

Bodie Island

The Monthly Newsletter of the North Carolina Public School Maintenance Association

Volume 56, Number 1 January 2019

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# **SUE FARMER**



Sue Farmer

Some people are very dedicated and efficient in their jobs; a true asset to their employer. Sue Farmer is one of those people.

Sue was born and raised in the town of Black Creek in eastern

Wilson County. She has worked for Wilson County Schools (WCS) for 34 years. Her first few years of employment with WCS were in the Transportation Department. She left the school system for a short while, but when she returned in 1995, she began working in the maintenance department as the receptionist. In 1998 she became the secretary/bookkeeper, a position she says she still thoroughly enjoys. "I love being with my 'second' family. I believe you must enjoy what you do because this is where you will be eight hours a day and at least five days a week. If you do not, work will become a miserable place," she said. Sue is thankful for her working relationship with the WCS Maintenance staff. Sue said. "Angela, Loretta and I work great together as a team. I believe in training everyone on all aspects of each person's job so that when one of us is out or on vacation, most of the work will still get done. Greg Woodard, WCS Maintenance Supervisor said, "Sue is a great asset for the Wilson County Schools Maintenance Department. Without Sue's help, I would not be able to keep up with my appointments and half of my paperwork. She will be greatly missed when she decides to retire." Sue finds her job rewarding and challenging. She said, "It is a challenge to maintain schools and equipment with the funding we receive. Buildings and equipment get older and more expensive all the time. Expenses never decrease. Every day can bring a new challenge."

Although she's worked for Wilson County Schools for over 34 years total, she left for a few years during that time - for a totally different career. Her

#### continued on page 2

## **MEETINGS & EVENTS**

NCPSMA DISTRICT THREE MEETING

February 21, 2019 at 4pm at Louisburg High School 50 Stone Southerland Road, Louisburg, NC For more information contact Sue Farmer at 252.399.7823

**46TH ANNUAL NCPSMA EASTERN** CONVENTION/WORKSHOP (RESCHEDULED)

> May 8-10, 2019 at DoubleTree, Atlantic Beach 2717 W Fort Macon Rd, Atlantic Beach, NC For more information contact Roxie Mack at 336.366.4939 or roxiermack@gmail.com

**47TH ANNUAL NCPSMA EASTERN** CONVENTION/WORKSHOP

September 25-28, 2019 at DoubleTree, Atlantic Beach 2717 W Fort Macon Rd, Atlantic Beach, NC For more information contact Roxie Mack at 336.366.4939 or roxiermack@gmail.com

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"There are far better things ahead than anything we leave behind." C.S. Lewis

**MEETING DATES** The districts of

twice yearly. **District 1** January, July

NCPSMA meet

District 2

January, July Pres. Ronald Moore Phone: 910.296.1875 District 3

February, August Pres. Greg Woodard Phone: 252.399.7822

District 4 February, October Pres. Cynthia McCabe Phone: 910.678.2539

District 5 March, September Pres. EC Stophel Phone: 336.634.3270

April, October Pres. Chris Adkins Phone: 980.343.4526

District 6

District 7 May, November Pres. Raymond Bowles Phone: 336.751.1991 **District 8** 

March, November Pres. David Earley Phone: 828.456.2402

**Meeting Dates & Locations** 

Should be sent to The Maintenance Beacon two months in advance for publication.

**Deadlines** 

Publication deadline for articles and advertisements is first day of the month prior to month of publication.

# **SUE FARMER**

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husband was a long-distance truck driver, and this was something she had personally dreamed of doing since childhood. Sue said, "I decided to go to truck driving school at Johnston Community College and get my Commercial Driver's License and I passed! We drove together as a team and I was able to see the entire US and some of Canada. That lasted for approximately five years. Ultimately, I decided it was time for me to come back home. I was fortunate to be able to fill an opening in the maintenance department when I returned.

