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Petition for City-wide Referendum

In 2014, the Greenville City Council narrowly voted to remove political party affiliation from city council elections, and a number of city residents feel strongly that this will result in under-representation of our African-American residents and is working to reverse this change. Therefore, the Greenville Branch of the NAACP is supporting and working with the Greenville All Together Fund

in gathering the 6,012 signatures needed to add a referendum on nonpartisan elections for Greenville City Council to an upcoming citywide ballot. Contact Councilor Lillian Brock Flemming at lflemmin@greenville.k12.sc.us for more information and to sign the petition if you are a registered voter residing in the City of Greenville.

Civil Rights Commemoration March

Traci Fant of Think2xTwice.org is organizing an “All Lives Matter – March on Main Street: Salute to Selma” on Saturday, March 7, 2015 (the 50th anniversary of the first Selma to Montgomery March). The focus is on unity in the community and demonstrating to young people how to establish themselves in a constructive manner through paying homage to those who fought for civil rights. The

hour-and-a-half long march begins at the Hyatt Regency Greenville at noon and concludes at City Hall with a program that will include the Honorable Lillian Brock Flemming and other community leaders. Churches, schools, activists, organizations, neighborhoods, and all citizens are invited to participate and may join the march at any point along the route. For more information, contact Ms. Fant at 864-325-3592. You are invited to walk with Democratic Women - we will gather around the DWGC banner at the Hyatt at 11:45 a.m.

Why I Am a Democrat

By Tony Knox



I am a Democrat because this party is our best hope for change that moves us in the direction of sustainable, environmentally responsible, economic growth that benefits all the people – not just a few at the top. I am a Democrat because this party will strive to protect the constitutional rights of all the people. I am a Democrat because the Democratic Party is a diverse group of people who share a love for this country and all its people, and a vision for our future that builds upon our past as it really was, rather than a vision that tries to return to an idealized fantasy of our past.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

February 21, 2015 Hughes Library (Downtown Greenville) MDA and GCDP Panel on Domestic Violence 10:30 a.m. (*See Article*)

Feb. 27-28, 2015 Myrtle Beach, SC
John M. Spratt Issues Conference presented by the South Carolina Democratic Party. For more information: www.scdp.org

March 7: noon, in front of Hyatt on Main Street
All Lives Matter – March on Main Street: Salute to Selma. The Democratic Women will gather to march as a group at 11:45 a.m.

March 9, 2015 5:30 p.m., Runway Café
Greenville County Democratic Women welcome Sayeh Saeedi to speak at the March meeting. Please call party headquarters to reserve your seat. 864-232-5531.

Fuller Normal School Dinner

Alumni of the Fuller Normal Industrial Institute School are holding a dinner fundraiser event on Saturday, March 7, at 5 p.m. at the Fuller Normal Institute, 901 Anderson Road. Proceeds from the dinner will support activities at the school. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$350 for a table of 10. Contact Ms. Henrimae Pruitt at 864.787.9907 for more information.

Furman University Commemorates Desegregation

Furman University is holding several events commemorating the desegregation of the university. Some events such as a panel discussion on Breaking the Barrier will have already passed by publication of this newsletter, but other upcoming events include the Joseph Vaughn Scholarship Oratorical Competition on February 21 and a panel discussion on Athletics and Desegregation on February 25. More information is available on Furman University's web site. www.furman.edu

NAACP Invites Democrats to Join

The Greenville Branch of the NAACP meets on the second Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 400 S. Hudson Street. The next meeting will be held on March 8. Membership is open to anyone committed to working for social justice for all Americans. For membership information, contact Mrs. Mary Duckett at 864-235-5785.

Our Deepest Sympathies

The Greenville County Democratic Party extends its condolences to the family of Joanne Montague who passed away January 1, 2015, and to Brad Wyche and Diane Smock on the loss of Brad's father Tommy Wyche who passed away January 25, 2015.

In Memory of Joanne Montague

The GCDP has received over \$2800 in contributions in memory of Joanne Montague, a beloved, devoted Democrat who passed away January 1, 2015. Our thanks go out to all who contributed in her memory.

Jessie Wofford,
Kathleen Ellis,
Ann Coe Rendahl
Candace Colquitt
Patty Woodford Johnson
Roxanne Cordonier
Dwight and Liz Patterson
Ingrid Erwin
Betsy Moseley

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Brad Wyche/Diane Smock
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Andy and Stephanie Arnold
Leo and Stephanie King
Sharon Klompus
Jimmy Mobley
Susan Cyr
Charles and Sharon Cherry
Rita McKinney
SC Democratic Women's Council,
John and Mary Virginia Tynan.

~ Remembering Joanne ~

We were saddened to know that the Greenville County Democratic Party lost one of its most loyal, dedicated and greatest members, Joanne Montague, who passed away on January 1, 2015. She dedicated her life to loving and serving her neighbors – in Greenville, America and the world. We are truly thankful for the wonderful blessing she was to all of us.

Joanne Montague
November 10, 1931-January 1, 2015



Born in Birmingham, Alabama, on November 10, 1931, to the late Rachel Deanhardt Montague and W.P. Montague, she grew up in Belton with her younger sister, Rochelle and their dog Sam. Miss Montague was graduated from Belton High School and earned a degree in journalism from Winthrop College and a master's degree from Duke University in American literature. She worked in journalism and education in the Carolinas until her retirement in 1994. Miss Montague reported for the Sumter Daily Item, The Charlotte News, and the Wilmington Morning Star, edited two trade magazines for Clark Publishing Company in Greenville, worked in evaluation for the School District of Greenville County, and was director of information services for the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg, where she retired as an instructor of English. She also taught English at Gardner-Webb College and Furman University.

Believing working in Democratic politics a way to promote economic and social justice, Miss Montague began volunteering with the Greenville County Party soon after moving to Greenville in 1968. She served three times as president of Democratic Women of Greenville County, of which she was voted a life member, as president of the S.C. Democratic Women's Council, which elected her to its Hall of Fame, and as

a the county party's member of the State Democratic Party's executive committee for 18 years, 16 of them as secretary. She was elected a delegate to the National Democratic Convention three times and an alternate and a delegate to the national party's two mid-term issue conferences. The State Party twice named her a presidential elector. She was perhaps most happy when working with friends to help elect Democrats to office.

Miss Montague served at one time on the boards of the S.C. Coalition for the Equal Rights Amendment and Coalition for Women on Boards and Commissions, the League of Women Voters of Greenville County, and the Greenville-Oconee-Pickens Chapter of the March of Dimes and was a member of the National Education Association and its local and state affiliates. Governor Jim Hodges appointed her to a six-year term as a trustee of John de la Howe School.

She was a Christian, a member of First Baptist Church of Greenville.

Miss Montague was a loyal UNC Tar Heel basketball fan and she was devoted to the New York Yankees from the age of eight. She often said if she had been able to collect on the many bets on the Yankees she made with friends, she could have retired 20 years earlier. She also loved newspapers, reading, music, the theatre, and all dogs.

She is survived by her beloved family; niece Joy E. Causey, Hanahan; niece Sally C. Bloom, her husband Ben, and their four children Jackson, Spencer, Susannah, and Annabel, Raleigh, NC; Edna Deanhardt Fleming and husband Sam, of Donalds, and a number of dear cousins. Surviving in addition are many friends to whom she was devoted, and they to her, including Betty and Charles Boyter, Ann Funderburk, Anne and Frank Holleman and their children Frank, Libby, and Anna, Mary Anne Kelly, Joan Raffield, and Lillian N. Simpson. She was predeceased by her sister Rochelle M. Causey.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Greenville County Democratic Party or to your local SPCA.

The obituary was written by Joanne,

MDA and GCDP Panel on Domestic Violence Bills

More than almost any other state, South Carolina demonstrates the deadly connection between domestic violence and guns: Between 2007-2011, women in South Carolina were twice as likely to be shot to death by their intimate partner as the average American woman, and the rate has been rising.

The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500 percent. And people with a history of committing domestic violence are more likely to subsequently murder an intimate partner. That's why federal law prohibits convicted domestic abusers, and those

subject to orders of protection, from buying and possessing guns. But South Carolina state law does not—and that makes it tough for state and local law enforcement to ensure that dangerous abusers don't have guns.

Join us Saturday morning to learn about South Carolina's epidemic of domestic violence, Senate Bill 3, and our role as constituents in passing life-saving legislation. The South Carolina chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America will present a special domestic violence panel including SC Senator Karl Allen, Sara Barber, Executive Director of SCCADVASA, Becky Callaham, Executive Director of Safe Harbor, and Barbara Stowe, Moms Demand Action Survivor Outreach.

Summaries of Domestic Violence Bills in State Legislature

The state legislature will consider a number of bills before it concerning domestic violence this legislative term. They include H3034, introduced by Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter which aims to enact the "Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Act" to provide a procedure for the surrender of firearms owned by a person convicted of criminal domestic violence; to add Section 16-25-130 to create the offense of failure to surrender a firearm after conviction of criminal domestic violence and to provide a penalty; to add Section 16-25-140 to provide that it is unlawful to knowingly sell a firearm to a person convicted of criminal domestic violence and to provide a penalty; to amend Section 16-3-1750 to include

criminal domestic violence in the list of offenses the magistrates court has jurisdiction over an action seeking a restraining order to allow the court to order the surrender of firearms if the court finds that imminent danger exists; to amend Section 16-25-10 to add a definition of firearm; to amend Section 17-15-40 to require the court to order a person charged with a violent offense to surrender all firearms as a condition for bond if requested by or with the consent of the victim; and to amend Section 20-4-60 to add that if an order of protection is issued and the court finds imminent danger exists, the court may order the surrender of firearms.

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Thanks to Our Contributors!

The Greenville County Democratic Party wishes to express its gratitude to its 2014 donors. These include our **Yellow Dog** donors.

Gold level: Frank and Anne Holleman, Bruce and Edwina Snyder, Eric and Helen Graben, Harry Chapman, Joe Erwin, Democratic Women, Dr. Edward Jones and Beth Evans, Michael and Susan Riordan, Peggy Baxter, and Ingrid Blackwelder Erwin; at the

Silver level: William Page, Brad Wyche and Diane Smock, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Waters, Ann Funderburk, Marshall and Jeannette Winn, Allan Jenkins, and Alexandra and Philip Whitley; at the

Bronze level: Randall B. and Susan H. Clark, Sharon Klompus, Laurel Melson, Thomas Donnelly and Daniel Belby, Lucy Foxworthy, and Robert and Jane Ingram.

Other donors include Barbara and Gilbert Allen, Armstrong Law Firm, Marian Blackwell, Charles Cherry, Allen Freemand and Lillian Garnett, Ann Funderburk, Lottie Gibson, P. Edwin Good, William Griffin, Linda Hardman, Elaine Jones, Floyd McGurk, Zanthene Norris, Joe and Elaine Norwood, Rebecca and Irvin Philpot, Audrey and Jack Powers, Carla Rood, Jeff Smith, Jennifer and Hal Smith, Margaret Paylor, Richard Riley, David and Wanda Roop, Craig Wilbanks, and Thelma Williams.

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H3032, also sponsored by Rep. Cobb-Hunter, would add Section 16-3-1030 to establish felony offenses of strangulation and smothering and to provide penalties; to amend Section 16-25-65 to provide that strangulation and smothering are both criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature and to define serious bodily injury.

S019, sponsored by Senator Darrell Jackson, would amend Section 16-25 to add Article 3 to create the offense of dating violence and provide a penalty.

S003, sponsored by Senator Larry Martin and others, would amend Section 16-25-10 to provide definitions and Section 16-25-20 related to criminal domestic

violence offenses and penalties to restructure offenses into degrees and provide penalties; to amend Section 16-25-30 to make it unlawful for a person convicted of a domestic violence offense or subject to an order of protection for domestic violence to ship, transport or receive a firearm or ammunition; to amend Section 16-25-65 for cases of high and aggravated domestic violence to require participation in an intervention program and allow restriction of firearms and ammunition as a condition of bond; and add Article 18 to Section 16'3 to establish a procedure for permanent and emergency civil no-contact orders and penalties for violation of such orders.

State Party News

The South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council and Executive Committee met in Columbia on January 27. Ingrid Erwin represented Greenville County at the meetings.

While recognizing the disappointments of last year's elections, Party Chair Jaime Harrison is actively moving forward. He is already recruiting candidates for the 2016 elections, and would like to have strong candidates on the ballot for every open office. He is particularly working towards identifying a candidate for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Tim Scott.

The fourth annual John M. Spratt Issues Conference will be held February 27-28 in Myrtle Beach. The theme for this year's conference is "Reaching Out, Moving Forward, and Growing Together." DNC Chair Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley will be the keynote speakers. Ginny Deerin and her committee have planned a full agenda for the 150 Democrats expected to attend. In addition to the keynote speeches, the event will feature a Town Hall meeting, panel discussions, breakout workshops, and caucus meetings. True to its name, the issues facing our state and nation will be the focus of the conference, including domestic violence, labor unions, public schools, and bridging the gap between law enforcement and communities of color. A Friday welcome reception and breakfast and lunch on Saturday are also included

in the \$50 registration fee.

The state party is searching for a new Executive Director to replace Conor Hurley. Our own Eric Graben is a member of the selection committee.

The State Party Convention will be April 24 and 25 in Columbia. Jaime is working to finalize speakers for the Friday evening Jefferson-Jackson Dinner and for the Saturday convention. He has invited President Obama to be the keynote speaker and has invited all potential presidential candidates to attend. This is Joe Riley's last year as Charleston Mayor, and his years of service will be honored. Delegates are encouraged to purchase their tickets to the J-J Dinner when they go on sale.

Benefits for Yellow Dog members at the State level will soon be more tangible. A donation as small as \$10 per month affords membership in the state Yellow Dog group.

The 2016 presidential convention will be held around the date of July 25, 2016. In a follow-up note, Philadelphia has been named as the host city.

Finally, another of Jaime's goals is bringing members of the legislature together. He hosted an event for all elected Democratic legislators in December (the first such event in nearly twenty years). He wants to encourage all Democrats to work for and with the party, both before and after they are elected.

The next meetings of the Executive Council and Executive Committee will be March 24.

The Bray is published by the Greenville County Democratic Party, 1300-J Washington St., Greenville, SC 29607/232-5531, Eric Graben, chairman; Helen Graben, editor; Linda Neely, formatting; 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.