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Committee Alternate

Democratic Dismay Over Roads Bills

by Roxanne Cordonier

The national Republican Party is in total disarray, approaching meltdown while closer to home it's become obvious to working families of South Carolina that the Republicans running our state legislature are also a dysfunctional, divided entity. The antitax crowd led by Governor Nikki Haley have refused direct calls for a gas tax increase from a majority of state Republicans, <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/12/16/yeargastaxincrease/77303230/> the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and business leaders across the state.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160106/PC1603/160109594/1006/> To add to the drama, Governor Haley has insisted that she will veto any bill that doesn't restructure the Department of Transportation and include a tax decrease to set off any increase in the gas tax.

At the beginning of the session there was some hope that the Senate would follow the House's lead and approve a bill that included an increase in the



Roxanne Cordonier

gas tax as a means of paying for road improvements. When a billion dollar budget surplus was uncovered, antitax Republicans were given a means of funding some improvements without a gas tax hike. The business community has long called for a gas tax hike to serve as a recurring and steady stream of money. SC Senator Tom Davis led his second filibuster early in the current session to block the proposed gas tax increase. Davis' efforts have been supported by Americans for Prosperity.

This national organization (primarily

*Continued on Page 2, See **Dismay***



Why I am a Democrat by Kate Howard

I have felt aligned with the principles and platform of the Democratic Party since I was a very young girl watching the national conventions of both parties in the 1960s. I felt strongly, even then somehow, that the election process is an often messy, but absolutely essential step for Americans in sorting out the vision and goals of our country and addressing the national and global issues that face us. It is how we define who we want to be and where we want to go as our nation, and time, progresses.

Continued on Page 2

funded by the Koch brothers) is apparently dedicated to sticking their nose in the affairs of states like South Carolina who are trying to fund infrastructure improvements through user taxes. I recently received several robo calls from Americans for Prosperity asking me to call Mike Fair to protest his

reported support of the gas hike. To their credit the Democrats led by Senator Brad Hutto, and Rep. Todd Rutherford did their best to amend and improve the legislation but their efforts were tabled without debate by the Republicans. Democrats call the current bill which funds \$400 million in nonrecurring funds to road improvements a "Patch Act." House Speaker Jay Lucas called the

move a "Bandaid" as the DOT has said that \$400 million would only maintain the current roads system. The DOT has also said that it needs \$1.43 billion just to get the state roads system up to a "good" rating. Lucas a Republican said the Senate amendment "simply kicks the can further down the road and frankly, into a pothole."

Upcoming Meetings & Events

March 16 - April 13, 2019 (Wednesdays)

High Noon Lecture Series
Upcountry History Museum-Furman
540 Buncombe Street
Greenville, SC 29601

Details on page 6

March 19, 2016 (Saturday) 8:30am

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

Details on page 3

March 28, 2016 (Monday) 6:00pm

Greenville County Democratic Party Convention
Keynote speaker: Mayor of Columbia, SC

Steve Benjamin
TD Convention Center
1 Exposition Dr
Greenville, SC 29607

See other information on page 4

March 30, 2016

Candidate Filing Deadline

April 11, 2016 (Monday) 12:15pm

Democratic Women Lunch Meeting
Southern Fried Green Tomatoes
1175 Woods Crossing Road
Greenville, SC 29615

Details on page 3

3rd Wednesdays each month 5:30pm

Management Team meetings
GCDP Headquarters
1300-J Washington Street
Greenville, SC 29607

Why I am a Democrat, *Continued from Page 1*

Growing up in a large Catholic family of southern heritage, with a dad who was an Army officer, I learned about being a contributing member of communities large and small and that, as a whole, individuals from all backgrounds share more commonalities with each other than differences. I also came to understand that I am not truly free until and unless everyone - of every gender, skin color, age, heritage and nationality, religious affiliation (including having none), sexual orientation and identity, socioeconomic status and profession, and even political persuasion - has the same opportunities, privileges, and protections as I enjoy and seek. The Democratic Party strives to make that freedom possible.

I am proud to stand with my fellow Democrats as we work to create a government - the tool through which people create civilization - that is fair, just, and compassionate for all.

Legislative Overview at the February Greenville County Democratic Party Meeting

by Ingrid Erwin

South Carolina Senator Karl Allen was the guest speaker at the February 20th breakfast meeting. Senator Allen noted that the condition of our roads and bridges is on the minds of all of his constituents, but not on Governor Haley's mind. Governor Haley is more interested in calling out people who oppose her on her resistance to increasing taxes to improve roads and bridges. Nevertheless, the Senate began debating roads and bridges issues last week but there has been no progress. Republicans want to reduce taxes and give the governor the power to appoint highway commissioners.

An alternative proposal (that I believe Senator Allen favors) would raise \$530 million annually. This money would come from an

increase in the sales tax on cars from \$300 to \$600, increased fees for drivers licenses and hybrid vehicles, and a 4 cents per gallon increase in the gas tax for three years.

Senator Allen noted that, while the House proposal would raise \$300-400 million, more money is needed.

Senator Allen said that, with the new focus on the interchange of I-85 and I-385, Greenville is getting its fair share of state money for roads.

In the criminal justice arena, Senator Allen said that Governor Haley has signed some legislation that would allow for limited expungements of criminal records ("second chance" laws). Senator Allen would like to encourage local Chambers to have their members



Ingrid Erwin
State Executive Committee Delegate

agree to hire at least one ex-offender in order to truly afford a second chance.

The Senate continues to work on gun legislation that would require more thorough background checks for potential gun purchasers.

Throughout his talk, Senator Allen emphasized cooperation and collegiality. He observed, for example, that "if it is a good bill, it doesn't matter who sponsored the legislation as long as it gets passed."

Greenville County DP March Breakfast Meeting

The Greenville County Democratic Party Breakfast Meeting will be held Saturday, March 19th at 8:30am at Long Branch Baptist Church 28 Bolt Street, Greenville, SC 29605.

SC Representatives Chandra Dillard and Leola Robinson-Simpson will present a legislative update. The upcoming Greenville County Democratic Party Convention on Monday, March 28th at the TD Convention Center will also be discussed.

The breakfast is free, donations are appreciated.

For more information please call 232-5531 or headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com

Democratic Women April Lunch Meeting

The April meeting of Democratic Women will be Monday, April 11, 2016 at 12:15 PM at Southern Fried Green Tomatoes.

The guest speaker will be Furman Political Science Professor James L. Guth. Professor Guth will give us a bipartisan analysis of the leading candidates in each party and what they need to do to win their party's nomination. He might even make a prediction for November. Don't miss what Professor Guth has to say.

A buffet lunch is available at a charge of \$15.00. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 232-5531 or headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com

Election of County Party Officers at the County Convention



Delegates to the county convention will elect new county party officers at the convention on Monday, March 28. Our incumbent County Chair, Eric Graben, our incumbent 1st Vice Chair, Shirley Scott, and our incumbent 2nd Vice Chair, Susan Cyr, have all indicated that they do not plan to seek re-election at the convention. All county offices are up for election at the county convention regardless of whether the incumbent is seeking re-election. County party officers need not be convention delegates, but only delegates may nominate and second the nominations of candidates for county party officers. Below are the offices to be filled and persons currently known to be seeking those offices:

- Chair: Kate Franch
- 1st Vice Chair (must be of a race different from that of the chair): Dexter Reaves
- 2nd Vice Chair (must be the gender opposite that of the chair): Grady Patterson
- 3rd Vice Chair (who must be under 30 years of age): Whitney Wright (incumbent)
- Female State Executive Committee Member: Ingrid Erwin (incumbent)
- Male State Executive Committee Member: Christo-

pher Shipman

- Female State Executive Committee Alternate: Roxanne Cordonier (incumbent)
- Male State Executive Committee Alternate: none declared
- Voter Protection Chair: none declared
- Delegate to State Convention Credentials Committee: none declared
- Delegate to the State Conventions Resolution Committee: none declared

By the end of the opening keynote address, anyone desiring to be a candidate for a county party office must have completed a form obtained at the convention secretary's table at the front of the meeting room indicating what office is sought, which delegate will make the nomination and identifying no more than two delegates who will second the nomination. Prior to the election for each office that is contested, each candidate and his or her nominator and allowed seconds shall be afforded the opportunity to speak. Each candidate's nominator may speak for no more than two minutes, each candidate's seconds may speak for no more than one minute each, and each candidate may speak for no more than three minutes.

Filing Period to Run for State and Local Offices Starts at noon on March 16 and ends at noon on March 30

If you want to run for a state or local office in 2016, you need to:

1. **FIRST** file a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) online on the SC Ethics Commission's web site at ethics.sc.gov. Make sure to print multiple hard-copies.
2. **SECOND**, file a Statement of Intention of Candidacy (SIC) and pay the filing fee:
 - a. With the State Election Commission at 1122 Lady Street, Suite 500, Columbia, SC 29201 if you want to run for US Senate, US House or Solicitor
 - b. With the County Election Commission at County Square, 301 University Ridge, Suite

1900, Greenville, SC 29601 for all other state and local offices

3. **THIRD**, campaign finance disclosures must be filed electronically with the SC Ethics Commission on their web site at ethics.sc.gov. The first report is due within 10 days after spending or receiving the first \$500 of campaign funds. Check the SC Ethics Commission's web site for additional filing deadlines and a copy of the SC Campaign Finance Rules. **READ THE RULES.**
4. **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to file so that you have time to fix problems and mistakes if they occur.

Additional information is available from the State Election Commission's website at www.scvotes.org.

Books We Love

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik

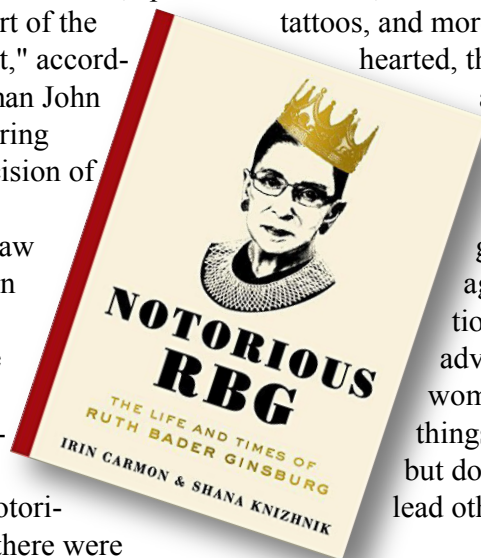
by Edwina Snyder

You may be familiar with Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the Supreme Court Justice who wears the lacy white collars and jabots with her black robes, but do you know what it means if she wears the one with the glass beads? Were you aware that after she made it into Harvard Law School in 1956, the dean asked all the women students how they could justify taking the place of a man? Do you know which other Justice is surprisingly her best friend on the Court?

This delightful pop culture biography of Ginsburg came about when

the Supreme Court in 2013, "put a dagger in the heart of the Voting Rights Act," according to Congressman John Lewis. Her blistering dissent in the decision of *Shelby County v. Holder* inspired law students in Boston and New York to come up with the admiring nickname, the Notorious RBG, after the rapper, the Notorious B.I.G. Soon there were

T-shirts, Halloween costumes, tattoos, and more. Although light-hearted, this book also gives a great overview of her work in arguing for women's rights, gay rights, and against discrimination of all kinds. Her advice to young women is "fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."



Thanks to Our Contributors!

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

Gay Duckett
Ken Dygert
Joe Erwin

Valerie Greer
Bill and Linda Hardman
Frank and Ann Holleman

Michael and Susan Riordan
Carla Rood
Dr. Bruce and Edwina Snyder

Remaining Democratic Primaries and Caucuses (and delegates)

If not noted otherwise, the election is a primary. The available delegates are to the right of the state.

March 22	Arizona: 85 Idaho Caucus: 27 Utah: 37	April 26	Connecticut: 70 Delaware: 31 Maryland: 118 Pennsylvania: 210 Rhode Island: 33	June 5	Puerto Rico Caucus: 67
March 26	Alaska Caucus: 20 Hawaii Caucus: 34 Washington State Caucus: 118	May 3	Indiana: 92	June 7	California: 546 Montana: 27 New Jersey: 142 New Mexico: 43 North Dakota Caucus: 23 South Dakota: 25
April 5	Wisconsin: 96	May 7	Guam Caucus: 12		
April 9	Wyoming Caucus: 18	May 10	West Virginia: 37		
April 19	New York: 291	May 17	Kentucky: 61 Oregon: 74	June 14	District of Colum- bia: 45
		June 4	Virgin Islands Caucus: 12		



The spring High Noon lecture series will begin Wednesday, March 16 with a talk by Furman political science professor Liz Smith titled "*Women and U.S. Politics: Understanding the Political Glass Ceiling*." The spring series will feature five consecutive talks and conclude on April 13.

All lectures are free and begin at noon on Wednesdays at the Upcountry History Museum-Furman. The museum is located at 540 Buncombe Street in downtown Greenville's Heritage Green area. All lectures last one hour.

March 16

"Women and U.S. Politics: Understanding the Political Glass Ceiling"

Dr. Liz Smith, Professor of Political Science, Furman University

In a democracy that is over 200 years old, the candidacy of Hillary Clinton represents the possibility of a historic first—a female president of the United States of America. Today, women constitute 19.3% of the U.S. House of Representatives and 20% of the Senate, putting the U.S. in 94th place in the world in terms of women's representation in the national legislature. How do we explain the slow march of women into politics? Does it matter that so few women hold office? What are the prospects for the future in terms of breaking that political glass ceiling?

March 23

"Schools and Inequality, Revisited"

Dr. Joseph J. Merry, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Furman University

What is the relationship between the education system and broader inequalities in society? Do schools reproduce existing inequalities or can we view them as the 'Great Equalizer'? The answers to these questions have profound implications for how we think about education reform and how to best serve students in our nation's schools. Dr. Merry will discuss a growing body of evidence that suggests we ought to rethink many of our traditional assumptions about schools.

March 30

"Oops. How to Undo a Campaign in 30 Seconds or Less"

Dr. Danielle Vinson, Professor of Political Science,

Furman University

Recent history is littered with candidates whose political campaigns have been undone by an unguarded comment, unfortunate debate moment, or a bad campaign ad. We'll look at some of the most memorable mishaps and attempt to understand why some comments and campaign decisions have wrecked campaigns while other candidates like Donald Trump seem to be able to say or do anything without slowing their momentum.

April 6

"Retirement: More than Money, Much More"

Dr. Jack Hansen, Author, *Shaping a Life of Significance for Retirement*

What gives satisfaction and fulfillment once we leave full-time career pursuits behind? Is it simply a matter of adequate financial resources? Dr. Hansen, a member of Furman's OLLI program and a former NASA executive, will offer a very different perspective, growing out of extensive, in-depth interviews he has conducted with retired men and women from all parts of the U.S. What emerges is the importance of preparing for and living into the personal and relational dimensions of this new phase of life.

April 13

"What We Remember, What We Forget: Why Southern History Matters Today"

Dr. Steve O'Neill, Professor of History, Furman University

The recent controversies over the Confederate flag and Benjamin Tillman Hall at Clemson University remind us that symbols esteemed in our past sometimes jump forth to haunt our present. And that raises some fundamental questions. What, if anything, do people in the present owe to their past? Are reparations for misdeeds—or even crimes—by one group against another ever warranted? What about official apologies or the toppling of statues? Is it better just to forget the past in an effort to start anew? Dr. O'Neill will address those questions and examine how each generation remembers its past, using Southern and South Carolina history as a guide. For more information, contact Furman's Marketing and Public Relations office at 864-294-3107 or vince.moore@furman.edu. The spring schedule is also online at <http://bit.ly/1VP9QA3>

Follow Fedalei

Chris Fedalei, a South Carolina attorney from Spartanburg and candidate for the 4th District Congressional seat has scheduled events you may want to attend.

March 21:

- Spartanburg Democrats County Convention: 6:00-7:00pm
Spartanburg Community College
107 Community College Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29303

March 29:

- Meet and Greet at Swamp Rabbit Brewery: 5:00, 7:00pm
Swamp Rabbit Brewery & Taproom,
26 S Main St
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

The website, votefedalei.com, and his Facebook page, "Fedalei For Congress", also promote upcoming events and general information about Chris. Visit VoteFedalei.com to donate, volunteer, or find out more.

Please email info@fedaleiforcongress.com with any questions.



CONVENTION '16

HILTON GARDEN INN | APRIL 16, 2016 | AIKEN, SC

The Young Democrats of South Carolina will hold its 2016 State Convention on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the Hilton Garden Inn (350 Eastgate Drive, Aiken, SC). The convention will elect a state President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer to serve a two-year term ending on July 1, 2018.

REGISTRATION

Registration is now live at <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/2016ydsc> and tickets are \$20.00. The registration period will end on April 14, 2016.

On-Site Registration on April 16 will be \$25.00.

ELECTIONS

YDSC will hold Executive Board Elections on April 16. The offices being elected are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you intend to run for these offices, you must file for office by filling out the required form. Because the office of YDSC President is a YDA Provisioned Office--and the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are its line of succession--all candidates must be under the age of

36. Under our own Constitution, all candidates must also be active members of YDSC--defined as members actively involved with YDSC or its Regional Chapters.

You can check out the duties of each office at <http://www.youngdemssc.org/ysc-constitution.html>.

All prospective candidates must submit their filing forms by April 1, 2016 at 5:00 PM, and the candidates will be formally announced on April 2. There will be no nominations from the convention floor.

All updates on the Convention will be at youngdemssc.org/convention-16. We hope you'll be able to join us in Aiken!

Bryanta Maxwell
YDSC President
president@youngdemssc.org

Jeni Atchley
YDSC Secretary
secretary@youngdemssc.org

State News & Events

WANT TO BE A
delegate
TO THE
**DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL
CONVENTION?**

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who voted in the First in the South Democratic Primary! You've completed the first step in the process of running to be a Delegate to the National Democratic Convention this summer in Philadelphia... but there's more!

The *second* step was to attend your precinct reorganization meeting on March 12th at 10:00am and get elected as a delegate or alternate to your county convention.

The third step is to attend your county convention and get elected as a delegate or alternate to the state convention. The dates, times, and locations for county conventions can be found on our website. If you have other questions, contact your county party chair. (<http://scdp.org/precinct-and-county-information/>)

After being elected as a delegate or alternate to the state convention, the *fourth* step is filing a notice of candidacy form with SCDP by 5:00pm on April 4th, found at <http://scdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Delegate-Filing-Form.pdf>.

Finally, the fifth step is attending the SCDP state

convention on April 30th in Columbia and being elected as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention, either as a District Delegate (35), a Pledged Party Leader or Elected Official Delegate (7), an At-Large Delegate (11) or an At-Large Alternate (4).

In all total, Secretary Clinton won **39** total delegates and Senator Sanders won **14**.

(Neither Governor O'Malley nor Dr. Wilson were awarded any share of delegates.) Go to

<http://www.pdf.investintech.com/preview/c69dee6a-e499-11e5-9555-002590d31986/index.html> to find a chart that outlines how Congressional District, PLEO, and At-Large delegate shares were awarded and how many delegates from each category will be elected at the State Convention on April 30th.

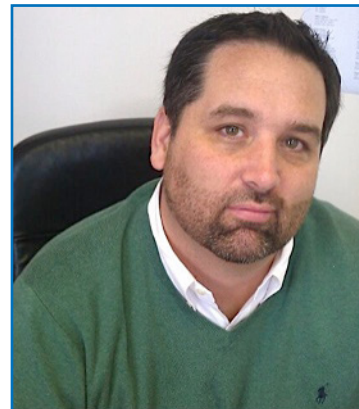
We recommend reviewing the Delegate Selection Plan summary at <http://scdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2016-Summary-of-SCDP-Del-Sel-Plan..-3.pdf> and also taking a look at the full Delegate Selection Plan on our website (<http://scdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SCDP-Delegate--Selection-Plan-8.27.15...pdf>.) If you have any questions, please call 803-799-7798.

Sincerely,

Jason Perkey

Executive Director, South Carolina Democratic Party

Excerpted in part from an SCDP email



Jason Perkey

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 F. 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.