

GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!

April 2, 2019

SPECIAL FEATURE – RITA ROBERTS ALSTON!



CELEBRATING CHERI BEASLEY AND MARK DAVIS!

NC Court of Appeals Judges Allegra Collins and Judge Mark Davis joined Cheri Beasley in this picture taken at Cheri Beasley's Investiture as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. It was estimated that more than 1400 people turned out for this historic occasion.

A few days later Judge Davis was appointed to fill Justice Beasley's seat on the Supreme Court.

Both Chief Justice Beasley and Justice Davis will be up for re-election for eight-year terms in 2020.



This picture was taken after Chief Justice Beasley received her Oath of Office and was seated on the bench with the other Justices.

Real progress: The Justice in the main picture behind the bench was a slaveholder.



Brilliant array of judicial talent: All the Justices of the NC Supreme Court on the day of Chief Justice Beasley's Investiture. Several spouses are included. The two young men in the center of the picture are the twin sons of Chief Justice Beasley and her husband, Cecil Owens.



At the Investiture: Washington County Commissioner D. Cole Phelps, Judge Vince Rozier, Judge Cy Vance, and State Representative Nasif Majeed

In the Investiture overflow crowd at First Baptist Church of Raleigh: Brenda Pollard with longtime Bladen County Commissioner Dr. Delilah Blanks and East Arcadia Town Council Member Rhonda Hall





SPECIAL FEATURE – RITA ROBERTS ALSTON!

When a Democrat helps organize more than 130 precincts in several different counties, she deserves a salute! Rita Roberts Alston of Wake County is that Democrat! Over recent years she has devoted a tremendous amount of time, enthusiasm, and patience to organizing Democrats at the grassroots level. Everybody talks about the importance of organizing at the grassroots level. Rita takes action and makes it happen!

Rita has worn many hats over the years as she supported the Democratic Party with her heart and her actions. She has served in the following positions:

- **Congressional District Minority Chair in the 4th and the 13th districts**
- **Vice Chair of the NCDP Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus**
- **Chair, Secretary & Treasurer for Wake County Precinct 08-05**

Rita has a proven record of excellence which includes:

- **Oak Leaf Award – NC PTA Board of Managers**
- **First Place Award from the March of Dimes Parent Education Program**
- **JC Penney Parent Education Award**
- **Governor’s Award (Statewide) from Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. for Distinguished Meritorious Service To The People and State of North Carolina**
- **National Sales Achievement Award**
- **National Alliance of Business Men Award for exemplary service, business Leadership, social consciousness in furthering the National Cause**
- **Governor’s Education First Task Force Award from Governor Michael F. Easley**
- **Founder of the following programs:**
 - Founder of the Academic Acts Counseling Training Session Program**
 - Founder of the Learning Enhancement Adolescent Program**



Speaking of hats: Rita was one of the winners of the Best Hat Award at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia! North Carolina Democrats elected Rita to be one of their Hillary Clinton Delegates at the Convention.

Rita is a native of Durham County and she has lived in Raleigh for 51 years. She attended Winston Salem State University, North Carolina State University, and Duke University.

She is a lifelong educator. She began teaching in Martinsville, Virginia in 1968. She went on to serve with Durham Public Schools and Wake County Public Schools. She served in a variety of roles before retiring in 2005.

Rita's service included managing a 21st Century Learning Center and creating the first alternative program for Durham Public Schools. Her service has also included creating the I.S.S. model for Wake Forest Middle School and supervising the first Intense Mental Health Unit for adults with dual diagnosis. In addition, she served as a Federal Reading Coordinator for the Educational Professional Administration. She is also a member of the Foundation of Raleigh Fellowship.



Rita's daughter and son-in-law, Michelle and Dr. William Charles



**When asked:
“Why Are You
A Democrat?”
Rita replied:**

“I am a Democrat because it is my mission to all help ALL people to come together as a group. To me, the Democratic Party is based on “grass roots” principles, meaning that they are focused on working from the “ground up” and meeting the needs of those who need the most help but are the least heard.

“I first became inspired to do the hard work of helping others when I heard the story of my cousin, James Moses Horton, as a young child. James Moses Horton was a slave who walked from Chapel Hill to Raleigh trying to earn his freedom.

“Each time, Horton would walk to the *Raleigh Registry*, a Republican newspaper, and attempt to sell his poetry. He was never able to purchase his freedom, but he is known in history as the first black published poet.

