

## **Interview with Commissioner Darrell Frye Submitted by Kimrey Dillon**

Since 1982, Darrell Frye has served Randolph County as a Commissioner. On July 31, 2013, I contacted Commissioner Frye and interviewed him over the phone. Commissioner Frye was more than willing to share his time with me and answer my questions.

I began my interview by asking how long he had been in office. His answer surprised me. Commissioner Frye has served Randolph County for thirty-one years. Next, I asked if he would seek re-election. At that time he had not decided, however that was a decision he was going to have to make very soon.

We proceeded to discuss the office and its responsibilities. Many people perceive the board to hold more power and authority than they actually have. The power of the commissioners is regulated by state and federal laws. Often times, people will approach commissioners with problems that the board doesn't deal with. Two examples of this are schools and roads.

Upon hearing that the board of commissioners does not have authority over schools and roads, I was prompted to ask what authority the board does have. Commissioner Frye replied that they mainly deal with adopting the county budget. The sheriff's department, EMS, public health, the animal shelter, extension and social services are all funded by tax payer money directed by the commissioners. We then proceeded to discuss extension, particularly 4-H and the benefits it has had in my life.

Before ending the interview I asked Commissioner Frye about the hardest decisions that he has been required to make as a commissioner. The first extremely difficult decision he had to make was concerning construction of Randleman Lake. If the lake had been constructed as originally planned, three-hundred Randolph County citizens would have lost their homes. With much work and re-planning the number was reduced to eighty. With the number significantly reduced, Commissioner Frye voted for the construction of the lake. The second extremely difficult decision was whether or not to construct a landfill. Once again, many people would lose their homes. While he had voted for the lake, Commissioner Frye chose to vote against the landfill.

As my interview drew to a close, I thanked the commissioner for his time. He informed me that he would be at the Youth Summit and instructed me to come find him. Commissioner Frye willingly gave his time to talk to me and I look forward to meeting him at the Youth Summit.