

Watch parties for vice presidential debate pop up

CAMPAIGN

2016

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

The candidates for vice president Tim Kaine and Mike Pence took center stage Tuesday night when they debated at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia. The Winston-Salem Urban League (WSUL) held a watch party for the only debate between Virginia Senator Kaine, and Indiana Governor Pence.

Although the Urban League is a non-partisan organization, president and CEO James Perry said, they decided to host the watch party to bring people together to talk about the debate openly.

Patricia Sadler, WSUL workforce development and community director, said they started having watch parties earlier this year when President Barack Obama gave his final State of the Union Address. She said the parties are becoming a tradition.

"We have seen crowds of over 50 peo-

ple," she said. "It feels good to know that the people in this community are aware, and want to know what these candidates are all about."

During the two hour debate the two locked horns on a number of issues, including the national debt, policing, Social Security, immigration and Syria. The two also discussed Trump's tax return. Kaine criticized Trump for going back on his word, claiming that he said in 2014 he would release his tax returns if he decided to run for office.

"Donald Trump must give the American public his tax returns to show that he's qualified to be president, and he is breaking his promise."

Pence stood by his running mate. He mentioned Trump's tax returns only show that he went through a very difficult time, but hasn't done anything wrong.

Throughout the night, Kaine challenged Pence to defend the demeaning statements that Trump has made throughout his campaign while Pence chose to

charge the Clinton-Kaine ticket with running a campaign driven off insults.

While watching the debate Valerie Page-Flemming, said Kaine seemed to be more prepared. She said, "he did his homework."

Although she would not reveal who she was voting for, Page-Flemming said she thought the debate was interesting. Another partygoer said he didn't have much faith in either of the candidates.

Students on the campus of Wake Forest held a watch party for the event as well. Before the debate, professor Melissa Harris-Perry gave a brief lecture about the importance of vice presidential debates.

MTV News was also at the watch party to cover Wake the Vote, a program that gives students the opportunity to examine the presidential election and experience American democracy through course work, program planning and travel.

Harris-Perry took to Twitter to voice her frustrations when Pence said he didn't

understand why Hillary Clinton talked about implicit bias when discussing the Keith Scott shooting during the first debate.

"Implicit attitude tests reveal that African-Americans tend to experience implicit racial bias as well," she said.

Following the event, Chad Wilcox said, much like the first presidential debate the candidates didn't let the other speak. He said it makes it hard to really get the facts.

"Both Kaine and Pence continued to talk over the moderator, which was pretty annoying," he said. "Although the debate was over two hours long, about an hour was spent calming the candidates."

When asked if he thought if either party got a leg up following the debate, Wilcox said most people already have their minds made up.

"Most people already know who they're going to vote for. I don't think debates are going to change that."

Charitable trust introduces new president

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Laura Gerald, president of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, met with the community on Tuesday, Oct. 4, to discuss the Trust's initiatives and invite them to join efforts in supporting early childhood education.

Local leaders, social service providers, and residents attended an open house gathering. This was Gerald's last stop in a statewide tour, meeting communities in Durham, Lumberton, Morganton, Rocky Mount, and Washington.

Gerald described her

background in rural health and child development, and her commitment to efforts like Great Expectations, the Trust's strategy to improve early childhood outcomes in Forsyth County. She encouraged the community to work together to help children succeed in school.

"I have always advocated for policies that give every child an equal start, regardless of social and economic circumstances," Gerald said. "I see children as particularly vulnerable. And 'vulnerable' is not a term I use lightly, because I think everyone has strength and resilience. But children don't vote and are not able

to address and overcome the challenges that they are facing. Early childhood is a time when children need our support the most."

In addition to introducing Gerald to the community, the reception highlighted progress made by Great Expectations, the Trust's investment of \$30 million to \$40 million over 10 to 15 years to improve early childhood education in Forsyth County. The initiative emphasizes the Trust's commitment to funding sustainable change by working with the community to tap into the expertise and leadership of the people it aims to serve.

"Studies show that



Gerald

every dollar spent on early childhood initiatives provides over eight dollars in benefits back to the community," Gerald said. "When children are supported well through infancy and early childhood, they enter the education system ready to learn. If we can start children off on the right foot in terms of prevention and

healthy lifestyles, we will have fewer chronic diseases in childhood and later in life that we will have to support as a community."

Dr. Gerald is a pediatrician born and raised in rural North Carolina. Before joining the Trust in July, she served as market medical director for Evolent Health in Raleigh. Earlier, she served as the North Carolina state health director and executive director of the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund.

About the Trust
Established in 1947, the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust is one of

the largest private trusts in North Carolina. Its mission is to improve the quality of life and quality of health for the financially needy of North Carolina. The Poor and Needy Division responds to basic life needs and invests in solutions that improve the quality of life and health for financially needy residents of Forsyth County. The Health Care Division promotes wellness statewide by investing in prevention and treatment. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. serves as sole trustee.

For more information, go to kbr.org.

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