



# ***THE CHRONICLE***

**RALEIGH-WAKE COUNTY CHAPTER #3689**

**<http://AARPchapter3689.weebly.com>**

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***Kelly Vick – Editor***

**March 21, 2024**

**Waltonwood at Lake Boone**

**3550 Horton Street, Raleigh, NC 27607**

## **Speaker for Today**

**Representative James Roberson**

**N.C. House, District 39**

**“Affordable Housing, Senior  
Welfare and Retirement  
Finances”**

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## **Chapter Officers**

### **Co-Presidents**

James Nelson

Claude Lee

### **Vice President**

Cordelia Blackwell

### **Co-Secretaries**

Hannah Gathings

Tom Gill

### **Treasurer**

Willi Webb

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## **Committees**

Community Service (Oweida Cole)

Fundraising (Lorrie Berlenbach)

Legislative (Brenda Bennett)

Membership (Kelly Vick)

Nominating (Allan Younger)

Program (James Nelson)

Sunshine (Claude Lee)

Telephone (Cheryl Gill)

## **Staff Coordinates**

Ambassador (James Hines)

Historian (George Gross)

Liaison (Cordelia Blackwell)

Newsletter (Kelly Vick)

Reflections (Grace Krishnamurty)

Webmaster (Claudia Harris)

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS**

***James Nelson & Claude Lee***

### **Embrace the Opportunity:**

#### **Volunteer with Our Set-up and Food Committee**

As we venture into the refreshing ambiance of Campbell Lodge for our forthcoming April meeting, we face a unique opportunity to reimagine our meetings. Our catering choices, ranging from minimal catering and BYOL to innovative buffet-style catering, can not only reflect our commitment to diversity and inclusivity but also our dedication to supporting local businesses.

### ***Volunteer for Impact:***

Your contribution to our set-up and food committee can significantly enhance our meeting experiences. Each volunteer brings a unique blend of skills and creativity, adding invaluable dimensions to our community's fabric. Your participation directly makes a tangible difference, turning every gathering into a celebration of collective endeavor.

### ***Success Through Togetherness:***

Hear from those who've walked the path: "Service at our AARP meetings has not just been about the food. It's about creating moments that members cherish," shares a past committee volunteer. Such testimonials stand as a testament to the joy and fulfillment that volunteering brings, not just to our members but to those who serve.

### ***Recognition of Your Dedication:***

We believe in celebrating every contribution. So, we will acknowledge our volunteers across our communications and receive promotional items, ensuring that your hard work and dedication are recognized and appreciated by all. Recognition is our way of saying thank you for your efforts to shape the heart of our chapter.

### ***Together, We Create More:***

Your voice, hands and heart are the cornerstones of our success. Let's seize this moment to contribute to our chapter's legacy, crafting experiences filled with warmth, inclusivity and collective joy. Join us and let's make every meeting a testament to what we can achieve together. As we look forward to the shared experiences and joy that our next meeting at Campbell Lodge promises, your decision to volunteer can spark a wave of positive change. Together, we're not just planning a meeting; we're cultivating our chapter.

## ***MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT (Cordelia Blackwell)***

♪♪♪Getting to know you – getting to know all about you... ♪♪♪



***(Phillip Crabtree and his dogs)***

It is such fun getting to know our fellow members. “Thanks” to all the interviewees who have participated so far. It has been a pleasure interacting with you. We have learned many amazing things about each other and that’s what gives us the comradery that we have. So let’s get started with one of our newer members, Phillip Crabtree.

**Cordelia:** Where did you grow up and how did you get to the Raleigh area?

**Phillip:** I grew up in Carlsbad California. I lived within 10 miles of my parents for 65 years. After I retired, Wende and I decided to be closer to our children, Bryan and Alyson; after their work relocated them to the east coast. Bryan lives in Fairfax, Virginia, Alyson lives in Guyton, Georgia and we looked for a home in the middle and Raleigh fit our needs.

**Cordelia:** Did you come from a small or large family and tell us about your family now?

**Phillip:** I came from a medium size family. Two older brothers and a twin sister. My mother was one of six children and my father was an only child.

**Cordelia:** Tell us about your educational background and some of the positions you have held.

**Phillip:** I have a BS in Automotive Technology. I worked for Audi of America for 47 years. I won an Automotive Technical Challenge with 2,500 participants. It was a three tier test; two written and one hands on. The prize was a two week trip to Europe.

**Cordelia:** Since this is Women’s History Month, tell us about a woman you admire and why.

**Phillip:** My Mother. She never said anything bad about a person, even though she didn’t like them. She never got mad, and I was a handful as a kid.

**Cordelia:** Do you enjoy traveling and are there places you found interesting?

**Phillip:** Wende and I have traveled quite a bit (Europe, Asia, Central America, Australia, Canada, Fiji and the Cayman Islands). The country I found most interesting was India. The number of people in the bigger cities coexist with the fauna; cows wandering around with the scooters and cars, people riding elephants in the street, dogs chasing wild boars down the street, monkeys in the trees trying to steal from you, 12 foot crocodiles sunning themselves in people’s front yards and the traffic is organized chaos.

**Cordelia:** What is your favorite color, food, book, and movie?

**Phillip:** My favorite colors are tan and blue. I like Mexican food but haven’t found a good Mexica restaurant here. My favorite books are by Joseph Wambaugh. My favorite movies are ‘Back To The Future’ trilogy and ‘American Graffiti’.

