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## We Are Stronger Together, by Kate Franch

“Show me what DEMOCRACY looks like”... “THIS is what democracy looks like!” is by far my favorite call and response chant from the January 21, 2017 Women’s March on Washington. On that Saturday, millions across the world came together – in numbers no one anticipated – to affirm and protect the dignity and rights of all people and to reject the rhetoric and policies of the new president’s administration. We expressed our intention to participate fully in our system of governance. The Women’s March and its sister marches and rallies provided visible proof, in no uncertain terms, of the breadth of the resistance to all that Donald Trump represents and promulgates.



That was not a solo event by any means. Rallies and demonstrations have been taking place at an inspiring pace since the November 8 election. Americans are contacting their elected representatives in record numbers to register their opinions on impending votes and policy. But the ultimately huge scale of the March captured global attention that has not withered. The energy and momentum it encapsulated have only multiplied in the ensuing weeks. The challenge now is to focus that energy for the long term – to persist in the resistance AND to create the change that will ensure the just, inclusive, compassionate, equal-opportunity-for-all community, state, and country we seek.

One offshoot of the March is the 10 Actions / 100 Days campaign. The first action sent thousands of postcards to legislators at all levels of government. The second action was a call to Huddle – to gather together in our neighborhoods to harness the momentum we’ve emanated into action that will transform. The GCDP Goes to Washington group huddled on February 4 – 50+ of us in the Pleasant Valley Teen Center – and agreed on five first round activities on which to focus: join/host a Tax Day March on April 15 or the March for Jobs, Justice, and the Climate on April 29; form a rapid response team (to plan local rallies, protests, civic campaigns); visit with groups and neighborhoods outside of our own circle; engage in community action projects; and delve deeply into one topic and share the knowledge with others.

Another very welcome outcome of the momentum we’re experiencing is the number of people reaching out to engage with the Democratic Party. Thank you for finding us! With you in our corner, we will build a vibrant political organization to effectively engage the Greenville County community and elect progressive public servants. Toward that end, the GCDP is working to strengthen our infrastructure and welcomes some new faces to the management team: **Karen Hahn** – Office Coordinator; **Vera Stang** – *The Bray* Production and Layout; **Nadia Land-Greene** Volunteer Coordinator; **Katy Lentz** – Political Action Coordinator; **Jarrod Wiggins** – Communications Coordinator.

Our goal is to have a place for everyone who wants to participate – every voice and every hand is needed for the work ahead. Join us!

We are Stronger Together!



- Offering information, links and updates
- Inviting involvement and action

I find myself spending a lot of time ferreting out local information. Does the recycling center take fluorescent light bulbs? Who do I talk to about getting a traffic light up at a dangerous intersection? When does the school board meet? Who is my county council person? When is the free shred documents event? And I imagine that others have similar questions.

Greenville! Let's Connect! is my way of providing information of civic and community interest. I will post information about council meetings, recycling events, and "who to contact for" information. In addition, I will "spotlight" local non-profits who are offering programs and services to the community. And this will be a politics free zone.

You'll receive regular emails....usually once a week....with a short message and a link to "more information." Greenville already does a good job of posting foodie and entertainment events so I will not be emailing you about those.

If you might be interested in subscribing, please sign up at [www.GreenvilleLetsConnect.com](http://www.GreenvilleLetsConnect.com). Please let me know via message if you have information that needs to be shared!

Wanda Meade

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## BLUE PALMETTO DINNER

South Carolina Democrats:

We are pleased to announce that the State Executive Committee, at their meeting earlier this week, approved the recommendation of the committee to rename our annual fundraising dinner. The dinner will now be known as the **Blue Palmetto Dinner**. The first Blue Palmetto Dinner will take place Friday, April 28, 2017. Further details will be forthcoming.

We thank the members of the committee, which solicited input from throughout the state to help them decide on their recommendation: Co-Chairs Rep. Walt McLeod and Bryanta Maxwell, Rep. Terry Alexander, Sen. Margie Bright Matthews, Rep. James Smith, Melissa Watson, E. Tim Moore, Mayor Terrence Culbreath, Kate Franch, Jim Thompson, Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Sally P. Howard, and Chris Fedalei.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Blue Palmetto Dinner!

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**Linda Neely...**

The GCDP wishes to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Linda Neely for her years of unselfish service. Linda has been our office manager, managed the website and email operations, and supported production of *The Bray* as a photographer, writer, graphic artist, and editor in addition to overseeing layout and mailing. Her work has always been professional and reliable. We will miss her insight and sense of style, but wish her the very best as she very deservedly claims time for herself. Thank you, Linda!

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## 2017 General Election Filing Deadlines for Municipal Offices of the City Council & Greenville Water System

### City of Greenville, South Carolina

- Beginning date for filing statements of intention of candidacy with political parties for nominations by convention or primary: Twelve o'clock noon, Thursday, March 16
- Closing date for filing statements of intention of candidacy with political parties for nominations by convention or primary: Twelve o'clock noon, Thursday, March 30
- Party Conventions, if party nomination by convention: Week of June 12
- Party nomination by primary: Tuesday, June 13
- Primary runoffs, if necessary: Each two weeks successively thereafter
- Published Notice by City of General Election: Friday, September 8
- Closing date for petition candidates to file petitions with the Municipal Election Commission: Twelve o'clock noon, Thursday, August 24
- Last date for the Municipal Election Commission to validate petitions of petition candidates: Twelve o'clock noon, Friday, September 8
- Closing date for parties to file certification of party nominees with Municipal Election Commission: Twelve o'clock noon, Friday, September 8
- Election Day: Tuesday, November 7

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 and of filing for election will result in disqualification.

The above stated 2017 City of Greenville General Election Filing Deadlines for Municipal Offices of the city of Greenville and the Commissioners of Public Works which was approved by the Municipal Election Commission on Friday, February.

The city of Greenville conducts partisan elections. Municipal seats open for 2017 are District 2, currently held by Lillian Flemming, District 4, currently held by David Sudduth, and At-Large, currently held by Gaye Sprague.

One seat with the Commissioners of Public Works is open for 2017, currently held by Phillip Kilgore.

A Statement of Intention of Candidacy will be accepted at the Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections Office at Greenville County Square, 301 University Ridge Suite 1900, along with the appropriate filing fees which should be written to the candidate's affiliated political party in the following amount:

\$470.91 City Council

\$100.00 Commissioner of Public Works

Primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13. General election, if required, is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7.

For more information regarding the city of Greenville's General Election go to <http://www.greenvillesc.gov/488/Elections> or contact the City Clerk's Office at 864-467-4431 or [cpitman@greenvillesc.gov](mailto:cpitman@greenvillesc.gov).



WREN

Women's Rights &  
Empowerment Network

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 3-4, 2017  
Columbia Marriott  
1200 Hampton Street

WREN Summit:  
Women in the Workforce

Speakers Include:

Lauren Leader-Chivee, Author of Crossing the Thinnest Line  
Elizabeth Colbert-Busch, Clemson University  
Joseph C. Von Nessen, Moore School of Business  
Mary Beth Westmoreland, Blackbaud

## You Are Not Alone, by Roxanne Cordonier

Sometimes what seems like the worst thing that could happen turns out to be the best thing.

On January 21st, I rallied in Washington D.C. with half a million other women and men from across the country, meanwhile women's rights rallies took place in Greenville, SC, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Berlin, Paris and on and on and on. Millions of women, children and like minded men rallied to resist the principles and policies espoused by our new President Donald Trump. Millions of people felt hurt and angry enough about the results of this election and the threats this administration poses to the rights of women, immigrants, minorities, the LGBT community and so many others. They traveled thousands of miles to stand in the cold and put their feelings and their principles into action. The sheer numbers of women and men made it impossible to actually see the program unfolding on the stage but that wasn't the point. The point was your physical presence at the event. Coming together with so many people who feel the way I do was like a balm to my soul. The hurt and anger over the election results and the rhetoric espoused by Trump during the contest were soothed by the communion of souls on Saturday. I was struck by the solidarity and love expressed by all the people that surrounded me at the rally. People who were making their way through the throng said 'excuse me' or 'sorry' when they bumped into someone, people created a path for those in wheelchairs or walkers, those feeling faint were helped to the sidelines, food was shared and everywhere you went strangers and friends were talking politics. Some were bitching and complaining about the election others were plotting strategy or forming alliances. All in all it was an amazing experience. The array of signs and their individual creativity and humor were inspirational and entertaining. Some were profane, others laugh out loud funny, some were adorned with stickers, American Flags, drawings, cartoons, the mind boggles. The ubiquity of the pink "pussy" hats was also amazing. Most of the hats were hand knitted or sewn and distributed online or through friends. One thing that's clear, Donald Trump has served as a catalyst to reclaim the word pussy and to activate liberals and progressives.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FORMER  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
NICK  
THEODORE  
ROAST**

SIGNATURE SPONSOR  **SPONSOR** 

**SUNDAY, MARCH 5  
2 SEATINGS: 4 PM & 6 PM**

MUSIC BY SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT GUESTS  
DINNER INCLUDED

**BLUES BOULEVARD JAZZ**

300 RIVER ST., STE 203, GREENVILLE, SC 29601

Visit [www.BluesBoulevardJazzGreenville.com](http://www.BluesBoulevardJazzGreenville.com) for tickets

Continued from previous column...

Watching the amazing wall to wall coverage on the major networks of the rallies was gratifying, there was no minimization or watering down the events because the visuals were so impactful and the commentators recognized the massive turnout. There was a sense of wonder and amazement at the size of the crowds and the participants that were interviewed were articulate, empathetic and encouraging.

As a lifelong organizer and volunteer I was awestruck by the organizational skills on display at these marches from Greenville County Democratic Party organizer extraordinaire Kaye Martell to the homegrown organizers of the Women's March: Teresa Shook, Bob Bland, Evvie Harmon, Fontaine Pearson, Breanne Butler and others. <https://www.womensmarch.com/> The event grew from 40 women in one city to a worldwide movement, inspiring similar marches in all 50 states and 32 countries in less than one month.



## New Bills in the House and Senate Last Week

Lawmakers introduced 106 new bills in the House and Senate over the last week including companion bills that seek to thwart neighbors from filing “nuisance suits” against nearby manufacturers or industrial facilities.

In the Senate, Sen. Nikki Setzler (D-Lexington) is seeking a measure to have an independent commission to conduct redistricting of House, Senate and congressional districts every 10 years – a move that attempts to remove some of the political gerrymandering that has gone on for years.

In the House are three bills that will get some attention – a measure by Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (D-Orangeburg) to pay women the same as men and another measure by Rep. John King (D-York) to ensure that Confederate flags aren’t displayed in public buildings other than museums. State Rep. Beth Bernstein (D-Richland) introduced a measure making “revenge porn” illegal. (We’ll let you read that bill.)

Substantive bills introduced since Tuesday include:

### IN THE SENATE

**Recreational vehicles.** [S. 321](#) (Verdin) seeks to revise definitions of terms related to recreational vehicles and change state law related to travel trailers.

**Nuisance suits.** [S. 323](#) (Campbell) would change state law related by making it tougher for neighbors to sue manufacturing and industrial facilities for nuisance-related issues. [H. 3653](#) (Forrester) is similar

**Baseball booze.** [S. 334](#) (Senn) seeks a change in state law to allow sale of alcoholic liquor by the drink at baseball complexes, with a definition and other terms.

**Promise Scholarship.** [S. 339](#) (Hutto) seeks to enact a Promise Scholarship program, with several provisions.

**Poet laureate.** [S. 340](#) (Sheheen) seeks to provide the S.C. Arts Commission with the power to make recommendations for a state poet laureate, and to set terms.

**Redistricting.** [S. 341](#) (Setzler) seeks a constitutional amendment to allow for an independent commission to deal with reapportionment required every 10 years, with several provisions.

**Nursing changes.** [S. 345](#) (Davis) seeks addition and changes to state law to allow certain nursing professionals to provide non-controlled prescription drugs and codify various roles for nurse professionals, midwives and practitioners, with many provisions.

**Affordable housing.** [S. 346](#) (Kimpson) seeks a new law to allow counties and municipalities to use “inclusionary zoning strategies” to boost availability of affordable housing.

**Procurement.** [S. 352](#) (Massey) seeks to move the Procurement Services division of the state to the Department of Administration, with several provisions.

### IN THE HOUSE

**Equal pay.** [H. 3599](#) (Cobb-Hunter) seeks to enact the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act to prohibit paying different levels of wages based on someone’s sex, with several provisions.

**Confederate flag.** [H. 3605](#) (King) seeks to prohibit any confederate flag from being displayed in any public building, other than a museum.

**Regulatory review.** [H. 3614](#) (Atwater) seeks a law to require the state to perform a cost-benefit analysis of proposed regulations, with many provisions including times when such an analysis would not be needed..

**King Day.** [H. 3618](#) (Atwater) seeks to require school districts to recognize Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Memorial Day as holidays for which schools must close.

**Revenge porn.** [H. 3641](#) (Bernstein) would create the offense of unlawful dissemination of sexually explicit materials without the consent of the person depicted, with penalties.

**Anti-Semitism.** [H. 3643](#) (Clemmons) seeks a law defining certain terms concerning anti-Semitism to help colleges when investigating whether there’s been a discriminatory practice, with several other provisions.

**Thank you, Yellow Dog Contributors!** Be a part of the Club...the Greenville County Yellow Dog Club, that is. Gold Yellow Dog is a Contribution of \$1,000 or more in year 2017; Silver Yellow Dog is a Contribution of \$500 to \$999; Bronze Yellow Dog is a Contribution of \$250 to \$499.

**Listed below are contributors for 2016 in their category:**

**Gold:** Peggy Baxter, Harry Chapman, Ingrid Erwin, Joe Erwin, Ann Funderburk, Eric & Helen Graben, Dr. Bruce & Edwina Snyder, Michael & Susan Riordan, Frank & Ann Holleman, Surendra & Neelima Jain, Democratic Women of Greenville County, Ray Lattimore, Susanne Coe

**Bronze:** Richard Riley, Roxanne Cordonier, Chandra Dillard, Bill Byars, Leah Garrett, Gwen Kennedy, Edith Chou.

Yellow Dog Contributors are our heroes...and sheroes. They keep the Greenville County Democratic Party Headquarters open and running. They fund our efforts to get Democrats elected at the local, state and national level. We couldn't do it without them! Please mail your Club Membership to GCDP Headquarters, Attention: Anita LeBold/Treasurer, 1300-J Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29607. You can call or email with questions at 864-325-8540 or [anitalebold@hotmail.com](mailto:anitalebold@hotmail.com).

Thank you to the list below that have contributed since the publication of the January Bray:

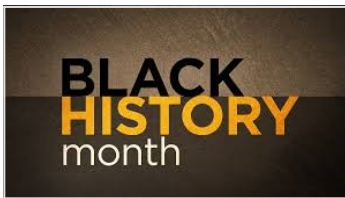
Susan Aboul-Nasr, Claudia Beckwith, Sharon and Maurice Cherry, Allan Jenkins, Sharon Klompus (in honor of all the January 21st Marchers), Mary McCarthy, Kathryn McElveen, Lori Malvern, Joe and Elaine Norwood.

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**Save The Date, April 2, 2017**

Strength in Unity Banquet in Honor of The Honorable Lottie Beal Gibson. Details to be forthcoming

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Black History Program @ St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 31 Allendale Lane, Greenville, SC 29607

Keynote speaker; Dr. Cedric Adderley, President of SC Governor's School for the Arts. Feb. 25th @ 2pm

Admission is free - all are welcome.

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**The Homeless Period Project:** If you would like more information on helping the women and girls in your community, please contact us via email, [homelessperiodproject@gmail.com](mailto:homelessperiodproject@gmail.com) or by phone 864-915-8361. What Supplies to donate? Super Absorbent pads, Tampons, Panty Liners, Feminine wipes.

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