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2015 State Convention Recap

The South Carolina Democratic Party Convention was held April 24th and 25th at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Delegate Yvonne Smith Reeder and Jessie Wofford handled registration for Greenville delegates. Only about 30% of the eligible delegates attended the convention.

Delegate Reeder reports that Congressman Jim Clyburn fired up the crowd with sound words of advocacy, saying that our party has a great chance to reclaim leadership in Washington if we work hard on voter registration and focus on issues that matter to the voters. Congressman Clyburn autographed his book, “Blessed Experiences” before the Convention began.

The most controversial item up for discussion during the platform and resolutions report concerned the pending Asia-Pacific international



Jessie Wofford and Yvonne Reeder with “Yellow Dawg” during 2015 State Convention

trade bill. A resolution was offered to limit imports of foreign items and strengthen the “buy America” policy, while penalizing companies for exporting jobs overseas. There was enough disagreement over this proposal that the proposed resolution was removed from the party platform.

See more State Convention delegate images on page 6.



Why I am a Democrat

By Evelyn Butler

I am a Democrat because my parents taught me right. In our house the local Democratic Club meetings were held in our front room. My father drove a truck for the local laundry and was the Teamster Union shop steward in New Jersey. In 1962 the Teamsters set up a four-year scholarship and I and two boys were the first recipients. (Thank you Jimmy Hoffa!) Why am I a Democrat? Because Democrats care.

#No Freedom Summit

Elaine Cooper of Columbia traveled to Greenville last Saturday to attend the Freedom Summit. Elaine had registered and was admitted without any problem, then things got complicated.

Elaine Cooper (Unedited)

First I sat in a box, over the stage with some other big time contributors and heard DeMint say: DeMint "even the dead people in Illinois voted Republican" - I thought ..weird, why didn't he mention even the dead people in SC voted Republican? I thought about the Illinois Republican governor that was voted in and thus the idea was born: go ask this question in front of media.

Then I heard Mick Mulvaney say: "We need to talk to African Americans in Illinois " I thought - why is he NOT saying- that we need to recruit African Americans in SC. He is from SC and we are about to have a SC primary here. I was offended as a native Chicagoan and as a SC resident for 35 years. I thought that I would include this statement to the media.

So, I asked the question I-why

Illinois and not SC - offended as a native Illinoisian.

These police, along with a huge bully media person, escorted me out of the building, ripping off my entry wrist band. No one had stopped my "mistaken" entrance into the media room and no one asked for a press pass.

I told security that I did not know that "I was not supposed to be in there" and that "I was sorry" . They told me - too bad- you are out. BTW, media were the ONLY people allowed to ask questions and every candidate had personal security and handlers to make sure that no questions were asked.

I joined well known protesters on the outside.



Elaine Cooper accepts photo op with Donald Trump

Ok - so I went across to the Marriott to charge my phone and came across these employees who were told to line up to greet the Trump. Donald Trump agreed to other Repubs taking my photo and Repubs told me that "it was a cute photo ".

Trump was hilarious on stage at the Freedom Summit - claiming that he had "all the money in the world and did not have to seek contributors" . Wow - like this is a reason - that anyone should vote for him?

After Trump, I walked the streets with an enormous crowd that had gathered to see the Art festival in downtown Greenville. No one - not any of the street people or anyone in the restaurants knew about Freedom Summit, they did not have a clue and were not interested. So much, for conservative politics in Greenville.

I also stopped to protest and get some photo ops with well known protester FB friends.

Then, I got a second wind, and



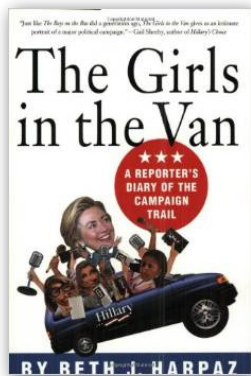
Protesters at Freedom Summit in downtown Greenville

Continued on Page 5, See Freedom Summit

Books We Love

Edwina Snyder

This year, as we begin the journey to elect the first woman president, here are some books about politics

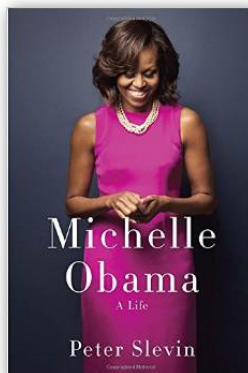


and women. *Girls in the Van: Covering Hillary* by Beth Harpaz, a book about Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign, is described as

a front-row seat in the press van as Hillary takes a "My Fair Lady"-style Yiddish lesson, invokes Harriet Tubman thirty times on a tour of black churches, and spends

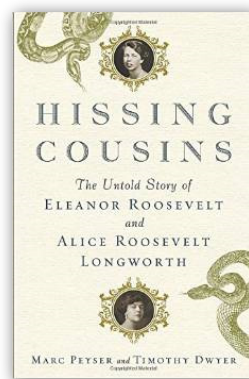
as much time explaining why she kissed Yassir Arafat's wife as she does justifying why she stays married to Bill.

Michelle Obama: A Life by Peter Slevin, according to David Axelrod, is "...a uniquely American story, and...also paints a rich picture of Chicago's South Side during the past century and the family and forces that helped shape this exceptional woman."



Finally *Hissing Cousins: The Untold Story of Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Longworth Roosevelt* by Marc Peyser

and Timothy Dwyer is described as "a lively and provocative double biography of first cousins Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Roosevelt Longworth, two extraordinary women whose tangled lives provide a sweeping look at the twentieth century."



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.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Tuesday, May 26

Luncheon with State Secretary of Education Molly Spearman
12:00 noon
Embassy Suites
670 Verdae Boulevard
Greenville, SC 29607
\$15 per ticket
Contact: pat@pepgc.org or 864.233.4137

Wednesday, May 27

Third annual "Day in Blue"
Theme: "Learning the Lessons of the 2014 Election: Where do we grow from here?"
9:45am:
State Capitol Building Lobby
11:00am:
Blatt Building
Columbia, SC
Contact: SSsmith8562@aol.com or 843.833.3919

--- 2015 Young Democrats Convention ---

Friday, May 29

YDSC Alumni Reception

Young Democrats Convention, cont'd

Saturday, May 30

8:00am - 4:00pm
YDSC 2015 Convention

Both events at:
Hyatt Regency Hotel
220 N. Main Street,
Greenville, SC 29601

Contact: Daniel (DJ) McKelvey, Jr.
dmckelve@gmail.com

Saturday, May 30

9:00am
Greenville Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
5K fund raising walk
Furman University's Timmons Arena.
Registration & information, go to
www.namiwalks.org/greenville

Monday, June 8

GC Democratic Women Monthly Meeting
12:15pm
Speaker: Eme Crawford from Tell Them.
Fried Green Tomatoes
1175 Woods Crossing Rd
Greenville, SC

Partisan Elections are back

The Greenville City Council has repealed Ordinance 2014-25 changing the form of election to nonpartisan. Ordinance 2015-33 reverts the form of election back to partisan. To the right is the proposed schedule for the 2015 city of Greenville elections.



City of Greenville, South Carolina

2015 General Election

Filing Deadlines for Municipal Offices of the City Council and Greenville Water System

Publish Notice of Election Schedule	May 1
Beginning date for filing statements of intention of candidacy with political parties for nominations by convention or primary:	Twelve o'clock noon Monday, May 18
Closing date for filing statements of intention of candidacy with political parties for nominations by convention or primary:	Twelve o'clock noon Monday, June 1
Party Conventions, if party nomination by convention:	Week of August 10
Party nomination by primary:	Tuesday, August 11
Primary runoffs, if necessary:	Each two weeks successively thereafter
Published Notice by City of General Election:	Friday, September 4
Closing date for petition candidates to file petitions with the Municipal Election Commission: (75 days)	Twelve o'clock noon, Thursday, August 20
Last date for the Municipal Election Commission to validate petitions of petition candidates: (60 days)	Twelve o'clock noon, Friday, September 4
Closing date for parties to file certification of party nominees with Municipal Election Commission: (60 days)	Twelve o'clock noon, Friday, September 4
Election Day:	Tuesday, November 3

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS: STATE STATUTES REGULATING CAMPAIGN PRACTICES APPLY TO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, AND FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENTS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST AT THE TIME OF FILING FOR NOMINATION. THE APPROPRIATE SUPERVISORY OFFICE SHALL ASSESS A CIVIL PENALTY PURSUANT TO S.C. CODE SEC. 8-13-1510 AGAINST A CANDIDATE WHO FAILS TO TIMELY FILE A STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST AS REQUIRED BY SEC. 8-13-1356.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 467-4431 or cpitman@greenvillesc.gov

Thanks to Our Contributors!

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

David Roop

Linda and Bill Hardman

Ray and Jacqueline Lattimore

Wanda Thompson Smith

Jean and Griff Griffith

In memory of Joanne Montague

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Waters

Carol Dobbins

To Protect Kids from Guns: Be SMART

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

Since December 2013, seven South Carolinian children have died as the result of unintentional gun shots inflicted by themselves or another child after they gained access to an adult's gun that was not stored responsibly. Ages of the victims ranged from two to fifteen years old. Another child, a six-year-old, found a loaded, semi-automatic handgun on the back floorboard of the car in which he was riding, pulled the trigger, and shot and killed the 22-year-old woman riding in the passenger seat. Nine other children have suffered gunshot injuries ranging from minor to critical over the same time period.

Everytown for Gun Safety recently launched #NotAnAccident Index, a first-of-its-kind tracking of unintentional shootings by children. Since January 1, 2015, there have been at least 80 unintentional shootings involving children in America, resulting in 57 injuries and 24 deaths—an average of one uninten-

tional child shooting every 36 hours. That is unacceptable.

The fact is that millions of American children live in homes with guns, and while most gun owners store their guns responsibly, far too many do not. As a result, 1.7 million children live in homes with guns that are stored unlocked and loaded. Too often, when an unsupervised child gets his or her hands on a gun, tragedies result. These tragedies include unintentional shootings, suicides and homicides. By starting a conversation about responsible gun storage in our communities, we can let people know about the simple things that everyone can do to prevent injuries and save the lives of kids.

The South Carolina Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America has joined chapters all around the country in introducing a 20-minute presentation titled Be SMART: A conversation about kids, guns, and safety that focuses on education and awareness about child gun deaths and responsible gun storage. The program suggests five simple steps that all adults—whether they own guns or not—can take to help prevent shootings by children:

- Secure all guns in your home and vehicles
- Model responsible behavior around guns
- Ask about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes
- Recognize the risks of teen suicide
- Tell your peers to be SMART

These are actions that all adults—whether they own guns or not—can take to keep our children and teens safer. The Be SMART program is completely non-political in nature and does not discuss laws or policies related to guns.

We have launched an outreach program to offer the Be SMART program to PTAs, community groups, church groups, and others across South Carolina who might be receptive to speakers on this topic. For more information or to arrange for a presentation for your group, please contact us by e-mail at southcarolina@momsdemandaction.org or call us at 803-757-0555.



You can also find out more information about the program by visiting www.BeSMARTforKids.org.

Freedom Summit, Continued from Page 2

decided to use my real name and reenter Freedom Summit through another entrance. I got in and sat down 5 rows from the stage on the main floor in the VIP section.

I was doing pretty good - but could not take the inside stage show and I

decided to stretch my legs. I saw Jindal being interviewed and I decided to go in for a photo of a sad/ disgusted face and - of course - a question - but this time was escorted out by several police and threatened with arrest for trespass-

ing, if I returned. Remember, I had pre-registered and my name was on the list. What was up with threats about trespassing?

Elaine Cooper
Freedom Summit
#NoFreedomSummit

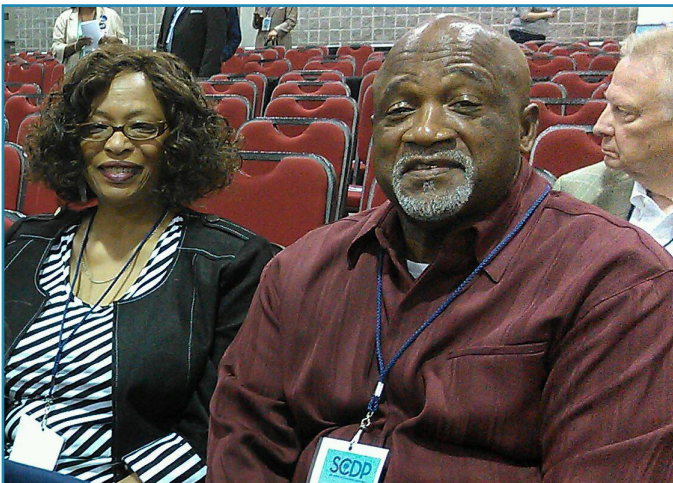
2015 State Convention: Greenville County Delegates



Linda Hardman & Allan Jenkins



Scarlett Jones & Anita LeBold



Lillian Brock Flemming & Johnny Flemming



Kate Franch & Shirley Scott

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