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Metro Mayors Gather in Raleigh

The N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition held its annual meeting in Raleigh in April. Mayors met with Governor McCrory, legislators and state policy leaders to advocate for strategic policies that fuel economic growth and benefit the entire state.

"Our goal for this meeting, and for this session, is to talk with members of the General Assembly about job creation and how we can partner to benefit the entire state," said Huntersville Mayor and Metro Mayors Chair Jill Swain. "As mayors, we support a strategic vision for job creation that ensures all parts of



Rep. Jason Saine of Lincoln County speaks to the Metro Mayors during their annual meeting.

our state succeed. Our member mayors have been in the halls of the General Assembly all session, and we will continue to strengthen those relationships for the benefit of our cities – and North Carolina."

The Coalition kicked the day off with a Job Creation Breakfast featuring Commerce

Secretary John Skvarla and Chris Chung, CEO of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. Mayors heard about North Carolina's job creation strategy and discussed



Senator Bob Rucho of Mecklenburg County answers questions from the Metro Mayors during their annual meeting.

how cities can further their partnerships with the State to create statewide economic success.

Mayors also met with legislators from across the state, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Brown, Senate Finance Committee Co-Chair Bob Rucho, and Senior Finance Chair Jason Saine.

The Metro Mayors Coalition honored Governor McCrory with its Founders Award in recognition of service to both the Coalition and the state. McCrory co-founded the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Coalition more than 15 years ago around the common issues, challenges, and opportunities that large cities face.

Standing Together for North Carolina

First of all, I'd like you all to join me in a collective sigh of relief -- We have finally reached the end of a long and very busy legislative session. Perhaps more than any time in memory, this session showed the importance of our Mayors standing together, engaging legislators and working with partners across North Carolina.

Last year, North Carolina's historic tax credit had expired and fallen off the radar. North Carolina's cities were in danger of losing important sales tax dollars in a redistribution plan intended to help rural counties. Our State's incentives programs were languishing.

I am happy and proud to say that our efforts helped turn the tide on all of these issues. And, I firmly believe that with Julie White, our executive director, keeping us on our toes and our mayors responding to requests for involvement, you all made an impact.



Standing Together for North Carolina *continued from page 1*

It was no small feat to prevent the diversion of existing local option sales tax revenues from urban and tourism economies. Legislators wanted to provide new revenue sources for rural counties that are struggling with low tax bases and stagnant economies. No one disputes the challenges these communities are facing, certainly not the Metro Mayors. Our message throughout the debate was that we should find solutions that create opportunity for all of North Carolina, instead of picking winners and losers, and we want to be part of a solution for a state that is prosperous in all regions.

The many times that our members visited legislators, the efforts of our supporters across the state in researching the sales tax proposal, and the willingness of our members to testify before the General Assembly on the serious implications of the bill made a real impact. Your efforts helped legislators understand that our suggestion made earlier in the session of using revenues raised from base expansion to support small poor counties would serve the overall need better while leaving our urban and tourism economies whole.

We played a significant leadership role with the Governor and Secretary Klutznick in forming and staffing a broad alliance of state associations to raise awareness about the lasting impact of historic tax credits in transforming downtown spaces, revitalizing neighborhoods and creating economic opportunity. We launched an online petition, website and video, and we took to Twitter with the hashtag

#oldbuildingsnewjobs. Our efforts helped insert these tax credits back into the legislative discussion.

I am very proud that – thanks in large part to the efforts of our mayors and our cities – the historic tax credit was included in the budget and will be available for all cities and towns. You can read more about our work and the efforts of the alliance in our special insert. This was a huge accomplishment for the Metro Mayors Coalition and for our State.

Moving forward, the Metro Mayors will continue to advocate for long-term economic strategies that build on each community's strengths and create jobs and growth for all of us. We will continue to advocate for increased transportation funding and connectivity. That's what unites all of us who care about North Carolina – the desire to create opportunity and a bright future for the entire state.

The Metro Mayors Coalition works best in partnership with others. After all, that's the nature of our organization. We have appreciated our shared efforts with organizations across the state. And, of course, we want to give a special thank you to legislators who took the time to listen to our concerns and to learn more about our cities. Without your open doors and open minds, North Carolina would not be the great state that it is.

You know you'll be hearing from us soon...

New Mayor Profiles



Dick Sears
Mayor of Holly Springs

Dick Sears moved to Holly Springs in 1995 from Chicago and was elected mayor just a few short years later in 2001. His campaign manager was his 16-year-old granddaughter, Elaina, and his campaign motto was "if it's good for the kids, it's good for Holly Springs."

Sears has tried to live by those words each day. He has been active in education, business and government in Wake County. He is a board member of the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce and a charter member of the Kiwanis, Civitan, and Rotary Clubs of Holly Springs. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce in 2002 and by the Holly Springs Modern Woodmen of America in 2003. His peers elected him Mayor of the Year for Wake County in 2005.

Sears graduated from Purdue University and went on to work with Sears Roebuck for 35 years. In 1993, he formed the Gray Group Consulting Network, Inc., a business and marketing firm, which is still active.

Mayor Sears has been married to his wife, Mollie, for 55 years and has three children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



T. Chet Mann
Mayor of Sanford

A native of Sanford, Chet Mann has deep personal, political, and professional roots in the city that extend generations.

Mann graduated from Lee County High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He returned to Sanford after college. With his family, Mann launched two businesses that were sold to Fortune 500 companies. He then ventured into the world of mortgage banking and currently is the Regional Vice President of OVM Financial.

Mayor Mann is a champion of small business and has a strong commitment to public service, which follows right in his family's footsteps. His great grandfather, A.K. Miller, created the first local Chamber of Commerce in the 1930s, and his grandfather, Tommy Mann, Sr., served as an alderman and mayor in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mann entered office in 2013 with an "open for business" platform. His four-prong agenda focuses on job creation, quality of place, community pride, and establishing Sanford as a destination. That agenda dovetailed with a \$14.5 million bond package approved by voters the same year.

Public office wasn't Mann's first foray into improving life in Sanford. He has served terms on multiple boards, including the Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees, past Chair of the Lee County Education

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Metro Mayors In Action



Concord Mayor Scott Padgett speaks at a community event honoring local veterans as part of the national 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.



Huntersville Mayor and Metro Mayors Chair Jill Swain presents Gerry Cohen with the "Friend of the Mayor" award for his longtime service to the General Assembly.



Metro Mayors at the General Assembly



Metro Mayors Chair Jill Swain presents Gov. Pat McCrory with the group's Founders Award.



Governor McCrory and Monroe Mayor Bobby Kilgore at the Metro Mayors reception.



Commerce Secretary John Skvarla speaks to the Metro Mayors during their Job Creation Breakfast.



Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan speaks at an event at Revolution Mills highlighting the importance of the Historic Tax Credits.

City News

Sanford Uses Grant to Meet Needs of Immigrant Residents

Supported by a “Building Integrated Communities” grant from UNC-Chapel Hill, Sanford recently completed the first phase of a project to better assess the needs of its immigrant residents. The Town is now working to publish a bilingual report of the findings and develop strategies to meet the highest priority needs. The project will continue to include key stakeholders from the business, civic, manufacturing, education, church, and government arenas.

Rocky Mount Receives National Attention

Rocky Mount was recently in the national spotlight as the location for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s delivery of the first version of his “I Have a Dream” speech in 1962. Thanks to author Jason Miller, N.C. State University and the N.C. NAACP, the audio of the speech was improved and preserved, bringing national attention to the historical event at the city’s Booker T. Washington High School gym.

Concord Named Community Wildlife Habitat

Concord has been officially designated a Community Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Concord is the fifth community in North Carolina to receive this honor. A Community Wildlife Habitat project creates multiple habitat areas in backyards, schoolyards, corporate properties, community gardens, parkland, and other spaces.

Mooresville Wins Hometown Showdown Contest

The Town of Mooresville won the North Carolina League of Municipalities Hometown Showdown photo contest with an image taken by a local photographer of the Race City USA water tower. Mooresville defeated 92 other municipalities to win the bracket-style contest.

Carrboro and Chapel Hill Support Breastfeeding

Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt and Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle recently launched an effort to become the first Breastfeeding Family Friendly Cities (BFFC) by World Breastfeeding Week in 2016. BFFC development was led by the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at the request of the national organization Baby-Friendly USA (BFUSA) and the international World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA).

Cary Celebrates MetLife Grand Opening

Met Life held a grand opening on June 22 celebrating the completion of two 7-story, 213,500 square foot buildings in Cary. At the event, the company announced that it had achieved its hiring goals as well, six months ahead of schedule.

Greensboro’s Revolution Mill Highlights Historic Tax Cuts

Susan Kluttz, secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and North Carolina leaders toured Self-Help’s Revolution Mill in Greensboro to highlight the economic benefits of preserving historic sites. Since 1998, NC’s historic preservation tax credits have helped save and revitalize nearly 2,500 historic properties while creating an estimated 23,000 jobs.

Burlington Shines in Softball

The City of Burlington has been chosen to host the 2016 Amateur Softball Association National Championship – Men’s Senior Slow Pitch. In addition, the City received the James Farrell Award of Excellence for hosting the same event in 2014.

Nutec Group Selects Huntersville for First North American Facility

Nutec Group has announced plans to develop a 62,500 square foot advanced manufacturing facility in the Town of Huntersville – its first in North America. The company plans to invest approximately \$19 million and create 61 new jobs. Nutec Group provides integrated design and construction solutions to a variety of industries.

