

The Bray

December 2013 - January 2014

Greenville County Democratic Party

Greenville, SC



SC Democratic Women's Hall of Fame Recognizes Local Leader Ann Funderburk

The Greenville County Democratic Party and Democratic Women congratulate Ann Funderburk on her induction into the South Carolina Democratic Women's Council Hall of Fame during the 2013 Fall Forum on December 7. The award has been sponsored annually since 2005 and "recognizes women of South Carolina who have attained outstanding levels of Democratic Party achievement and whose contributions have had a significant effect upon the lives of our citizens."

This is an apt description of Ann who has been significantly involved at all levels of Democratic Party activities for countless years. Just a few of Ann's contributions include managing two campaigns for former U.S. House of Representatives Liz Patterson, chairing the planning committee for former Governor Dick Riley's Inaugural Ball, working for almost every Democratic candidate in Greenville County since she moved here in the 1970s, serving as president of Democratic Women, serving as a delegate to the National Convention, and managing our County Party headquarters for many years. She continues to volunteer in the office every Tuesday morning.

In the words of the Hall of Fame committee chair, Ann is "a true Hall of Famer." We are so very proud of and thankful for her.

Lost and Found

Missing your reading glasses? Shades? Keys? Other treasures? They may be waiting for you in the Lost and Found box at party headquarters. Call or drop by to retrieve your lost belongings!

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 2014, 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 your started on the road to electoral success!

- 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 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

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December-January Calendar ...Mostly Save The Date!

Saturday, December 14

Spartanburg County Democratic Women Holiday Brunch, home of Deb Morrow, 180 Winfield Drive, Spartanburg, SC, 9:30 - 11:00 am. All welcome. RSVP and get details at debmorrow1968@att.net.

Monday, January 13

Democratic Women of Greenville County, 12:15 pm, Fried Green Tomatoes, 1175 Woods Crossing Road, behind Haywood Mall. Buffet lunch, \$15.00. Reservations please: HQ 232-5531 or

headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com.

Speaker--Rabbi Marc Wilson, an organizer of the "Year of Altruism," a community-wide, action-oriented response to the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht, *the Night of Broken Glass*, generally recognized as the start of the Holocaust.

<http://www.yearofaltruism.org/learn/our-story>.

Tuesday, January 14

Progressive Network Legislative Opening

Day Rally, Statehouse grounds, Columbia, SC. Details TBA.

Friday, Feb.7 and Saturday, Feb. 8

2014 SCDP Issues Conference, Embassy Suites, Greenville. Statewide event open to all Democrats.

Sessions for candidates/campaign staffs and for county chairs/county activists. Multiple breakout sessions on topics such as the Affordable Care Act, voter ID, women's involvement in state politics, etc. Details to follow closer to the event.

February 15, 2014

GCDP Precinct Meetings, 11 am-noon, locations to be announced. Election of precinct officers; opportunity to draft resolutions for the county convention. Luncheon social event for participants, 12:30-2:00 pm. Details TBA.

Monday, March 31

GCDP County Convention, TD Convention Center. Details TBA.

Running... Eric Grabin, County Chair, Continued from Page 1

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!

Voter Registration and Voter Photo ID Efforts Go Hand-in-Hand in 2014

Voter registration: it's the name of the game for 2014. "We Democrats have more than a fighting chance to win local and statewide elections in 2014 IF we get citizens who support our views registered and then make sure they vote," says Trevor Rodgers, upstate coordinator for the SCDP.

According to Rodgers, voter registration drives will take place every Saturday with shifts at 10 am, noon, and 2 pm. Volunteers will meet at GCDP headquarters on Washington Street for brief training and pairing with a partner volunteer before heading out to register new voters and update registration information throughout the community. Give Trevor a head start on the new year: call him now at 940-765-8302 to

indicate your interest in participating in voter registration activity in 2014.

The following people have been instrumental in our voter registration efforts: Megan Arnold, Jada Jacobs, Kaye Martell, Bernice Thomas, Jean and Tony Knox, Shirley Scott, Susan Cyr, and Harry and Alvena Chapman.

In a related effort, GCDP Second Vice Chair Susan Cyr is leading an effort to recruit volunteers throughout the county to help their neighbors get voter photo ID's so they can continue to vote. Contact Susan at secyr@charter.net.

"Please give me your voting precinct number. I will then e-mail you a small list of people from your precinct to contact and assist in getting a photo ID. I will also include instructions and background information about voter photo ID's."

Democrats Respond Resoundingly to Need for Local Financial Support!

Thank you! As the calendar year ends, it's gratifying to report that supporters of the GCDP have acted positively to keep our county organization in good financial health.

