

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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15 CENTS



DEMOCRATIC MEETING — Archie T. Lane Sr., chairman of the Perquimans County Democratic Party, presided at a meeting to discuss issues on the Nov. 8 ballot. Special guest at that meeting was Ms. Priscilla Hardle who discussed the state's constitutional amendments and bond proposals.



IN DISCUSSION — Following the Oct. 11 meeting of local Democrats, Ms. Hardle discusses one of the statewide issues with Mrs. Anne Young, Vice-Chairperson of the County Democrats. (Staff photos by Kathy Newbern)



INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER — Baxter Williams (left) of Currituck County is shown introducing the guest speaker at the Thursday night meeting of the Albemarle Area Development Association (AADA) held at Nags Head. Presenting remarks was Marc Basnight (seated), Division 1 representative on the State Board of Transportation. Williams and Basnight served, with other northeastern North Carolina representatives, recently on the joint AADA-ARPCD highway committee.



ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT — Presiding at the Thursday night meeting was AADA's president, R.L. Stevenson of Hertford. In addition to hearing remarks on the proposed \$300 million bond referendum for roads, the group also appointed its nominating committee to draw up the slate of officers for the coming year. (Staff photos by Kathy Newbern)

County Democrats Gather

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

County Democrats gathered in the Perquimans County Courthouse Oct. 11 to hear discussion on upcoming state and local issues facing voters on Nov. 8.

Priscilla Hardle, District 1 Democratic Coordinator, was here from Raleigh to present an update on the state issues and to answer questions.

In brief comments, she explained the constitutional amendments and proposed statewide bond proposals which will appear on the ballot.

Concerning the proposed \$300 million road bond issue, Ms. Hardle said, "The northeastern part of North Carolina just has not received its fair share in roads, money and other things that people across the state enjoy. I'm almost 90 per cent sure that a big portion of that money (from proposed road bonds) will come into this area and it should because that's where it's needed the most."

Ms. Hardle also presented highlights of the clean water bond issue say-

ing, "In North Carolina, we have over 150 small towns that cannot hook up any more systems to the main water system they already have. Concerning the financing of road and water improvements, the coordinator explained, "None of these bonds will mean more taxes for you. The money is there."

The constitutional amendments were also outlined for the group of Democrats present. Ms. Hardle explained that Constitutional Amendment #2 would allow the homestead exemption the same for a man as it is for his wife. She said, "If a wife has life insurance and owes debts at the time of her death, the money can be used to pay those debts. That's not so for a man. This would make it fair." She added that the amendment is a kind of reversed equal rights move.

The controversial Amendment #3 was also among those discussed, a measure which would allow North Carolina's governor a second term in office. Ms. Hardle spoke very strongly

in favor of the amendment saying, "This is not a vote in favor of or against Governor Hunt. We need this to give us some type of leverage in dealing with the General Assembly." She also added that during the last election in state's that have the second term allowed, two-thirds of the governors did run for office again and half were not successful.

Amendment #4, Ms. Hardle explained, would allow municipalities the right to have local bond referendums to buy shares in power companies. On this issue, Hertford Mayor Bill Cox commented, "The legislature has already given counties and towns the authority to band together to buy a generator which would cost highly. This amendment would give authority to buy shares. This could mean holding power down to a reasonable price."

The last of the statewide issues discussed was constitutional Amendment #5 which would require the state to maintain a balanced budget. Ms. Hardle pointed out that North Carolina does this currently, a requirement by law, but said that adding this in the constitution would allow the requirement to be better enforced. In summing up her presentation, Ms. Hardle said, "We feel all of these things are needed. They're long overdue in North Carolina." She added, "You people in this room can see to it that the people in Perquimans County get out and vote."

Hunt Holds Development Conference

Citizens will have a chance to say how they think state government can help get better, high-paying jobs in North Carolina when Gov. Jim Hunt holds an economic development conference in each of the state's 100 counties in October.

The County conference for Perquimans has been set for Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Perquimans County Courthouse. Bill Cox, Chairman is urging all interested citizens to be present.

