

## PARTY LEADERSHIP

**Eric K. Graben**  
Greenville County Chair

**Shirley Scott**  
1st Vice Chair

**Susan Cyr**  
2nd Vice Chair

**Ben Saul**  
3rd Vice Chair

**Peggy Baxter**  
Secretary

**Anita LeBold**  
Treasurer

**Joe Waters**  
State Executive  
Committee Delegate

**Ingrid Erwin**  
State Executive  
Committee Delegate

## Greenville County Dems Meet, Greet, and Elect at County Convention

Delegates, candidates, and visitors gathered at the TD Convention Center on Monday evening, March 31 for the County Convention of the Greenville County Democratic Party. Over 135 people attended. Ably chaired by Frank Holleman, the group elected 153 delegates to the State Convention, named its county party officers and heard election speeches from county, statewide, and Congressional candidates. State Senator Karl Allen provided introductions to each candidate speaker and Carlyle Steele acted as parliamentarian.

A highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Funderburk-Montague Volunteer of the Year Award to Linda F. Neely, Party Headquarters volunteer office manager. Linda was cited for her expertise, her initiative, and her willingness to take on any task required, big or small. We all say Thank You and Congratulations, Linda!

The Convention passed 11 resolutions for presentation to the statewide Democratic Party Convention in Columbia on May 2-3. Please see pages 2-3 for the full text of these resolutions.

County Party Officers are:  
Chair – Eric Graben

First Vice Chair – Shirley Scott  
Second Vice Chair – Susan Cyr  
Third Vice Chair – Ben Saul  
Female State Executive Committee  
Delegate – Ingrid Erwin  
Male State Executive Committee  
Delegate – Joe Waters

Fred Sheheen spoke on behalf of Sen. Vincent Sheheen, candidate for governor, who was unable to attend, noting that his support of his son extended beyond family affection to a conviction that Sen. Sheheen’s proposed policies would bring us “more progress, more enlightenment, and a more noble South Carolina.”

Other candidate speakers were: Joyce Dickerson, US Senate candidate v. Sen. Tim Scott; Parnell Diggs for Attorney General; Ginny Deerin for SC Secretary of State; Rev. Windell Rodgers for Greenville County District 26; Barbara Jo Wroblewski-Mullis for US House District 3 v Cong. Jeff Duncan; Dr. Montrio Belton for SC Superintendent of Schools; Dan Ruck for SC House District 22 v Wendy Nanney.

Rep. Bakari Sellars presented the keynote address.



## Why I Am a Democrat

By Joe Waters

I am a Democrat because we are the party that is committed equally to the expansion of opportunity and the expansion of liberty. As Sen. John F. Kennedy said, we believe that a "a fair prosperity and a just society are within our vision and our grasp." The Democratic Party has come down on the side of health care, quality education for all, civil rights and a foreign policy rooted in the belief that liberty, freedom, and democracy are universal aspirations not contingent on race, culture, or creed. Democrats believe in equality both in the marketplace and before the law.

*Continued on page 3*

**Report & Recommendations of the  
2014 Resolutions Committee of the  
Greenville County Democratic Party**

*The Resolutions Committee for the 2014 County Convention of the Greenville County Democratic Party received a total of 47 proposed resolutions from the precinct meetings. On some issues, there were multiple resolutions that appeared to the Committee to be substantially the same or very similar. In such cases, the Committee sought to synthesize “overlapping” proposed resolutions into a single resolution for each issue. This is the primary source of the resolutions set forth below, which the Committee unanimously recommends the Convention adopt.*

**Resolutions Unanimously Recommended by the Resolutions Committee**

1. WHEREAS, the South Carolina General Assembly passed S.308, which amends S.C. Code Ann. 16-23-465 to permit persons having concealed weapons permits to carry a concealable weapon into a business which sells alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises and amends S.C. Code Ann. 23-31-210 by eliminating the eight hour minimum requirement for education and training to obtain a concealed weapons permit to no minimum hours requirement, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party is opposed to this change in the law and supports re-establishing at least an eight hour minimum education and training requirement to obtain a concealed weapons permit and supports reestablishing the ban on carrying concealed weapons into businesses which sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises.
2. WHEREAS, the minimum wage for workers in South Carolina is and has been \$7.25 per hour since 2010, which amounts to a yearly salary of approximately \$15,080, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party supports the proposal of U.S. Congressman George Miller (D-CA) and U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), which has been endorsed by President Obama, to increase the minimum wage in three 95 cent increments to \$10.10 per hour and thereafter provide for automatic increases with inflation in the cost of living.
3. WHEREAS, in 2012, the Social Security numbers of South Carolina taxpayers were compromised and stolen from the S.C. Department of Revenue, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party supports fully funding the S.C. Office of Inspector General in order to safeguard taxpayer dollars, increase accountability, and seek out government waste, fraud, and abuse.
4. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party supports a statewide ban on texting and emailing using portable cellular devices while driving a vehicle, which will create safer roads throughout the state and establish consistent regulations concerning such devices throughout the state.
5. WHEREAS, only one in every two South Carolina four year-olds attends some form of publicly-funded four-year old kindergarten despite lifelong benefits and national bipartisan support, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party endorses S.134 to expand full day, four-year old kindergarten to every school district in the State.
6. WHEREAS, teacher recruitment and teacher retention play a vital role in preparing South Carolina’s future workforce, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party endorses S.963, which has bipartisan support, to raise South Carolina’s teacher pay to the national average.  
WHEREAS, women play major roles in South Carolina’s economy and businesses, yet nationally earn only 77 cents for every dollar a man makes, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party supports equal pay for equal work.
8. WHEREAS, roads, bridges, and highways play a major role in economic development, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party supports a fair and reliable funding stream for investing in transportation infrastructure to improve South Carolina’s economic competitiveness.
9. WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party opposes the S.C. Department of Revenue Ruling #14-1 that requires legally married same-sex couples in South Carolina to file separate state tax returns and supports H.4460 that would allow voters to approve a constitutional amendment to repeal South Carolina’s same-sex marriage ban.
10. WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would create 44,000 jobs in South Carolina and be fully funded by the federal government until 2016, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville County Democratic Party supports expanding the South Carolina Medicaid program through the Affordable Care Act to provide healthcare coverage for over 200,000 working South Carolinians.
11. WHEREAS, many South Carolinians continue to face barriers to voting, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenville

*Resolutions, continued*

County Democratic Party supports the permanent reauthorization of the procedures in the Voting Rights Act that require certain states, including South Carolina, to receive federal approval in order to change voting procedures, including restrictions concerning early voting and the requirement to obtain photo identification in order to vote.

The Resolutions Committee is comprised of:

1. Kimberly Witherspoon
2. Ben Saul
3. Amy Allen Hinson

**Why I Am a Democrat** *Continued from page 1*

I am a Democrat because I am optimistic. Optimistic that in our communities, our state, and our nation we can achieve great good with cooperation, collaboration, and a firm commitment to our American ideals of liberty, justice, freedom, and opportunity. Optimistic that the people of this country--and no less the people who offer themselves for public service--are people of goodwill committed to these ideals and willing to work hard to improve the lot of their fellow citizens and communities. I am Democrat because I hold dear a commitment to expanding the empire of freedom and opportunity, both here at home and around the world.

*Joe Waters works in non-profit management and is active in GCDP activities. He is a graduate of Furman and Duke universities. He ran against Rep. Wendy Nanney in 2010.*

*Our Happy Chore: Saying  
Thank You!*

Many thanks to the voter registration volunteers who continue to do this important work, month in and month out. For March, they are Kaye Martell, Susan Cyr, Patrick Prince, Alicia and Robert Burdette.

Equal gratitude to our March financial supporters: new Gold Yellow Dog Democrat member—Peggy Baxter; Yellow Dog pledge payment—Allan Jenkins; other donations-- Vivian and Glenn Dorsey, Thelma Williams, Ann Funderburk and Judith Bainbridge.

**April 2014 Calendar**

**All Month—Voter Registration**

**Saturdays**

Two-hour shifts, morning or afternoon. Meet at Dem HQ office, 1300-J E. Washington St., Greenville, lower level. Carpools to registration locations. For details, contact Brandon Lybrand at [blyrand@scdp.org](mailto:blyrand@scdp.org), Susan Cyr at [secyr@charter.net](mailto:secyr@charter.net), or Kaye Martell at [k.martell@charter.net](mailto:k.martell@charter.net).

**All Month—Phone Banking**

**Thursday, April 17, 6-8 pm**

**Sunday, April 26, 3-6 pm**

Make calls with guidance from veteran bankers. Communicate important messages about voter registration and upcoming events. Democratic Party HQ, 1300-J E. Washington St., Greenville, lower level. For details, contact Megan Arnold, 903-9200.

**April 10**

Greenville Fundraiser, sponsored by SC Democratic House Caucus, The Commerce Club, 55 Beattie Place, 5:30-7:30 pm. Hosted by the Upstate delegation-- Rep. Chandra Dillard, Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson, Rep. Harold Mitchell, Rep. Mike Anthony, and Rep. Anne

Parks. Featuring Minority Leader Rep. Todd Rutherford and special guest Governor Richard Riley. Donations may be made online at [schousedems.org](http://schousedems.org) or at the event by check. Donations not necessary to attend. For more information or to RSVP, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/686570254739909/>.

**April 14**

Democratic Women of Greenville County, lunch meeting, Ryan's Family Restaurant, 2426 Laurens Road, 12:15 pm. Use regular buffet line; tell cashier you are with GCDW; a 15% gratuity will be added for tip and use of room. Program: Stephania Priester, Outreach and Enrollment Specialist, New Horizon Family Health Services, update on efforts to enroll SC residents in the Affordable Care Act. Information/ reservations at Democratic Party HQ, 232-5531, or [headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com). Save the date: next meeting, May 12, luncheon.

**April 21-25**

Sheheen Campaign House Parties, times, locations, and programs will vary but one thing is sure: no charge! To attend or to host contact Brandon Lybrand, 376-2200.

# SHEHEEN

— for SOUTH CAROLINA —

## Join me this Saturday for a free Meet and Greet for our Supporters!

*In just a little over 7 months voters across the state will go to the polls to vote for governor.*

*With the help of dedicated volunteers like you we will put South Carolina back on the right track come Election Day. If we work together to make sure folks are registered to vote and informed about this election, we are going to make a difference in the future of our state.*

*To thank you for all you are doing for the campaign, we are hosting a free Meet and Greet in Greenville for volunteers and supporters like you.*

*What: Free Meet and Greet with Vincent Sheheen*

*When: Saturday, April 5th from 2:30pm – 4:30pm*

*Where: West End Community Center, 404 Vardry St, Greenville, SC*

*Best of all, there is no charge for admission or refreshments for our supporters!*

*I look forward to seeing you this weekend,*

*Vincent*

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## Jefferson-Jackson Dinner Highlights Two Outstanding Democratic Leaders

By Jaime Harrison, SCDP Chairman

I am very pleased to announce that our 2014 Jefferson Jackson dinner keynote speaker on Friday, May 2 will be Virginia Senator (and former Governor) Tim Kaine. The dinner will honor the service of former Governor Dick Riley and kick off the SCDP's annual Dem Weekend, which will focus on preparing for the 2014 elections. The theme of the weekend is "When Governors Govern."

Tim Kaine has dedicated his life to public service, and through strong leadership with a pragmatic approach, he has consistently found common ground to get results. On a weekend when we'll be focused on how the work of a new Governor in South Carolina could move our state forward, we could not have a better example than the former Governor of Virginia, Senator Tim Kaine. It's the differ-

ence in leadership that put Virginia at the top of all the good lists under Tim Kaine while South Carolina remains stuck at the bottom of those same lists under Nikki Haley. We look forward to welcoming Sen. Kaine to South Carolina.

We will also be honoring the service of former Governor Dick Riley on Friday evening. As Governor of South Carolina, Dick Riley initiated the Education Improvement Act, the Employment Revitalization Act, and the S.C. Research Authority. He oversaw greater openness in government and the passage of a constitutional amendment creating a state reserve fund. Because of his tremendous efforts in Education reform in South Carolina, President Bill Clinton selected Riley to serve as U.S. Secretary of Education. As a result of his tenure as Secretary of Education, Time Magazine subsequently named Riley as one of the 10 best US cabinet members of all time.

You can purchase tickets for the dinner at [www.scdp.org/2014jddinner](http://www.scdp.org/2014jddinner).

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