

# **YOUTH FEATURE – MICHAEL CARECCIA! GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!**



## **NEW LEADER ARRIVES AT HEADQUARTERS!**

**A few minutes after being elected at a Zoom meeting on February 11th, new State Chair Anderson Clayton arrived at the State Headquarters in Raleigh. The only person on the first floor was NCDP Secretary Melvin Williams who invited her to come in to her new domain.**



**Four of her supporters arrived with her:  
Grayson Barnette – far left  
Michael Careccia – near left  
Vinod Thomas  
Lainey Edmisten**

**Secretary Williams expressed thanks  
to Charles Malone  
and Vinod Thomas for transporting him  
to and from the headquarters that day!**



1ST VICE CHAIR  
*Jonah Garson*



2ND VICE CHAIR  
*Dr. Kimberly Hardy*



3RD VICE CHAIR  
*Elijah King*

**Joining State Chair Anderson Clayton in getting this new  
Party administration off to a fast start are:**

**First Vice Chair Jonah Garson – Orange County**

**Second Vice Chair Dr. Kimberly Hardy – Cumberland County**

**Third Vice Chair – Elijah King – Durham County**

**All five Officers elected that day  
thank all North Carolina Democrats  
for their wishes for successes!**



## **DEMOCRATS CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR!**

**NCDP's Asia American Pacific Islander Caucus Chair Edward Binanay, Ed Jones & Secretary of State Elaine Marshall sent these happy pictures from the Lunar New Year Gala at the Prestonwood Country Club in Cary on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The event was organized by new Democratic State Representative Ya Liu and the Chinese American Friendship Association.**



**Elected officials were recipients of special gifts.**



**More Lunar New Year Celebrators**





**Dancers and musicians made the event happy and entertaining!**





## **AT THE TAJ MAHAL ON VALENTINE'S DAY!**

**That dynamic Democratic duo, Tommy Bunn and Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, spent Valentines Day at the Taj Mahal in Angra, India.**

**This is certain to be one of their favorite memories of all time!**

\* \* \* \*



**After arriving back in North Carolina, Elaine and her Secretary of State office staff kicked off a series of small business meetings for business & community leaders.**

**On February 23<sup>rd</sup> Nash County Democratic County Commissioner attended Elaine's roundtable in Rocky Mount.**

**On Monday Elaine will host a walk-in at Franklin, NC. Tuesday she will be in Morganton.**



## **NC DEMS AT DNC MEETING IN PHILLY!**

**A day DNC Member John Verdejo will always cherish:  
Having his portrait made with  
Vice President Kamala Harris  
on February 3<sup>rd</sup>!**



**North Carolina was well represented by these six DNC Members:  
Jenny Marshall, John Verdejo, Dr. Bobbie Richardson,  
Shelia Huggins, DD Adams, and Matt Hughes**



## **YOUTH FEATURE – MICHAEL CARECCIA!**

**Michael Careccia is a passionate Democrat from Lenoir, North Carolina who genuinely enjoys political activities at all levels – from local campaigns to national campaigns.**

**His political views were shaped by his work experiences before he became politically active. He worked in various trades and industries. From paid-by-call volunteer firefighter, to fast food, retail, apprentice electrician, clam farmer, and other careers, he learned about the need for more laws to help and protect working class Americans.**



**He finally started into political activity in 2015 when he started making phone calls across the nation during the Bernie Sanders campaign.**

**In 2016 he got involved with the Caldwell County Democratic Party and soon expanded his involvement throughout Western NC becoming the Third Vice Chair of Caldwell County Dems and President of the Young Dems of Caldwell in 2017.**

**In 2019 he became the Eleventh Congressional District Party's Third Vice Chair.**

**Left: With NCDP Chair Anderson Clayton  
Soon After Her Election on February 8, 2023.**



**Currently Michael serves as Vice President of Development in the Young Democrats of North Carolina as well as an SEC member from Caldwell County.**

**In 2018 he ran for County Commissioner but after losing the primary BY ONLY SIX VOTES he went on to work managing his first state legislative campaign. From there he went to work for Progressive Turnout Project and then went on to manage and work on various other campaigns – primarily in the mountains.**