The purpose of the county conferences, which will be open to the public, is to allow citizens to tell state government what they believe the economic problems are in their own communities, and what local, state and federal government should do to help solve them.

The conferences are forerunners to a larger statewide gathering on balanced growth and economic development set for January 1978.

"These will be information-gathering sessions," Hunt explained. "We want the ideas and thinking of as many people as possible as we draw up an effective economic policy for the state. We need to know what problems relate to the needs of each individual county in terms of growth and development."

Local resource persons will join state government representatives in leading panel discussions at the 100 conferences. At another point, those attending will divide into three sub-groups for roundtable discussions on agriculture, the manufacturing and processing industry, and services industries, including transportation, finance, wholesale, and retail sales and tourism.

Participants will have opportunities to raise specific issues of statewide importance which help or hinder growth and economic development.

such as the inventory tax, highway monies and federal restraints; and policies relating to such matters as energy, water and sewer facilities, water resources and land use.

Each of the 100 local conferences will result in a report which, in turn, will be incorporated into 17 regional reports, and then into reports from the three geographic regions of the state: Mountains, Piedmont and Coastal Plains.

These regional reports will be presented at the Governor's statewide Conference on Balanced Growth and Economic Development in January. Copies will be also given to the State Goals and Policy Board, the chief citizen advisory agency for policy in the state.

Conference plans have been made at the Governor's request by representatives from the Agricultural Extension Service, Association of County Commissioners, Industrial

Development Association and League of Municipalities. Local plans have been coordinated by the 17 regional planning agencies.

Discussion of North Carolina's Economic status comes at a time when the state only recently moved ahead of Mississippi as 49th in the nation in average hourly manufacturing wages. The state ranks 39th in the overall per capita income.

Gov. Hunt has committed his administration to improving the economic base in the state, and is seeking to attract high-wage industry.

While the state is still considered poor by national standards, it is growing substantially. What the Governor hopes to do in the local conferences, and eventually at the larger event next year, is to ask North Carolinians for their ideas on how the state can best achieve quality growth.

AADA Endorses Bond

NAGS HEAD — Members of the Albemarle Area Development Association (AADA) have unanimously endorsed the Nov. 8 state statewide bond referendum to provide \$300 million for roads. That endorsement came at the association's meeting held Thursday night here at the Seafare Restaurant. The motion, made by Baxter Williams of Currituck County, also included unanimous support of two other issues facing voters across the state on Nov. 8: the constitutional amendment which would allow the state's governor a second term in office; and bonds for clean water.

The endorsements were made following comments by Marc Basnight, Division 1 representative on the N.C. Board of Transportation.

Basnight, at several points, referred to the beneficial groundwork laid by the joint AADA and ARPCD highway committee

in setting priority areas for road improvements in northeastern North Carolina. Basnight served as Dare County's appointee to that committee. He said that committee resulted in one of the "strongest unified approaches" taken before Tom Bradshaw, Secretary of Transportation, when meetings on suggested highway projects were held in each division. Basnight said, "I don't think any other part of the state had that (unified approach). I feel we're doing about as good as any part of the state."

Speaking strongly in favor of the \$300 million bond referendum for roads, Basnight said, "There'll be no tax increase; none whatsoever. This would allow \$1,250 per mile available to each county per mile of unpaved road." Basnight continued, "We have the largest network of state maintained highways in the nation. We're one of seven

state highway departments totally funded by the gas tax." Concerning the need for improved highways, Basnight said, "Without a good transportation system to move the people and the products, there's no way we can attract industry."

Basnight also discussed the projects of concern to the local representatives. He pointed out that three projects have been added to the highway improvement program: the Ahsokie bypass; work on U.S. 64 in Tyrrell and Dare counties; and U.S. 17. Basnight added that once a project has been added to the program, it cannot be removed.