Sue has been a faithful member of NCPSMA for eight years. She currently serves as the vice president of District Three. She served as the District Three Secretary/Treasurer from 2014 to 2017 and did an excellent job! The district meetings were well organized as well as the district reports. She works hard to make sure the District Three Golf Tournament is a success each year. Sue is very easy to talk with, quick to respond and always so helpful. She said, "Before becoming involved with NCPSMA District Three, I was one that never came forward. I always let everyone else be in charge. I am still that way to a point. With the help of Greg Woodard, Mark Letchworth and Angela Lane, my co-workers, District Three has flourished. The district meetings and golf tournaments have raised enough funds that we are looking into having classes that will be beneficial to members of District Three." They have certainly worked hard and are very dedicated. She also said, "The NCPSMA is a great resource for members to reach out to others with issues or concerns they may be dealing with. The classes taught give one the opportunity to acquire credits to maintain the license needed for their line of work. It also gives a member the chance to learn different skills to be able to advance to different careers."

Sue and her husband Marvin have been married for 37 years. She has one step-son, Billy; two step-granddaughters and two step great-grandchildren, a boy and a girl. They live in Anderson, Indiana. Sue said she and Marvin enjoy entertaining family and friends in their home. She said, "We get together once a month. We have a game room with a 9-foot pool table and a foosball table. Everyone enjoys the time together."

Mark Letchworth, WCS Director of Maintenance has been working with Sue since her return in 1995. He summed Sue's importance to the shop in a great phrase which says, "Behind ever good man, is a good woman and Sue is the backbone not only to Marvin and her family but to our entire maintenance family as well. Our team would be hard pressed to operate without her. I am forever thankful to Sue, as well as Angela and Loretta for all that they do."

Sue is to be admired for her dedication to WCS as well as her determination to make a childhood dream come true.

By Roxie Mack, NCPSMA Executive Director

# BEACON

Executive Director: Roxie Mack Phone: 336.366.4939 Fax: 336.366.4938

**E-Mail:** roxiermack@gmail.com **Website:** www.ncpsma.org

News Coordinators: Donna Fields, District 4; Chris Adkins, District 6; Ron Mack, District 7; Jared Lowdermilk, District 8

istrict 8

The Maintenance Beacon is the monthly publication of the North Carolina Public School Maintenance Association. Advertising, editorial material, memberships and subscriptions are handled through the office of the Executive Director, 630 Adams Ridge Road, State Road, NC 28676-9536.

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Ron and I recently visited with Chris Campbell, the new Maintenance Director for Alexander County Schools.

Chris Campbell

Located within the Piedmont region of

western North Carolina, Alexander County was chartered in 1847. It was formed from portions of what were then Iredell, Caldwell and Wilkes Counties. The county was named for William Julius Alexander who was a Speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons. The area was settled primarily by farmers. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 264 square miles. The county's main geographic feature is the Brushy Mountains. The "Brushies," as they are called locally, rise from 300 to 1,000 feet above the surrounding countryside, and dominate the county's northern horizon. The remainder of Alexander County's terrain consists of gently rolling countryside. The county's largest river, the Catawba forms its southern border. Within Alexander County is the unincorporated town of Hiddenite, the location of a mine that yields emeralds, sapphires, and its namesake stone "hiddenite," a variety of spodumene.

Alexander County Schools has one high school, two middle schools, seven elementary schools, one head start and one early college. The school system has an enrollment of around 4900 students. Chris became the maintenance director for ACS on October 1, 2018. He has owned his own landscaping business, Shiloh Landscaping, Inc for over 15 years. He plans to take a break from the landscaping business until he becomes fully acclimated in his new position. While trying to finish up his last landscaping project, his pinkie finger (on his dominant hand), was shattered when his drill snagged. He was on his third cast when we visited, as he'd damaged the first two working on renovation projects on the ACS Maintenance Buildings. Some of the projects he and his staff

