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## CATAWBA COUNTY HONORS EMPLOYEES WITH 25 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE

Catawba County Government renewed an annual tradition on April 9th, honoring employees with 25 or more years of service at the annual Quarter Century Club lunch at the Catawba Country Club. Many current members of the club celebrated along with retired County employees who also served with the County for 25 or more years.

“Catawba County is a tremendous place to live and work and raise a family for many reasons,” said Randy Isenhower, Chair of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, in remarks to the group. “My father (Stine Isenhower) served in the state legislature for six years and he really missed Catawba County. He has a saying, ‘a day out of Catawba County is a day lost’. And that’s true, in no small part, because of the legacy of service you all have provided to Catawba County. I continue to be impressed with the scope and the depth of County services and how that really reaches people in their day to day lives. And that’s because of the legacy of good government you have provided over decades.”



**New Quarter Century Club members joining in 2015 include (left to right): Debbie Hovis, Linda Robinette, Sarah Hunt, Kevin Reese, Amanda Kain, Susan Branch, Tracey Paul, Kendra Shaw, Loree Clodfelter and Debbie Hosford. Not pictured: Joel Herman and Rosemary Sermersheim.**

Catawba County formed the Quarter Century Club in 1986. A highlight of this year’s program, part of County Government Month events, was the recognition of twelve new Quarter Century Club members. They are, in alphabetical order:

**Susan R. Branch, Business Manager II, Sheriff’s Office-** Susan joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 2 months of service. She came to work for Catawba County because of the County’s benefit package and advancement opportunities. A lifelong resident of Catawba County, Susan earned a business and accounting Associate’s Degree from Catawba Valley Community College. She has watched the county double in population and the road she grew up on go from dirt to four lanes. Susan’s County career began at Public Health where she was an Accounting Specialist. She was promoted three times while at Public Health. She obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and maintained a 4.0 GPA at Gardner- Webb University while working full time. She transferred to the Sheriff’s Office in 2005 as a Business Manager II and has witnessed a lot of growth, including a jail expansion and an addition of 74.5 positions.

**Loree E. Clodfelter, Office Support Specialist, Public Health-** Loree enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 and a half years service. She was raised in Burke County and came to work for Catawba County because she wanted a change from working in retail, and a job with weekends off and better benefits. She also wanted to feel she was doing something more important than her retail job. Loree works in Medical Records at Public Health. She is responsible for pulling charts for the Adult Health Clinic, filing and distributing lab work and completing medical releases. She was Public Health Employee of the Year in 1995. Her favorite part of the job is feeling that she accomplished something at the end of the day. Loree has been married for 28 years and has a 22-year-old daughter, Carolina.

**Joel L. Herman, Building Services Supervisor, Utilities & Engineering-** Joel joins the QCC with 25 years of service. He is a native of Catawba County and came to work for the County because of the benefits and retirement package. He

was the Utilities and Engineering Department's Employee of the Year in 2002. He and his wife, Donna, have been married for 44 years and they have a son and daughter-in-law, Tyler and Meredith, who live in Charlotte.

**Deborah A. Hosford, Senior Librarian, Library-** Debbie enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 8 months of service. Debbie was born in Rowan County, but her family moved to Catawba County shortly after she was born. She was looking for a rewarding part time job and thought the Library looked appealing. She had a Bachelor's Degree in Education and wanted to be in an educational environment. She loved working at the library so much she decided to get her Master's Degree in Library Science. During her tenure, Debbie has been nominated for Employee of the Year and for several Team Awards. She loves helping people find information that will assist them in their lives. She has held several positions over the years, including Circulation Assistant, Children's Specialist, Branch Manager and finally Senior Librarian. She is married, with one son and a grandson.

**Debra N. Hovis, Branch Manager I, Library-** Debbie joins the QCC with 25 years of service. She is a native of Lincoln County. She came to work for the County because the timing was right and she had the right experience when a job was available. Debbie has spent most of her work life wearing many hats. She has enjoyed the challenge to constantly learn new things. The most significant change she has seen over the past 25 years is the advent and steady progression of computer technology in libraries and in our daily lives adding that, "Technology is the ultimate change that those of a certain age cannot ignore."

