



**Newsletter From
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Kathy Knight and LaBrone Wade, of Halifax County, visit Rep. Bryant and other Legislators at the General Assembly to advocate for Ex-Offender Programs.

I hope you will continue to let me know how you feel about the issues that are being debated by the North Carolina General Assembly and the challenges you and your family are facing each day. By working together, we can make District 7 and all regions of North Carolina a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sections Below:

- ***In the District (Area Grants Received; A Rising Star)***
- ***Ethics Tip - Scholarships***
- ***For Your Information (The F.L.O.A.T. Alliance; Weatherization Assistance Program; Summer Programs; BCBSNC; NC CDC's)***
- ***At the Legislature (Rep. Bryant's Bills; Education Bills K-12; Recap- June 25, 2009)***
- ***A Moment of Gratitude (Christopher McPhatter/Sentencing Services and NC League Legislative Bulletin of Municipalities)***

In the District

Area Grants Received

- The North Carolina Healthy Start Foundation awarded the following grants from the small time community grants program:
- The Area Wide Health Committee, established in 1987 by the Concerned Citizens of Tillery, aims to promote health and wellness through education and outreach. AWHC was awarded \$2,280 to fund two abstinence education sessions for teens living in

Halifax and Northampton counties.

- Crossworks, a Christian-based organization dedicated to uplifting the community, was awarded \$2,000, to help expand its outreach effort with the Breaking Free: Black Beauties Breast Cancer Project, which is based in local community beauty salons.
- Nash County Health Department received Nash County Health Department was awarded \$1,326 for education materials and training on teen abstinence.
- The Haliwa-Saponi Tribe was awarded \$8,000 from The North Carolina Arts Council for the Traditional Arts Programs for Students (TAPS) program.
- The federal government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act transit project awarded \$991,722 to the Tar River Transit operating in Edgecombe and Nash counties. The funds will go towards the following: Replacement buses-light transit vehicles * Transfer/admin facility- purchase existing facility and landscape transit center * Transit garage improvements- paint, lights, heaters and transmission stand * Renovation for taxi service * Bus shelters, paint bus station, fare boxes, video recorders, spare engines, service vehicle.

GRANTS AWARDED FROM THE NC RURAL CENTER

- The City of Rocky Mount was awarded \$336,000.00 under the Building Reuse & Restoration Program. The city requested assistance to renovate the former Schlage Building. The 196,000 sq. ft. building has been vacant for three years. PharmStar Pharmaceuticals will reuse the building for its research, development and manufacturing operations. The company will create 28 new, full-time jobs. The total project cost is \$683,306.
- Nash County was awarded \$40,000.00 under the Clean Water Partners' Infrastructure Fund. This project will produce a CIP that will examine five major areas: 1) evaluate capital projects in the planning stages; 2) examine the feasibility of assuming operations of water and or sewer systems in Castalia, Red Oak, Sharpsburg, and Whitakers; 3) evaluate the feasibility of extending water service to Bailey, Middlesex, and Spring Hope, and extending sewer service to Castalia and Red Oak; 4) examine the capital improvements needed to implement the findings of the alternative water supply; and 5) identify the capital improvements needed to undertake a second water district. The project also will produce the county's water shortage response plan required by the drought bill. Nash County's poverty rate is 13.4%.
- The Town of Scotland Neck was awarded \$500,000.00 under the Clean Water Partners' Infrastructure Fund. This project has two parts. Part one will replace 7,000 linear feet of the 12" water line along NC 125 that links Scotland Neck and Hobgood and provides emergency water supply between the towns. The line breaks and contributes to the town's 41% water loss. This part also includes replacing 20 water services and 3 hydrants. Part two extends water service to a neighborhood with wells contaminated with iron and coliform. This part extends 2,840 linear feet of 6" water line along Higgs and Trice Roads, along with 7 hydrants and 9 water services. The town's poverty rate is

31.9%.

- The Town of Enfield was awarded \$500,000.00 under the Clean Water Partners' Infrastructure Fund. The project will replace 2" water line with a 6" mains along Bryant, Cary, McGougan, Tucker, and South streets. The project will include 3,300 linear feet of new 6" line, 13 hydrants, and 50 water services to help reduce water losses. In addition, the project will extend 1,650 linear feet of 6" line along US 30 South to serve seven homes, three that are served by wells that contain Iron above the maximum contaminant level. The project will also retrofit the WTP with a liquid ammonia feed system to reduce trihalomethanes, and replace 15 hydrants. The town's poverty rate is 34.1%.
- The Nash County was awarded \$24,554.00 under the Clean Water Partners' Infrastructure Fund. This project will install 45,300 linear feet of 2" to 8" water line to interconnect Nash County's and Nashville's water system with Castalia. The main line will run along NC Highway 58 and provide service to homes along the route, plus two roads that parallel the landfill. The line also will supply Castalia, permitting the town to use its wells as a back-up water supply. The county plans to serve about 60 customers initially, and up to 150 later, along the route of the water line. The county poverty rate is 13.4%.

