



# NEWSLETTER

## Introducing Laura Blake

*Our new DWNC President*

Laura has a long and productive history with the DWNC. She served the DWNC as 2nd Vice-President and Treasurer. She also served as District Director for the Ninth District. As President of one of our largest chapters for four years, she has the experience to continue and expand upon the mission of our organization.

In addition to those years as President of the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County, she also served as co-chair of the 2000 convention. Laura has worked on the Ways and Means committee for the Mecklenburg Democratic County party and is a member of the State Executive Committee and Precinct Chair.

Laura lives in Charlotte with her husband, Rory, and has two



grown children. She works in financial administration for a retailer, Blacklion International Inc.

*Laura can be reached by email at [lablake19@yahoo.com](mailto:lablake19@yahoo.com) or by cell phone, 704-650-9046.*

### Another “Key to Success”

Reflecting on our Convention 2008, I realize how important these conventions are to the health of our state and county democratic organizations.

We had the opportunity to meet so many of the Democratic Candidates for office and to show them our appreciation.

We had multiple opportunities to share and learn from other Chapters, whether it was around the luncheon table, at a reception or at the President’s Roundtable.

In addition, we had three valuable workshops: for new convention-goers, new treasurers and how to build a website.

*Bonnie Bechard.*



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**TRAILBLAZER AWARD 2008: BERTHA “B” HOLT**

The Democratic Women of North Carolina’s Trailblazer Award for 2008 was presented to “B” Holt at a festive “Red, White, and Blue Rally” and dinner held by the Alamance County Democratic Women. The award is usually presented at the annual convention, but “B” was attending a grandchild’s special event.

Bonnie Bechard, 2nd Vice-President of DWNC, presented the award and remarked how fitting it was to have such an award given in this historical presidential election year, with such a Trailblazing candidate as Sen. Barack Obama.

Whether in her chosen profession of law or in her many years of serving as a member of the NC General Assembly, she has certainly been a trailblazer.

When “B” first came to the NC General Assembly in 1975, few women served in the House or Senate. It wasn’t long before she was

recognized as a champion of children’s causes. For this work, the Juvenile Justice and Children’s Rights Section of the Bar Association has named an award in her honor.

She has been instrumental in breaking down barriers for women for decades.

*Contributed by Carolyn Honeycutt & Bonnie Bechard B” Holt, on the left, receiving the award.*



**DWNC WOMAN OF THE YEAR: LUCILLE RHOADES**

Lucilles was a founding member of the Wilkes County Democratic Women and served as its vice-president, as well as district director. She also served on the DWNC fundraising committee. As Nancy Fish, former winner of the award says, “she has baked cakes, served hot dogs and pushed more pinto beans than we want to think about—all for Democrats!”

It is not easy to be a Democrat in her county, but Lucille is an unassuming

woman who speaks plainly about her views and people listen to her.

Lucille has received certificates of appreciation from both Governor Hunt and Governor Easley for her work as a volunteer. People around Lucille say she is always upbeat and cheers up other volunteers and everyone is always glad to see her come.

She is active in her church and co-owner of a business with her husband.

Nancy says “this lady is a regular person, but there is nothing ordinary about her. She epitomizes what modern Democratic Women do—make their community a better place to live.”

The DWNC is so proud to honor Lucille by naming her “Woman of the Year-2008”.

*Contributed by Bonnie Bechard and Nancy Fish*



### 3394 DEMOCRATIC WOMEN STRONG: THE 2008 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

The Democratic Women of North Carolina, at the annual business meeting and convention, recognized the clubs who have worked so hard to build their membership.

The following clubs were recognized: highest growth for clubs under 50 members, Chatham County; 2nd place went to Cumberland County. Highest growth for clubs 50-100 members went to Forsyth County (192% growth); second place to Buncombe County. Highest growth for clubs over 100 members: First Place to Alamance County; Second Place to Johnston County.

New clubs recognized include: Tri-County (Clay, Cherokee & Graham), Granville County, Swain County and Yancey County.

