shows her copy of Hillary Clinton’s book “What Happened” to her husband, Larry Pollard, after she stood in line for more than four hours to get an autographed copy.



**JASON KANDER HEADLINES
BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISER FOR DUANE HALL!**

One of America's most outstanding Democrats, former Missouri Secretary of State Jason Kander, gave an engaging speech at the November 16th Birthday Fundraising Reception for State Representative Duane Hall in Raleigh. Kander became a major Democratic star when he came close to upsetting an incumbent GOP Senator in Missouri in 2016.

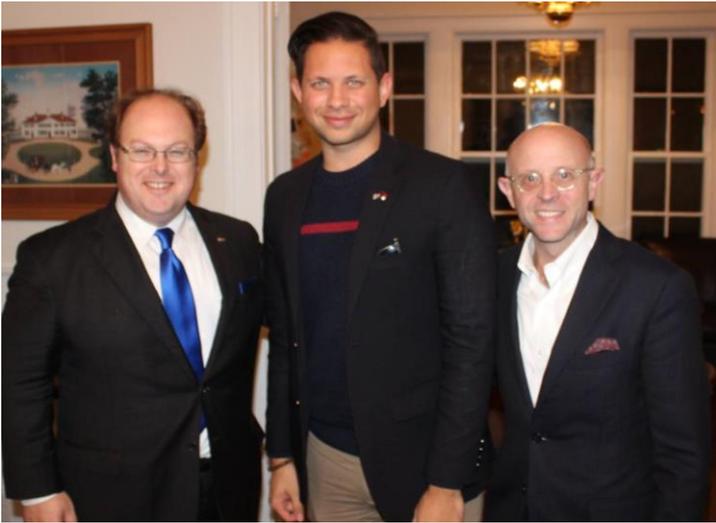


Duane Hall with Marlow Campbell



Jason Kander with Fourth Congressional District Party Chair Wes Tripp

Many of the pictures in this article were made by Edward Jones



NCDP Chair Wayne Goodwin, NCDP 2nd Vice Chair Matt Hughes, with Raleigh attorney Gene Davis



SEC Member Ruth Merkle with First Lady Kristin Cooper



State Representative Joe John, Katie Stanley, and Betsy Conti



Meredith Cuomo and Katie Stanley



Jason Kander talks with Matty Lazo-Chadderton before a portrait of Duane's hero, Terry Sanford.



First Lady Kristin Cooper with Edward Jones



Just A Typical Down Home North Carolina Meal!

After the Fundraising Reception, Raleigh restaurant owner Greg Hatem and his wife Samantha held a dinner for Jason Kander and several other guests.

From the left are: Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Greg Hatem, Jason Kander's Campaign Manager Abe Rakov, Betsy Conti, Gus Gusler, Senator Mike Woodard, Linda Edmisten, Rufus Edmisten, and First Lady Kristin Cooper.

From the right are: Tommy Bunn, House Democratic Leader Darren Jackson, Katie Stanley, Duane Hall, Greg Lademann, State Party Chair Wayne Goodwin, Kathleen Malik, Steve Malik, Deborah Ross and Jason Kander.

Samantha Hatem is at the head of the table.



**LUIS TOLEDO ANNOUNCES FOR STATE SENATE
IN A WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT WITH NO INCUMBENT!**

Luis Toledo is running for State Senate in District 16 which has no incumbent. It is a newly-created district covering northwest Raleigh, Morrisville, and Cary.

Above: Luis and his wife Krista, a professional engineer, are parents of three fine children: Athena in day care, Julian in elementary school, and Orlando in middle school.

Luis graduated from McDowell High School in Marion, North Carolina.

After the attacks of 9/11 Luis felt the call to defend our county and joined the US Air Force. His web site says: "During his time in the US Air Force, Luis became a leader and was shaped by the Air Force's core values: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do."



Following his military service, Luis joined a global consulting and technology company where he led teams in five different countries.

He then earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration to complement the business degree in cybersecurity that he had earned with the help of the G. I. Bill.

After earning his Master's Degree Luis was chosen by the federal government to serve as a Presidential Management Fellow in the U. S. Department of State. For over three years Luis completed various tours, including assignments in Secretary Clinton's Office to work on Presidential Initiatives such as global hunger, and at the Pentagon as a member of the joint Staff working on national defense and security issues. To advance U S. interests and diplomacy around the world, Luis helped manage and assess billion dollar programs.



