

# OPINION

## THE CHRONICLE

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## Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

## United Way, reconsider Urban League grant cuts

The Winston-Salem Urban League, a venerable institution in the black community and city of Winston-Salem, has had a rollercoaster ride this week.

As the organization prepared to name James Perry as its president and chief executive, reports surfaced that its budget is expected to be greatly affected by a change in the way the United Way awards grants.

A huge amount of the Urban League's budget comes from the United Way.

Starting next summer, the United Way of Forsyth County will begin targeting grants for programs designed to tackle specific issues of health, education, financial stability and reducing poverty.

According to chief executive Cindy Gordineer, "We realized we needed to start investing in services and programs that will address the root causes of why people are struggling."

But the Urban League helps people who are struggling and is helping to change one of its root causes: lack of jobs. Its main program provides jobs for older people who are struggling to find jobs because of their ages and other factors. The



Urban League offices in downtown Winston-Salem

Chronicle has reported on what the Urban League is doing. Here are some headlines:

- \*Winston-Salem Urban League joins national movement to end senior hunger
- \*Big Four Alumni, Urban League unite for service (giving professional clothes to needy so they can go to job interviews)
- \*Winston-Salem Urban League receives \$1,778,090 grant to employ older adults
- \*W-S Urban League celebrates seniors from 18 counties

The cuts in grant money will hurt an organization that helps a great number of people. The expected cut should be re-evaluated. The increased focus on poverty by Mayor Allen Joines should mean non-profits that battle that aspect of life should be getting more money, not less.

Urban League board Chairwoman Evelyn Acree said, "The cuts will be very severe for us. This will definitely be a major setback."

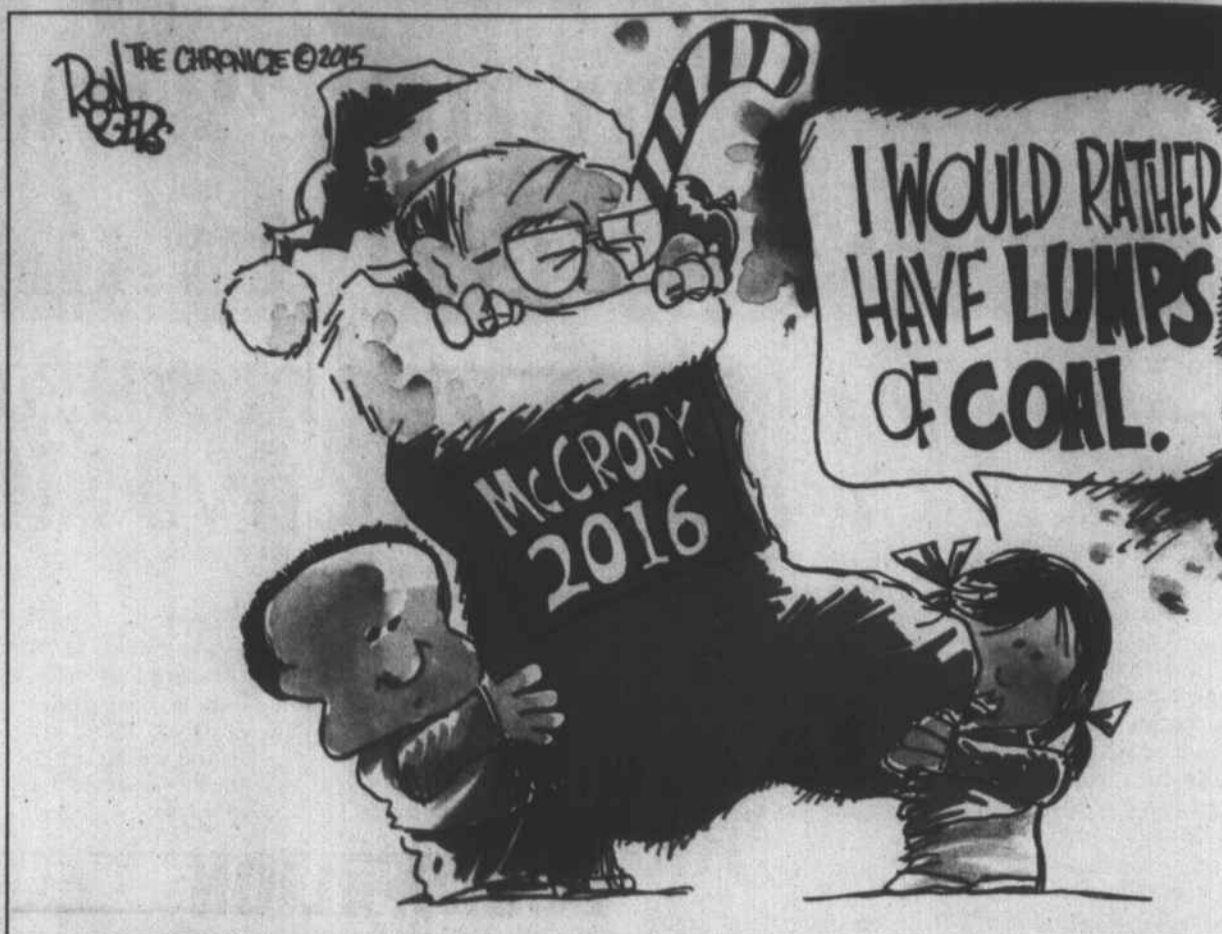
The good news is that effective Jan. 4, James Perry will be on board.

