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From the Editor



Roxanne Cordonier

Former South Carolina *Lt. Governor* Nick Theodore was the guest speaker at the February meeting of Democratic Women of Greenville County. His lovely wife Emilie has been a member of Democratic Women since 1968. Listening to Nick spin stories taken from his new memoir *Trials and Triumphs*, I was reminded once again how much I love and admire the Theodores and why I'm a Democrat. When I'm surrounded by Democrats I'm in my happy, safe place. South Carolina Democrats are a tough, scrappy, smart group of dynamic, diverse individuals, who support equality for all and good government

that creates a prosperous public. Greenville County Democrats suffered a body blow late last year with the unexpected death of our matriarch, Joanne Montague. Joanne grew up in Belton and was active in the Greenville County Democratic Party since 1968. I met Joanne when I was a radio news director and she was running Congresswoman Liz Patterson's re-election campaign. Joanne was a font of knowledge and wisdom, a tireless volunteer, a leader, a friend and a true Democrat.

Her funeral service was a gathering of her family and her legion of friends, a celebration of her life and a reminder of the incredible circle of friends I am so privileged to be part of.

I hope that Joanne can serve as a mentor to all of us Democrats. Let's all dig in and walk the walk. All of us need to give our time, talents and our money to elect more Democrats and it's going to take every last one of us to accomplish this goal. Let's honor Joanne Montague's life with our deeds going forward. Together we can make South Carolina a healthier, more equitable and prosperous place to live and work.

Why I am a Democrat

By Quincy Inman

I choose to belong to the Democratic Party because it promotes fairness, supports help for the helpless and wants our country to be strong without demeaning others.



Partisan Elections

Jil Littlejohn
Greenville City Council Member

Greenville Together is a bi-partisan group of Democrats and Republicans, different ages, races, and perspectives who worked together to try and repeal non-partisan elections. We all agreed that we LOVE Greenville and we want to do what's best. While there are differing opinions on the pros and cons of non-partisan politics, it was very clear that 6,300 voters did not agree with the process to change with many wanting to change back.

Many have said, "If it ain't broke" what are we trying to fix? We have a wonderful city with a council that works together. We are thankful that in a 4-3 vote, Republican David Sudduth listened to the 6,300 voters.

The Municipal Election Commission conducted a meeting on Monday, April 13 at 9 a.m. to review and recommend an amended election schedule to provide to Council for consideration at the April 15 special called meeting. The special formal meeting held on Wednesday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. was to consider second and final reading of the proposed ordinance

to repeal Ordinance 2014-25.

In the special meeting, the council voted 4-3 to officially put an end to nonpartisan elections.

With repeal, the new schedule for this election cycle will be as follows:

Filing - May 18 - June 1

Primaries - August 11

Run-off - August 25

General - November 3

Thank you to the many Democrats who stood with us during this process. Your support and hard work is the reason Greenville is Together.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

— 2015 SCDP State Convention —

Friday, April 24

7:00pm - 9:00pm

2015 Jefferson-Jackson Dinner

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

7:30pm - 12:00am

Congressman Jim Clyburn's

World Famous Fish Fry

Cannon Parking Garage

1227 Taylor Street

Columbia, SC (Corner of Taylor & Main)

Saturday, April 25

9:30am - 12:00pm

State Party Convention

Columbia Metropolitan

Convention Center

1101 Lincoln Street,

Columbia, SC

Monday, May 11

GC Democratic Women Monthly Meeting

5:30pm

Patricia Ravenhorst, Attorney, Legal Assis-

tance for Victims Program SC Victims

Assistance Network will be the speaker.

The Runway Cafe Hangar

21 Airport Road

This will be an evening meeting.

Monday, May 18

5:30pm - 7:30pm

GCDP Road Funding Panel Presentation

led by Senator Karl Allen and Bill Ross,

Executive Director of SC Alliance to Fix

our Roads

Hughes Main Library, Downtown

Saturday, May 30

9:00am

Greenville Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

5K fund raising walk

Furman University's Timmons Arena.

For registration and more information, go to

www.namiwalks.org/greenville

Fix our roads

On Monday, May 18 at 6:00 pm the Greenville County Democratic Party will host a panel discussion in Meeting Room C at the Hughes Main Library about the dire need to repair and replace roads and bridges in South Carolina. Bill Ross, executive director of the non-profit South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads <http://www.fixscroads.com/about/> <http://www.sctransportation.com/about-us.html> and Democratic State Senator Karl Allen will lead our panel and other panelists will be announced.

The South Carolina Alliance to Fix Our Roads is a non-partisan, non-profit, statewide organization made up of business leaders, associations



and chambers of commerce who believe that an efficient, effective and safe highway system is essential to South Carolina's continued economic growth and social progress.

According to the Fix Our Roads website:

- \$1.5M per year, for 20 years, is needed to bring our roads up to a

level of service of 'good'

- \$500M per year is needed to bring our system up to a level of service of 'fair'

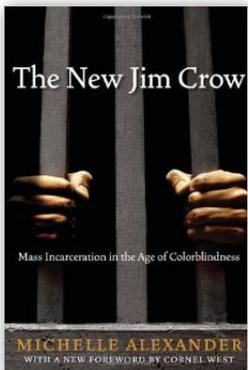
There are 907 structurally deficient bridges and 774 functionally obsolete bridges in SC. An additional \$31 million is needed annually for bridge replacement. Without additional funding, SCDOT can only manage the continued decline of the system.

Clearly this is a vital issue to the safety and continued prosperity of our state. We hope you can join us at the *Hughes Main Library, Meeting Room C, on Monday, May 18 at 6:00 pm* for what is sure to be a lively discussion.

Books We Love

Roxanne Cordonier

I have two recommendations for your reading pleasure. The first is a ground breaking book about the



mass incarceration of young black men, entitled *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, an associate professor of law at Ohio

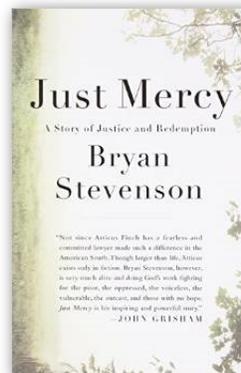
State University. The book provides valuable insight into the origins of convict labor and how law enforcement in partnership with state

government used the judicial system to legally enslave black citizens after reconstruction.

The perfect follow up to *The New Jim Crow* is *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Author and attorney Stevenson makes his case by dissecting the political and monetary motives behind the war on crime and brilliantly intersecting vital facts and statistics with legal case studies.

Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice

Initiative, www.eji.org, whose work



focuses on seeking justice for the underserved including the poor, minorities, youth and the mentally ill. Stevenson and his team of attorneys are the better angels among us. This is a tough read but well worth your time and effort. You will be moved, depressed, angry, educated and uplifted by this book. At the end of the book Stevenson makes his point:

A system that denies the poor the legal help they need, that makes wealth and status more important than culpability, must be changed.

If you've read a book recently that enlightened and informed you, please feel free to share a short review with *The Bray*. We welcome your contributions.

YDSC Convention 2015



It's that time again! Register for State Convention Now!

The Young Democrats of South Carolina will be hosting its annual convention on May 30, 2015 with a Welcome Reception on May 29. The first convention outside of the Midlands will be in beautiful downtown Greenville at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Main Street.

This will be the last scheduled statewide Democratic gathering before South Carolina's First-in-the-South Democratic

Primary, and they're working to make this a can't-miss event for all

South Carolina Democrats!

Pre-registration starts now for \$25.00. YDSC members (that is, South Carolina Democrats age 35 and under) can pre-register for \$20.00 and college students can register for \$15.00 before May 1. We would love to see you in Greenville on May 30!

Check periodically at goydsc.org for more details, including any keynote speakers we secure in the future!

Add your voice to the push for a strong Domestic Violence bill in South Carolina!

The South Carolina chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is joining SCCADVASA (South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault) and other domestic violence advocates for **Domestic Violence Advocacy Day** at the State House on April 21. Current co-sponsors include the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, and RealMAD (Real Men Against Domestic Violence). We need a large group of grass roots, bipartisan advocates in Columbia that day to push for a strong domestic violence bill to be passed during this legislative session—a bill that ensures abusers do not

SCCADVASA
South Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

MOMS **DEMAND** **ACTION** **FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA**

have access to firearms (the weapon of choice in South Carolina). The event will begin with check-in at 10:30am and is expected to conclude by 3:00pm. A light lunch will be provided.

Prior to and at the event, we will be distributing Safer SC postcards to be signed, collected, and sent to Representatives and Senators. For more information, to get Safer SC postcards for yourself or your group, and/or to confirm your attendance, e-mail us at southcarolina@momsdemandaction.org or call us at **803-757-0555**.



SCDP Executive Committee Meeting, March 24

Ingrid Erwin
State Executive Committee Delegate

The South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee met on March 24. Party Chair Jaime Harrison introduced the new Executive Director, Jason Perkey. Jason previously served as Deputy Director for the Kansas Party, but he is also active as President of the Association of Executive Directors of state parties nationwide. Jason gave a financial report and noted that the South Carolina party is in good shape financially, particularly when compared with the party in other states.

A committee headed by Kaye Koonce has prepared a draft Delegate Selection plan, which appears on the party website. Comments will be accepted through April 30 and should be sent to delegate16@scdp.com. The Plan includes a two-page summary of the actions that persons interested in becoming delegates must take. Also, an Affirmative Action Committee will

work to ensure that individuals in the groups identified in the Plan are aware of the opportunities to serve. Greenville County is represented on this committee by Ilia Rivera and Ingrid Erwin.

Plans for the April 24-25 convention are well underway, and Jaime encouraged attendance at all the weekend's activities, including Friday's big events, the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner and Congressman Jim Clyburn's Fish Fry. Both the Platform and Resolutions Committee and the Rules and Credentials Committee are meeting prior to the convention. Delegates elected to last year's state convention are also delegates to this year's convention. Greenville was one of a handful of counties that had already submitted a list of delegates. The convention will feature a memorial to deceased Democrats, and, once again, awards will be given to outstanding Democrats. The recently formed caucuses will meet at the convention to elect officers, finalize bylaws, and plan the next steps for action.

Thanks to Our Contributors!

The Greenville County Democratic Party wishes to express its gratitude to its recent donors.

Jane Kramer

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Floyd McGurk

John Scott McCrary

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Flora Griffin

Yellow Dog Pledges

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Harry Chapman

Kate Franch

Bill and Linda Hardman

Frank and Anne Holleman

Sharon Klompus

The Honorable Richard Riley

Jack Powers

Shirley Scott

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