County Chairman Eric Graben said, "In October, I asked for your help in funding our Get-Out-the-Vote effort for Gaye Sprague and Dave Langenhan and in keeping the rent paid and the lights on at headquarters through the end of the year. And you responded in a big way. We received more than \$3200 in donations in response and would like to thank all of the loyal Democrats who helped us out. You provide the life blood that allows us to support our Democratic candidates. Thank you!"

Recent Contributors

Susan About-Nasr
Andy and Stephanie Arnold
Sarah Beasley
Marian Blackwell
Henrietta Bradford
Anna Byrd
Dorothy Ann Chapman
Alan and Roxanne Cordonier
Stanley Crowe
Sarah Davis
Democratic Women of
Greenville County
Ken Dygert
Charles Evans
Alton Ferguson
Donald James Fredericks
Bettie Garretson
Ron Goodwin
Ed Goodwin
Eleanor Grant
Jennings and Jean Graves
Betty Griffith
Glen Halva-Neubauer

Lori Hamilton
Carl Herckner
Frank and Anne Holleman
Ella Humphreys
James Hunt
Allan Jenkins
Sharon Johnson
Elaine Jones
Robert and Geneva Jones
Ettalee Kearns
Mary Louise King-Taylor
Jane Kramer
Austin Latimer
Linda Leblanc
Cecily Mango
Kaye Martell
Gloria Martin
Joy Mascari
James and Caroline Mattos
Mary Jane McCarter
John Scott McCrary
Mary E. McCullough
Gail McGee

Floyd McGurk
Linda McKay
Laurel Melson
Mary Louise Mims
Linda F. Neely
Rosa Newsome
Thurman Norris
Chantal Patton
Margaret F. Paylor
Irvin and Rebecca Philpot
Hugh and Eva Putnam
Patricia Ravenhorst
James Reid
Marty Grover Richards
David and Wanda Roop
Stan and Estelle Ross
Saleem Shabazz
Dr. Bruce and Edwina
Snyder
Barbara Sullivan-Johnson
David Vandiver
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Waters

Year-End Thanks

Just Scratch the Surface

Every month, we try to recognize the folks who make our Democratic Party tick—from the loyal office volunteers to the phone bankers, canvassers, and voter registration troops who work hard to translate our goals as a party into vote-counting reality. Here are the names of some recent volunteers:

Election day headquarters volunteers were Lee Dietz and Helen Nixon, drivers and ride-need checkers; general staffing: Ann Funderburk, Jean Knox, Linda Neely, and Jessie Wofford. We would also like to thank Gaye Sprague's campaign which thoughtfully provided lunch for headquarters volunteers. The gesture was greatly appreciated.

September voter registration volunteers: Our thanks to Emily Moss for visiting 15 neighbors in Precinct 18 to be sure these voters had proper photo ID's and, through her patience and persistence, for helping one additional person actually obtain a photo ID. And special thanks to Leah Garrett and her sorority sisters, Elaine Boyce, Jerusha Drummond, Ruth Richburg, Denise Walker, and Karla Doins Welfare, for visiting 63 homes in Precinct 04 over two weekends in October to check that voters had proper photo ID's to enable them to vote in person.

We also thank those who help prepare the Bray for mailing. Those who helped with the November Bray are: Lizzette Sullivan, Maybelle Randolph, Candace Colquitt, Jessie Wofford, Dorothy Dykes, Helen Nixon, Kaye Martell and Laura Melson.

We give special thanks to Tom LeBlanc, who has without fail responded each time he has been called and Floyd McGurk, who regularly handles our bulk mailing and recycling.

A final thank you comes to us not from us. Upstate state Democratic Party coordinator Trevor Rodgers arrived in Greenville last summer and has been on the go ever since, helping us initiate and carry out activities that will bring victory at the polls to SC Democrats.

Trevor recently wrote, “I want to say thank you to everyone in the Greenville County Democratic Party for making me feel so welcome and at home during my first months on the ground here. I have been excited, energized, and inspired by the work you all are already doing to give us a shot at winning in 2014.”

“We know our road to victory will be long and difficult, but if the work we have done is any indication of where we are going, we are going to be in a good place in 2014. With that being said, we still need every hand on deck to put in that hard work on the ground of voter registration and phone banking for us to win in 2014, and I know those in the GCDP are ready for the task.”

“Because of you all, I am fired up and ready to go about next year. Thank you all again for making me feel so at home and happy about my move to the Upstate. Now let's win an election!”

Please note this is a combined issue. The Bray will not be published in January. We look forward to resuming contact with you in February. Thank You to all of our readers.

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.