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# WILKES COUNTY HOSTS DISTRICT SEVEN MEETING



Bergie Speaks



tim Pruitt and Mr. Mark Byrd



Mrs. Krista Atwood



Michael Spillman



Attendees



Attendees



Attendees



Raymond Bowles and Jeff Adams

On November 29, 2018, Wilkes County Schools (WCS) hosted our District Seven fall meeting at the Wilkes County Schools Stone Family Center. The Stone Family Center is located in the back portion of the Wilkes County Schools Board of Education Building. To see the building now you would never guess you could purchase anything from building supplies to home goods there back in the 80's. I worked for Lowe's part time back in the early 2000's and I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Larry Stone who was one of the people who helped make Lowes Home Improvement successful. Along with other generous donors, Mr. Larry Stone and other family members provided the funds to make The Stone Center a wonderful auditorium/ballroom that resembles those of fine hotels across our state. It was beautifully decorated for Christmas when our meeting was held, complete with a ten-foot-tall Christmas tree. All the beautiful, festive decorations made us feel very welcome. A huge thank you to the Wilkes County School Maintenance Staff for hosting the meeting.

Mr. Bergie Speaks, WCS Maintenance Director and NCPSMA Liaison Officer, welcomed everyone to the event. He recognized the Wilkes Central High School JROTC who presented the colors and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Keith Holleman of WCS introduced Mrs. Krista Atwood who beautifully played the piano for us while we enjoyed our meal. Mr. Tim Pruitt of WCS gave the invocation for the meal which was prepared and served by the WCS Child Nutrition Department. Marty Johnson is the department director. We enjoyed baked spaghetti, corn, garlic bread, tossed salad, desserts along with tea, water and coffee. The food was delicious.

Mr. Speaks introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Mark Byrd, Wilkes County Schools Superintendent. Mr. Byrd said it was a huge honor to be there. He stated he wasn't going to offer us a bunch of numbers, that if we are like him, after a while they all just run together. Mr. Byrd said he wanted to remind us of the impact the maintenance workers have on a school system. He started out by saying after the meal he would have someone cut the electricity, water, and heat and he hopes that we can still be able to conduct our meeting. He went on to say if something like that really did happen, we adults would be in a panic. He used this as an example of what it would be like if it happened at school. He said that we each have an impact on what happens in our schools each day. He mentioned that according to a Gallop Survey Poll, school safety was the number one concern of parents. They are concerned with academics, sports, etc., but their number one school concern is their children's safety. Mr. Byrd said he appreciates what everyone in maintenance does to keep our school children safe. He mentioned he had learned a lot from school maintenance directors during his career. He said one of the things he has learned is that what might be considered an emergency by some, may not be an emergency to a maintenance director. He gave an example of a conversation he had with Mr. Speaks who told him "If at any given time, an outlet doesn't work in a classroom at one school, but we have water flowing down the hall in another school, that outlet is not always an emergency. Mr. Byrd said that his past experience has helped him to keep "emergencies" in perspective and to listen very well. Mr. Byrd said that many times directors have to say no to requests temporarily. However, the requests are still very important, and we must treat each person with respect. Mr. Byrd said that his dad used to work in the maintenance department at Chatham Manufacturing in Elkin. He said when someone asked his dad what he did for a living, he didn't say he worked in maintenance, he said he was a "fixer." He jokingly said that based on the amount of times he calls on his Dad now, his dad probably still feels like he is a fixer. In closing Mr. Byrd said he refers to the maintenance staff as "fixers," because that's what they do. He said, "Without a doubt our world right now could use a lot more fixers. He said, "Thank you for all you do for our students and for allowing me to speak."

Mr. Jeff Adams, Yadkin County School Maintenance Supervisor and District Seven President called the meeting to order. He said he appreciated all who attended. He recognized all our Veterans, retired members, Maintenance Directors and NCPSMA State

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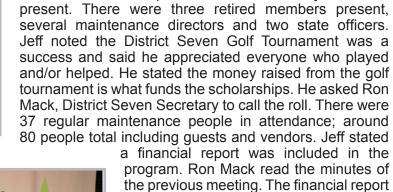
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# WILKES COUNTY HOSTS DISTRICT SEVEN MEETING



Danny Carico



Officers that were present. We had many Veterans

a financial report was included in the program. Ron Mack read the minutes of the previous meeting. The financial report and minutes were approved.

Jeff asked State President Michael Spillman to give the nominations for new officers for the coming year. President Spillman commended Jeff on the great job he had done for the many years he has served. The nominations were as follows: Raymond Bowles of Davie County Schools, president; Darryl Wagoner of Wilkes County Schools, vice president; Gary Burdiss of Wilkes County Schools, two-year advisory council member. David

Martin of the Mooresville Graded School District has one year remaining on the advisory council. Ron Mack, retired Elkin City Schools, secretary and news coordinator. President Spillman opened the floor for more nominations. None were made, and the slate of new officers were voted on and approved.

Jeff recognized the vendors present and asked Raymond Bowles, to conduct the door prize drawings. There were enough prizes for everyone to receive one and some received two. Raymond also conducted the 50/50 drawing. Danny Carico of Alleghany County Schools won \$84 in the drawing. Raymond conducted the raffle drawing. Angela Spillman won a heavy-duty folding chair and Rick Blevins won a cake donated by Deans Southern Bistro in North Wilkesboro.

Raymond thanked everyone for attending and dismissed the meeting. Many thanks to Wilkes County Schools for hosting the event and for the generous support of our vendors.

Bv Ron Mack District Seven News Coordinator

Raymond Bowles, Darryl Wagoner, Kon Mack and Gary Burdiss

# **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** Please mail this form with your dues payment (\$20) to: NCPSMA, 630 Adams Ridge Road, State Road, NC 28676-9536 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_) \_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ School System\_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ (Individual memberships only-no 'company' memberships) If you would like a reminder sent to your e-mail each month when the latest edition of the Maintenance Beacon is available online, please check below. Yes I would like a reminder sent.



## **DISTRICT THREE GOLF TOURNAMENT**



First Place

NCPSMA District III held their annual golf tournament on November 9, 2018. The event was held at Wedgewood Golf Course in Wilson, NC. The original date was October 26, 2018 but due to rain it was postponed.



Second Place



Third Place

enjoyed **Participants** lunch before the tournament of BBQ sandwiches Parker's from BBQ in Wilson. Beverages and snacks were provided by Snyder/Lance and District III. The day started out with a light drizzle and breezy but eventually it turned out rather nice. There were a total of 65 participants in the event. First place was awarded to SAC Enterprise (Mike Norville, Allen Sherrod, Scott Norville and Rod Ramsey) with a 57. The prize was a \$50 gift certificate for each player from Wedgewood. There was a tie for second place. ChemTreat and AirFlow Bombers. The winner was determined by a procedure the golf course used and it was

awarded to ChemTreat (Jeff Bowes, Chad Hoggard, Tyler Brantley and Craig Griffith) with a score of 59. Their prize was a \$40 gift certificate for each player from Wedgewood. Third place was AirFlow Bombers (Jeff Holt, Clyde Boyette, Elton Boyette and Kenny Boyette) with a score of 59. Their prize was a \$30 gift certificate for each player from Wedgewood. The longest drive, hole #14, was awarded to Chris Tripp. His prize was a

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# **ROXIE ON THE ROAD**

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have been working on include renovating the entrance to the maintenance facility. Chris moved his office to the newly renovated area so that the entrance faces his office. His previous office, after renovation, will become break room for the maintenance staff and will provide more privacy for them during lunch. Chris and the maintenance crew are working on reorganizing, as time allows, the entire maintenance facility to make it more accessible and to utilize every inch of space.

The ACS Maintenance Department has very little turnover. Chris said "The employees seem to enjoy their jobs, from the central office to the maintenance department. There is very little, if any, drama." One maintenance employee has in 35 years, one 30 years and one 28. There are only six employees and one part time maintenance personnel, so half of his fulltime staff is/or almost eligible for retirement. Chris said they "technically" have three HVAC technicians, but all maintenance employees do a little of everything, whatever is needed.

Chris is very excited about his new position and enthusiastic about making improvements. He's already joined NCPSMA and we hope he will become an active member of District Seven and share his knowledge and enthusiasm with us. He is eager to learn, and he and Ron had talked about many of the aspects of school maintenance. It was a pleasure to visit with Chris and we appreciate him taking time to visit with us.



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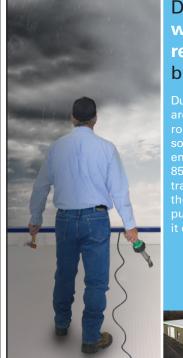
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### JAY PALMER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Completed application should be mailed to Larry McClain, Scholarship Chairman C/O Handi-Clean Products, 301 S Swing Road, Greensboro, NC 27409

A. Applicants Name
Phone ( ) F-mail address
Address E-mail address Date of Birth Age Social Security #
Applicant Employer 0-\$10,000\$10,001-\$20,000\$10,001 \$30,001 \$30,000 \$30,001 \$40,000 \$4
Approximate Salary 0-\$10,000\$10,001-\$20,000
\$20,001-\$30,000\$30,001-\$40,000 \$40,000-above
Current Member of NCPSMA yes no District #
*Please include a copy of current NCPSMA membership card with completed
application.
B. If applicable:
Spouse
Address
Applicant Spouse Employer
Work Phone Number
Approximate Salary \$0-\$10,000 \$10,001-\$20,000
\$20,001-\$30,000\$30,001-\$40,000\$40,000 -above
Current Member of NCPSMA yes no District # *Please include a copy of current NCPSMA membership card with completed
application and a copy of your acceptance letter.
application and a copy of your accoptance letter.
C. Names/Addresses of Parents:
Father Mother
Address Address
Employer Employer
Work Phone Work Phone Home Phone
E-mail address
Current Member of NCPSMA yes no District #
*Please include a copy of current NCPSMA membership card with completed
application and a copy of your acceptance letter.
<b>D.</b> If applicant Dependant Child or Adopted Child
Parents Salaries (combined)
\$30,000-\$40,000\$40,001-\$50,000\$50,001-\$60,000
\$60,001-\$70,000\$70,001-\$80,000\$80,001-\$90,000\$90,001-\$100,000\$100,001 and over
\$50,001-\$100,000\$100,001 and over
<b>E.</b> Please list other family members attending school/college, etc.
Name College or School Year to Graduate Age Sibling (s)
<del></del>
Father/Mother
Dependent/Adopted Children
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
F High School Applicant Attended/Attends
F. High School Applicant Attended/Attends Year of Completion
G. College Attending or Applied to and Accepted Years Attended Year to Begin Student ID#
Years Attended Year to Begin Student ID# Address* of college or university/accepted to
Address of college of drilversity/accepted to
*Where to send the check made out to the institution and applicant.
Include a copy of acceptance letter.
H. Financial assistance from all other sources
I. *Include applicants extracurricular activities including, but not limited to academic,

- demic. church, community, etc. Please list on separate sheet.
- J. \*Briefly convey in 200-500 words on a separate sheet your hopes, wishes and desires for your academic and professional future, along with why you chose the college you plan to attend. Please fill out completely and honestly. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Recipients will be announced or notified by the end of June each year. If awarded scholarship, check will be written to the university and applicant, mailed on or about the first week of August of award year.

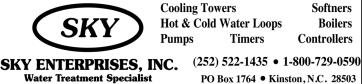
\*DENOTES REQUIRED INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON/OR WITH APPLICATION.

Applications must be postmarked by February 28, 2019 and mailed to:

Larry McClain, Scholarship Chair C/O Handi-Clean Products 301 S Swing Road

Greensboro, NC 27409 Phone: 336.292.3083 Fax: 336-292-3086









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#### **DISTRICT SEVEN SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Thank-you for your interest in the District Seven Scholarship. We will award a minimum of one scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 annually. The newest recipient will be named during the District Seven Meeting in May of 2019.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- 1. NCPSMA District Seven current active, associate or retired member (minimum of one year) or their immediate family.
- 2. Financial Need
- 3. Acceptance by college, university or technical school
- 4. Completed application. If application is not complete and accurate it will not be considered.

In addition to the completed application, on a separate sheet please list applicant's extracurricular activities including, but not limited to academic, church, community, etc.

Briefly convey in 300 words or less your hopes, wishes and desires along with why you chose the college or continuing education program you plan to attend.

Application must be postmarked by March 8, 2019 and mailed to Tim Pruitt, C/O Wilkes County School Maintenance Department, 613 Cherry Street, North Wilkesboro, N.C. 28659

#### DISTRICT SEVEN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A. Applicant			
Applicants Name		Phone	
Address			
Date of Birth	Age	Social Security #	
Applicant Employer			
Approximate Salary	\$0-\$20,000	\$20,001-\$30,000	
	\$30,001-\$40,000	\$40,000+	
High School Attending/A	Attended		
Year of Completion			
College Attending or Ap	plied to and Accepted		
	or Year to Begin		
B. If Applicable	5		
1			
Work Phone Number			
Approximate Salary	\$0-\$20,000	\$20,001-\$30,000	
	\$30,001-\$40,000	\$40,000+	
Current Member of NCI	PSMAYESNO	If YES, how long have you been a member	
C. Parent(s) of Applica	nt if Dependant Child or	Adopted Child	
Name of Father			
Address			
Home Phone	V	Vork Phone	
		If YES, how long have you been a member?	
Name of Mother			
Address_			
Home Phone		Work Phone	
Employer			
		O If YES, how long have you been a member? \$40,001-\$60,000	
Current Member of NCI Parents Combined Sala	\$60,001-\$80,00	\$60,000	
Parents Combined Sala	\$60,001-\$80,00	if other then self or parent	
Parents Combined Sala  D. NCPSMA Member	\$60,001-\$80,00	if other then self or parent	
Parents Combined Sala  D. NCPSMA Member Name Employer	\$60,001-\$80,00r representing applicant	if other then self or parent Relation to Applicant	
Parents Combined Sala  D. NCPSMA Member Name Employer Current Member of NCI	\$60,001-\$80,00 r representing applicant PSMAYESNO	if other then self or parent Relation to Applicant  If YES, how long have you been a member	
Parents Combined Sala  D. NCPSMA Member Name Employer Current Member of NCI	\$60,001-\$80,00r representing applicant	Relation to Applicant  The self or parent  Relation to Applicant  The self of parent  The self or parent	

Application must be postmarked by March 8, 2019 and mailed to Tim Pruitt, C/O Wilkes County School

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# DISTRICT THREE GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Longest Drive



Closet to Pin

\$60 gift card for Starbucks donated by National Air Filter Closest

National Air Filter. Closest to the pin, hole #5, was awarded to Gary Weaver. His prize was a \$25 gift card to Outback Steakhouse donated by Service Roofing and Sheet Metal. Thanks to Donna Ritterpusch with Nash Rocky Mount Schools for taking our pictures.

Many thanks to the hole sponsors of the event and donations that were made. Those included:

Affordable Heating, Cooling & Plumbing, Allred Mechanical Services, Inc., Atlantic Coastal Supply, Inc., Baker Distributing Inc., Best Access Systems, Bobby Bass, Carolina Plumbing, Carpets By David, Inc., Champion Systems, Inc., ChemTreat, Clegg's Termite & Pest Control, Curtis Construction, Eastern Electric Supply/Rocky Mount, Envirocon, Inc., Ferguson Enterprises, Garland Co. #2, Garris Evans, Headlines Hair, Moye Fence Co, Inc., National Air Filters, NC Sound of Goldsboro, NSB Inc., Ready Contractors, Inc., Saffelle, Inc., Service Roofing & Sheet Metal Company, Skinner Farlow Kirwan Architecture, PA, Southeastern Diesel Sales & Service, Tidewater Energy, Unifirst Corporation, United Refrigeration, Water Guard, Inc., J. P. Weaver Inc., Webb's Barber Shop, Wilson Glass, Wolf Trail Engineering PLLC.

Thanks to everyone for their contribution in making this tournament a huge success. Volunteering their time were: Mark Letchworth, Greg Woodard, Sue Farmer and Loretta Grier, all from Wilson County Schools. Donna Ritterpusch from Nash Rocky Mount Public Schools. Without everyone this tournament would not have been as successful.

by Sue Farmer Distrcit 3 Vice President