**In 2021 Michael decided to run again for local office, this time for the Lenoir City Council. His goal was not only to win and bring a voice of the working class to the City Council but to also use his campaign as a model for organizing in deep red rural counties.**

**Although he did not win, he turned out new municipal voters, a fact for which he is proud.**

**Michael was soon appointed to the Lenoir Planning Board on which he currently serves.**

**He was formerly a Building Blue Regional Organizing Director for NCDP in 2011 and is a proud member of the newly organized NCDP Staff Union.**



**This picture of the current Officers of the Young Democrats of North Carolina in which Michael serves as Vice President of Development. (He is second from left on top row.)**



**During the 2022 Holiday Season, Katherine Jeanes invited Michael and Zack Finley to be their guests at the White House Open House**

**Readers may contact Michael at: [Michael@MichaelCareccia.com](mailto:Michael@MichaelCareccia.com)**



## **SOUP BASH – GUILFORD DEMOCRATIC WOMEN!**

**On Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, the Democratic Women of Guilford County sponsored a “Soup Bash” that included homemade soups and other dinner items. The members brought 14 different delicious soups and as many sweet desserts.**

**The speakers above were Superior Court Judge Stephanie Reese and District Court Judge Brian Tomlin.**



**President Jasmine O’Connell is in the picture on the right above. Vice President Sue Guy says the Guilford DW has plans to continue supporting all Democratic candidates and elected officials through writing postcards, phone banking, and canvassing. Next big event: May 4<sup>th</sup> Spring Banquet!**



## WAKE TEEN DEMS!

Some of the Wake County Teen Democrats recently gathered at Brixx Pizza at Bradford to discuss issues they care about and discussed ways they can draw attention to those issues. Those issues included gun control and women's rights.



Teen Dems President Anna Berger and the other members are excited about future activities for their organization.



## **RESILIENCE RECEPTION!**

# **YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF NORTH CAROLINA!**

**Last Saturday night, February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Young Democrats of North Carolina held a highly successful Resilience Reception at The Upper Room event center in Concord. The picture above shows part of the group of about sixty attendees.**



**Left: The host of the event was State Representative Diamond Staton-Williams of Cabarrus County. In this picture she is giving opening remarks welcoming Democrats from across the state.**

**Right: Kristen Robinson, Executive Vice President of YDNC, gives remarks thanking those in attendance and thanking the event's sponsors.**



**Former District Court Judge Juanita Boger-Allen addressed attendees about the meaning of the work “resilience” in the context of being the first Black woman to serve on the bench in Cabarrus County.**



**Left: Rowan-Cabarrus YD President Garrett Reading gave remarks thanking sponsors of the Resilience Reception by name and community leaders who have helped make an impact in Cabarrus County in recent years before introducing Cabarrus County NAACP President Rev. Dr. Leonard Jarvis.**

**Right: Dr. Jarvis spoke passionately to the crowd. At the end of his remarks, he made a surprise presentation.**



**Dr. Jarvis surprised Jaymond Bryant-Herron, a local criminal justice reform advocate and member of the Rowan-Cabarrus Young Democrats, by presenting to him the RESILIENCE AWARD in recognition of his passion for activism and working to bring awareness to issues facing communities across the state.**

**In the picture on the right above Rep. Staton-Williams and Judge Boger-Allen are with Jaymond Bryant-Herron and his award.**



**A group picture of some of the Rowan-Cabarrus Young Democrats at the end of the night.**



**Katherine Jeanes, Zach Finley,  
and Vinod Thomas.**

**Congratulations to Zack Finley  
for providing all the pictures and  
captions in this article – and for  
having them well-organized.**

**Johnelle Causwell and  
Allison Allen-Mongo  
of Mecklenburg County.**



**Mackenzie  
Reedybacon, the  
campaign manager for  
Rep. Staton-Williams'  
successful election to  
the NC House. She  
introduced  
Representative  
Staton-Williams.**





