

# GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!

## DISTRICT CONVENTION EDITION!

May 29, 2021

All Thirteen Districts Were Invited To Send Pictures of All  
The Officers They Elected On May 22, 2021.

The District Chairs On This Front Page Were The First To Send Their  
Pictures. Additional District Pictures Will Be Featured As They Arrive.



Left:  
New Eighth District  
Chair Valencia  
Handy!



Right::  
Re-Elected Sixth  
District Chair  
Dave Wils  
pictured speaking  
at the 2016  
National  
Convention.

Left: Newly Elected  
11<sup>th</sup> District Chair  
Michael O'Shea



Right: Re-Elected  
First District Chair  
Senator Don Davis



**EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICERS, 2021 – 2023**



**CHAIR VALENCIA HANDY  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY**



**FIRST VICE CHAIR DR. DAREK MCCULLERS  
CABARRUS COUNTY**



**SECOND VICE CHAIR – LYNNE  
HOLZAPFEL – MONTGOMERY COUNTY**



**3<sup>RD</sup> VICE CHAIR LANDON KEITH  
MOORE COUNTY**



**LEFT – SECRETARY  
RHONDA QUADOR  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY**



**RIGHT – TREASURER  
ZONDRA HARRIS**

**SPOTLIGHT FEATURE ON  
DR. DAREK MCCULLERS  
FIRST VICE CHAIR OF THE  
EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY!**



**The Rev. Dr. Darek McCullers is a resident of Concord, NC. He is the Pastor of Dry Creek United Church of Christ in Candor, NC. He has been active in both Religious Affairs and Social Justice Advocacy from a young age.**

**As a teenager he served on the Raleigh NC Martin Luther King Statue and Memorial Gardens Committee, helping to raise the funds to get the statue built. Also, while studying at East Carolina University, he served on the Greenville Council for Human Relations. During this time, he served his country as a Religious Program Specialist with the United States Navy, rising to the rank of Petty Officer, Second Class.**

**He went on to obtain his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Mount Olive and his Masters and Doctorate in Theology and Ministry from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury.**

**As a Democratic Party activist, he worked as a volunteer organizer with the Obama Campaign in 2008 traveling across three states. Subsequently, he fought for the passage of the Affordable Care Act as an Advocate Member of Healthcare for American Now, where he took this fight all the way to Washington, DC where he met with the late Senator Kay Hagin.**

**Since then, he has held positions of leadership including Precinct Chair (2017-21), State Executive Committee (2017-Present,) and Cabarrus County School Board Candidate (2018) where he drew 10,000 votes in a Republican dominated county. He strongly feels that he “paved the way in the next cycle to elect the first African American on the board.”**



**Not only has Dr. Darek McCullers served in these roles, but he has led as a Churchman as well. In that capacity he has been the Governance Committee Chair of the Board for the United Church of Christ affiliated Franklinton Center at Bricks (2014-2020,) the Vice President of the UCC auxiliary, Ministers for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice (2015-2019,) and a Member of the Committee on Ministry for the Eastern NC Association, Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ (2016-2020.)**

**Presently he is beginning his term (2021-2023) as First Vice Chair of the Eighth Congressional District of the NC Democratic Party while completing his PhD in Humanities and Culture with a Designated Emphasis in Ethics and Philosophy and a Martin Luther King, Jr. specialization through Union Institute and University.**

**He finds support in these accomplishments from his wife, Sherry Lassiter-McCullers, the parents who raised him, two siblings, two beloved nephews and two nieces and a host of relatives and friends.**



# SIXTH DISTRICT DEMOCRATIC OFFICERS, 2021-2023

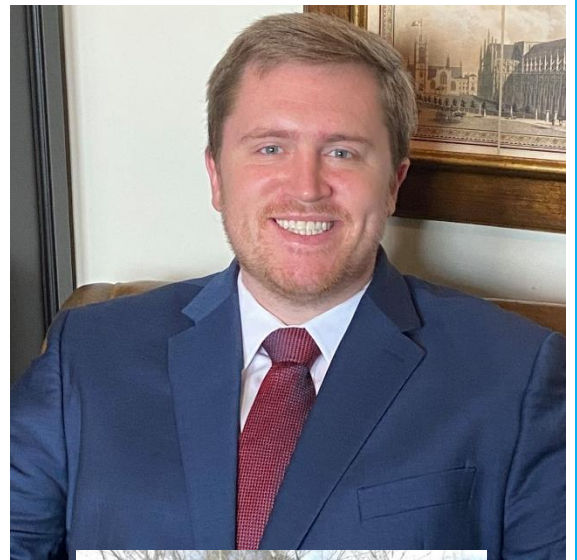


**CHAIR DAVE WILS – FORSYTH COUNTY    1<sup>ST</sup> VC - SALETTA URENA – GUILFORD**

**RIGHT – 2<sup>ND</sup> VC  
BLANCHE MCCANTS –  
FORSYTH COUNTY**



**FAR RIGHT – 3<sup>RD</sup> VC  
JON MCLAMB–  
FORSYTH**



**RIGHT - TREASURER  
MICHAEL WELLS,  
GUILFORD COUNTY  
WITH HIS WIFE  
JILLIAN BREVORKA  
WHO IS A FORMER  
DISTRICT CHAIR.**



