



Election Judge News

“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That’s why we call it ‘The Present.’” - Eleanor Roosevelt (also Grand Master Oogway from Kung Fu Panda!)

Volume IV, Issue 6

July 25, 2023

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Inside this issue:

- Meet the New Board, (NOT) Same as the Old Board! 1-3
- Retirement Party 3
- In Memoriam 3
- Trivia Question 3

Meet the New Board, (NOT) Same as the Old Board!

It is a new era for the Washington County Board of Elections. The board members for the 2023-2027 term were sworn in on June 5th by Circuit Court Clerk Kevin Tucker, and this board includes four new members!

Tammy Downin is the lone returning board member who will be joined by four newly appointed members.

Plus, for the first time in Washington County History, we have an all female Board of Elections!

So let’s meet the new board:



Tammy Downin

Tammy returns to the Washington County Board of Elections for a fourth term having first been sworn in on 6/6/2011. She has previously served as both Board Secretary and Board Vice

President. Tammy actually began her Elections involvement working as an Election Judge (1998- 2004) and continued as a Chief Judge (2004 – 2010) before being appointed to her first term on the Board. She has completed the Open Meetings Act Training Program in July 2017 and actively participates in Annual MAEO (Maryland Association of Elections Officials) Conferences.

Tammy currently works full-time at Hospice of Washington County since 2005. Her work experience has included both For Profit and Not For Profit organizations and prefers working with Not For Profits. Other community involvement includes: Graduate Leadership of Chambersburg in 1997, Citation Award recipient for Contribution of Community Life in 1999, active involvement with Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County, Served on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Washington County including a position of Secretary of the Board, and is a lifetime member of the Hagerstown Community College Alumni and has served several terms on their Board of Directors including positions as Secretary and President. In addition to graduating from Hagerstown Junior College, Tammy is also a graduate of Frostburg State University.

Tammy’s family is from Washington County but started their family outside of the state returning when Tammy was in high school. She considers herself a lifelong resident with strong family ties to the area.

When not busy with her work and community activities she spends her time being involved in the activities associated with her work and volunteer organizations. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



Nancy Armstrong

Nancy joins the board as a former provisional judge and chief judge at both Bethel Gardens and Ft. Ritchie, respectively.

Nancy has worked for Coldwell Banker in Washington County for over 34 years and has helped with several non-profit/ community organizations, including the Clear Spring carnival. She also volunteers in the nursery at her church.

Nancy and Mark, her husband of 25 years, have a daughter who is a junior at college in Tennessee. Nancy enjoys the beach, reading, and spending time with her dog, Snowball. She is also a two-time breast cancer survivor! Way to go, Nancy!

Continued on Page 2



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New Board (Cont.)

Donna Brightman



Donna is no stranger to the Board of Elections. Her name was on the ballot five times and was elected to the Washington County Board of Education. While on the Board of Ed, she served as President.

Donna also served as President of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) and served on the Kirwan Commission, which reformed education spending in Maryland.

Most recently, Donna served as chairwoman of the Washington County Democratic Central Committee. As such, she attended many Board of Elections meetings and other election activities.

Donna and her husband, Courtney Hirsh, have two sons. Courtney has been active with First Hose Boonsboro for the last ten years, serving as President for six of those years.

Donna is now semi-retired, enjoying gardening, hiking, traveling, and continuing to engage in community activities.

Kandace Carpenter



This will be Kandace's first experience with elections. She is a practicing attorney in Washington and Frederick Counties and is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

Kandace is a past president of the Board of Directors for Boys & Girls Club of Washington County and currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Maryland Theater and Lasting Change.

Kandace and her husband, Robert, have a 6-year-old son, and they enjoy traveling together. Kandace is also an avid Lego builder!



Claudia Martin



Claudia has been active in Washington County politics for many years.

In 2016, Claudia made Washington County proud by being one of 10 members of the Maryland Electoral College!

From 2004 to 2016, Claudia was an elected member of the Washington County Democratic Central Committee and also served as the chairwoman.

From 2010 to 2023, Claudia was a member and past chairwoman of the Western Maryland PAC.

And in 2022, Claudia served as a check in judge at Valley Grace Brethren Church in Halfway.

Claudia is a retired educator/supervisor in early childhood/special education. She opened and directed the first before/after school center in Washington County in 1985 for Maugansville Elementary School.

In 2014, Claudia was the Strathmore Who's Who Recipient for Child Care Directors.

Claudia also currently sits on a number of board of directors, including Head Start of Washington County, Home Sweet Home Foundation, and the Authentic Community Theatre.

Claudia is a member of the Frostburg State Alumni Association, serving as president from 1989-1991.



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New Board (Cont.)

Claudia Martin (cont.)

FSU is also where she met her husband, Al. They have two grown children and a 5 1/2 year old grandson.

Claudia enjoys live theater performances, concerts, and the beach.

Retirement Party

Thank you so much to all who came out for the retirement party on June 15th.

Kaye, Dean, Tammi, Cindy, and Larry were all completely shocked by the preparations that were made and all the people who attended.

They said they never expected anything like what occurred during the party.

County Commissioners John Barr, Jeff Cline, and Randy Wagner came to wish all the retirees well.

State Senator Mike McKay, State Delegates William Wivell and Terry Baker, and a representative from Congressman David Trone's office all presented Kaye and Tammi with proclamations, honoring them for their years of service to the voters of Washington County and the State of Maryland.

In Memoriam

We emailed everyone back on July 5th about Bobbie Martin's tragic death, but we wanted to honor her formally in the newsletter.

Bobbie enjoyed being an election judge, not only at her usual Election Day polling place at Ringgold Ruritan, but also during Early Voting, and she also helped out with mail in ballot canvasses in 2022.

Bobbie was a veteran poll worker, and we will remember her diligence and professionalism, her easy going nature and ability to strike up conversations with voters and fellow pollworkers alike on just about any topic.

As is often the case with a veteran poll worker, it will be difficult to imagine the polling place without her.



Bobbie Louise Martin

August 28, 1950 - July 2, 2023

Trivia Question

What is the official state fish of Maryland?

Answer below:

