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Thinking of running for Office?

Read This and Get Started!

(Not Running? Read this and appreciate what candidates must do.)

By Eric Graben, GCDP Chairman

If you think you might want to run for office as a Democrat in 2016, there are some things you need to be doing now - well before the filing period in the latter half of March. First, please contact the Greenville County Democratic Party as soon as possible. Politics is a team sport, and we would like to do whatever is in our power to make sure candidates who believe in our ideals get off to a good start - and go on to get elected. Here's a list to get you started on the road to electoral success!



Eric Graben

- Know clearly why you want to hold the office you are seeking and be able to explain yourself in a compelling way. It is critical that your reasons for running will make the State of South Carolina and/or Greenville County a better place and will make your constituents better off. Elected officials should be servant leaders - you hold office for the benefit of your constituents.
- Know your constituents. No matter where you run, your district will include a diverse constituency.

Know who is likely to support you and who is not; determine who will support your campaign and respond positively to your message at the polls.

- Develop two "elevator speeches" - a 30-second version and a 3-5 minute version. Each of these statements should clearly and compellingly explain why you are running and why someone should support you. The 30-second elevator speech is

*Continued on Page 2 See **Running***



Why I am a Democrat by Douglas Dent

I'm a Democrat because I am an optimist. I believe that politicians and government can and should strive to make the lives of Americans better in every way possible within the resources available. As a student of and long-time participant in the political process and government world, I know that government can work and work well if allowed to do so by the politicians. I have seen thousands of lives improved by the provision of good paying jobs. I have helped provide

*Continued on Page 2, See **Democrat***

what you will use when you meet individuals one-on-one or in small groups at a political or other gathering such as a cocktail party, happy hour, or reception. The 3-5 minute version is the statement you will present at the start of a one-on-one meeting with a prospective supporter or donor. It's also what you'll use if invited to a podium to say a few words to a crowd. You should be able to tailor the 3-5 minute version for a one-on-one conversation or for a speech to a crowd.

You should be able to deliver at least the 30-second version and preferably both versions without notes; you want to look the person you are talking to in the eye the whole time you are speaking.

- If you are running against an incumbent, know your opponent. Inform yourself about what he or she has done in office; research how your opponent has voted and what types of legislation he or she has sponsored. Be able to explain to voters what you would have done differently if you had been in

office and how you would be better for South Carolina or Greenville County and your constituents if elected.

- Start meeting with Democratic leaders, including incumbent elected officials, retired elected officials, and other party and community leaders. You need to do this for several reasons - to obtain the benefit of their wisdom, to hone your message, and to get them to know you. Your goal is to win their respect so they will endorse your candidacy, support you financially, and introduce you to others who will endorse and financially support you. It is critical to act affirmatively to win their support: It is not an entitlement just because you file to run as a Democrat.
- Know where your first few thousand dollars of campaign funds will come from. Determine if you can raise this money from friends and professional associates as the seed money for your campaign.
- Start to assemble your team.

Politics is a team sport. Leaders need supporters to win. Determine if you have at least a handful of people who will devote significant time and effort to your campaign. Start lining up a professional campaign advisor who can assist you with putting together fundraising, speaking events, and public communications. Know how much they will charge and what they will provide in return for what your campaign is able to pay.

- Be prepared to work hard and devote a lot of time to running for office. Running for office is competitive! If you get outworked, you will likely get outvoted, particularly as a Democrat running in the reddest corner of a very red state. Hopefully, you will be able to inspire a lot of people to work hard for you, but-bottom line-- you have to work harder than anyone else.

Candidates: You can do it; the Greenville County Democratic Party is ready to help; let's get started!

Why I am a Democrat, *Continued from Page 2*

safe, sound, decent housing for thousands of low and moderate income individuals and families. I have seen close up the dedication and commitment to the education of our children that teachers and administrators exhibit. I believe that climate change is real and we have to address it. I don't think war is the solution to every foreign relations situation. I have witnessed the positive impact on those convicted of crimes that Drug Courts, prison industries, and education have made. I know these things work and I believe that if our politicians and government leaders commit themselves to improving the lives of our citizens, no goal is unreachable.

I'm a Democrat because I think *our* elected officials and government leaders generally want to solve problems and improve the lives of our citizens. I'm not sure our worthy opponents know or care about the results of their negativism, polarization and obstructionism. They just seem to want to get elected or appointed to a position in the very government that they continually malign, attack and undermine. I guess the pay and perks are pretty good.

But, I am still an optimist and a Democrat.