A few notable numbers: 60 organized clubs, 4 new clubs; 4 reorganized clubs; 32 clubs showing growth; 2 clubs exceeding 200 members, 6 clubs with membership 100-199; 18 clubs with membership 50-99; 34 clubs with membership under 50.

Beginning January 2008, when Sarah Anderson became First Vice President and Membership Chair, two statewide membership challenges were issued. The first was the Power of 10, challenging clubs to increase their membership by 10%. Twenty-three clubs participated and 299 members were added to the statewide membership. The second was held in conjunction with this year's convention: the Gateway to Victory Membership Challenge. Again, 23 clubs participated, bringing 344 women to our membership roster.

There is much to do in continuing to strengthen our organization and its membership. In this unprecedented election year, we need to reach out to those women who are new to the process and ask them to continue their work past November 4th. Don't miss this opportunity to build your membership as you work so feverishly to get Democratic Candidates

elected. Invite the Women for Obama, the Women for Hagan, the Women for Perdue, those inspired by your local candidates, along with all those newly registered to join your local DW club and to carry on the work of the Democratic Party—to help those newly elected Democrats to do the work in the offices they will hold after November.

*Contributed by Sarah Anderson.*



*Anna "Lipstick on a Pig" Gerow.*

### ALAMANCE COUNTY INVITES "SARAH PALIN" TO SPEAK

It was a most unusual evening. Beth Wood, candidate for State Auditor, gave a wonderfully intelligent and witty speech. She was followed by State Insurance Commissioner, Jim Long, who gave a speech as only a Democrat with his long and distinguished career can give.

But then there was Sarah Palin, in her designer suit and high heels, carrying a stuffed pig and with a flag the size of a napkin on her shoulder. With winks and jabs at the air, lots of references to joe six-pack, you betcha's and shout-outs, Anna Gerow gave a performance that had them rolling in the aisles. Frankly, my stomach hurt with laughing so hard.

One especially memorable line had us in hysterics: "and my John, a maverick, is going door-to-door asking 'is this my house?'"

*Contributed by Bonnie Bechard*



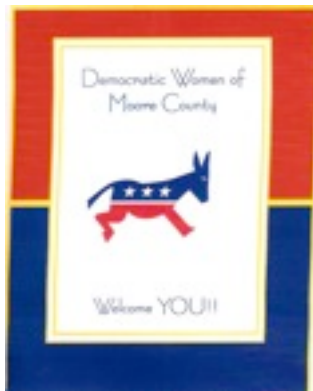
BETTY McCAIN AWARD

FIRST PLACE: CHATHAM COUNTY



This is just one example of the many colorful flyers the Chatham County Women submitted for this award, from fund-raisers, to meetings, to forums. The Chapter uses its email extensively, has a monthly newsletter and a website. In addition, they have a membership brochure, t-shirts and canvas bags with their logo and an outreach booth that goes all over the county to fairs and other activities to register voters and recruit new members.

SECOND PLACE: MOORE COUNTY



This invitation to a morning coffee & pastry is an example of Moore County's efforts to welcome its new members. Moore County also uses email and a newsletter to communicate with its membership. They have red, white & blue flyers for fund-raisers and plenty of press releases to advertise their organization and its activities.

THIRD PLACE: TRI-COUNTY



This new, 3-county club is loaded with energy. It comprises Clay, Cherokee and Graham Counties. They primarily communicate by email, which is full of information about "everything Democratic" going on in the three counties.

HONORABLE MENTION: MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Mecklenburg county can always be counted on to support the Democratic auxiliaries, as shown by their many convention ads. They also have a newsletter, an active email list, a brochure and postcards to welcome new members and to thank non-members who attended meetings.



Calendar

2008

October 28 Last day to apply for an absentee ballot.

November 1 Last day of Early Voting (One-Stop).

November 4 Election Day

2009

Sept 18-20 DWNC Convention at Nags Head

Officers

2008-2010

President

Laura Blake  
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1st Vice-President

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