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CATAWBA COUNTY HONORS EMPLOYEES WITH 25 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE

Catawba County Government renewed an annual tradition on March 28th, 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 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:



Frances Anthony, Social Services: Frances retired on August 1, 2012, but with 25 years, 1 month of service to the County, so she was invited back to join the Club and then retire from it! She was an Accounting Clerk at Social Services. Her favorite part of the job was being able to serve clients who could not manage their finances, great co-workers, and talking to clients and guiding them in the right direction. She is married to James Anthony, her husband of 37 years. Frances' hobbies include traveling, sewing, being with family and friends, and making cakes.

New members of the Quarter Century Club joining in 2013 included (left to right) Cheryl Kiser, Vinnie Duncan, Annie Williams, Laurie Dial, Tina Propst, Mary George and Frances Anthony. New members not pictured are Teresa Birchfield and Nancy Williams.

Teresa L. Birchfield, Income Maintenance Caseworker, Social Services: Teresa enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 8 months of service. She is a native of Catawba County and came to work for Catawba County because of its reputation as a good place to work and the promise of advancement. As an Income Maintenance Caseworker, she determines eligibility for adult Medicaid programs which include private living Medicaid, Adult Care home and long term care Medicaid, PACE and CAP. Teresa and her husband, Sam, have been married for 39 years. They have two children. Doug, 29, and wife Suzanne have two children, Noah and Madelyn. Rachel, 25, is getting married to Austin Heck on May 11, 2013. Teresa has been the choir director at Friendship Lutheran Church for the past 17 years. Computer technology is the most significant change Teresa has seen over her tenure with the County.

Laurie E. Dial, Telecommunications Shift Supervisor, Technology: Laurie joins the QCC with 25 years, 5 months, of service. She was born in New Jersey but moved to Catawba County at age two. She decided to work for the County because it was a good place to work and offered good benefits. She works in the 911 Center answering law enforcement, EMS or fire calls. She really enjoys helping people. She is married to David Dial, has three children and four grandchildren. Laurie enjoys any activity that involves her family. The most significant change she has seen in the past 25 years is technology; things not even thought of when she came to work in 1987!

Vinnie G. Duncan, Finance Specialist, Finance: Vinnie enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 8 months of service. She is a Catawba County native and decided to come to work for the County because the benefits offered were much more appealing than her employer at the time. As a Finance Specialist, responsible for seeing that County employees are paid, her job can be challenging at times but she says it is very enjoyable. She enjoys working with numbers and problem solving. Vinnie was nominated for Employee of the Year in 1990 and has served on the County's Employee Committee. She is a member of the American Payroll Association. Vinnie says she has a wonderful family, which includes a husband, children and grandchildren. She enjoys shopping, dining out, traveling and playing bingo. The most significant change Vinnie has seen over the past 25 years has been the increase in the number of employees and an increase in the number of benefits offered for employee purchase.

Mary K. George, Assistant Planning Director, Planning and Development: Mary joins the QCC with 25 years, 1 month of service. She is a native of Wisconsin. Back in 1988, she was working with the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Catawba County was one of the counties she worked in. She interacted with County staff and professionals (surveyors, engineers, etc.) in the county. She found staff to be very professional and the job was a good fit for her career objectives. Mary's job has changed over the past 25 years from reviewing subdivisions and other short range projects to long range planning such as preservation projects such as lake public access sites, farmland and local foods, and the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan. She was named Employee of the Year in 2005 and just recently was named the Outstanding Contributor to Agriculture by the Hickory Kiwanis Club at the Farm-City Week banquet. Mary says the Planning Department is a small department but they accomplish great things! Mary and David, her husband of 28 years, have a son Brian. The George family enjoys soccer and Mary has recently begun making pottery. When Mary started with the County back in 1988, microfiche was used to look up property, which referenced paper tax maps. Now, with GIS, current property information is readily available.

Cheryl M. Kiser, Administrative Assistant I, Social Services: Cheryl joins the Club with 25 years, 6 months of service. Originally from Gaston County, she had worked in a hospital and enjoyed public service. The County's benefits were good so she was glad to become part of the organization. She works in the Adult Protective Service and CAP/Medicaid Units. Her favorite part of the job is helping people and referring them to the resources that can provide help. She enjoys working with the elderly and all the people in her division are great to work with. Cheryl has received recognition as the DSS Employee of the Month twice—May 1989 and July 1994. She has been married to her husband, Darrell, for 40 years. He is a department head and instructor at CVCC. They have a son, Derek, who is a youth pastor at a Gastonia Baptist church and an Army Chaplain. Cheryl enjoys travel, painting, genealogy, reading, crafts, making cards, and growing flowers. The most significant change Cheryl has seen over the past 25 years is the growth in number of employees and increase of divisions at Social Services.

Tina K. Propst, Administrative Assistant I, Public Health: Tina enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 7 months of service. She is a Catawba County native and was interested in working for the County because of its reputation as a good place to work, good benefits and retirement plan. Tina does full-time data entry for the nurses at Public Health. Typing and data entry is the favorite part of her job. She enjoys creating tables or spreadsheets as needed and enjoys making the nurses' job easier by helping out with administrative duties. In December 1995, she was an Employee-of-the-Year Nominee for Catawba County Public Health's Environmental Health Division and she served on the Public Health Employee Committee in 1999. Tina is married to Frank Propst. They will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on June 4th of this year. She is a lifelong member of St. John's Lutheran Church where she is active in the Blind Ministry. In her spare time, she enjoys crocheting, cross stitch, making wreaths and bows, and walking. The most significant change she has seen is technology. She recalls that when she started to work in 1987, the Environmental Health Division had just purchased an electronic memory typewriter!

Annie B. Williams, Senior Nutrition Supervisor, Social Services: Annie enters the QCC with 25 years, 8 months of service. She oversees one of the County's five Seniors Morning Out groups. She enjoys working with senior citizens because of the diversity of the clients. A couple of years ago, she received the STAR award (Special Talents are Recognized), a program similar to "employee of the month" at Social Services. Annie has three children and three grandchildren. She is an avid reader ("true crime" stories mostly) and likes to travel when possible. Annie says the most significant change she's seen is that more and different family types need services now than before.

Nancy A. Williams, Income Maintenance Investigator, Social Services: Nancy joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 2 months of service. She is a Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator through the United Council on Welfare Fraud. She really enjoys the investigative part of the job because so many times it is like working a puzzle. It is really satisfying when all the pieces fit together. Nancy is married and has two children. Her daughter plays basketball and softball so a lot of Nancy's free time is spent on those activities. She also enjoys making things look new again!

Current members of the Quarter Century Club include: (service indicated through March 31, 2013).

Tom Lundy, County Manager	40 years, 8 months
Kathy Johnson, Tax	39 years, 8 months
Ray Lemmond, Jr., Technology	34 years, 8 months
Rhonda Ross, Social Services	34 years, 5 months
Coy Reid, Sheriff's Office	33 years, 6 months
Jenny Glass, Social Services	32 years, 11 months
Freddy Smith, Emergency Services	32 years, 4 months
Donna Stikeleather, Technology	30 years, 4 months
David Sheets, Emergency Services	30 years
Teri Cain, Social Services	29 years, 9 months
Penny Hunsucker, Public Health	29 years, 5 months
Mike Hale, Sheriff	28 years, 11 months
David Hewat, Emergency Services	28 years, 11 months
Renee Hart, Technology	28 years, 9 months
Gary Bolick, Emergency Services	28 years, 7 months
Kelly Isenhour, Public Health	28 years, 6 months
Lynne Reed, Library	28 years, 6 months
Phyllis Sipes, Register of Deeds	28 years, 6 months
Susan Moser, Public Health	28 years, 4 months
Ona Scruggs, Tax	28 years, 1 month
Jerry Boggs, Technology	28 years
Wilce Ikerd, Finance	28 years
C.K. Day, Sheriff's Office	27 years, 11 months
Melissa Holt, Sheriff	27 years, 8 months
Andrea Bruns, Public Health	27 years, 6 months
Penny Zucco, Tax	27 years, 6 months
Linda Shull, Library	27 years, 5 months
Tommy Poovey, Emergency Medical Services	27 years, 3 months
Cindy Lee Travis, Finance	27 years, 3 months
Ronald Baumgarner, Sr., Emergency Services	27 years
Vivian Lee, Public Health	26 years, 11 months
Karen Heffner, Social Services	26 years, 10 months
Steve Putman, Emergency Services	26 years, 9 months
Gary Reitzel, Emergency Services	26 years, 8 months
Brenda Davis, Social Services	26 years, 7 months
Sindie Sigmon, Public Health	26 years, 7 months
Wanda Rozzelle, Library	26 years, 6 months
Joyce Jarrett, Tax	26 years, 5 months
Kelle Love, Social Services	26 years, 1 month
Savannah Glass, Technology	26 years
Kerry Hayer, Sheriff's Office	26 years
Alice Layne, Public Health	26 years
Robert Pruette, Sheriff's Office	26 years

Teresa L. Birchfield, Social Services	25 years, 8 months
Vinnie Duncan, Finance	25 years, 8 months
Annie Williams, Social Services	25 years, 8 months
Kristina (Tina) K. Propst, Public Health	25 years, 6 months
Cheryl Kiser, Social Services	25 years, 6 months
Laurie Dial, Technology	25 years, 5 months
Nancy Williams, Social Services	25 years, 2 months
Mary George, Planning	25 years, 1 month

Seven members of the club who have retired in the past year were recognized and one, Linda Church, who worked for the Sheriff's Office and who passed away in the last year, was remembered.

The club was entertained by a group called "Lovin' Life", a trio of County employees: Beatrice Abernathy from the County's Purchasing Division, Sarah Hunt from Risk Management and Susan Branch from the Sheriff's Office.

The Quarter Century Club's active members traditionally receive a gift as they enter the club. This year, they received glass flowers created by RE-creation by Jay Bajorek, a resident of Catawba County for about 40 years. He makes the flowers by repurposing glass dishes and his RE-creations are available for sale at Warehouse 2120 on Highway 127.