## **MECKLENBURG DEMOCRATS STAGE THE LARGEST PRESIDENTS DAY EVENT IN STATE!**

**A overflow crowd turned out for an exciting Presidents Day Celebration at SMS Catering in Charlotte.**

**Left: Congresswoman Shontel Brown flew from Ohio to address the celebrants! Right: Professional political consultant Antjuan Seawright delivered a highly motivating Keynote Address.**



**DNC Member Matt Hughes with State Party Chair Anderson Clayton**



**Mayor Vi Lyles with Ginger Walker**



**GINGER WALKER RECEIVED THE DEMOCRATIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD!  
It was presented by Mecklenburg DW President Donna Marie Woodson as  
Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Chair Jane Whitley held the microphone.**



**Jim Pierce Awards were presented to  
Peggy Dickerson and Laurel Saylor.**



**Aisha Dew received the  
Rosa Parks Award.**



**Drawings were conducted for many Door Prizes which were donated by various Mecklenburg Democrats. Former Mecklenburg County Commissioner Wilhelmina Rembert won the Grand Prize which was donated by Fourteenth Congressional District Chair Lisa Ellsworth. The prize was a weeklong vacation in the mountains of Virginia!**



**State Chair Anderson Clayton addressed the cheering Democrats.**



**DNC Member Matt Hughes with Christy Clarke & Janice Lewis.**



**Charlotte City Council candidate Stephanie Moore Hand, Mint Hill Town Councilwoman Twanna Henderson, Cynthia Wallace, & Wilhelmenia Rembert**



**Drew Kromer, Ray McKinnon and Matt Hughes**

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





**Mecklenburg Democrats enjoyed their Presidents Day Celebration!**





## **INVESTITURE OF JUDGE MATT NEWTON!**

**On January 13<sup>th</sup> Judge Ty Hands presided over the Investiture of Matt Newton as Mecklenburg County's new District Court Judge. Matt served as an outstanding Chair of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party, 2015-2017. He was elected in the November 8, 2022 General Election.**

**In the picture above Judge Newton is with his wife, attorney Tiffany Arroyo Newton.**



**Many judicial officials and friends filled the courtroom for the happy occasion.**



## **CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCILWOMAN BECOMES A MOTHER FOR SECOND TIME!**

**On February 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. Vaibhav Bajaj and his wife, Charlotte City Council Member, Dimple Ajmera, announced the birth of their second daughter, Arya. She weighed 5 pounds, 11 ounces.**



**Shortly before Amiya's birth, this picture was taken of Dimple and Vaibhav, with their first child, Charlotte, who is 19 months old.**



**UNION COUNTY**  
**SOMO DEMOCRATS!**

**The SOMO (South Monroe) Dems and Friends celebrated an early Valentine's Day with a social event at a local winery. At this get together, they enjoyed food, drinks, Valentine-themed games, prizes (provide by a local boutique) and great conversations.**

**To help make Democrats visible in their community, the SOMO Dems partner with other local organizations to address local needs, such as senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and voter outreach.**



**John Kibler won one of the prizes**



**SOMO Dems are proving that local Democratic events are fun!**





## **SAMPSON COUNTY CHAIR ED GILLIM!**

**Governor Roy Cooper has recognized Sampson County Party Chair Ed Gillim for his hard work and determination in obtaining a \$13,283,000 water infrastructure grant for the Town of Ivanhoe.**

**(Look for Ivanhoe on a map) Assistance in obtaining this grant came from State Rep. Raymond Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Ruby Bell, County Commissioner Letha Lee, other County Commissioners, and the people of Ivanhoe,**

**Chair Gillim attended the NC Water & Equity Summit at the NC Technology Center. More than 100 leaders attended.**

**Three billion dollars are allotted for NC infrastructure and waste water management with**

**\$13,283,000 allotted for Ivanhoe.**

**Chair Gilliam will continue to assist other communities through the state with water infrastructure.**





## **ELIJAH KING VISITS ALAMANCE TWICE!**

**County Chair Elliott Lynch and the Democrats of Alamance County have welcomed newly-elected NCDP Third Vice Chair Elijah King twice in the last month – once before his election and once after his election. In picture above are:**