**Cordelia:** Tell us something else you would like us to know about you.

**Phillip:** I love dogs and have competed in Dog Agility for 14 years. I have three Australian shepherds. I went to the CPE Agility Nationals and out of 750 dogs, my dog Layla placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall.

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## SUNSHINE

Birthday cards were mailed to members listed below who have birthdays in March. If you know of anyone who is ill, a bereaved family, please call Claude Lee (919-971-3317) or e-mail him at [claudealeejr@gmail.com](mailto:claudealeejr@gmail.com). **Congratulations to Hew and Emma Dorsett. They will celebrate their 63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

<u>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</u>
<b>George Gross (11)</b>
<b>Mattie Branch (12)</b>
<b>Allan Younger (18)</b>
<b>Alice Hedley (31)</b>

## PROGRAM

We sincerely value and express our gratitude towards Jacqueline McCullough for her pivotal role in connecting us with an exceptional speaker, Rep. James Roberson. His distinguished service as Knightdale's former Mayor and current representation of North Carolina's District 39 in the House exemplifies leadership deeply rooted in community values. Rep. Roberson is a beacon of inspiration and guidance, influencing positive change and fostering mentorship. Jacqueline's insight and efforts in making this connection significantly enrich our meeting, highlighting her dedication to our collective goals and community well-being.

## LEGISLATIVE

In recent primary campaigns, North Carolina legislators have emphasized tax reductions, claiming these efforts benefit all citizens. However, the tax cuts have not uniformly reached seniors in lower income brackets, who still face a higher tax burden relative to their income. For example; an individual with a yearly income of \$21,000 is taxed \$2,200 or 10.5% in 2024. This disparity reveals that wealthier individuals enjoy more significant tax relief than lower-income seniors relying on social security and retirement allowances.

To address this inequity, it's essential to research legislators' voting records on tax policy before casting a vote in the November elections. Information on their voting behavior can be found at [ncleg.gov](http://ncleg.gov) or <https://www.ncleg.gov>, empowering voters to make informed decisions. Additionally, Rob Schofield's analysis on North Carolina's tax policy, published on January 16, 2024, offers valuable insights into the implications of current tax measures.

## TELEPHONE

We will continue calling chapter members monthly with updated information and pertinent events. Please contact Cheryl Gill (919-961-0894) if you have any questions.

## MEMBERSHIP

If you invite a guest to our monthly general meeting, please register your guest at the membership table. Also, if there are any changes to your address, telephone number or e-mail address, please contact the Membership Committee. We are always available to register new members and collect 2024 membership renewals. Our chapter membership dues are \$10.00 per year. You must be a member of the National AARP and you will need your national membership card.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The community experienced a notable act of generosity as hundreds of children's books were distributed, marking a shift from the usual donations of clothing and school supplies. This initiative began with books shared from a car trunk after a church service, allowing children and a second grade teacher to select books of their interest. The effort extended to a local Food Lion and culminated at the "Wake Up and Read" event at the Marble Museum, offering an engaging atmosphere for children to explore reading. This series of events highlighted the community's commitment to fostering literacy and education, showcasing the power of collective support in enhancing the intellectual and emotional growth of young readers.

## CUPID CREW "WISH OF A LIFETIME"



**(Oweida Cole, Gayle Gayton & Edmond Gayton)**

AARP Triangle has teamed up with "Wish of a Lifetime" for the annual Cupid Crew. Cupid Crew is a nationwide effort to connect with older adults at risk for isolation and send them love. On February 14, 2024, some of us had the joy of helping with this national effort in delivering over 170,000 roses in-person and 34,000 cards. **In Wake County, AARP Triangle delivered 2,250 roses to residents living in 23 long-term care settings.** Our goal is to spread joy and reduce social isolation. In the picture above are the Cupid Crew members representing our Chapter. We delivered roses to Waltonwood Memory Care Unit and Universal Health Care in North Raleigh. We thank Ms. Heather Burkhardt from the State AARP for her thoughtful gesture of providing nine roses for our chapter members in need of cheer. Additionally, we thank one of our chapter members (Pat Toothman), through her personal contribution, who purchased and delivered a rose to Kay Denning (one of our members in need of cheer) on February 14<sup>th</sup>. *(Submitted by Gayle Gayton)*

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Women's History Month is an annual observance in March to recognize the accomplishments, contributions and historical significance of women. This month-long celebration is an opportunity to highlight the achievements of women across various fields from science, politics to arts, inspire future generations and encourages a reflection on the progress made in gender equality while acknowledging the ongoing challenges women face worldwide. The first Women's Day happened on February 28, 1909 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the New York City garment workers' strikes. However, Women's History Month did not become a regular occurrence until decades later. In 1981, California's Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women created Women's Week, coinciding with International Women's Day, to honor women's achievements. In 1987, the National Women's History Project successfully lobbied Congress to designate all of March as National Women's History Month. Since then, it has become an annual observance in the United States and globally. Women's History Month 2024 theme is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion". The theme celebrates women who understand that, for a positive future, we need to eliminate bias and discrimination entirely from our lives. Women's History Month colors are:

- White – is the color associated with the suffragists who fought for women's right to vote.
- Green – represents new beginnings and was another popular color among early suffragists.
- Purple – is the color most associated with women causes. (Since the early 1900s, purple has been used for International Women's Day and naturally became part of the Women's History Month palette. It is also used for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.) More info <https://act.liveyourdream.org/womens-history>