“His determination was undeniable and is at the core of the work that I do today. I combine the determination that I learned from my cousin with my compassion for the community to continue to make a difference.

“My work is all about making personal connections with those who are traditionally ignored and making sure that their voices are heard. My goals are centered around organizing precincts in the communities with the most need.

“I want to continue to go directly into communities and educating people about their local, state, and national government. I see myself organizing meetings so that these people have opportunity to voice their needs and hear from those who are working to meet them. That way, they will become informed voters and can make educated decisions about who is working to meet them.

“I have been doing this work for years, but there is much work yet to be done. I will not be satisfied until the people of these forgotten communities are able to talk at potluck dinners with their politicians and make sure their voices are heard.

“Though this work is difficult and will take time to fully accomplish, if there’s one thing I’ve learned from my cousin, James Moses Horton, it is to “keep pushing” until you achieve your goals.”



On March 12, 2016, Rita Alston was honored with the 2016 UNITY IN DIVERSITY AWARD at the NCDP's INTERNATIONAL NIGHT at the Goodwin House. The award was presented by Ron Sanyal. The script on the Award says it was presented to Rita "For A Lifetime of Outstanding Contributions To Unifying The Community."

**Picture from yesteryear:
Rita with her husband, Edward Jr.
and their two children**



Rita's family in formal attire



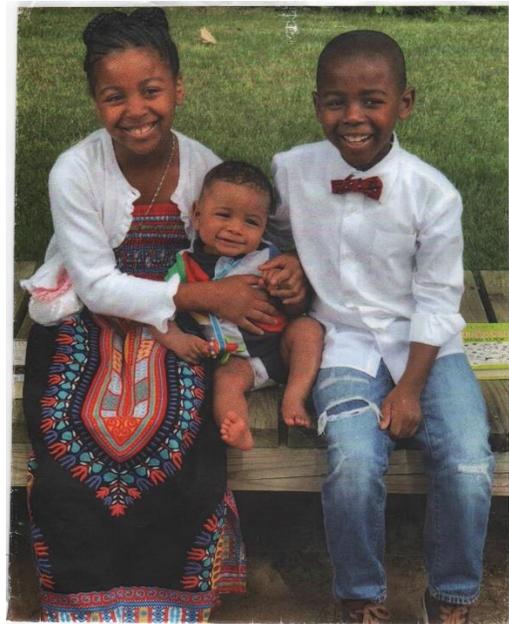
Rita's children & grandchildren at a basketball game



Rita's son-in-law, Dr. William Charles, daughter, Michelle Charles, with grandchildren, Jackson Charles and Christie Charles



Rita's niece, Durham City Council Member Vernetta Alston



Rita's grandchildren: Christie, Nigel, and Jackson



Lillie, Rita's Treasured canine friend

**Democrats may write to Rita at:
RitaRobertsAlston@gmail.com**



Jessica HOLMES



COMMISSIONER OF LABOR

JESSICA HOLMES FOR COMMISSIONER OF LABOR!

Attorney Jessica Holmes, Chair of the County Commissioners of Wake County, has announced her campaign for NC Commissioner of Labor.

Her website is: www.JessicaHolmesNC.com

The GOP incumbent, Cherie Berry, has announced she will NOT run for re-election in 2020!



PATSY KEEVER FOR STATE SENATE!

Former NCDP State Chair Patsy Keever has announced her campaign for State Senate in District 48. This district includes Henderson, Transylvania and part of Buncombe counties. The incumbent is a Republican.

Patsy's friends and supporters are invited to her website:

www.PatsyKeeverForSenate.com

Talented campaigner Bridget McCurry is shown on the left in this colorful picture.

A black and white portrait of Franklin D. Roosevelt, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is dark.

ASHE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
FDR DINNER

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019, 6:00 P.M.

Ashe Services for Aging
180 Chattyrob Ln, West Jefferson, NC 28694
RSVP: ashedemschair@gmail.com

Tickets: \$20

ASHE COUNTY'S 2019 FDR DINNER!!!



RICK AND SHILPA GET MARRIED!

Democrats all over the state are rejoicing about the wedding of Rick Ingram and Shilpa Hedge in Asheville during the second weekend in March. This publication has been following these two outstanding Democrats for years and their wedding is a big, happy event.

Rick grew up in Madison County. He earned his undergraduate degree and his law degree from UNC-Chapel Hill. He works with the Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr law firm in DC.