GRANT AWARDED FROM THE NC TOBACCO TRUST FUND COMMISSION

- The NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission awarded a grant to NC Real Enterprises and the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments that will be available to the constituents of Halifax and Nash counties. The Regional Agribusiness Development Initiative will provide training to farmers and workers who want to transition to higher margin sustainable agriculture and other business ventures. It will also create new jobs and re-employ displaced tobacco industry workers. For more information contact Jeff Jennings, 919-733-2160.

Conservation Council of North Carolina Recognizes Rep. Angela R. Bryant



"A Rising Star"

Representative Angela Bryant of Nash and Halifax Counties was named a Rising Star, by the Conservation Council of NC, to acknowledge her as an emerging leader in the General Assembly with a bright future ahead. Bryant has been hard at work as the chair of the Energy and Energy Efficiency committee. She is also supporting legislation, policies and programs to move NC forward in the energy economy, and energy efficiency and to lagoons and sprayfields.

Representative Bryant is not afraid to take risks in order to protect the environment; we could use more leaders like her in the General Assembly.

Ethics Tip

Please remember that academic or athletic scholarships based on the same criteria as applied to the public are not considered gifts under the State Government Ethics Act. G.S. 138A-3(15).

Please contact the State Ethics Commission at 715-2071 if there are any questions.

For Your Information

- **The F.L.O.A.T. Alliance (Females Learning to Overcome All Temptations)**
Meetings: 6:30 pm every second Thursday of the month at SWIM's Healing Place (327 Eastern Avenue, Rocky Mount, NC 27802). Anyone that provides support, programs, services, employment and trainings for female ex-offenders are welcome to participate. Please call (252) 972-7946 to register.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program** – is a program to assist people with weatherizing their homes, is accepting applications. Applications can be picked up Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Mark AME Church, 1150 Tarboro St. between the hours of 10:00am – 3:00pm. Applications may be picked up on Thursdays at the Nash County Extension Center. For information call 252-977-7941. For information on the Halifax Weatherization Program please contact Gail Walker at (252) 537-1111.
- **FREE!** Princeton University announces its Summer Journalism Program for low-income sophomores or juniors with at least a 3.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) who have an interest in journalism. The cost is free including travel costs to and from Princeton! Apply now! Go to www.princeton.edu/sjp
- **FREE!!** The National Center for Health Marketing's Global Health Odyssey Museum is pleased to offer the 2009 CDC Disease Detective Camp (DDC). DDC is an academic day camp for students who will be high school juniors and seniors during the 2009-2010 school year. Campers will take on the roles of disease detectives and learn how CDC safeguards the nation's health. The camp will be offered twice from June 22-26 and July 13-17. For more info and to apply to go www.cdc.gov/gcc/exhibit/camp.htm.

- University of Maryland, College Park: Women in Engineering, E2@UMD, July 12-18, or July 19-25; rising juniors and seniors. Go to www.wie.umd.edu/precollege or call 301-405-3283.
- University of Maryland Young Scholars Program targets rising juniors and seniors who have a strong academic record and a desire to excel to experience college life while earning three academic credits. Fourteen courses are offered for three weeks. Visit www.ysp.umd.edu/pr.
- Merck & Co., Inc Patients Assistance Program will allow many more people to receive Merck medicines for free. Patients who lack prescription drug insurance may now be eligible for the Merck Patient Assistance Program if their household income is at or below 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) which is set by the US government. Merck & Co., Inc. also has a simple enrollment process and offers free delivery of Merck medicines for enrolled patients to their home or doctor's office for up to one year.
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina- Health of Vulnerable Populations Funding Opportunity:** Applications due: August 15, 2009. Proposals sought to increase access to health care for vulnerable populations in NC, or that increase the appropriate consumer use of health care resources by vulnerable populations. Visit BCBSNC website <<http://www.bcbsncfoundation.org/health-of-vulnerable-populations/grants/>>.
- **North Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations:** August 3-5, 2009 at The Embassy Suites, 204 Centerport Drive, Greensboro, NC 27409. The conference will explore the shift in federal priorities aimed at addressing the Nation's growing inequities and research involving the relationship between climate change, energy, transportation and workforce housing policies. For more information visit www.ncacdc.org.