With a growing family and a desire to return home, Luis and his wife left Washington in 2012 and returned home to North Carolina.

He joined the Office of the State Auditor. For his first assignment, Luis led a groundbreaking audit of the most expensive contract and largest IT project in North Carolina's history: the State's Medicaid Billing System at \$484 million. This audit that he led was selected from across all 50 states to receive an "Excellence in Accountability Award" from the National State Auditors Association.

During his four years managing state government audits, Luis covered a wide range of programs at agencies such as Health and Human Services, State Board of Elections, Public Safety, Information Technology, and Public Instruction.

In January, 2017, Luis joined the North Carolina Justice Center - a statewide nonprofit

dedicated to economic and social justice and eliminating poverty across the state.



LUIS TOLEDO:

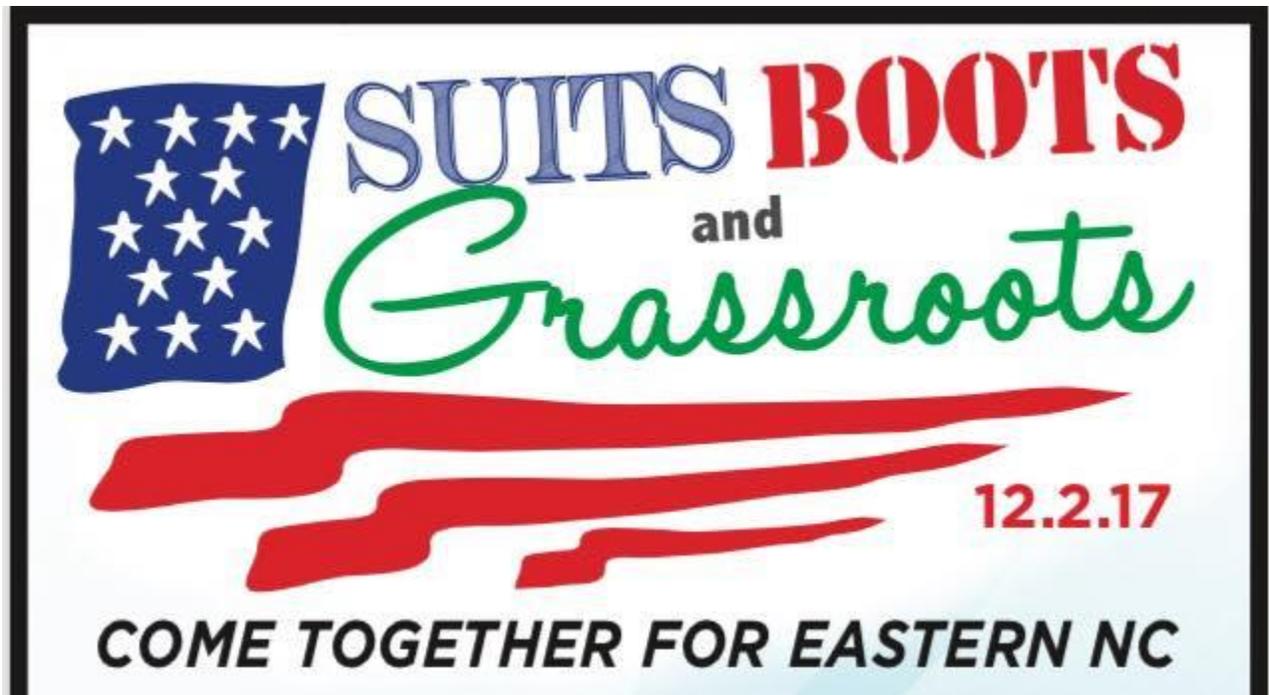
**A DAD, A HUSBAND, A VETERAN,
AND A PUBLIC SERVANT
AT HEART!**

**Readers can get more information
about Luis and his exciting
campaign at:**

www.LuisToledoForNC.com

and

www.facebook.com/LuisToledoNC/



DARE COUNTY DEMOCRATS INVITE EVERYBODY!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

1:00PM - 4:00PM

BASNIGHT'S LONE CEDAR CAFÉ

7623 SOUTH VIRGINIA DARE TRAIL

NAGS HEAD, NORTH CAROLINA 27959

FEATURING:

SECRETARY OF STATE ELAINE MARSHALL!

