

WAKE DEMOCRATIC WOMAN

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March 2006

Identity Theft: Protecting Your Good Name

Identity theft is the fastest growing white collar crime in the nation. Approximately 300,000 North Carolinians will have their identity stolen this year. North Carolinians now have more protection from identity theft thanks to a new law pushed by Attorney General Roy Cooper.

This comprehensive new law protects you from identity theft in a number of ways. The measure cuts down on the use of Social Security Numbers as identification numbers, and prohibits state and local governments from unnecessarily collecting or sharing your Social Security Number.

The law also requires charities and businesses to destroy your personal information when they dispose of it so that an identity thief can't get your information from files that have been carelessly thrown away. And if a security breach happens at a company that could put your private information at risk, the business must let you know about it.

Another key provision in the new law gives you a way to block criminals' access to your credit. By placing a "security freeze" on your credit, you can stop an identity thief who already has your private information from being able to use it to open new accounts in your name. Consumers can freeze their credit report by sending a certified letter and \$10 to each of the three credit bureaus. Your credit report

stays locked until you lift the security freeze.

Here are five more things you can do right now to protect yourself from identity theft:

1. CHECKS - Remove your driver's license number and military ID number from your checks.
2. SSN - Don't carry a card in your wallet with your SSN on it. Always ask why someone needs your SSN before you give it and find out if you can provide an alternative forms of identification.
3. MAIL - Place outgoing mail, especially bills, in a blue postal service box . Call 1-888-5-OPT-OUT to stop pre-approved credit card applications from filling up your mailbox.
4. SHRED - documents that contain personal information or account numbers. Cross cut shredders are best.
5. CREDIT - Check your credit report regularly. Go to www.annualcreditreport.com for a free yearly credit report or call (877) 322-8228.



Caroline Farmer

More information about how to protect yourself from identity theft, including information on how to freeze your credit, go to www.ncdoj.com/idtheft.

— Caroline Farmer

Caroline Farmer is Special Counsel to Attorney General Roy Cooper and a member of DWWC.



"Take Back America" **The 36th Annual Jefferson-Jackson Breakfast**



Sandy Babb and her Committee are planning an exciting JJ Breakfast for you on Saturday, April 29, 2006. The 36th Annual Breakfast will be held at the North Raleigh Hilton. Registration begins at 8:00 am and buffet lines open at 9:00 am. Advance tickets are on sale now, and the cost is \$35.00. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$40.00. To help us plan carefully, please purchase your tickets now and invite your friends to join us. Our theme for the JJ Breakfast is an important one — *"Take Back America."* Can we make a difference? You bet we can! Use the ticket request form on page four of this newsletter to make your reservations today.

DWWC Board of Directors

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Issues	Barbara Ann Hughes	787-2949
Publicity	Shirley Fowler	954-1169
Democratic Party Liaison	Sallie Leslie	821-2777

2006 Meeting Schedules

Regular Meetings

Mar 30

May 25

Board Meetings

Apr 3

May 1

Note: The **JJ Breakfast** is April 29. There is no regular luncheon meeting in April.

Regular meetings are at 11:30 AM at the NC State University Club.

Board meetings are at 5:30 PM at Democratic Party Headquarters.

Join Us

Basic Membership \$20 / year
Sponsor \$35 / year

Eleanor Roosevelt
(1st Year) \$100
(Renewal) \$ 50 / year

Call Juanita Bryant at 872-6067 for additional information.

March Luncheon to Honor Past Presidents

Betsy Watson, current President of Democratic Women of Wake County, and Christy Terrell, Program Chair, are pleased to announce that former presidents of our organization will be honored at our regular luncheon meeting on March 30, 2006. They have been invited to come and give a few sentences about their favorite memories of their terms in office. We look forward to hearing from them. Listed below are the women who served as our presidents from 1961 to 2005.

Gladys Bullard	1961-1963
Becky Daniel	1963-1965
Alice Carson	1965-1967
Katherine Edsall	1967-1969
Mabel Claire Maddrey	1969-1971
Kay Daughtry	1971-1973
Sally Creech	1973-1975
Dot Preston	1975-1977
Ruth Holleman	1977-1979
Mary Reeves Whitley	1979-1981
Rachel Eagles	1981-1983
Edna Earle Blue	1983-1985
Leslie Bevacqua Coman	1985-1987
Christie Speir Cameron	1987-1989
Betty Mangum	1989-1991
Hope Williams	1991-1992
Martha Glass	1992-1993
Harriet Webster	1993-1995
Monica Bousman	1995-1997
Kathryn R. Wilson	1997-1999
Gayle Christian	1999-2001
Diann Seigle	2001-2003
Doris Burke	2003-2005

Attention Luncheon Attendees

Please make a reservation. Reservations guarantee we will have enough tables and food to accommodate everyone. In order to expedite paying for the luncheon and getting a front row seat, please have your check completed, payable to DWWC for \$13.00. If you are paying by cash, please have the correct amount of \$13.00. This will speed up the process. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to seeing you at our next luncheon.