At the Legislature

Education Bills K-12 Grades from the Office of the State Board of Education (May 15, 2009)

The following bills pertinent to K-12 education received action and will continue to be eligible for consideration:

House Bills:

- * HB 2 Prohibit Smoking in Public & Work Places
- * HB 9 No Texting While Driving
- * HB 18 Speech Language Pathologist Qualifications
- * HB 22 Enhance Youth Employment Protections

- * HB 23 Strengthen Child Labor Violation Penalties
- * HB 42 Science Safety in the Public Schools
- * HB 43 School Bd. Members/Failure to Discharge Duty
- * HB 52 Haywood School Board Filing Date
- * HB 65 Students Under 16 May Attend Comm. College
- * HB 76 School Board Candidate Filing Fee
- * HB 79 Extend School Formula Study Committee
- * HB 88 Healthy Youth Act
- * HB 94 Clarify Definition of Retirement
- * HB 187 Encourage Policies to Facilitate Graduation
- * HB 188 Study Raising Compulsory Attendance Age
- * HB 209 Sex Offender Registry/Liberties w/ Student
- * HB 218 Parent & Student Educational Involvement Act
- * HB 223 No High School Graduation Proj. Required
- * HB 254 Beaufort School Board Vacancies
- * HB 311 Continue School Construction Funding
- * HB 316 Assignment of Multiples to Charter School
- * HB 348 Modify Educ. Requirement/School Bd. Members
- * HB 357 Conform County School Board Vacancy Statute
- * HB 365 Joint Session for SBOE Confirmations
- * HB 391 Comm. Coll. May Offer Safety Driving Course
- * HB 440 The Nicolas Adkins School Bus Safety Act
- * HB 442 Parental Involvement in School Discipline
- * HB 482 Reinstatement of Sick Leave/School Employees
- * HB 531 Affordable Housing for Teachers/Edgecombe Co.
- * HB 538 Char/Meck School Board Police
- * HB 582 Special Education Changes
- * HB 593 Change School Starting Date
- * HB 636 Staff Dev. OK in Protected Teacher Workdays
- * HB 659 Study Existing Children/Youth Programs
- * HB 661 City Managers on School Boards
- * HB 735 Bldg. Code/High Schoolers at Comm. Coll.
- * HB 757 Two Orange Co. High Schools are Tech. Schools
- * HB 804 Amend Law Re: Personal Education Plans
- * HB 817 Establish NC Financial Literacy Council
- * HB 833 Winston-Salem/Forsyth School Board Elections
- * HB 856 Modify Charter School Law
- * HB 900 Nutrition Stds./All Foods Sold at School
- * HB 901 Honors Courses in Healthful Living Classes
- * HB 917 Implement Exec. Order #11/Protect Employees
- * HB 1031 Bldg. Stds./Pre-K Classes in Public Schools
- * HB 1032 Modify History and Geography Curricula
- * HB 1078 Report School Violence to LEA Office
- * HB 1079 Energy-Efficient Motor Vehicle Fleet
- * HB 1172 Take Voluntary Furloughs/State Gov. & Schools
- * HB 1176 Reorganize Schools with High Dropout Rate

- * HB 1260 Voter Preregistration and Education
- * HB 1292 Employment of Noncertified School Personnel
- * HB 1322 Probationary Teacher Appeals
- * HB 1327 Schools Notified of Crim. Intell. Info.
- * HB 1446 Amend Law Re: School Improvement Plans
- * HB 1470 Study Length of School Lunch Period
- * HB 1471 Counties & Schools Share P.E. Equipment
- * HB 1474 Credit Education Req'd/ High School Seniors
- * HB 1504 Transfer NCCAT to SBE