Hillary comes to Greenville

Linda Hardman

Former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, Democratic candidate for the Presidency, was in South Carolina on Thursday, July 23, and made a campaign stop in Greenville at the Northwest Campus of Greenville Technical College. There, in a convincing speech, she vigorously defended the value of the community college concept and praised the efforts

of Greenville Technical College in successfully providing a quality education for those starting on their education journey, for those desiring to get retraining, and for those who are re-entering the workforce. After discussing the importance of a



Democratic Presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton at Greenville Tech

highly educated and skillfully trained workforce to keep our country globally competitive and connected, Secretary Clinton detailed some of her strategies for meeting those goals, insisting that raising the minimum wage would

promise to return to Greenville before the election?" At first, Secretary Clinton hesitated, saying she'd try if her schedule allowed. Then, to everyone's delight, she said, "Oh what the heck! Yes, I'll definitely be back!"

be an excellent place to begin.

Carlyle Steele, Democratic Party stalwart, was one of the audience members who posed a question for Clinton when she later, in a more relaxed mode, took a seat on the stage and opened up a friendly question and answer exchange with those attending the political rally. At one point, when a gentleman stood and asked her, "Will you

Upcoming Meetings & Events

August 21, 2015

Bernie Sanders Visit to Greenville
TD Convention Center
(Time to be announced)

August 22, 2015 (Saturday) 8:30am

GCDP Monthly Meeting
Long Branch Baptist Church
28 Bolt Street, Greenville, 29605

August 27, 2015 (Thursday) 5:30pm

GCDP Management Team Meeting (open to all)
Headquarters: 1300-J E. Washington Street

August 29, 2015 (Saturday) 2:00pm

Voter Registration and Battle of the Bands
Sirrinc Stadium

Contact: Jasmine Twitty - 864.787.1029 or
jastwitty@gmail.com

Also see:

<http://www.battleforthecrown.org/home.html>

September 14, 2015 12:15pm

Democratic Women Monthly Meeting
Runway Cafe (inside)
21 Airport Road
Greenville, SC

October 11, 2015

"La Gozadera del Poder Latino" Festival
hosted by The Hispanic Caucus
Columbia, SC

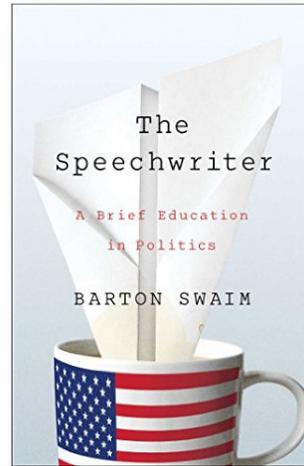
Books We Love

Roxanne Cordonier

The New York Times recently gave *The Speechwriter* by Barton Swaim a rave review. I second that opinion. Swaim was a speechwriter for SC Governor and now US Rep. Mark Sanford from 2007 to 2010 during the infamous Appalachian Trail incident. Swaim is a native South Carolinian who attended the University of South Carolina and the University of Edinburgh with a PhD in English.

I remember watching Sanford's tearful confession in the lobby of the State House thinking, "His staff must really hate him," and it turns out I was right. Sanford already a notorious cheap-skate, comes out of this book looking like a pathological penny pincher, with poor to non-existing social skills and

little ability to communicate effectively one on one or through his own writing. The contortions that Swaim goes through to effectively "find Sanford's voice," is alternately hilarious and sad. The book is filled with a lot of inside information on SC politics which as a political junkie I enjoyed. Overall a great read especially at the beach.



Local News & Events

Democratic Women of Greenville County meet Monday September 14th at 5:15pm. The guest speaker will be attorney Jeff Martin. Martin specializes in worker's compensation and social security disability and will update the membership on some pending bills in the SC legislature that impact these areas. For more information and to RSVP contact Democratic HQ at 232-5531 or headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com

The Greenville County Democratic Party will hold their monthly meeting on Saturday, August 22nd at 8:30am at Long Branch Baptist Church at 28 Bolt Street, Greenville, 29605. Party Chairman Eric Graben will lead a discussion on candidate recruitment. For more information or to RSVP call 232-5531 or headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com

Presidential Campaigns - 2016

If you are interested in working on any campaign efforts by the declared Democratic presidential candidates, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Senator Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, or former Rhode Island Governor, Lincoln Chaffee, please contact Deb Morrow, District 4 Director SC Democratic Women's Council at (864)764-0364 or Debmorrow14@gmail.com.

Stay Connected

Stay informed with the party by visiting our website at greenvilledemocrats.com and Greenville County Democrats Facebook page. If you would like to receive party emails, please call Headquarters, 864.232.5531.