**Row One – Elijah, Row Two – Brandy Whitaker, Abi Kennett, Angel Kalo**

**Row Three – Jay Kennett and Elon City Councilman Quinn Ray**

**Row Four – Shameka White and Elizabeth Osbourne**



**Elijah with Alamance 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Sean Ewing and Alamanc DW President Iza Reyes Ewing**



**Alamance Party Chair Elliott Lynch welcoming Elijah**



## **OUR SECOND VICE CHAIR RIDES IN THE RAIN!**

**On Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> Dr. Kimberly Hardy and Sarah Anderson rode this Mini-Cooper through the main streets of Smithfield in the Black History Month Parade which was sponsored by the NAACP.**

**Dr. Kimberly Hardy is the newly-elected Second Vice Chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party. She is also Second Vice President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina and an Assistant Professor at Fayetteville State University.**

**Sarah Anderson is a former President of the Democratic Women of North Carolina and she was formerly honored by the Democratic Women as North Carolina's 'DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF THE YEAR.' She was a public school teacher for many years.**

**It rained during the entire parade Sunday but that did not slow down the 55 floats and vehicles that were entered in the parade. The parade also drew the biggest crowd it has ever drawn.**



# 6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



**WHEN?  
WHERE?**

**Sunday, May 21, 8:30 AM Shotgun Start**  
**Carolina National Country Club, Bolivia**  
Registration begins at 7:30



**ENTRY  
FEE?**

**\$90 per golfer, includes:**  
golf, cart, range balls, closest to the pin competitions,  
longest drive contest, awards lunch with beer, and  
loads of awesome prizes!



**WHAT  
ELSE?**

**Format: Scramble | Captain's Choice**  
**Awards Luncheon MC will be Frank Herzog,**  
**Voice of the Washington Redskins!**



Visit [brunswickdem.org](http://brunswickdem.org) for registration  
and payment information. Questions?  
Email Ron V. at [travelnron@gmail.com](mailto:travelnron@gmail.com)



## **BRUNSWICK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC GOLF TOURNAMENT!**

**Start your engines! That was the call for all the Democratic golfers in the last Brunswick Democratic Party's golf tournament – an event that was a fabulous financial success!**

**This year's tournament will be held at a beautiful course near Bolivia.**



**This was the scene at the club house luncheon at the last tournament.  
Everyone enjoyed the prize drawings.  
Brunswick Democrats are very friendly people!**



**JOSH STEIN**  
**“THE PEOPLES’**  
**ATTORNEY**  
**GENERAL”**  
**WITH CYNTHIA BALL**





## Talking About Politics

### **Josh Stein's fighting start**

"Josh Stein's announcement signals a different kind of Democratic campaign for Governor: an aggressive fight over values. He gets A+ on this start."



## The News & Observer

### **Josh Stein announces 2024 campaign for North Carolina governor**

"Stein is among the most prominent Democrats in the state and in recent years has attracted national attention for some of his work as attorney general."



ASHEVILLE

## CITIZEN-TIMES

### **N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein announces run for governor**

"He has been endorsed by 150 elected officials, among them 64 members of the state house and senate, 16 mayors, and 28 district attorneys and sheriffs, and nine current and former members of Congress."



## **DURHAM DW ELECTS NEW OFFICERS!**

**On Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> the Democratic Women of Durham County held their regular monthly meeting. The main item of business was the election of new officers.**

**The picture above shows many of the leaders. From the left they are:**

**Outgoing Durham DW Vice President – Rose Domanico**

**Outgoing Durham DW President – Lamanda Pryor**

**Democratic National Committee Member – Shelia Huggins**

**New Durham DW President – Nida Allam**

**Re-elected Secretary – Sarah Shah**

**County Commissioner Brenda Howerton**

**Durham Mayor Elaine O’Neil**

**State Senator Natalie Murdock**

**NCDP State Executive Committee Member Brenda Pollard**

**State Representative Marcia Morey**

**Durham DW Executive – Ingrid Pol**

**Outgoing Treasurer – Jean Domanico**



**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  
910-590-4542**