Concerning the U.S. 17 project, Basnight said, "Sixteen and two-tenths miles would complete U.S. 17 to the Virginia line. It will cost approximately \$30 million to complete it at today's cost and naturally that will go up." The Board member added that one of his personal goals is to

move the construction date for that project up to 1979 instead of where it stands, 1981 or 1982.

Basnight explained that once a project was added to the highway improvement program, it takes a minimum of five years to start construction. "It takes about seven years to build a road," he said.

When asked if any local road projects would be under construction or completed this year, Basnight cited the work on U.S. 64 as the only one to fit in this category.

Following Basnight's comments, AADA president, R.L. Stevenson of Hertford, responded to remarks on the successfulness of the joint highway committee's efforts. He said, "I am grateful to learn that what we have done has been noticed."

The next meeting of AADA will be held Nov. 10 in Tyrrell County.

Board Reaffirms Bond Support

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

Speaking on behalf of the Perquimans County Board of Education, Chairman, Clifford Winslow said, "We go on record reaffirming our positive and unanimous support of the 1.85 million bond referendum and we are totally committed to this program."

That statement was made Monday night by Chairman Winslow when the Board of Education met in regular session. Part of that meeting was devoted to discussion of the bond referendum which will face county voters at the polls on Nov. 8.

Present for that discussion were four citizens serving as Chairpersons for countywide group supporting the issue: Miss Thelma Elliott, Milton Coston, and Mr. and Mrs. Marlon Swindell. There was no one present representing opposition to the proposal.

Following lengthy discussion, the representatives announced plans to hold a public information meeting on the bond referendum open to all interested citizens. That meeting has been scheduled for Nov. 1 at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Perquimans County High School.

In other business, the board adopted a policy on Family Life Education following a report from the committee organized to consider the program.

Committee members present included three physical education teachers, Margaret Brothers, Carolyn Rogers, and Billy Stallings; and representatives of the county health Department and Department of Social Services, Beth Anderson and Barbara Haggar. Working with that committee has been Morris Kornegay, Coordinator for Secondary Instruction.

The policy, approved by a 3 to 1 vote, reads, "The Perquimans County Board of Education recognizes the need for a comprehensive course of study dealing with Family Life and Sex Education for the Students of Perquimans County Schools."

Several questions were raised by board members prior to voting on the proposed policy. Discussion of tentative plans revealed that the new program could be included as six weeks in the health and P.E. curriculum for students in grades 7-12 with participation optional. Teachers would receive prior special training, it was pointed out and East Carolina University has offered assistance in this area as well as help in drawing up the course guide. Expert professionals would also be utilized.

In personnel matters, the Board unanimously approved

two items: granting caret Status to Earl Willis and the employment of Linda Dowd in the Perquimans High business department.

An update on progress in community education was heard under program matters. Superintendent Pat Harrell explained that the six county educational consortium, Alliance for Progress, Inc., plans to submit a proposal to the State Board of Education requesting \$66,000 for the six county region for community education. In the area of administrative operations, the Board approved submitting a request to the state Board of Education for permission to exceed the class size limit determined by law. The request is for two second grade classes at Central Grammar School, one for 27 students and one for 28. The Registration sets the maximum class size in grades K-3 at 26 pupils and up to 23 students are allowed per class grades 4-6.

Superintendent Harrell shared a request for local information on a school transportation survey prior to adjournment. No action was required.

Civic Calendar

- THURSDAY, Oct. 20
- Hertford BPW Club Meets. +++
- Hertford Lions Club Meets. +++
- Hertford Fire Dept. Meets. +++
- SATURDAY, Oct. 22
- Clean Up Day at the Park at 10 a.m.
- SUNDAY, Oct. 23
- BPW Open House at Hertford Baptist Church.
- MONDAY, Oct. 24
- Perquimans Co. Rescue Squad.
- TUESDAY, Oct. 25
- Perquimans Masonic Lodge meets. +++
- Hertford Rotary Club Meets. +++
- Belvidere Homemakers Club meets. +++
- Woodmen of the world meets. +++
- UP COMING EVENTS
- American Legion will hold a turkey shoot at the high school football field on Nov. 5.