

The Bray

September 2013

Greenville County Democratic Party

Greenville, SC

Langenhan and Sprague Actively Seek Votes Throughout Community

Dave Langenhan, candidate for the Greenville Water Commission, has been busy visiting neighborhoods and community events recently. He helped pick up litter in the Southernside neighborhood, listened to community concerns at a neighborhood presidents' meeting, participated in Greenville Dreams, and attended and participated in the West Side Connections for Sustainability workshop. He has also talked with people throughout the area to understand their concerns and perspectives, including those living near the Greenville Water System's maintenance facility on Mayberry Street and near the Broad Street facility.

Dave is running on a commitment to represent the whole community, with a focus on improving transparency and community engagement in matters related to water use and planning. This commitment is built on his professional engineering experience. It is important to have Dave as our voice at the table at Water Commission meetings, but the road there is challenging; your support—monetary and/or volunteer time—is needed to get the message out. The resources you provide are the fuel for the movement that we are all a part of—making the Democratic Party stronger and ensuring a better future for everyone.

Visit Dave's website and watch for an upcoming fundraiser. www.votefordave2013.com or water@votefordave2013.com or 864-326-5789. Please mail contributions to: Committee to Elect Dave Langenhan, 30 Ruskin Square, Greenville, SC 29607.

The Gaye Sprague for City Council campaign is well under way. In addition to her strong leadership role on Council, Gaye continues her commitment to staying connected with her constituents by attending neighborhood meetings, community events, faith-based gatherings and business association forums. After a phenomenal Young Professionals' Party with over 150 sponsors on July 11, the campaign is looking forward to another successful fundraiser at the Maddreys' home. Thank you to volunteers and sponsors, to the Maddreys for their generous hospitality, and a special thank you to Democratic Women for being a sponsor of this fundraiser. Other ways to help are to put up a yard sign and display a Sprague bumper sticker. Please stop by Headquarters or request signs and stickers at Sprague4Council@cs.com.

SC Dem Field Director Starts Work in Greenville

By Trevor Rodgers

Hello GCDP! I have already met many of you and you have made me feel most at home. To those I haven't met, I am the new SC Democratic Party Field Director for the Upstate. I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2012 and quickly began work on the Obama campaign in Virginia. My first foray into South Carolina was working for Elizabeth Colbert Busch's Congressional campaign in Beaufort and Charleston counties. From what I saw in the Lowcountry, despite not winning the election, the Palmetto State is ripe to turn blue.

Over the course of the next fourteen months I aim to work as hard as I can with the GCDP to ensure we will win races up and down the ballot. We will register thousands of new voters, have thousands of face-to-face interactions with voters, educate our supporters about the importance of voter ID, and ultimately win elections because of the conversations we will generate with the electorate.

We got off to a great start with our presence at the Haley campaign announcement at the Bi-Lo Center; I'm still getting press clips from reputable news sources (AP, MSNBC, and so on) talking about the pitiful showing Haley had; we were portrayed very well overall. In a recent call with all the county party chairs, State Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison thanked Greenville specifically for putting together such a strong protest on such short notice. Way to go, Greenville!

In the words of Susan B. Anthony, "Organize, agitate, educate must be our war cry." I look forward to working and winning with you. Please feel free to contact me at Trodgers@SCDP.org or 940-765-8302.

Coming Up!

GCDP Happy Hour

Thursday, September 19 5:30 pm
The Loft at Ford's Oyster House
631 S Main St. \$20
Rep. James Smith (D-Col) Speaker

School's Open! Time to Get Busy with Democratic Party Events

Tuesdays: Bi-Weekly Phone Bank

September 3 and September 17, 6:00-8:00 pm, location to be announced. SCDP and GCDP working together to reach local voters and potential voters. No, it's not too early to get people energized and organized for the upcoming elections in 2014. Sign up and get complete information from Trevor Rodgers, SCDP Regional Field Director, 940-765-8302, or trodgers@scdp.org.

Saturdays: Weekly Voter Registration Events

Every Saturday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm with shifts starting at 10:00 am, noon, and 2:00 pm. Help register new voters every week to ensure victory for Democrats in 2014! Meet at Dem HQ, 1300-J Washington Street. RSVP to Trevor Rodgers, SCDP Regional Field Director, 940-765-8302 or trodgers@scdp.org.

September House Parties

Monday – Thursday, September 23-26, 6:00-8:00 pm, locations to be announced. Kick off the 2014 Coordinated Campaign. Hear from Vincent Sheheen, Jaime Harrison and special guests about the 2014 election and how Democrats are going to pull off a victory. To host or attend, contact Trevor Rodgers at 940-765-8302 or trodgers@scdp.org.

Monday, September 9

Democratic Women of Greenville County, lunch meeting, 12:15 pm, The Handlebar, 304 E. Stone Ave. Speakers: Candidates Greenville City Councilperson Gaye Sprague and Dave Langenhan, Democratic candidate for the Greenville Water Commission. Lunch-\$15.00 or just come to hear the speakers. Reserve by Thursday, Sept. 5 (later if necessary) at headquarters, 232-5531 or headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com. Guests always welcome.

Contributors Fuel Party Efforts

Thank you to the following contributors to the GCDP. Our doors are open and our work continues as a result of your generosity: Dorothy Beling, Lib Cook, Allan Jenkins, Mrs. Willie B. McMahan, Karen and Aron Tannenbaum in memory of Sylvia Dreyfus.

We also welcome new members to the Yellow Dog Democrat Club: Michael and Michelle Shain at the Gold Level and Sharon Klompus at the Bronze Level. These donors have

Thursday, September 19

GCDP Happy Hour, The Loft at Ford's Oyster House, 5:30 pm, 631 S. Main Street, elevator at rear of building. Speaker: Rep. James Smith (D- Columbia), well-regarded Democrat, combat veteran of the Afghanistan war, champion of early childhood education and other critical issues. \$20 includes one drink and light hors d'oeuvres including vegetarian offering. Make reservations by calling headquarters at 864-232-5531.

