

## **History of Wake Forest Community Council**

### **Introduction**

The Wake Forest Community Council was organized around 1968, the year from which the earliest records date, and according to its bylaws was to be known as the Wake Forest Community Council and to consist of representatives from the Wake Forest area, defined as the immediate surrounding territory of the town and community resident who consider the Town of Wake Forest to be their major trading center.

The Council had several objectives. These were as follows: to better the understanding of the community as to the resources, needs, future trends, and historical significance of the Wake Forest Community; to exchange ideas as to how the many varied civic, social, fraternal, educational, business, religious organizations and individuals of the community can contribute to the improvement of the life of the community; to develop recommendations and suggestions as to programs of action the above organizations can undertake to improve life in the community; and to participate in community improvement projects in cooperation with the above organizations.

### **1968**

The earliest document in the file is from 1968 and lists that year's officers and committees. Committees were organized to do the following: screen new ideas; study community improvement projects; bring to the Council's attention any groups or citizens with special needs; make recommendations on recreation and amusement; beautify the town; compile a Community Council scrapbook; and develop future plans to improve Wake Forest.

### **1980**

A set of documents from 1980 includes a list of member organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Wake Forest College Birthplace Society, Extension Homemakers Club, Fire Department, Formex, Garden Club, Junior Woman's Club, Library, Lions Club, Mallinckrodt, Ministerial Association, Newcomers Club, Rotary Club, Schrader, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Electric, Wake Forest-Rolesville High School, Wake Forest Middle School, Wake Forest Elementary School, Town of Wake Forest, and the Wake Forest Woman's Club.

Also in these documents is a copy of the bylaws. These define "Wake Forest Community" as "that area consisting of the Town of Wake Forest and the immediate surrounding territory, the residents of which consider the Town of Wake Forest to be their major trading center."

The object of the Council was described as:

- To better the understanding of the community as to the resources, needs, future trends, and historical significance of the Wake Forest Community.
- To exchange ideas as to how the many varied civic, social, fraternal, educational, and business organizations, religious organizations, and individuals of the community can contribute to the improvement of the life in the community.
- To develop recommendations and suggestions as to programs of action the above organizations can undertake to improve life in the community.
- To participate in community improvement projects in cooperation with the above organizations.

## 1985

The list of member organizations for 1985 includes: American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Wake Forest College Birthplace Society; DAR, Extension Homemakers, Fire Department, Garden Club, Junior Woman's Club, Rotary Club, Optimist Club, Friends of the Arts, Wake Forest Jaycee Women, Wake Forest Elementary School, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Electric, Wake Forest Baptist Church, Town of Wake Forest, Crises Ministry, Episcopal Church, Methodist Church, and Lions Club.

## Awards

A pair of undated documents (possibly ca. 1980) outlines the rules and schedule for awards. At this time awards were given to an individual and an organization.

The document explains the system as follows:

- **Eligibility** – Any individual or volunteer, civic, church or nonprofit organization who substantially contributes to the Wake Forest Community is eligible for nomination as outstanding citizen or outstanding organization. The individual must be a resident of Wake Forest. The organization must be in Wake Forest. Individuals are eligible to win only once. Organizations can win more than once.
- **Judging** – Judging will be based one-half on past year's activities and one-half on prior years' activities. All recommendations should be based strictly on volunteerism. Activities of salaried employees must be unrelated to their job and specified as such. Nominations should be made to the Wake Forest Community Council. The Council will select the top three in each category then send the selected nominees to the Wake Forest Town Board. The Town Board will select the winner but not necessarily from those recommended by the Community Council.
- **Awards** – Awards will be presented at the Wake Forest Christmas Dinner. The winners will receive an engraved plaque and their names will be placed on permanent plaques which hang in the Wake Forest Public Library.

- **Schedule** – Applications are due October 1<sup>st</sup>; Copies of completed applications are distributed to the members of Community Council on the second Wednesday in October; Community Council votes by secret ballot on the second Wednesday in November and the results are submitted to the Wake Forest Town Board without announcement; the Town Board reviews the results and selects the winners on the second Thursday of November; in December the winners are announced at the Wake Forest Community Christmas Dinner.

*[The following paragraphs are taken from material submitted by Beverly Whisnant, General James Moore Chapter, DAR, June 2018]*

### **Wake Forest Community Council Christmas Dinner History**

The Wake Forest Men’s Civic Club started the Wake Forest Community Christmas Dinner in 1947. World War II had come to a close, and the men were back home for Christmas. The ladies cooked a turkey and dressing meal and the Community House was decorated with local cedar, pine, holly and magnolia boughs. The public was invited to attend to celebrate Christmas and peace in the world. Over the years the Garden Club continued to sponsor the dinner with the help of other civic club representatives serving on the Community Council. In 1965 the tradition of announcing awards to the Citizen of the Year and the Organization of the Year was begun by Community Council.

The history of Community Council and the awards presentations are archived in the Wake Forest Historical Museum. A small ledger book that recorded dues and financial transactions is included in the collection at the museum.

The Community Council will continue to conduct the nominations for Citizen of the Year, Organization of the Year, and The Peggy Allen Service Award. The Council provides the awards presented by the Mayor at the dinner. Wake Forest Awards and Engraving owners Darren and Tracy Smith donate the Peggy Allen Award in memory of their friendship with Peggy.

*[This document was produced by a Council History Committee comprised of Jennifer Smart, Beverly Whisnant and Shirley Wooten. The Council is grateful to these individuals for their effort to preserve the history of The Council.]*

*Referenced material is available at the Wake Forest Historical Museum.]*