**FAR RIGHT –  
SECRETARY LINDA  
ARCHER, GUILFORD  
COUNY**



## **ELEVENTH DISTRICT OFFICERS, 2021-2023**



**LEFT- DISTRICT CHAIR MICHAEL O'SHEA, HENDERSON COUNTY CENTER – 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR, DENISE FLOYD, BUNCOMBE COUNTY  
RIGHT – 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIR, DENISE MARECKI, BUNCOMBE COUNTY**



**LEFT – 3<sup>RD</sup> VC KAREN SMITH – MACON COUNTY  
RIGHT – SECRETARY LORNA BARNETT – JACKSON COUNTY  
WE HOPE TO HAVE A PICTURE OF  
TREASURER GAYLE WAYNE AT A LATER DATE.**

**FIRST DISTRICT OFFICERS, 2021 – 2023**



**LEFT – DISTRICT CHAIR STATE SENATOR DON DAVIS – PITT COUNTY**  
**RIGHT – KIMBERLY MACK – HALIFAX COUNTY**



**LEFT – 2ND VICE CHAIR D. COLE PHELPS – WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
**RIGHT – THIRD VICE CHAIR – KELVIN STALLINGS - WAYNE COUNTY**



**LEFT – SECRETARY – MERCEDES FORNAY, MARTIN COUNTY**  
**RIGHT – TREASURER – LARRY JONES, WARREN COUNTY**



**SEN. DAVIS SENT THIS COLLAGE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT CONVENTION!**





**THE HONORABLE  
ALMA S. ADAMS, PHD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
2021 NATIONAL  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

**CONGRESSWOMAN ALMA ADAMS HONORED!**

**On May 16<sup>th</sup> Spelman College in Atlanta honored North Carolina Congresswoman Alma Adams with its BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021 NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARRD! The award was presented during the school's Graduation Ceremony.**

**THIS PUBLICATION IS  
LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING  
PICTURES OF MORE COUNTY PARTY OFFICERS  
AND  
MORE DISTRICT PARTY OFFICERS.**

**THE NEXT TWO PAGES  
WILL FEATURE THE 2021-2023 OFFICERS  
OF TWO OF OUR STATE'S  
FINEST COUNTIES:**

**THE OFFICERS OF SAMPSON COUNTY!  
THE OFFICERS OF JACKSON COUNTY!**

# SAMPSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICERS



**Billy Todd,**  
Treasurer



**Judy Johnson-Truitt**  
Recording Secretary



**Marian Chavious,**  
Assistant Secretary



**Sherri White-Williamson,**  
Assistant Treasurer



**Edward Gillim,**  
Chair and SEC



**Willie Moore,**  
Former Chair, SEC



**Ruby Bell,**  
1st Vice Chair, SEC



**Wendy Becton,**  
2nd Vice Chair



**Garrett Whipkey,**  
3rd Vice Chair

**SAMPSON COUNTY OFFICERS, 2021-2023!**



## **JACKSON COUNTY OFFICERS, 2021-2023!**

**In clockwise order starting at the top row left, the Officers are**

**First Vice Chair Penny Smith**

**County Chair Cody Lewis**

**Third Vice Chair Julia Painter**

**Treasurer Wanda Herren**

**Second Vice Chair Cindy Burke**

**Secretary – Joni Ashton**

**Second Secretary – Marah Stefanisco**



## **LUTHER STROUP HONORED BY MITCHELL COUNTY PARTY!**

**The Mitchell County Democratic Party is proud to announce Luther Stroup as the 2021 MITCHELL COUNTY DEMOCRAT OF THE YEAR and the recipient of the county's LISTON B. RAMSEY SERVICE AWARD.**

**Luther has spent 50 years serving all the voters of Mitchell County as a volunteer working with the Mitchell Board of Election. He has served as a vote counter, poll worker, and as a member of the Board of Elections. His ability to work with others at the Board of Elections and his dedication and commitment to the democratic process has gone far to ensure the integrity, openness, and effectiveness of the voting process in Mitchell County.**

**Luther's family joined him at the meeting at which he was honored. From the left they are: Steve English, Brooke Bailey, Victoria Stroup, and Molly English.**

