

Towns County resident representing 9th District at Democratic National Convention

Hiawassee resident Jim Powell is one of four elected delegates representing the Ninth Congressional District this week at the all-virtual Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee where former Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris of California will be formally nominated Thursday as the party's presidential/vice presidential ticket for the Nov. 3 general election. Powell is participating as a Biden delegate.

Powell and three others were elected by Ninth District Democrats in May through an online voting process. Powell has been active in Georgia Democratic activities for many years. He was the statewide Democratic candidate for the Georgia Public Service Commission in 2008, when he was the top performing statewide Democratic candidate in the primary, general, and runoff elections. He works at the grassroots level in support of Georgia Democrats in a variety of statewide, regional, and local elections. He previously served on the Towns County Board of Elections and Registration.



Jim Powell

Georgia is allocated 129 convention delegates, nine of whom are alternates. Powell is one of 68 district-level delegates and the only delegate from Towns County. The other Ninth District delegates are Virginia Webb of Clarksville, Wilson Golden of Gainesville and Terry Franzen of Jasper.

Powell retired from the federal government in 2007 after a 35-year career. He was a member of the Senior Executive Service with the U.S. Department of Energy where he served as the national program manager in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Office, managing a number

of initiatives and a budget of more than \$300 million. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1972.

In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed Powell to serve as the federal representative to the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB). In this role, he served as the official liaison between the SSEB members and all federal agencies. SSEB is a non-profit interstate compact created in 1960 with a mission to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs, and technologies. Sixteen Southern states and two U.S. territories comprise the membership of SSEB, and each jurisdiction is represented by the governor and a legislator from the U.S. House and Senate.

A small business owner, Powell currently works as an independent energy efficiency and renewable energy consultant to states, local governments, and industry. He and his wife, Karen, have been married for 49 years and have lived in Hiawassee since 2006.

American Red Cross Volunteers

Make a difference in your community! As a volunteer with the American Red Cross, you can help families recover after a home fire, train individuals in first aid and CPR, support America's military families, or take on any number of other roles that make our communities safer, stronger and more resilient.

Get started at <https://www.redcross.org/local/georgia/volunteer.html> or call your NWGA chapter office to ask about volunteer opportunities 844-536-6226.

Enotah CASA Board Meetings

Enotah CASA, Inc. Board of Directors announces their meeting dates on Mondays 5:30pm as follows:

Union County Community Center (8/24, 10/26, 1/25/21, 3/22/21, 5/24/21) and Lumpkin County Park and Rec (9/28, 12/7, 2/22/21, 4/26/21, 6/28/21). Visit us at www.enotahcasa.org for more information.

Fall Storytelling Series goes online starting August 22

The Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival had to be cancelled in April as part of local efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, but the event's organizing committee is still committed to bringing nationally touring storytellers to audiences in our area, even if it's online. This fall, they will be presenting a series of free Storytelling Saturdays online, featuring seven storytellers who are in demand all across the country.

The seven tellers—Sheila Kay Adams, Charlotte Blake Alston, Noa Baum, Donald Davis, Josh Goforth, Carolina Quiroga, and Gene Tagaban—represent diverse backgrounds, experiences, and styles, so there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Sheila Kay Adams is a 7th-generation ballad singer, storyteller, and claw-hammer banjo player from North Carolina who won the 2016 North Carolina Heritage Award and has performed at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival (www.sheilakayadams.com). Charlotte Blake Alston, an African-American teller who breathes life into stories from African and African American oral traditions, has received the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Zora Neale Hurston Award from the National Association of Black Storytellers (www.charlotteblakealston.com). Noa Baum, an Israeli-American

storyteller and author whose work emphasizes the power of narrative to heal cultural divides, has won awards from Parents' Choice, Storytelling World, and the Maryland State Arts Council (noabaum.com). Donald Davis, a Southern Appalachian teller, is the author of 18 books and 40 recordings and recipient of the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence and Lifetime Achievement awards (www.ddavisstoryteller.com).

Josh Goforth, a master fiddler and storyteller from North Carolina, has been nominated for a Grammy Award and has performed on three continents (www.blueridgeheritage.com/artist/josh-goforth).

