

Pender GOP Newsletter

July 2025



A Night to Remember at the Pender GOP Lincoln Reagan Dinner!

What a fantastic evening we had at the Pender County Republican Party's Lincoln Reagan Dinner on Saturday! With a packed house full of enthusiastic Republicans, our first fundraiser heading into the 2026 Election Season was a tremendous success.

We were honored to welcome our keynote speaker, North Carolina State Auditor Dave Boliek, who received a warm reception and delivered a powerful message. He shared important updates on his work to uphold accountability and transparency—highlighting efforts such as the audit of the DMV and leadership changes at the State Board of Elections. As he affirmed, Election Integrity will remain job #1.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our residents, volunteers, speakers, basket donors, and generous sponsors who helped make the evening possible.

To top it all off, we celebrated our President's Birthday with a delicious cake and a room full of energy and optimism. Our future is bright here in Pender!

Upcoming Events:

No Party Meeting scheduled for July.

**Next Meeting is 7 pm, 21 August @
Olde Point.**

The Guest Speaker will be:

Michele Morrow

**Former Candidate for NC
Superintendent of Public Instruction**

The September Meeting is the 18th in Burgaw. Location will be the Judicial Annex (Pending Confirmation).

Lower Cape Fear Republican
Women's Club:

Next event is 7 August, featuring
Edward Achorn – Author of the
Lincoln Miracle.

If interested in attending, please
contact Carolyn Justice at
carolynjustice16@gmail.com



Happy Birthday Mr. President!



State Auditor and Keynote
Speaker Dave Boliek inspiring
the L&R Dinner attendees.



Ryan Collins (Vice Chair), Lynn Norwood
(Secretary), Joshua Smith (Chair), and
Adam Kessel (Treasurer)

Since the last Newsletter.....

I know it has been a while, but better late than never.

The County Convention

On March 1, 2025, the Pender County Republican Party held its Annual Convention. As in all odd-year conventions, delegates elected the Party Officers.

The positions of County Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer were uncontested, resulting in the reelection of Joshua Smith as Chair and Lynn Norwood as Secretary. Adam Kessel was elected as the new Treasurer.

The Vice Chair position was a contested race between Max Beckwith, Ryan Collins, Andy Devane, and David Piepmeyer. Ryan Collins was elected by the delegates to serve as the new Vice Chair.

Ten candidates were nominated for the five Officer-at-Large positions. After voting, Phil Cordeiro, Shayne Frey, Jeff Caldwell, Kim McGahey, and Al Hegarty were elected to serve in those roles.

We extend our congratulations to the newly elected Officers and our sincere thanks to all who stepped forward to serve.



Ryan Collins giving his speech for Vice Chair.

Precinct Meeting

Prior to the Convention, members of the County's various Precincts met to elect their leadership.

PRECINCT: Precinct Chair / Vice Chair

CANETUCK: Unorganized

CAPE FEAR: Michael Collins / Patrica Koluch

CASWELL: John Bednarcik

COLUMBIA: Susie Collins / Tera Cline

GRADY: Max Beckwith

LONG CREEK: Unorganized

LOWER TOPSAIL: Henry Temple / Doug Holdstein

LOWER UNION: Charlie Schoonmaker

MIDDLE TOPSAIL: Elizabeth Butler / Kim Thomas

NORTH BURGAW: Todd Price

ROCKY POINT: Cindy Caldwell / Jeff Caldwell

SCOTTS HILL: Sheila Burton

SLOOP POINT: Donna Henry

SOUTH BURGAW: Alex Gregory

SURF CITY: Damien Buchanan

UPPER HOLLY: Unorganized

UPPER TOPSAIL: Sherry Reeves / Donna Richter

UPPER UNION Joseph Rivenbark



Al Hegarty firing up the voters for Officer – at – Large.

Executive Committee Meeting – 26 March

In Burgaw, the newly seated Party Executive Committee met to fill the vacant Commissioner seat for the 4th District. There were three candidates: Max Beckwith, Jason Spivey, and Dr. Jimmy Tate.

After strong speeches, tough questions, and thoughtful answers, the Committee members voted by paper ballot. Dr. Jimmy Tate was elected on the first ballot.

Congratulations to Dr. Tate! And sincere appreciation to Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Spivey for stepping up and offering to serve our county.



Commissioner Dr. Jimmy Tate

Executive Committee Meeting – 23 April

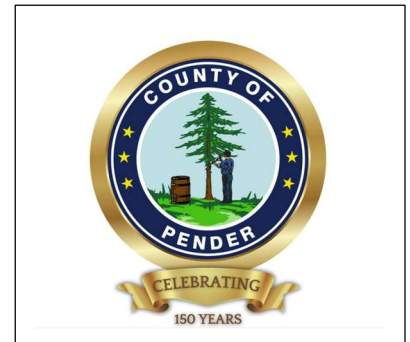
Via Zoom, the Executive Committee met to appoint GOP members to the County Board of Elections. The meeting resulted in the appointment of Brian Smith, Jeffrey Trout, and Kelly Painter.



During Memorial Day Weekend, the County Chair, Joshua Smith presented the commemorative wreath to the American Legion Post 167 Ceremony.



At the Party's May meeting, Sheriff Alan Cutler shared with members the recent award his office received. Congratulations to the Sheriff's Office for being awarded the North Carolina Dogwood Award. Thank you all for your dedication to protecting our county.



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