**Congratulations, Luther!**



## **STEVE & LOUISE CELEBRATE 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

**Steve and Louise Coggins recently celebrated their 47<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at Manna Restaurant in downtown Wilmington.**

**What have they done for Democrats so far? They have hosted major fundraising events at their home for Governor and Mrs. Cooper, Governor Beverly Perdue, and Senator Kay Hagan.**

**They feted Erskine Bowles and Deborah Ross at fundraisers in their home and hosted an elegant event for John Edwards when he was running for President.**

**One summer they had over 200 guests at their home for an event for Congressman Mike McIntyre.**

**Louise and Steve have also been major hosts of fundraising events in North Carolina for Bill Clinton, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, and Barack Obama. Those events were in North Carolina but not in their home.**

**Since this publication began in 2011, Louise has been the strongest supporter of GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS in the state. She writes complimentary words to Melvin Williams about every edition! Every edition!**

**May you have many, many more happy anniversaries, Steve and Louise!**



## **TWO MORE HONORS FOR JOSEPH EARL LEVY!**

**Joseph Earl Levy has been elected Corresponding Secretary of the Queen City Chapter of Jack and Jill of America. He has also been appointed a Member of the Kannapolis Youth Council.**

**Joseph Earl has been featured in this publication many times since he was eight years old because he continues to develop his leadership skills and continues his academic achievements.**

**He is the son of Veleria Levy who just completed a term as Thirteenth Congressional District Democratic Party Chair. Veleria is now on a new career path as she works toward a law degree at the Wake Forest School of Law. Veleria was Second Vice Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party from 2015 until 2017.**

**About Joseph Earl, Veleria says, "I keep raising the bar and he keeps grabbing it! I am so proud of him!"**



## **ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, HONORS RENEE PRICE'S FATHER!**

**Renee Price (right) is Chair of the Orange County (NC) Board of County Commissioners.**

**In this picture Renee and her sister, Charlene Scaife, are receiving the official proclamation honoring their father, Charles Price, from Lovely Warren who is Mayor of Rochester, New York.**

**The proclamation designated May 22, 2021 as CHARLES PRICE DAY in Rochester. Charles Price was the first African American police officer in Rochester history. He was also a member of the famed Tuskegee Airman and he lived until age 98.**

## Corrections

**New Alamance County Party Chair Elliott Lynch would like for people to know that he is not an attorney as was indicated in the May 11, 2021 edition. Since 1992 Elliott has been Owner and Manager of ValuSystems Computers in Burlington.**

**In the next edition, this publication will have a Special Feature on Elliott Lynch.**

\* \* \* \*

**On April 18<sup>th</sup> this publication received an email from Jayne Williams in which she said: “I’m going to be running for City Council of Kannapolis for the 2021 election and I was informed I can send you one of my pics. “**

**On the same day, GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS replied inviting her to send about 150-175 words about herself and what she wants to do for the city.**

**Later on the same day, the GOOD NEWS received an lengthy email from Jayne in which she said she would be “ a great candidate to run for Kannapolis City Council.” Her email also said “If you elect me as your Kannapolis City Council, I Promise I will Dedicate my time to making our community a safe and better place to live and raise our children. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER.”**

**The May 11<sup>th</sup> edition of this newsletter included an article about Jayne and her campaign.**

**After reading the article on May 11<sup>th</sup> Jayne Williams sent a happy email to the GOOD NEWS in which she said: “OMG I love it. Thank you so much it made me cry but tears of happiness. I’ve literally lost the words right now. All I can say is thank you thank you thank you.”**

**On the night of May 11<sup>th</sup> a lady who identified herself as Jayne’s campaign manager phoned the GOOD NEWS and said Jayne had not yet decided whether she will run for the City Council. She asked for a retraction. Therefore, this publication is happy to retract the May 11<sup>th</sup> article about Jayne Williams.**

**Throughout the above email exchanges, Jayne Williams expressed kindness, courtesy, and a high degree of interest in improving the city of Kannapolis.**

### **DISCLAIMER**

**All future editions of this newsletter which contain pictures and information about candidates will include this disclaimer:**

**“Any and all Democratic Candidates which are featured in the NCDP’s GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS are not endorsed candidates by the North Carolina Democratic Party during a primary. The North Carolina Democratic Party is committed to complete impartiality in any Democratic Primary and the Party is working to provide an equal and fair platform for each primary candidate.”**





## **JAKE MORGAN GRADUATES!**

**When Jake Morgan was a student at Providence High School in Charlotte, he was PRESIDENT of THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF TEEN DEMOCRATS.**

**Since then he has had four great years at UNC-Chapel Hill. He graduated this Spring with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration.**

**Jake will soon be moving to San Diego where he will be working as a Sustainability Consultant.**



**In the picture on the right, Jake is joined on Graduation Day by his UNC buddies, Max Kobernick and Jeremy Valcancich.**



## **NEW OPPORTUNITY AND NEW AWARD FOR GREEAR WEBB!**

**Regular readers of the GOOD NEWS already know that Greear Webb of Raleigh is a Morehead-Cain Scholar at UNC-CHAPEL HILL, a member of the Governor's Crime Commission, and a justice and voting rights advocate. He has completed his first two years at Chapel Hill earning excellent grades.**

**In the last few days, Greear has learned that he has been awarded a Summer Internship in Washington, DC, under the leadership of President & CEO Ron Busby at the U. S. Black Chambers, Inc. (USBC.)**

**He will relocate to Washington for two months where he will spend time expanding his knowledge of the racial disparities that exist in American business. He will also learn about the importance of Black financial stability and closing the racial wealth gap that exists in America.**

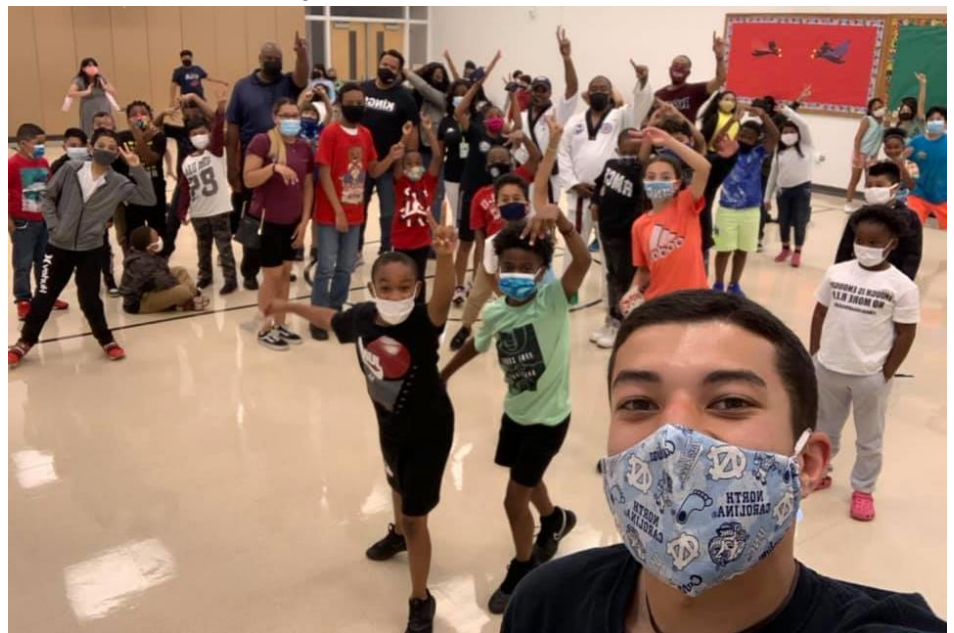
**As USBC works to support legislation that encourages equitable economic development, Greear will also have the opportunity to sharpen his legislative advocacy skills.**

**The pictures above were taken before the pandemic and were placed in this article to let people see Greear's face. The picture on the left was made in Chapel Hill and the picture on the right was made on a trip to Alaska.**



### WAR EAGLE AWARD

**Greear was surprised recently when a War Eagle Award was presented to him on behalf of Durham Public Schools and the Principals of two of Durham elementary schools (Burton Elementary and R. N. Harris Elementary) for speaking to them about social justice and kindness in the classroom as part of an interactive Taekwondo program offered by two groups: *SIDEKICKS ACADEMY* and *SYBI Cares*. (*SYBI Cares* stands for *Successful Young Blessed Individuals*.)**



**Does Greear make an impact on the youth at elementary schools? After a recent talk and Taekwondo demonstration, a third-grader came up to Greear and said:**

**“Thank you for coming and for helping me realize that I am not too young to do anything.”**



## **JUDGE COLLINS AIMS FOR ANOTHER DEGREE!**

**She already has one of the best legal minds in the state and holds one of the most important positions in our state court system, but Judge Allegra Collins has another goal: She has enrolled at the Bolch Judicial Institute at Duke Law School to begin working on earning a Masters of Judicial Studies.**

**She will continue serving as a Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals while she earns this additional degree online. She says that she is “looking forward to working with my classmates, including judges from Mongolia and Poland for the next two years.”**

**All North Carolina Democrats Are Invited To  
Send Pictures and One Page or Two Page Articles to  
[melvin535@gmail.com](mailto:melvin535@gmail.com)**

**Also, please send contact information for  
Democrats who are possible subjects for  
a YOUTH FEATURE or a SPECIAL FEATURE.**

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