Rick met Shilpa in New York and they have recently moved to Washington where Shilpa will continue her work for the Democratic public affairs and political consulting firm SKDKnickerbocker.

In June they will have an Indian wedding ceremony and celebration in Durham.



www.zimzoomphotobooth.com

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY.
THANKS FOR BEING A

Hometown Hero

RENEE PRICE HONORED AS HOMETOWN HERO!

This excellent picture of Renee Price and Michael Carmichael was made when WCHL honored Renee as a **HOMETOWN HERO**. She was honored for founding Free Spirit Freedom, a virtual gallery of photography, imagery, and narrative explaining the memories and lives of the people of color of Orange County, North Carolina.

"AIMING FOR SOLUTIONS, NOT PROMISES"

**CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
REFORM
FORUM**

HOSTED BY THE AAC OF THE NCDP

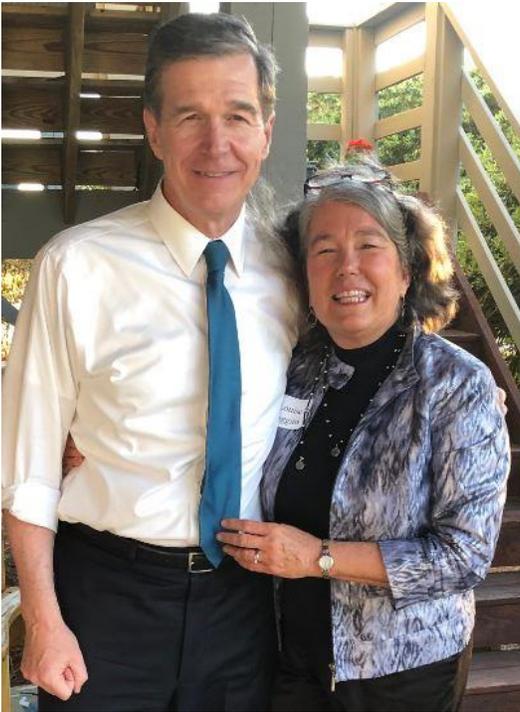
APRIL 6TH 2019

ST. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY
THE PREZELL R. ROBINSON LIBRARY
1315 OAKWOOD AVENUE
RALEIGH NC 27610

FREE TRAINING
12 PM - 5 PM
FREE ADMISSION



THE AAC CAUCUS OF THE NCDP INVITES EVERYONE TO COME!



LOUISE & STEVE COGGINS HOST FUNDRAISER FOR GOVERNOR COOPER!

Louise and Steve Coggins hosted a major fundraising event for Governor Roy Cooper at their Figure 8 Island home on March 26th. Louise is with the Governor in the picture on the left. Celeste Smith is with him in the picture on the right.

Louise and Steve have raised hundred of thousands of dollars for Democrats at the many fundraisers they have held in their home over the years. They put action where their hearts are!



These four younger Democrats were radiant as they posed with the Governor.

Marcia Morgan made a strong run for a seat in the General Assembly in 2018. Many Democrats are hoping she will run again in 2020!

All Democratic candidates are invited to send pictures and short articles to this publication at: melvin535@gmail.com. Please send all pictures as JPEGs. Pictures in PDFs can not be inserted into the GOOD NEWS which is a PDF.



HOKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION!

**Hoke County Democrats filled the hall for their 2019 County Convention on March 23rd.
Convention Delegates, registered voters, local elected officials, and
Hoke's state legislators attended.**



Dr. Bobbie Richardson, First Vice Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party gave the Keynote Address. Attendees said she gave a powerful presentation which inspired them.

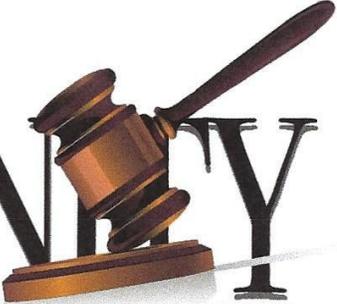
The Convention elected the following new Officers:

County Chair – William E. Hollingsworth, Sr	3rd Vice Chair – Angelica McDonald
1st Vice Chair – Linda Levels	Secretary – Della Smith
2nd Vice Chair – Dwight Oxendine	Treasurer – Patricia McPhatter

**As he finished several highly successful years as Hoke County Chair, Jim Davis announced that he will be a candidate for Eighth Congressional District Chair at the District Convention in April. His announcement was greeted with loud applause!
Hoke Democrats Invite Everyone To Their Big Event On The Next Page!**

HOKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTS:

COMMUNITY BRUNCH



MAY 4, 2019

11AM-2PM

\$20.00

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

HONORABLE ANITA EARLS

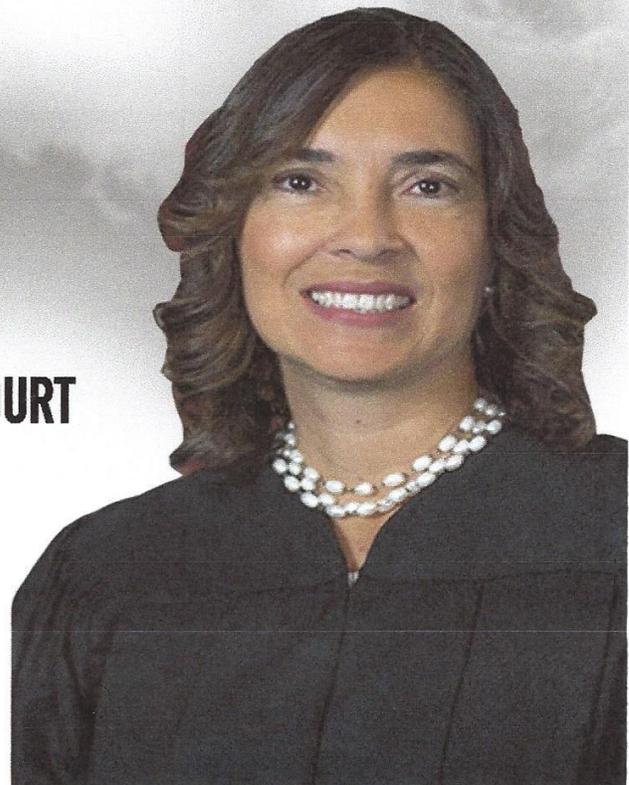
JUSTICE OF THE NC SUPREME COURT

FOR MORE INFO:

JAMES DAVIS 910-286-2069

CHARLOTTE KELLY 910-308-0450

**Community Resource Center
373 Pittman Grove Church Rd. | Raeford, NC**





ALAMANCE COUNTY CONVENTION!

Delegates to the 2019 Alamance County Convention elected a talented group of County Party Officers for 2019-2021. From left to right they are:

**Second Vice Chair Elliott Lynch
 First Vice Chair Sean Ewing
 Secretary Cindy Wright**

**County Chair Elaine Berry
 Treasurer Ellen Edwards
 Third Vice Chair Ernest Lewis**



Lt. Governor candidate Cal Cunningham delivered an energetic speech at the Convention.



These Democrats are members of the Alamance County Native American Democratic Caucus.

Blue Wave Bonanza

A Party for Our Party!
at the
Tryon Equestrian Center



Friday, April 26, 2019

Hors D'Oeuvres & Cash Bar 6pm; Dinner 7pm
CAMPAGNA RESTAURANT 4066 Pea Ridge Road, Mill Spring, NC 28756

Speaker: Terry Van Duyn, NC Senate
2020 Candidate for Lieutenant Governor

\$55 in advance, \$60 at the door *RESERVE EARLY!*

SPONSORSHIPS: Silver \$125/2, Gold \$250/4, Platinum \$500/8

Questions? Call 828-351-9954, or email Dems@rutherfordncdems.com

Building Solidarity to Defend Democracy



CONSTANCE WALLACE – MATT HUGHES!

Constance Wallace was elected Vice President For Membership of the Young Democrats of Georgia at the YD of Georgia Convention in Atlanta on March 17th. She is the sister of North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District Chair Cynthia Wallace who has been a leader in straightening out the fraud problems in her congressional district.

In this picture Constance is being congratulated by our Matt Hughes, Second Vice Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party.

Matt was in Atlanta for the Young Democrats of America National Committee Meeting. He was elected Southeast Regional Director of the Young Democrats of America. He will build and supervise Young Democratic activities and events in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Congratulations to Constance and Matt!

All Democratic candidates are invited to send pictures and short articles about their campaign to:

melvin535@gmail.com

Please send pictures as JPEGs.

PDFs can not be inserted into this newsletter because it is a PDF.



DR. MICHAEL MAHER ADDRESSES BRUNSWICK COUNTY DEMOCRATS!

Brunswick County Democrats welcomed Dr. Michael Maher, Democratic Candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction to their March meeting at their County Headquarters in Bolivia, NC.