Tuesday, September 24

Gaye Sprague Re-Election Reception, 6:00-8:00 pm, at the Home of Nancy and Erwin Maddrey, \$100 per person. Please contact Gaye Sprague for tickets at Sprague4Council@cs.com by September 17.

Thursday, September 26

Spartanburg County Democratic Party, "Reunion Dinner," Hellenic Center, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, 697 Asheville Hwy., Spartanburg, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. BBQ dinner, dance-able music and good fellowship with other 4th District members. Brief comments by candidates Mike Anthony, Bakari Sellers, Vincent Sheheen and other declared candidates. Past and present elected Democrats will be recognized. \$20 per person; with sufficient interest, a table will be reserved for Greenville Democrats (possible reduced ticket price). Information: Deb Morrow, 864-764-0364 or debmorrow1968@att.net. Reserve at headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com or call 232-5531.

And in October . . .

Monday, October 14, Greenville County Democratic Women, 5:30 pm, Runway Café. Speaker: SC Democratic Party First Vice Chair Kaye Koonce.

pledged an annual amount to the GCDP of \$250-\$499 (Bronze Level), \$500-\$999 (Silver Level) or \$1000 or more (Gold Level).

How about you? Want to be a Greenville County Yellow Dog? Contact Anita LeBold today for how you can help our candidates, fund our efforts on issues like Voter ID and keep our headquarters open and functioning! For more information about the Yellow Dog Club, please contact Treasurer Anita LeBold at anitalebald@hotmail.com or 864-325-8540.

Truth Squad of Greenville Dems Greet Gov. Haley at her Campaign Announcement

It was a good day in Greenville when nearly 50 loyal Democrats turned out to greet Governor Nikki Haley at the Bi-Lo Center where she launched her re-election campaign. A good day? Yes, because we “protesters” came mighty close to matching the turnout for Haley from her own troops, estimated by national and corrected local accounts at no more than 70 supporters! And this was HER event! We wonder if Rick, Bobby, and Scott (aka Governor Perry of Texas, Governor Jindal of Louisiana and Governor Walker of Wisconsin) thought they had wasted their day flying all the way here to reach such a paltry crowd.

Marshalled by Roxanne Cordonier to make signs and to present ourselves respectfully, we Democrats carried our message to the governor (and the media) on large placards: *No! To 4 More Years of Failure; Make Haley a 1 Term Governor; Broken Government + No Accountability= Nikki Haley.* Also *SC 5th Hardest State to Earn a living and My Governor Should Expand Medicaid/Protect My Identity/Protect Our Kids from TB.*

Interviewed by the *Greenville Journal* at the end of the event, protestor Karen Tannenbaum cited several major problems of the Haley administration and said she found the governor’s performance in office “bordering on incompetence.”

GCDP Chairman Eric Graben told *The Journal* that Haley is taking credit she doesn’t deserve for job creation. “She claims to be the jobs governor, but she’s not doing anything to get those jobs. She just shows up at the announcements and takes credit for other people’s work,” he said. “One of the things that has been most harmful to business is the property tax change that put more of the burden of paying for schools on business. She’s unwilling to take responsibility for that and she’s unwilling to change it.” See more at: <http://www.greenvillejournal.com/local/2452-haley-kicks-off-re-election-bid.html#sthash.Xy3H5GPI.dpuf>.

Hats Off to Headquarters Volunteers!

It takes a village to raise a child, as we all know. Guess what? It takes a dedicated volunteer corps to run the Greenville County Democratic Party headquarters office... and we’re all a bit guilty of taking their commitment for granted. When we want information, when we want to sign up for an event, when elections are imminent and even when they aren’t: our Dem Party HQ volunteers are at the office, answering the phone, talking to walk-in visitors, churning out copies, sending out emails, stuffing envelopes, planning and implementing. Five days a week, six hours a day (M-F, 9 am-3 pm). Not many counties can say the same.

Here’s list of our “unsung heroes.” Please acknowledge their work and their commitment. We could not do what we do without them.

Mondays: Linda Putnam and Sharon Cherry; *Tuesdays:* Ann Funderburk and Linda Neely (also our overall office manager); *Wednesdays*—Kaye Martell and Jessie Wofford; *Thursdays:* Stan Crowe and Tony Knox; *Fridays:* Saleem Shabazz and Linda LeBlanc. *Back-up volunteers:* Joanne Montague, Candace Colquitt, and Sharon Brant.

This month, we especially thank the volunteers who helped out with mailing the August **Bray**: Tom LeBlanc, Rachel Drake, Joanne Montague, Ann Funderburk, and Kaye Martell. Getting **The Bray** into the mail is a monthly ritual that requires 4 or 5 folks for an afternoon or a morning. (Some people have mistaken this volunteer activity for a lively party.)

If you can volunteer, on a regular basis or just one time, please call Headquarters and ask to be put on Linda Neely’s volunteer list. Provide all your contact information; Linda will contact you. Please do this even if you’ve done it at some point in the past.

The Bray is published by the Greenville County Democratic Party, 1300-J Washington St., Greenville, SC 29607/232-5531, Eric Graben, chairman. Karen Tannenbaum, editor. Linda Neely, format and distribution. Know someone who would like to receive **The Bray**? It is available by email or traditional mail. Call HQ or contact headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com. Please mail contributions to party headquarters. If your financial contribution to the GCDP is over \$100, please indicate profession or retired (required by SC Ethics Commission). Thank you.