Carolina Quiroga, a Colombian bilingual storyteller whose work explores the myths, legends, folktales, and historical and literary tales of Latin America, has been featured at the National Storytelling Festival (www.carolinastoryteller.com). Gene Tagaban, an influential Cherokee/Tlingit/Filipino storyteller, is a board member/trainer for the Native Wellness Institute, a trainer for the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and has been a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival (www.storytellingraven.com).

As reported by Amanda

Lawrence, co-director of the festival, everything will be family-friendly: "Each storyteller will be recording a video of stories for general audiences and another storytelling program especially for students that we will share with area schools. The tellers will also be teaching 'how-to' workshops online via Zoom. It should all be great fun."

Events will take place online on August 22 (Carolina Quiroga and Gene Tagaban), September 19 (Sheila Kay Adams and Josh Goforth), October 24 (Charlotte Blake Alston and Noa Baum), and December 12 (Donald Davis) and will be available for viewing afterward too.

All of the programs will be free, thanks to the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts, Georgia Council for the Arts, South Arts, North Georgia Community Foundation, Nora Roberts Foundation, United Community Bank in Blairsville, Peach State Federal Credit Union, Walmart Supercenter #3874 in Dawsonville, Walmart Supercenter #4616 in Cleveland, Byron Herbert Reece Society, Alexander's Store, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, and many individual donors.

To find out more about these events, contact info@gamountainstoryfest.org, visit gamountainstoryfest.org, or find the festival on Facebook.

Lifesaving Award...from Page 1A

and it was a guy concerned and looking for his brother," Forsyth said. "Then we got a call about a guy swimming in the lake, which we thought to be his brother.

"When we found the guy, he was trying to commit suicide, so I jumped down on top of his back and jerked the gun away to prevent him from shooting himself. I had the slide pulled back just enough to where the firing pin wouldn't hit the bullet."

Forsyth was thankful for the award, but he said that, ultimately, "I'm just glad that I could save a guy's life – that is the most important thing."

Both Forsyth and Phillips worked together to handle the situation, thereby preventing the man from making good on

his suicide attempt.

"When we got on scene, the guy ran from us every time we saw him," Phillips said. "One of the Fire Department members hollered at us, saying that they spotted him.

"Me and Deputy Forsyth ended up spotting him also, and I saw the guy running through a field. I was the first one to make initial contact, and I did pull a Taser out on him and advised him not to move.

"I advised Deputy Forsyth that the guy had a gun to his head, and Deputy Forsyth grabbed the gun and pulled the slide back just enough to make the gun not go off.

"You could hear the guy squeezing the trigger – it was going 'click, click, click'. Me and Deputy Forsyth were

begging him to let go of the gun and not to kill himself."

Having the support of the community is important to the officers, and they do what they do not for awards, but because of their passion to protect the community and make it a safer place to live.

"It means a lot to have that appreciation," Phillips said. "I have grown up in this community my whole life. The main reason I am a cop is to help my community be the safest and best place to live because I have kids growing up here.

"This is home to me, so I want to do whatever it takes. I'm not out to get any Lifesaving Awards or nothing, it is just part of the job to me. It does mean a lot though."

Southern Vantage "rocks" the Hiawassee Town Square!



Southern Vantage Band members

North Georgia's Southern Rock Band, Southern Vantage, covers a variety of your favorite classic rock and country songs from artists like Skynyrd, CCR, Eagles, Haggard, Cash, Petty, Steve Miller Band, Garth Brooks, Chris Stapleton, Brooks and Dunn, Luke Combs, and many more! Members include Andrew Smith, lead vocals and

guitar, Brian Nicholson, lead vocals and bass, Devin Ruff, vocals and drums, and Ron Grimes, lead guitar.

Southern Vantage plays to a wide variety of audiences, and will have you singing (and maybe dancing!?) all evening!

So come join the fun this Saturday, August 22, from 7-8:30 PM on the Hiawassee Town Square. Bring your fam-

ily and friends, a lawn chair, and the family pet (on a leash, please... and with clean-up equipment).

The VFW volunteers will be grilling hot dogs and selling chips, sodas and

Ice cream. In case of rain, call 706-781-9917 after 5 pm to see if weather has cancelled the performance.

See you at the Square!