Both County Party Treasurer Dr. Dwight Willis and County Chair Janis Simmons are retired educators. They are excited about Dr. Maher's campaign!



UNC-CHAPEL HILL YOUNG DEMOCRATS!

At last week's meeting in Chapel Hill, the Young Democrats of UNC focused on understanding the refugee crisis. They talked about how they can support refugees in their local communities.

Their knowledge was greatly increased as they listened to speakers from World Relief, UNC Center For Global Initiative, and the Transatlantic Masters Program.



STOKES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION!

Forty Five strong Democrats turned out for the 2019 Stokes County Convention on March 22nd. Lt. Governor candidate Cal Cunningham was the Guest Speaker. He is with County Chair David Dalton in the picture on the right above.

The Convention elected the following outstanding Officers for 2019 – 2021:

County Chair – David Dalton

Secretary – Katherine Gambell

1st Vice Chair – Bettye Barrett

Treasurer – Carol Wood

2nd Vice Chair – Kay Richey



Some of the strong Democrats of Stokes County!



WAKE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION!

**More than 500 Democrats packed into the 2019 Wake County Democratic Convention!
In the picture above Judge Keith Gregory is administering the Oath of Office to the Officers which the Convention elected.**

From the left they are:

**Raleigh Vice Chair Schnika Pender
Wake County Vice Chair Marina Kelly
Cary Vice Chair Maria Cervania
Second Vice Chair Rhonda Bond
First Vice Chair Clayton Brooks**

**County Chair Rebecca Llewellyn
Secretary Steven Hill
Treasurer Max Adams
Third Vice Chair Antoine Marshall**



Part of the more than 500 Wake Democrats at the Convention



First Vice Chair Charles Stevenson and Chair Rebecca Llewellyn with Congressman Price as he delivered the Keynote Address



Wake County elected more SEC Members than any other county in the in the state. Rashidul Islam was re-elected to one of Wake's SEC seats.



BOBBIE RICHARDSON KEYNOTES PERSON COUNTY CONVENTION!

Since her election on January 26th, NCDP First Vice Chair Bobbie Richardson has been a lady on the go! She has accepted invitations to speak at many Democratic events.

In the picture above she is giving the Keynote Address at the 2019 Person County Convention in Roxboro.

Hardworking Person County Chair Charles Harvey is shown on the right intensely listening to Bobbie's wise words.

This picture doesn't show them, but there was a large crowd at the Person County Convention!



MATT HUGHES KEYNOTES WILSON COUNTY CONVENTION!

**From The
*WILSON TIMES***

Occupancy was standing room only as Wilson Democratic Delegates and guests gathered in the Wilson County Courthouse on March 30th.

Former North Carolina Governor and Wilsonian Jim Hunt was among the first to speak, calling on the assembled Democrats to work hard during the next 20 months.

“Here’s what I want us to do in the next year and a half,” Hunt said. “I want us to get together as a party. I want us to go out on Saturday mornings, or whenever we do it, and I want us to sweep through every community in this county, in the rural areas and in the towns, and register everybody to vote. If we do, we will increase the Democratic Party membership a lot.”

“We need victories at the polls so that we can have a government that leads for the people,” Hunt continued. “Every child ought to have a good school. They can learn if they have help.”

Governor Hunt introduced the guest speaker, Matt Hughes of Hillsborough, the NC Democratic Party Second Vice Chair.

“The speaker we have today is a different kind of speaker,” Hunt said. “We didn’t bring in here today some old broken down person who has done everything for 50 years...like me. We brought in one of those young ones, and you’re going to be excited about him.”

“It’s actually because of Democrats like Governor Hunt that I’m able to stand before you here today,” Hunt said. “My family had the opportunity to send me to a pre-K program through Smart Start to receive the speech pathology treatments that I needed to literally speak to you today. And because of well-funded school and high-quality teachers in a world-class public education system, championed by Democrats like Governor Hunt, I, and millions of other North Carolinians, have been able to live better lives.”

Hughes said: “We need to stay focused and not get bogged down by the little things that differentiate our Democratic presidential candidates. We have to stay focused because too many people are counting on us. We have to remember that we are a coalition of imperfect allies, but we are united in the cause of keeping our people safe, healthy, more prosperous, and better educated.”

Congressman G. K. Butterfield began his address to the Convention by saying:

“We should be proud to be Democrats. Not a reluctant Democrat, not a second-thought Democrat. We need to be proud to be a Democrat. It has been the Democratic Party that has fought for civil rights, voting rights, and creating a strong middle class for as long as I can remember. It has been the Democratic Party that has fought for middle class and low-income Americans. We have been the party of supporting universal health care, Medicare, and Medicaid. It has been Democrats that have transformed the landscape of America and we should be proud of our party.”

**The Wilson County Convention elected this outstanding lineup
of County Party Officers for 2019 – 2021**

County Chair – Linda Cooper-Suggs

3rd Vice Chair – Wayne Willingham

1st Vice Chair – Jim Hawley

Secretary – Brenda Avery

2nd Vice Chair – Anne Barnes

Treasurer – Tom Sallenger

These five SEC Members were elected:

Dewey Sheffield

Asa Gregory

Linda Cooper-Suggs

Zette McArn

Ann Barnes

**ON TODAY, APRIL 2ND, MATT HUGHES ANNOUNCED
HIS CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION TO A FULL TERM
AS A HILLSBOROUGH TOWN COMMISSIONER!**



**Matt
Hughes**

TOWN COMMISSIONER



NC DEMOCRATS AT THE US SUPREME COURT!

On March 25 State Democratic Party Chair Wayne Goodwin was among NC Democrats who went to Washington to hear arguments on the North Carolina congressional redistricting case. As one of the plaintiffs in this case, North Carolina Democrats are asking the Supreme Court to redraw our districts in a fair and equitable manner.

Joining Wayne at the Supreme Court are Jake Quinn of Asheville and former State Senator Linda Garrou of Winston Salem. Both Jake and Linda are plaintiffs in the case.



Allison Riggs joined Wayne in this picture in front of the Supreme Court.



SENIOR DEMOCRATS OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY!

The Senior Democrats of Brunswick County turned out in strong numbers for their March 26th meeting at the Kendall Chapel A. M. E. Church in Winnabow.

Above left – State Senior Democrats President Tom Rothrock drove all the way from Charlotte to discuss the role of the state Senior Dems and to promote the State Senior Democrats Convention which will be held in Wilmington on May 3rd and 4th.

Above right – Tom Sapp, the newly elected Chair of the Brunswick County Democratic Party discussed the importance of the BCDP and the BC Senior Dems to work together to turn the county blue in 2020.



Above left – Brunswick Senior Dems President Wesley Brown laid out the organization's plans for 2019 and 2020.

Above right – Brunswick Senior Dems Vice President Alice Lohr reviewed the past year and gave inspiration about the direction forward.

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Best: Send each entire page as a JPEG (picture) so It can be inserted into GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS.

CATAWBA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC TOWN HALL!

**Our super-busy State Chair
Wayne Goodwin traveled to
Hickory for a Democratic
Town Hall meeting.**

**This was not their County Convention. It
was a special Town Hall to share ideas
about how to be an effective Democratic
Party in a red county.**

**Lynn Dorfman can be seen giving a "V"
sign on the front row.**



**Wayne led the crowd in a special version of
"Happy Days Are Here Again." It was entitled
"Happy Days Will Be Here Again!"**



A colorful Democratic cake was served.



**Catawba County First Vice Chair
Delene Huggins
greeted Wayne
in front of the
Catawba County
Democratic Party Headquarters.**



MECKLENBURG COUNTY CONVENTION!

**Hundreds of Democrats filled the 2019 Mecklenburg County Convention on March 23rd.
This picture does not show all the Democrats who attended.**



OLMA ECHEVERRI!

Thunderous applause erupted at the Convention when the Pat Patton Award was presented to Olma Echeverri who is in the middle of this picture on the with her daughter and her husband.

Olma has served as President of the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County and as a Member of the Democratic National Committee.

**Lisa Ellsworth,
Connie Green-Johnson,
and Cynthia Wallace**





Candidates and Officeholders took turns speaking at the Mecklenburg Convention.



Mayor Vi Lyles with other Democrats at the Convention.



Mecklenburg law enforcement Democrats

**Happy Mecklenburg
Democrats
at the
Convention!**



**State Representatives
Wesley Harris
and
Carla Cunningham served
Convention Democrats.**

**County Commissioner Susan McDowell
And
Judge Elizabeth Trosch**



Send Your GOOD NEWS

to:

melvin535@gmail.com

**Please send your pictures and pages
as JPEGs,
not as PDFs.**

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