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The Buncombe County Democratic Party held its 2009 convention on Saturday, April 18, at the Buncombe County Courthouse. Nearly 300 delegates and guests crowded the historic fifth-floor court room for a five hour session, where Buncombe Democrats elected a new board of officers and debated numerous resolutions. Congressman Heath Shuler was on hand to greet the convention and thank Buncombe County for providing strong support to the Democratic Party and its candidates. Congressman Shuler spoke frankly about his work in the Congress and with the White House, and the assembly responded with a standing ovation.

Elected as officers were:

Chair -	Charles Carter
First Vice Chair -	Michelle Pace Wood
Second Vice Chair -	Isaac Coleman
Third Vice Chair -	Paul Choi
Secretary -	Jake Quinn
Treasurer -	Catherine Alter

Elected as members of the North Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee were Beth Arrowood, Doug Bowie, Charles Carter, Betty Chamberlain, Max Cogburn, Isaac Coleman, Anne Marie Doherty, Linda Fowler, Max Haner, Kathy Kelley, Carmen Ramos-Kennedy, Barber Melton, Ron Moore, Jake Quinn, David Roat, Dick Sinclair, Kathy Sinclair, Sarah Sullivan, Tom Sullivan, Kate Swafford, Keith Thomson, Michael Vavrek and Cheryl Wolff.

Among the many convention highlights were stirring renditions of *America* and *The Star Spangled Banner*, performed by Eddie DeBruhl and Cathy Jones. WNC for Change, an 11<sup>th</sup> District political action organization, presented the BCDP with a framed copy of President Barack Obama's official photographic portrait, which will proudly hang at BCDP headquarters. Outgoing BCDP Chair Kathy Sinclair presented the Liston B. Ramsey Award for outstanding volunteer work in the service of the Buncombe County Democratic Party to the husband-and-wife team of Tom and Sarah Sullivan, of North Asheville. As Democrats in Buncombe were undefeated in last November's election, special note was made of Kathy Sinclair's successes. The convention recognized Ms Sinclair's tenure as Chair with a plaque expressing the BCDP's appreciation for her contributions and leadership.

Continuing on the BCDP's successes of recent years, the convention offered a great demonstration of party unity and strength. Chair Charles Carter reminded the assembly of the important work immediately facing the party, and exhorted Buncombe Democrats to continue working together to build the party and produce good results for the county, the state, and the nation.

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