— Shirley Fowler, Finance Committee

Please Renew Your Membership

Our membership drive is in full swing. Please renew your 2006 DWWC membership. If you need a membership application, see Page 3 of your January newsletter, or email Elizabeth Hansen at efhansen1@earthlink.net or call Juanita Bryant at 872-6067.

The Difference Between Consumerism and “Consumer-itis”

Most progressives are proud to call themselves consumer advocates. We champion the rights of consumers because we know that an informed citizenry is essential to produce balance and honest competition in our modern, capitalist economy. We read *Consumer Reports* because we want to inform and empower ourselves and our neighbors. Many of us support consumer advocates in the courts and in the corridors of government because we are outraged by the predatory greed and single-minded addiction to profits that sometimes afflict corporations and individuals — particularly those that prey upon persons of low income and limited education. The widespread popularity of this brand of “consumerism” across the political spectrum is one of the proudest and most important achievements of American progressives during the last century.

Like many other political and cultural phenomena, however, the success of American consumerism has a dark side. As the consumer movement has spread and adapted during the last few decades, it has come to play a large and growing role in some areas in which it is less beneficial – most notably in the way in which citizens relate to government.

From social security to transportation to the public schools, many Americans seem increasingly bent upon viewing essential government services as commodities, and government itself as just another giant corporation. In the same passive-aggressive way that we relate to Wal-Mart and the other superstores, many (often, comfortably affluent) Americans demand that their government produce ever-better schools, roads and retirement at ever-cheaper prices. If government fails to “compete” with the private sector by failing to provide Johnny with the ideal, conveniently located public school or by, God forbid, raising prices (i.e., taxes), many Americans demand to be free to take their money elsewhere. These Americans have a case of “consumer-itis.”

In the long run, this “what’s in it for me?” vision of government as a mega-version of the hyper-efficient, suburban box store is not sustainable. As the Gulf Coast disasters of last year proved so vividly, Americans need a vibrant and healthy government precisely because the private sector model cannot (and is not designed to) meet all the needs of society. While the free market is the greatest engine yet devised for building wealth, it is also an imperfect and heartless system that often harms unsophisticated consumers. We need a government that helps address the imperfections of the market. Sometimes this means each of us must sacrifice for the common good.

This is not to say that government doesn’t have a lot to

learn from the private sector. Both for-profits and non-profits can teach government much about innovation and efficiency. Ultimately, however, if we Americans are going to regain our sense of our nation as a commonwealth, it is essential that we work to assure that consumerism does not become “consumer-itis.” A good way to start might be to remember the admonition of one of the greatest 20th century Democrats: “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

— Rob Schofield

Raleigh lawyer and former consumer advocate

Have an Issue?

If you want to suggest an issue you think we should cover in our newsletter, please e-mail Dr. Barbara Ann Hughes at barbara-ann@bahughes.com or call her at 787-2949.

Mabel Claire Maddrey Award

The Mabel Claire Maddrey Award for Distinguished Service was established in 1997 to honor long time member, Mabel Claire Maddrey. Former president and founder of the JJ Breakfast, she epitomized the spirit of service to the club and the Democratic Party.

The award is given each year at the Jefferson-Jackson Breakfast to a club member who has consistently provided outstanding service to the club and the Democratic Party over the years. The award recognizes those members who routinely do the hard work in the background, without expectation of recognition or reward.

The nominee should have been a dues paying member of the Democratic Women of Wake County for at least five years.

Nominations should be made in writing describing the nominee’s significant contributions of time and effort in service to the club and significant contributions of time to the Democratic Party during local, state and national elections. Please include the nominator’s name, phone number and email address.

Mail your recommendation by April 15, 2006 to:

Rachel Eagles
1301 Glen Eden Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Welcome New DWWC Members

Joanne Casey, Becky Porterfield, Jenny Ketner

J-J Breakfast Registration & Ticket Order Form
Make checks payable to: Democratic Women of Wake County
Detach and mail with check no later than **April 22** to:
Mary Alice Simmons, 4017 Old Milburnie Road, Raleigh, NC 27616

Number of Tickets Ordered @ \$35.00 _____ Total Amount Enclosed _____

Name/Names _____ Name Tag _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone #s (W) _____ (H) _____ County _____

Employer _____ Occupation _____

Elected Official, Indicate Office _____

Candidate, Seeking What Office _____

Democratic Women of Wake County
PO Box 12033
Raleigh, NC 27605

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DWWC Monthly Meeting Reminder

Thursday, March 30, 2006

NC State University Club, Hillsborough Street, Raleigh



11:30 AM Buffet Lunch 12:00 - 1:00 Business Meeting / Program \$13.00 (payable at the door)

For reservations call Martha Farmer at (919) 782-1272 or e-mail info@dwwc.net