

by Jackie Perrone



# Paula Rawl Calhoon

It would be difficult to find a more varied résumé than that of Paula Rawl Calhoon. Furthermore, she's working on adding yet another career to the list—and all of it centered in Lexington, her home town.

That middle name gives you the first clue. Paula is one of five offspring of Ann Scyphers Rawl Jodie and the late Otis Bowdie Rawl Sr., all five children growing up on iconic Rawl Farms of Lexington County and graduating from Lexington Schools and the University of South Carolina. The only son, Otis Jr., now presides over the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. His four sisters earned acclaim on the basketball teams of Lexington and USC, winning a state championship along the way.

Paula earned a B.A. and master's degree in education at USC and taught eighth-grade Earth Science at Lexington Middle School. Then, she entered the business community, owning residential rental properties. A career in law enforcement beckoned, and she became an employee, later deputy director, at the S.C. Commission on Prosecution Coordination. For 20 years there, she led programs to assist law enforcement profes-

sionals in training and research, a behind-the-scenes support for the officers keeping the community safe. She also served as a research assistant for S.C. Senate Research.

This experience in government service led her to enter the political arena, winning the November election to succeed Todd Atwater in S.C. House District 87. Her varied background in local services provides a useful foundation for public service, concentrating on education, safety, and the perennial Lexington challenge of traffic control.

Volunteer work has been a passion for Paula Calhoon, giving her time notably to the Lexington Medical Center and serving formerly as president of the LMC Volunteer Auxiliary, where she is now treasurer. She is an alumna of the Leadership Lexington County and active at St. Stephens Lutheran Church.

Her daughters Ashley Sims and Sandra Watson and grandchildren Aubrey, Maisy, Ian, Alexander, and Colton are upholding Rawl tradition with Lexington family life. Oh, and another new career in her orbit: last April, Paula married Donnie Myers, former Lexington County prosecutor. Congratulations to the newlyweds and to Paula on her recent election. ■