Senate Bills

- * SB 66 Require Arts Educ. For Credit for Graduation
- * SB 68 No ABC Establishment W/I 1,000 Ft. of Sch.
- * SB 198 State Bd. Of Educ./Membership Restrictions
- * SB 202 Appropriations Act of 2009
- * SB 248 Conform County School Board Vacancy Statute
- * SB 287 State Hlth Plan \$/Good Health Initiatives.
- * SB 346 Kannapolis Deannexation/Expedite Schools
- * SB 498 Affordable Housing for Teachers/Edgecombe
- * SB 526 School Violence Prevention Act
- * SB 689 Modify DPI/SBE Reporting Requirements
- * SB 709 Amend the Compulsory School Attendance Law
- * SB 738 Diabetes Control Plans in Charter Schools
- * SB 740 Reinstatement of Sick Leave/School Employees
- * SB 824 Bus Transportation/After-School Programs
- * SB 894 UI/School Teacher Related Amendments
- * SB 962 Probationary Teacher Appeals
- * SB 1019 Establish NC Financial Literacy Council
- * SB 1028 Volunteers to Support Acad. Success in School
- * SB 1030 After-School Child Care Programs
- * SB 1067 Sustainable Local Food Policy Council/Goal
- * SB 1069 Joining Our Business and Schools Commission

RECAP - June 25, 2009

Safety

_Boating safety education would be required prior to operating a vessel with a motor of 10 horsepower or greater under a bill that has passed both bodies of the legislature ([SB 43](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=s43>
 The legislation would require a boater safety education course of anyone born after Jan. 1, 1984. It now returns to the Senate for a concurrence motion. (Sponsored by Sen. Edward Jones and Rep. Michael Wray)

_ A new anti-bullying law has been ratified by the General Assembly and now goes to Gov.

Perdue to be signed into law. The legislation ([SB 526](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=s526> would require public school districts to approve anti-bullying measures that name specific groups as possible targets. Supporters of the bill contend that the legislation helps protect students from potential prejudices. Opponents argue that the legislation creates special protected classes of students. The legislation defines bullying as behavior that places students or school employees in fear of harm or damage to their property.

Energy/Environment

_Water quality in the Jordan Reservoir would be improved under a bill that has been ratified by the General Assembly ([HB 239](#)) -

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=H239>

Jordan Lake is an important drinking water source for many Triangle-area communities. The legislation has now gone to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_State lawmakers have ratified legislation that will direct the NC Department of Administration to consider fuel economy when purchasing state vehicles ([HB 1079](#)) -

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h1079>

Under existing law, the department is not required to consider fuel economy when buying passenger vehicles. The intent of the bill is to reduce the state's carbon footprint and reduce fuel costs. If the bill becomes law, the department would be directed to submit a report outlining how much fuel and money the vehicles save. The bill has now gone to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

Education

_North Carolina charter schools will now be authorized to give multiple birth siblings some priority for admission to charter schools. Under the legislation, multiple birth siblings applying to a charter school through a lottery would have one chance for admission, just like other students. If they were selected, all of the siblings would be admitted. The legislation will apply beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The bill ([HB 316](#))

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h316> now goes to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_The "Healthy Youth Act" has now passed both bodies of the legislature ([HB 88](#))

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=H88>

Under the newly modified legislation, all students will be exposed to both abstinence-only and comprehensive sex education. The proposal also allows parents to remove their children from any portion of the course. The bill has generated a significant amount of debate, with supporters saying that the current abstinence-only curriculum lacks important information. Opponents argued that the existing curriculum provides students with all the information they need. The bill now goes to Gov. Perdue for her signature.

Miscellaneous

_North Carolina will establish a Financial Literacy Council to coordinate and expand the financial education available to all North Carolinians. The legislation is meant to promote financial education in public schools and across the state. The bill has now passed both bodies

of the legislature and will go to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law ([SB 1019](#)) - <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=S1019>

_Uniformed public safety officers will now be officially authorized to wear military service medals during the business week prior to Veterans Day and Memorial Day, the day of Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and the business day immediately following Veterans Day and Memorial Day ([HB 631](#)) -

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=h631>

The legislation includes a safety measure that allows employers of a uniformed public safety officer to prohibit the wearing of service medals if the employer determines it poses a safety hazard. The legislation must now be signed by Gov. Perdue before it becomes law.

A Moment of Gratitude

Rep. Bryant, a great, big "Thank You" on behalf of my program and Sentencing Services programs across the state. You really helped a great deal, and I am very grateful. I look forward to discussing the program with you in detail sometime in the near future! Again, thanks for your hard work. All the best,

Christopher McPhatter

House Bill 1330-Utilities/Collectors/Debt Collections places restrictions on local governments and other public entities that operate utilities concerning debt collection practices that result in one person being responsible for the debt of another. The League has obtained amendments to clarify the scope of this legislation. Our thanks to Rep. Angela Bryant for her willingness to work with us on the changes.

NC League Legislative Bulletin of Municipalities

I wish you and your family a happy and safe July Fourth holiday!!!