NCDP STATE CHAIR WAYNE GOODWIN!

STATE SENATOR ERICA SMITH-INGRAM!

COME SHARE VALUES, VOICES, AND VISIONS

AT THIS SUMMIT OF DYNAMIC LEADERS

SILENT AUCTION - FOOD - DRINKS

FAMILIES WELCOME! ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN!

DONATIONS ACCEPTED!



**STEPHEN MCINTYRE
RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE!**

The North Carolina State Bar has recognized Lumberton attorney Stephen McIntyre as a board-certified specialist in workers' compensation law. McIntyre of the Musselwhite, Musselwhite, Branch, and Grantham law firm is the only attorney in Robeson and surrounding counties to receive this distinction, according to the firm.

Stephen McIntyre's board certification comes as the result of years of experience in workers compensation matters, extensive and favorable peer recommendations, numerous cases tried to a successful conclusion, years of specialized continuing legal education classes, and the passing of a day-long specialized examination.

McIntyre previously has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers and as a Legal Elite "Young Gun" by the magazine Business North Carolina. Stephen is married to attorney Angelica Chavis McIntyre.

**PATSY KEEVER &
DREW REISINGER!**

Former State Party Chair Patsy Keever and Buncombe County Register of Deeds Drew Reisinger were captured in this happy picture when they attended a Common Cause event in Asheville on November 15th. The event honored TOM AND BARBARA COULSON for their longtime work on campaign finance reform, voting rights, and fair redistricting.



**STATE SENATE CAMPAIGN
KICKOFF FOR
NORM BOSSERT!**

With 37,596 voters already in his corner, Norm Bossert kicked off his 2018 campaign in State Senate District 48 with a big fundraiser at Bold Rock Hard Cider in the Henderson County town of Mills River. 37,596 is the number of votes Norm received when he ran for this seat in 2016.

Democrats in Henderson, Transylvania, and Buncombe counties are excited about helping Norm go over the top to victory in 2018!



View of part of the crowd from upstairs



Rod Whiteside (left) was elected Mayor of the Town of Fletcher in the recent election!



Congressional Candidate Phillip Price with Bob Miles.



Brian Caskey was elected to the Mills River Town Board on November 7th.



**Patsy Keever and Jim Aycock gave enthusiastic support to Norm's campaign.
Jim was Publisher of the *Black Mountain News* for many years.**



Leila Tvedt and Luke Hyde are boosters of Norm Bossert's campaign.



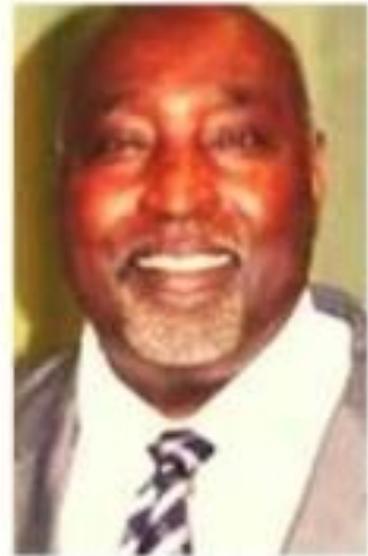
**Isabel Cutler made all the pictures in this article.
She captioned this picture: "Democrats in Training!"**



Phillip Glover



Dena Green



Coleman Hunt

CONGRATULATIONS, CLEVELAND COUNTY DEMOCRATS!

Democrats in Cleveland County are celebrating the fruits of their hard work to elect Democrats to the County Board of Education.

Because of their dedicated work and the high quality of their candidates, they succeeded in electing Democrats Phillip Glover, Dena Green, and Coleman Hunt to their school board!



LINDA COLEMAN ANNOUNCES RUN FOR CONGRESS

Former State Representative Linda Coleman of Wake County is shown above as she announced that she is going to run against GOP incumbent George Holding for the Second Congressional District seat in Congress. She is surrounded by supporters.

Her announcement statement touched on her personal experiences and outlined her policy positions as a fighter for positive change to guarantee equality, liberty and justice for all, including women and minorities.

Send Your GOOD NEWS To Me At:
melvin535@gmail.com

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