

THE BRAY

the voice of the GC DP GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



Organizers gather in support of DREAMers read more on page 3

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A Note from the County Chair

BY KATE FRANCH

Fellow Democrats,

I shared this story at the August breakfast...when my husband asked me ten years ago to consider moving to Greenville, my response was that I'd have to do a little research before I could definitively answer. One aspect I subsequently examined was county and city levels of government. And I was totally intrigued by the fact that Greenville City Council, at the time, was majority women (5:2) and the majority of them were Democrats (4:1)!

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A Note from the County Chair

(continued from page 1)

Greenville County Council was a different story altogether; nevertheless it was clear then that female and Democratic leadership was valued and was at the helm of shaping the vision and policies that have made the City a model for public/private partnership and revitalization. Gender and political party ratios have shifted during the intervening years and, this year, two of the three City Council seats held by Democrats are on the ballot. With Greenville now facing issues of rampant growth and income and access inequality, it is IMPERATIVE that incumbent Councilwoman Lillian Brock Flemming and At-Large candidate Russell Stall win on November 7. Their voices for balanced growth, economic opportunity, and equity for all must prevail. In addition, Dexter Reaves is running for the Greer City Council District 6 seat. While that race is nonpartisan, Dexter will bring strong Democratic Party values to his service in his community. Equally as important, since this is the first election for the GCDP since last November, it is to some degree a referendum on our ability to mobilize the electorate and a precursor to the 2018 election cycle. That means that every one of us must participate in some form or fashion to secure victory. There are a variety of ways in which to be involved, so please read through this list, select one (or two or three), and let us know at Headquarters what you will do to ensure that the cities of Greenville and Greer move forward smartly and intentionally with the needs and dreams of all residents represented:

- **Phone bank between now and November**
 - The campaigns have regular phone banking opportunities through which likely voters are identified and engaged to prepare for getting out the vote (GOTV); call lists and scripts are provided
- **Canvass neighborhoods between now and November**
 - The campaigns also hold regular canvassing opportunities through which likely voters are identified and engaged to prepare for GOTV; training with maps and scripts is provided
- **Deliver yard signs and campaign materials or help with campaign meet & greets and community events**
- **Drive voters to the polls**
 - We'll do this during the absentee voting period expected to run weekdays from October 9 to November
 - We'll also need drivers on Election Day, November 7 between 7am and 7pm

Calendar of Events

October

- 02** Phone Bank for Lillian Brock Fleming- Democratic Party HQ, Every Monday/Thursday- 5:30pm
- 12** NAACP State Convention Opening Convocation Fuller Normal Industrial Institute -7 pm
- 28** GCDP Monthly Breakfast Meeting Upstate Circle of Friends- 8:30 am

Weekly Events

- Drinking Liberally meets every **Thursday** at The Velo Fellow- 1 Augusta St #126, Greenville, SC 29601 - 6 pm.
- Tell Them Tuesdays are held each **Tuesday at Noon** in front of Sen. Lindsay Graham's office- 130 S. Main St, Greenville, SC.
- **Be a poll watcher on Election Day - protect the voting process and monitor activity at a polling location on behalf of the GCDP; training provided**
- **Donate refreshments for campaign volunteers and on Election Day**
- **Donate \$ to the GCDP for the resources needed for campaign and election support**

Contact us by phone: 864-232-5531, email: headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com or via the website: greenvilledemocrats.com; or drop by/mail the office: 1300-J E. Washington street, Greenville, SC 29607

Together we will win this!

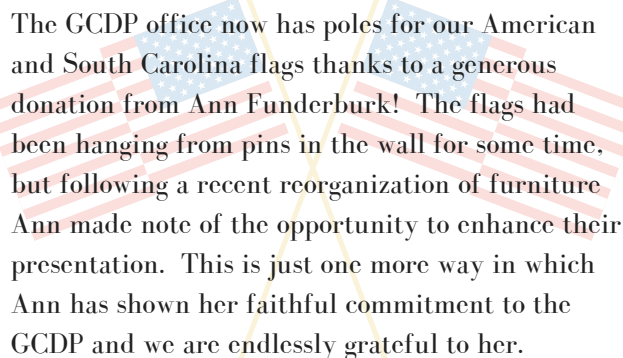
Looking forward to seeing you on the campaign trail.

Kate

Stall Campaign Seeks Volunteers



The Stall campaign seeks volunteers for weeknights and canvassing each weekend until November. To volunteer, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Brendon Lee, at brendon1999@gmail.com to sign up. Yard signs and bumper stickers are available during office hours at the Democratic Headquarters.



The GCDP office now has poles for our American and South Carolina flags thanks to a generous donation from Ann Funderburk! The flags had been hanging from pins in the wall for some time, but following a recent reorganization of furniture Ann made note of the opportunity to enhance their presentation. This is just one more way in which Ann has shown her faithful commitment to the GCDP and we are endlessly grateful to her.

Calendar of Events

November

07

Greenville County Municipal & Citizen Elected Board Elections

18

GCDP Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Upstate Circle of Friends- 8:30 am

Weekly Events

- Drinking Liberally meets every **Thursday** at The Velo Fellow- 1 Augusta St #126, Greenville, SC 29601 - 6 pm.
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REMINDER: No December Breakfast

Dreamers Among Us

By Jalen Elrod

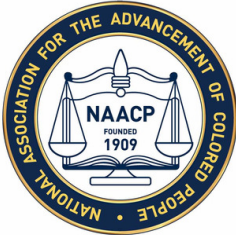
On September 5, a vigil was held in downtown Greenville for those affected by President Trump's decision to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). There are over 7,000 undocumented minors in South Carolina. The Vigil for DREAMers was one of the most inspiring events I've ever been to in my life. The stories of the young immigrants and their faith in the American Dream truly shows what is great about our nation. In the face of this President's blatant xenophobia, they showed the hope and courage that define the American people. Moving forward, it is incumbent upon us as a party and a nation to continue the fight for immigration reform and ensure our young immigrants can stay in the land they have always called home.



Courtesy of The Greenville News

Greenville NAACP to Host State Convention

The Greenville Branch of the NAACP is host branch for this year's annual convention of the SC State Conference of Branches. Leadership from the national and state offices of the NAACP and delegates from branches across the state will be in Greenville from October 11 through October 15. The convention convocation, which is open to the public, will take place on Thursday, October 12 at 7pm at the Fuller Normal Industrial Institute, 901 Anderson Road, Greenville 29601. Please make plans to attend.



Check the SC State Conference website: scnaacp.org for further information regarding tickets to convention sessions and banquets taking place October 13 through 15 at the Hilton Greenville, 45 West Orchard Park Drive, Greenville 29615.

September Breakfast Speaker Addressed Ongoing Healthcare Debate

Our featured speaker for the September 23rd breakfast was Dr. Bruce Snyder with the Greenville Hospital System. He is a vascular surgeon with over 40 years of experience, recently honored with the Order of the Palmetto and named as the 2016 South Carolina Medical Association Physician of the Year. He has served as the chairman for the Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina and was instrumental in the formation of the statewide Childhood Obesity Taskforce. He was involved with ScaleDown South Carolina, the state's obesity prevention plan and led the effort to encourage health care organizations to remove sugary drinks from their campuses.

Campaign to Elect Hosea Cleveland Hosts September Events



September 26, 2017: 10th Annual Darnell-Drummond Dinner, sponsored by the Greenwood County Democratic Party. The event will be held at The Inn On The Square, 104 Court Avenue, Greenwood, SC. (6:00PM)

September 28, 2017: Oconee County Voter Registration at Norton Thompson Park, Main Street, Seneca, SC. (4:00-6:30PM)

Email ClevelandForCongress@gmail.com for volunteer opportunities.



@clevforcongress

Democratic Women of Greenville County

Cordially invite you to a dinner celebrating

Their 50th Anniversary

And honoring the Founding Members

Thursday, October 5, 2017

6:30-9:00 pm

The Poinsett Club

807 E. Washington Street

Greenville, SC 29601

Appropriate dress is considered:
Cocktail attire for women, jacket and tie for men

Please R.S.V.P.

Democratic Women's 50th Anniversary
Democratic Women of Greenville County
1300-J East Washington Street
Greenville, SC 29607

Summer Interns Make Lasting Impact

If you happened to stop by the GCDP office this summer, chances were high that you ran into one of the many interns working with us between June and August. They worked on a myriad of projects including the Archie Parnell and Jon Ossoff special election races, Planned Parenthood phone banks, Lillian Brock Flemming's and Russell Stall's Greenville City Council campaigns, voter registration and data entry, the Resistance Summer effort, inventories and scheduling, and general office support.

The experience was mutually beneficial - not only did an upcoming generation of Democrats learn firsthand about party structure and running for office, but this eager band of hands and voices worked steadily and constructively on behalf of the GCDP, the SCDP, and our candidates. Two interns joined us from Furman University: Kathleen Smith and Evan Horst. The others were members of our newly formed High School Democrats group.



The summer intern program was the brainchild of Ben Ragan, who served as the intern coordinator for the summer and was president of the Greenville High School Democrats, and Henry Lear, now the president of South Carolina Teen Democrats. They were joined by: Rita Ni, Riya Misal, