



CATAWBA COUNTY

P.O. Box 389 100-A South West Boulevard Newton, North Carolina 28658-0389
www.catawbacountync.gov

Telephone: 828-465-8201
Fax: 828-465-8392

CATAWBA COUNTY HONORS EMPLOYEES WITH 25 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE

Catawba County Government renewed an annual tradition on April 15th, honoring employees with 25 or more years of service at the twenty-sixth annual Quarter Century Club lunch at the Catawba Country Club. Many current members of the club celebrated with retired County employees, who also served with the County for 25 or more years.

Catawba County formed the Quarter Century Club in 1986. A highlight of this year's program was the recognition of nine new Quarter Century Club members. They are, in alphabetical order:

Ronald W. Baumgarner, Sr., EMT Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services. Ronald joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 1 month of service. While in school, Ronald got a chance to see the EMS operations in several different counties. After riding as an observer and student, he knew Catawba County had the better service and wanted to be part of the team. He was born and raised in Catawba County and currently lives on land that belonged to his great grandfather—whose place is still standing. Throughout his career, Ronald has received a number of awards and special recognitions. He has five children (Nicole, Nate, Chasity, Jaclyn and Ronald, Jr.), is expecting his 14th grandchild in April, and also has a little dog, "Sandy". Ronald enjoys fishing, gold and genealogy. He says you know you're getting old when your children start working the same type of job you do—one of his sons also works for EMS. The most significant change he has seen over the past 25 years is the management structure and growth—always trying to keep up with the needs of citizens.

Andrea R. Bruns, Home Health Nurse, Public Health. Andrea enters the Club with 25 years, 6 months of service. She moved to Catawba County from Alabama with her husband Lou, a teacher at Fred T. Foard. They have two sons, Dylan and Richard, who is a student at Clemson working on his PhD in Economics. She also considers Christine, a foreign exchange student from Germany who is now a physician, as her daughter. When she is not devoting her time to her patients, Andrea enjoys spending time with her husband travelling and hiking. She also enjoys bird watching and working in her yard and garden on her days off. She is a member of the Catawba County Parks Advisory Council and a former 4-H leader. The most significant change Andrea has seen over the years is the use of technology and advancement of technology in the home health field, as well as the expansion of services and coverage areas.

Melissa T. Holt, Administrative Assistant, Sheriff's Office. Melissa enters the Club with 25 years, 9 months of service. In 1985, she was looking for a career change and accepted a position in the Finance Department; then transferred to the Sheriff's Office in 1999. She is a Newton native. She has a son, Skyler and a pet Chihuahua, Betsy. Melissa loves to



New members of Catawba County's Quarter Century for 2011 included (left to right): Ronald W. Baumgarner, Sr., Emergency Medical Service; Vivian C. Lee, Public Health, Linda R. Shull, Library; and Rick Jones, Garage. Not pictured were Andrea Bruns, Public Health; Melissa Holt, Sheriff's Office; Tommy Poovey, Emergency Medical Services; Cindy Lee Travis, Finance and Penny Zucco, Tax

"Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!"

travel and one of her favorite destinations is Walt Disney World. She also enjoys watching sports—particularly the Minnesota Vikings, UNC Tarheels, and the Newton-Conover Red Devils. She enjoys shopping and reality TV shows. She notes the significant growth in technology as the biggest change she has seen.

Richard W. “Rick” Jones, Fleet Supervisor, Garage, Finance. Rick joins the QCC with 25 years, 6 months of service. He decided to come to work with the County because he saw an opportunity to work for an organization with great benefits and a retirement plan. For two years, Rick served as Employee Committee chair. He has received two safe driving awards and he, along with the Garage staff, was nominated for a County Team Award. He is married to wife, Brenda; has a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Cristy; and a grandson, Jordan Scott. The family has several pets—two dogs, Sadie and Barbie, and a Siamese cat named Jerri. Rick’s hobbies are car shows and cruise-ins, restoring old cars, powdercoating and rebuilding carburetors. The most significant change Rick notes is that the garage fleet has increased from 120 to 325 vehicles over the last 25 years.

Vivian C. Lee, Office Support Specialist, Public Health. Vivian joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years of service. She was born in Newton at the old Catawba Hospital and has lived in the county all her life. Before working for Catawba County, she worked in textiles and furniture. She decided it was time for a change and came to Public Health. Vivian has received a number of awards and recognitions throughout her career. She has a daughter, Meghan Lee, and a dog named Precious. In her spare time, Vivian enjoys going to Carolina Tarheel football games, watching Tarheel basketball, and spending time with family and friends. Computerization is the most significant change she notes since she starting working for the County in 1986.

Tommy F. Poovey, EMT Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services. Tommy enters the QCC with 25 years, 4 months of service. He is a native of the county and wanted a career with a good retirement, good working environment and stable employment. He and wife, Lynn show and compete in American Quarter Horse Association events in Roping, Team Sorting, and Working Cow. They own seven horses and an arena (Double P Arena and Stables) in Vale.

Linda R. Shull, Administrative Assistant II, Library. Linda joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 5 months of service. In her job search, she heard about a job opportunity with the County Library, applied and was fortunate to be hired. She was born and raised in Catawba County. In 2006, Linda was an Employee of the Year nominee, a Team Award winner for the NCLive Project, and a Team Award nominee. She also served on the County’s Safety Committee for several terms. Linda’s husband, Terry, is a Deputy with the Sheriff’s Office and a member of the QCC too! They have two daughters—Erin and Erika, and two pets, Toby and Sadie. Linda loves sitting on the porch with a good cup of coffee, reading, enjoying nature, meditating and spending time with her family. Music has been a big part of her life—she is music director at Abernethy Memorial Methodist Church in Newton and plays in a variety band, “Midnite Flyers”, with her brother. Technology and growth of library facilities are the most significant changes Linda has seen over her career.

Cindy Lee Travis, Accounting Specialist III, Finance. Cindy becomes a member of the QCC with 25 years, 4 months of service. She’s a transplant from Baltimore (in 1985) and was looking for a job with good benefits and a retirement plan. She has one daughter, Sarah; a son-in-law, Christopher; and three beautiful grandchildren, Savannah Jane (6), Claire Sophia (4), and Aidan (20). She also has a cat named Otis. Cindy enjoys gardening, movies and spending time with her grandchildren. She is a volunteer firefighter and is attending school to obtain her certifications in firefighting and emergency medical care. Cindy says significant changes she sees are that the County has become more diversified in the workplace and work practices, and has taken security measures to keep employees safer.

Penny S. Zucco, Business Personal Property Auditor, Tax. Penny joins the QCC with 25 years, 6 months of service. Penny was born, raised and educated in Catawba County. After a previous job was eliminated, she applied for a position in the Tax Office—a position she was sure she wasn’t going to get because “math” was involved! Two days after her interview, she was shocked when she got a job offer. Although her job title and duties have changed many times over the years, she wouldn’t want to work anywhere else---she’s going for 30 years, maybe even beyond! Penny is married to husband, Pete, and has two daughters—Jessica and Allison. The family also has one cat (Snickers) and two dogs (Seebe and Ninja). A source of pride in her life are her daughters—Jessica, who graduated top of her class, Summa Cum Laude, with a 4.0 GPA from UNC-Pembroke, is married and teaches at Catawba Elementary School, and Allison, a sophomore at

“Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!”

Bandys, who is a model and third year competition dance student. Even though busy with the girls, Penny found time to write two novels and is in the market for a publisher. She's an avid reader and loves to spend her spare time buried in a good book. Better quality service to our citizens is the most significant change Penny has seen during her career.

Current members of the Quarter Century Club include: (service indicated through April 30, 2010).

Bill Little, Tax	40 years, 4 months
Polly Pearson, Social Services	38 years, 11 months
Tom Lundy, County Manager	38 years, 9 months
Jo Sloan, Social Services	38 years, 6 months
Kathy Johnson, Tax	37 years, 9 months
Kay Bowman, Tax	36 years, 10 months
Dean Brooks, Finance	36 years, 3 months
Rita Beaver, Register of Deeds	34 years, 11 months
Lynn Baker, Sheriff's Office	32 years, 10 months
Ray Lemmond, Jr., Technology	32 years, 9 months
Rhonda Ross, Social Services	32 years, 6 months
Judy Foster, Library	31 years, 9 months
Coy Reid, Sheriff's Office	31 years, 7 months
Chris Patton, Social Services	31 years, 2 month
Jenny Glass, Social Services	31 years
Shirley Sipe, Library	30 years, 6 months
Freddy Smith, Emergency Services	30 years, 5 months
Kathy Lail, Tax	30 years, 4 months
Barbara Laney, Library	30 years, 2 month
Connie Killian, Planning	29 years, 8 months
Phyllis Watson, Emergency Services	29 years, 3 months
Pamela Brooks, Social Services	29 years
Terry Shull, Sheriff's Office	28 years, 7 months
Donna Stikeleather, Technology	28 years, 5 months
David Sheets, Emergency Services	28 years, 1 month
John Whitener, Emergency Services	28 years
Teri Cain, Social Services	27 years, 10 months
Vada Nixon, Public Health	27 years, 10 months
Betty Jean Stinson, Library	27 years, 7 months
Penny Hunsucker, Public Health	27 years, 6 months
Rick Cook, Technology	27 years, 1 month
David Hewat, Emergency Services	27 years
Renee Hart, Technology	26 years, 10 months
Gary Bolick, Emergency Services	26 years, 8 months
Kelly Isenhour, Public Health	26 years, 7 months
Lynne Reed, Library	26 years, 7 months
Phyllis Sipes, Register of Deeds	26 years, 7 months
Susan Moser, Public Health	26 years, 5 months
Sue Brewer, Tax	26 years, 3 months
Ona Scruggs, Tax	26 years, 2 months
Jerry Boggs, Technology	26 years, 1 months
C.K. Day, Sheriff's Office	26 years
Wilce Ikerd, Finance	26 years
Melissa Holt, Sheriff	25 years, 9 months
Andrea Bruns, Public Health	25 years, 6 months
Rick Jones, Finance	25 years, 6 months

"Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!"

Penny Zucco, Tax	25 years, 6 months
Linda Shull, Library	25 years, 5 months
Tommy Poovey, Emergency Medical Services	25 years, 4 months
Cindy Lee Travis, Finance	25 years, 4 months
Ronald Baumgarner, Sr., Emergency Services	25 years, 1 month
Vivian Lee, Public Health	25 years

The Quarter Century Club’s active members traditionally receive a gift as they enter the club. This year, active club members received a pottery piece in the shape of Catawba County made by Tammy Leigh Brooks, a Hickory native who began taking pottery classes at the Hickory Museum of Art in 1992 and says it completely changed her life. Within a couple of years, she quit a telecommunications job of 16 years to become a full-time potter. She says she “found her niche” in 2007 when creating roosters became her focus, later adding hens, peeps and guineas. She began teaching part-time at the CVCC Potters’ Workshop in January 2011 and is sharing her talents and “tricks of the trade” with adult students of all ages and backgrounds.