Perry will replace Don Williams, who has served as interim president and chief executive since February 2014. Before recently relocating to Winston-Salem, Perry led the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center for ten years.

Building job opportunities for residents in the Triad ranks high on his to do list.

"We will continue to serve the Triad as we have always done," Acree said. "We have an excellent team and with the addition of James, we're going to continue to impact the residents who are often overlooked."

Many of the people who are often overlooked are the people who are in poverty. The United Way should take another look at the Urban League's mission to help fight poverty through job opportunities and change its plans for huge cuts in its grants for the organization.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reynoldstown article brings back memories

To the Editor :

I enjoyed the article about Reynoldstown. I saw, in the news, the unveiling of the historical marker for Reynoldstown.

My father worked at R.J. Reynolds in the chewing tobacco department. He applied for a house as soon as they were finished and we became one of the first black families to move into Reynoldstown.

Our address was 901 Baltimore Street. That was the one street for blacks. The sidewalk was paved and the street was covered with cinderblocks. A board fence separated the street for blacks from other streets.

My sister Rachel and I used to peep through the cracks to see what games the white children were playing. We could hear them having fun but could not fully see them. So we enjoyed watching them through the fence cracks.

Baltimore Street dead ended at 10th Street on the north and a stream of water on the south. We called it the "the branch," people walked across a little foot bridge to catch the Fifth St. Street Car to go downtown.

My mother did laundry work for several white families that lived in the white section. She washed and ironed for them at our house and carried them back at the end of the week. That way, she could stay at home with us. One family she worked for was the Gilley family. Mrs. Gilley was special to us. She gave us lots of clothes when her children outgrew them. Some of the other black families that moved in later were the Perrys, Ashes, Covingtons, Daniels and the Shaws.

I believe that the street name was changed from Baltimore Street and I'm not sure what the new name is. I don't get out much anymore. It may be called Jackson Avenue, I'm not sure. Being 101 years old, I enjoy



Richardson

thinking about the old days. Enough memories for now. Hope to write you again.

Adeline Richardson Hodge

Brief Bio  
 Public School- Columbia Heights High School Diploma Graduated 1930, Winston-Salem Teachers College B.S. Graduated 1942, Starr Stenographic School, 1945, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University Master's Degree Graduated 1960

Occupation- Retired School Teacher Stokes County School System

Church Affiliation- Member of Shiloh Baptist Church since 1927 (88 years)

### How can the NCAE endorse Roy Cooper who hasn't supported teachers and education?

To the Editor:

First, I always have and always will respect the NCAE [North Carolina Association of Educators]



Spaulding



ers.

Second, I find it very strange that the NCAE would make an endorsement of anyone before the filing deadline has passed and before they knew all the candidates who would be running in the Democratic Primary for Governor.

Third, the rank and file teachers all across North Carolina have been telling me over the last two years that they will not vote for Roy Cooper based on Roy Cooper and his office siding in court with the Republicans and Pat McCrory against public school teachers and their "teacher tenure" and Roy Cooper's support in court for "private school vouchers."

Fourth, teachers have indicated to me that they cannot support Cooper because of his stand in court in suppressing the voting rights of teachers and other North Carolinians.

Fifth, unfortunately the NCAE has yielded to the "establishment" wing of the Democratic Party to attempt to short circuit the people's right to decide for themselves who can best represent all the people of this state.

Sixth, the Democratic Party's establishment wing's continued effort to "strong arm" the people of our Party and Unaffiliated voters across this state is the very reason why the Republican Party has gained control of the positions of U.S. Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor, N.C. House and N.C. Senate and many other offices.

Seventh, the attempt by the Democratic "establishment" wing of our Party through the endorsement by the NCAE will not deter me from filing for Governor [he filed on Dec. 14] and will not deter me from fighting for our rank and file public school teachers to reinstate "teacher tenure" and will oppose "private school vouchers," which are bleeding money away from our public schools.

Ken Spaulding  
 Democratic candidate for Governor  
 Durham, N.C.

## We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com) before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com).

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