You're Invited

The Greenville County Democratic Management Team meets on the fourth Thursday each month at 5:30pm at the headquarters building at 1300-J E. Washington Street. We welcome all interested parties to attend the meetings as your schedule permits. We are interesting in hearing your thoughts on the party, events, or whatever you want to offer.



We Remember Barbara

June 28, 1926 - July 9, 2015



Barbara Harmack Taggart was born in Gary, Indiana. She married Dean Milburn Taggart on June 14, 1947 in Indianapolis, Indiana. They had four children; Barbara was a resident of Travelers Rest, South Carolina at the time of her passing on July 9, 2015. She attended Indiana University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work in 1947. She later returned to Indiana University and graduated with a Master of Arts in Teaching in 1962.

Barbara was a life member of Indiana University Alumni and Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. Her professional career included Field Director of the Indianapolis and Marion County Girl Scouts; a teacher in the Elkhart, Indiana School District; Executive Director of the Women's Student YWCA of Indiana University; Director of the National Student YWCA in New York City; Director of the Greenville, SC YWCA (1971); a social worker with the Greenville County Housing Authority (1972-1989); a Peace Corp worker in Jamaica and a housing counselor for Sunbelt Human Advancement Resources in Greenville (1991-1995).

Barbara served as chairperson for many boards of directors in upstate South Carolina: the Greenville County Health Planning Council, Volunteer Greenville, the Community Housing Resource Board, the Special Student Services Advisory Council of Greenville Technical College, the Homeless Coalition, and the Upstate Homeless Coalition. In addition, she served as a board member for the following: the Greenville Hospital Advisory Council, the Greenville County Home Health Services Council, SC Home Health Service, Girl Scout Council 096, and Family Counseling Services. Her many recognitions and awards include the Girl Scouts Thanks Badge 2 Award, the Jefferson Award, and the naming of a street in her honor; Taggart Drive, a perimeter road surrounding an Upstate Homeless Coalition housing site in Spartanburg County which was named in honor of her work in the founding of that Coalition. Highlights of her career includes participation in the 1964 summer Asian Seminar with the World University Service when she traveled to Japan, Thailand, China and India; Director of a YWCA project in Lebanon in which she worked with Palestinian refugees; her appointment as the Worldwide YWCA International Non-governmental Representative to the United Nations; her Peace Corp work in the Kingston City Dump in Jamaica; and her work in founding the Upstate Homeless Coalition.

Barbara's accomplishments were many, but we best remember her as a staunch supporter of the Greenville County Democratic Party. She was a member of Democratic Women and the League of Women Voters. Her failing health prevented her from being active in democratic affairs during the last several years. When active, Barbara was a hard and dedicated worker. Barbara ran for the House District 22 seat against Terry Haskins in 1994. Barbara ran on a platform of Welfare Reform, Health Care, Judicial Reform, Noise Abatement, Equalization of Taxes and Public Safety. We know how that turned out. Despite the loss, she remained enthusiastic about her causes. Barbara truly cared about people, particularly the under served in our community. She is missed by the community at large.

Thanks to Our Contributors!

The Greenville County Democratic Party wishes to express its gratitude to its recent donors. These include *Yellow Dog* pledges.

Jeanne Blinkoff
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Chandra Dillard
Lottie Gibson
David & Wanda Roop

Shirley Scott
Allan Jenkins
Bill & Linda Hardman

State News & Events

Hispanic Caucus Hosts Festival

The Hispanic Caucus will host a festival, "La Gozadera del Poder Latino", October 11 in Columbia, SC. If you are interested in being a vendor or sponsor please contact Ilia Rivera at 864.325.9603.

Rural Caucuses needed across state

The South Carolina Democratic Party is working to establish rural caucuses across South Carolina. The mission of the Rural Caucus is to identify and promote rural issues and candidates who are seeking elected and appointed positions in government, to advocate



Tangee Jacobs

for legislation on the state and federal levels, provide input on rural issues to the SCDP executive committee and to raise Democratic Party visibility in "Red" areas of South Carolina. If you would like to get involved please contact Tangee Jacobs at talktotangee@gmail.com

SC Chairman initiates Chair Chats

South Carolina Democratic Party Chair Jamie Harrison has launched a series of "Chair Chats" on the party website www.scdp.org. The series of recorded interviews feature guests

including presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders discussing our state, our party and what we are doing every-day to turn South Carolina blue. You

can check out the most recent chair chats at this link <http://scdp.precisionnewmedia.com/chairs-chats/>

The Bray is published by the Greenville County Democratic Party, 1300-J Washington St., Greenville, SC 29607/232-5531, Eric Graben, chairman; Roxanne Cordonier, Editor; Linda Neely, formatting & printing; Ann Funderburk, 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.