**Sarah E. Hunt, Risk Management Technician, Human Resources-** Sarah joins the Club with 25 years of service. She was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, but has lived in Catawba County for 40 years and it is now home. She saw working for the County as a way to serve the citizens of Catawba County in a more rewarding way than her job as a bank teller. She started her career with the County at Public Health as a WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Clerk and later as a Health Check Coordinator. Some years later, she moved into the Risk Management Technician position in Human Resources. Sarah serves as support staff for the Risk Manager and as the recorder of minutes for several safety-related committees. She has served on the Social Committee and currently serves on the Employee Committee. Sarah says the most significant changes she has seen are the awesome upgrades over the years in technology.

**Amanda B. Kain, Waste Reduction Coordinator/Educator, Utilities & Engineering-** Amanda enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 3 months of service. Amanda is a Catawba County native and says like many young people, she had no idea what career path she would take. She started her career in the County Tax Department. That one decision has given her the opportunity to work in different County departments over the years. The most exciting part of her job is to spread the word about the importance of recycling and waste reduction to the community, schools and businesses. To see people get excited about taking care of the environment and doing their part to enhance the beauty of Catawba County is a very rewarding feeling. Amanda was the 2009 Catawba County Employee of the Year and 2007 Utilities and Engineering Employee of the Year. She lives in Maiden with her husband, Greg, and two boys, 14 and 17.

**Tracey D. Paul, Health Educator, Public Health-** Tracey joins the QCC with 25 years, 8 months of service. She was born in South Boston, Virginia, but has lived in Catawba County since 1990. Her first job offer after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill was from Public Health. She had no idea she would still be working here 25 years later, but says she still LOVES her job. Her favorite part is working with people, all kinds of people in all kinds of places! She continues to be challenged and fulfilled by educating the public on prevention messages to improve their overall health and well-being on a daily basis. Tracey was named the Catawba County Public Health Employee of the Year twice (1991 and 2001). She has been part of several winning team awards including the Public Health Farmers Market. Tracey and husband David have been married since 1987 and have a daughter, Devon, (21) and a son, Wesley (17).

**Kevin W. Reese, EMS Shift Supervisor, Emergency Services-** Kevin joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years of service. He was adopted at three months old from the Children's Home Society in Greensboro. He says he is not sure where he was actually born or anything about his biological family, but his "real parents" were born and raised in Catawba County, so that's where he is from. When Kevin was at CVCC in the EMS program, he rode with Catawba County EMS and was impressed by the employees. Several of them took him "under their wing" and helped ease his nerves about doing the job. He was one of the original crew chiefs in 1993 and became a shift supervisor in 2001. His favorite part of the job has shifted from patient care to being able to help members of his shift when they have a program. Kevin thanks Leah, his wife of 22 years, and his children, Jacob, 17 and Leah, 15 for all their patience and understanding through the years.

**Linda E. Robinette (Retired), former Social Worker III, Social Services-** Linda retired November 1, 2014, but reached 25 years of service before retiring and so was welcomed into the Quarter Century Club. Linda lived in Maryland until she came to Hickory to attend Lenoir-Rhyne University. Linda first came to work for the County in 1973 as a social worker. After her children were born, she took some time to stay home with them, but stayed in contact with Social Services staff through her work with the child abuse prevention group. Linda went back to work in 1990. Before retirement late last fall, Linda spent 20 years as an Intake Worker in Child Protective Services. The position gave her the opportunity to work in CPS and continue to be involved in prevention efforts and responding to reports of abuse and neglect. Since 1976, Linda has been involved with what is now the Prevention Council of the Child Advocacy and Prevention Center.

**Rosemary Sermersheim, Public Health Nurse, Public Health-** Rosemary joins the QCC with 25 years of service. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and originally came to work for Catawba County in the Mental Health department. She enjoys the variety that comes along with being a Public Health nurse. She is married and has two children in college. A significant change Rosemary notes is that responsibility for mental health services was transferred to the State, which opened the door to other opportunities for her.

**Kendra T. Shaw, Charge Nurse I, Public Health-** Kendra joins the QCC with 25 years, 2 months of service. She is a native of Catawba County and felt the hours and benefits were a great reason to work for the County. Her husband was a dairy farmer at the time she was job searching and she needed a job as a nurse with no weekend or holiday hours. Kendra has done a little bit of everything at Public Health. She started out in general nursing and then got an expanded role in Adult Health and Maternity. She became a Maternity Care Coordinator, then Assistant Charge of Prenatal Clinic, and Charge of Prenatal Clinic. Now that the hospital has Catawba Valley Medical Center Maternity Services, she is the prenatal liaison between the hospital clinic and also does Pregnancy Care Management. Kendra is married and has two children. Her daughter is a senior at Appalachian and her son works locally as a plumber.

Current members of the Quarter Century Club include: (service indicated through March 31, 2015).

Tom Lundy, County Manager	42 years, 8 months
Ray Lemmond, Jr., Technology	36 years, 8 months
Coy Reid, Sheriff's Office	35 years, 6 months
Freddy Smith, Emergency Services	34 years, 4 months
David Hewat, Emergency Services	31 years
Renee Hart, Technology	30 years, 10 months
Kelly Isenhour, Public Health	30 years, 6 months
Phyllis Sipes, Register of Deeds	30 years, 6 months
Susan Moser, Public Health	30 years, 4 months
C.K. Day, Sheriff's Office	29 years, 11 months
Melissa Holt, Sheriff	29 years, 8 months
Penny Zucco, Tax	29 years, 5 months
Linda Shull, Library	29 years, 5 months
Tommy Poovey, Emergency Medical Services	29 years, 3 months
Cindy Lee Travis, Finance	29 years, 3 months
Ronald Baumgarner, Sr., Emergency Services	29 years
Vivian Lee, Public Health	28 years, 11 months
Karen Heffner, Social Services	28 years, 10 months
Steve Putman, Emergency Services	28 years, 10 months
Gary Reitzel, Emergency Services	28 years, 8 months
Sindie Sigmon, Public Health	28 years, 7 months
Wanda Rozzelle, Library	28 years, 6 months
Joyce Jarrett, Tax	28 years, 5 months
Kelle Love, Social Services	28 years, 1 month
Savannah Glass, Technology	28 years
Kerry Hayer, Sheriff's Office	28 years
Alice Layne, Public Health	27 years, 10 months

Robert Pruette, Sheriff's Office	28 years	
Teresa L. Birchfield, Social Services	27 years, 8 months	
Vinnie Duncan, Finance	27 years, 8 months	
Kristina (Tina) K. Propst, Public Health	27 years, 8 months	
Cheryl Kiser, Social Services	27 years, 6 months	
Laurie Dial, Technology	27 years, 5 months	
Nancy Williams, Social Services	27 years, 2 months	
Mark Logan, Tax	26 years, 10 months	
Lynne Carpenter, Sheriff's Office	26 years, 8 months	
Jeffrey Greene, Emergency Services	26 years, 8 months	
Scott Hilton, Finance	26 years, 7 months	
Michelle Deese, GIS Administrator	26 years, 6 months	
Nancy Calloway, Public Health	26 years, 5 months	
Ray Blackburn, Utilities and Engineering	26 years, 4 months	
Teresa Buff, Tax	26 years, 4 months	
Linda Robinette, Social Services	26 years	(retired 11/1/2014)
Henry Helton, Emergency Services	25 years, 11 months	
Deborah Hosford, Library	25 years, 9 months	
Tracey Paul, Public Health	25 years, 9 months	
Loree Clodfelter, Public Health	25 years, 6 months	
Amanda Kain, Utilities and Engineering	25 years, 3 months	
Susan Branch, Sheriff's Office	25 years, 2 months	
Kendra Shaw, Public Health	25 years, 2 months	
Joel Herman, Utilities and Engineering	25 years	
Debra Hovis, Library	25 years	
Sarah Hunt, Human Resources	25 years	
Kevin Reese, Emergency Services	25 years	
Rosemary Sermersheim, Public Health	25 years	

Ten members of the club who have retired in the past year were recognized during the luncheon. Three retirees who passed away in the last year, Kathy Johnson, who worked in the Tax Office; Darrell Rinehardt, who worked for Utilities and Engineering; and Alan Pope, who worked in the Communications Center, were remembered.

The club has traditionally enjoyed a speaker or music presentation and this year was no exception, with a group of County employees including David Adams, Beatrice Abernathy, Susan Abernethy, Sandie Bowman, Glenda Ramsey, Deborah Robinson and Paulette Smyre providing musical entertainment.

The Quarter Century Club's active members receive a gift as they enter the club. This year, the club received a set of coasters that feature four sketches made by Scott Millar, president of the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation. The sketches depict the Balls Creek Campground Arbor, the Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, Hart Square and local woodcarver Eddie Hamrick finishing a large carving of the County Seal.