Cary Celebrates Academy Streetscape Groundbreaking

The community helped kick-off Cary’s Academy Street renovation project at Celebrate the Street, a groundbreaking and street party. The evening included music, food trucks, interactive art and community groups, as well as entertainment by local performers. Members of the community were asked to write their memories of Academy Street in chalk on the sidewalk or with marker on a banner. Local artists’ original works depicting the sights, natural beauty and landmarks of downtown Cary were also on display at the event.

Concord Opens Second Phase of Greenway

A new half-mile section of the City of Concord’s Hector H. Henry, II Greenway is now open. The greenway will eventually become the city’s longest greenway project, following the banks of the Rocky River fourteen miles through Concord. Parks and Recreation staff have secured a total of \$640,000 of funding assistance for the two phases of the greenway, provided by the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, Carolina Thread Trail and NCDOT Safe Routes to School grant programs.

The project honors Dr. Hector H. Henry, II, who served for over thirty years on the City Council. He began his service as an Alderman in 1973 and continued until 1989. Following a four-year rest, he was again elected to serve as a Council Member in 1994 and continued until passing away on Thanksgiving Day, 2013.

New Mayor Profiles *continued from page 2*

Foundation Board of Directors, the Job Ready Partnership Board of Directors, and former Chair of the Sanford Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Named the Dogwood District Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen of the Year for 2014 and YMCA Volunteer of the year for 2005, Mayor Mann's goal is to usher Sanford toward claiming its place as a vital and thriving city.

Mayor Mann is married to Missi and has two teenage boys who attend Lee County schools. The family stays very busy with school, work, music performances, and youth sports.



Costi Kutteh
Mayor of Statesville

Mayor Kutteh is a Statesville native who returned home after law school to become a partner in the law firm of Pope, McMillan, Kutteh and Schieck. Since that time, he has been involved in all areas of community service, including his election to Statesville City Council in 1989. He served 16 years on the Council before his election as Mayor and is currently serving his third four-year term as Mayor.

He graduated from Statesville High School and Wake Forest University and received his law degree from Duke University. He has been very involved as a WFU alumnus and with local and state bar associations. However, most of his time is spent with community and church organizations where his involvement ranges from tenures as the Clerk of the Session to the clean-up crew for the local homeless shelter's Christmas lunch.

His current involvement includes serving as a director for Children's Hope Alliance, a founding board member and secretary of the Boys & Girls Club of the Piedmont, and volunteering regularly at N.B. Mills Elementary School and Fifth Street Ministries.

His unwavering passion for all things Statesville was the primary reason the Statesville Chamber of Commerce named him the 2009 Citizen of the Year.

The Mayor and his wife Teresa have three daughters, Hanna, Martha, and Maggie.



Dana Outlaw
Mayor of New Bern

Dana Edwards Outlaw was elected to serve as Mayor beginning in December 2013, after previously serving two consecutive terms as Alderman of the 6th Ward.

Mayor Outlaw graduated from East Carolina University in 1976 with a degree in Marketing Research/Business Administration and is presently involved in a self-storage and real estate consulting and appraisal business in New Bern. He is past Chair of the North Carolina Appraisal Board.

He has been involved in many local civic groups since his return to New Bern in 1978, including past President of the New Bern Rotary Club, past member of the Craven Community College Foundation Board, past Master of St. John's #3 Masonic Lodge, past President of the New Bern Board of Realtors, past President of Partners in Education, and past Director of the New Bern Firemen's Museum.

Mayor Outlaw was married to the former Susan Diane Statham, a New Bern native who passed away in 2000 at the age of 43. Susan and Dana have four children: Janet, Katie, Jenna, and Adam. Outlaw is the proud grandfather of three grandchildren: Taylor, Hunter, and Carly.

Mayor Outlaw enjoys riding his Harley Davidson Road King, spending time with his grandchildren, and playing in the band Cold Biscuit.



Members of the Metro Mayors at the Governor's Mansion for the Coalition's first legislative reception.

Accolades

- Rocky Mount has been awarded a \$50,000 Startup in a Day prize, which challenges local governments to streamline their permitting and licensing processes to make it easier for small businesses to get started. Prize funds will be used to create an online portal where businesses can complete required forms, submit documents, and pay fees.
- In Concord, a new half-mile section of the Hector H. Henry, II Greenway recently opened. When completed, the project will be Concord's longest greenway, following the banks of the Rocky River 14 miles through Concord.
- Mooresville's Finance Department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Proto Labs, Inc. announced that it will expand in Cary, investing \$25 million and creating 170 jobs over 5 years. Proto Labs is a technology-enabled manufacturer of custom parts for prototyping and short-run production.
- Burlington Police Chief Jeff Smythe was awarded the President's Award for Community Relations.
- The Centralina Council of Governments recognized the Town of Huntersville with a Region of Excellence Award for its 2014 Strategic Economic Development Plan.

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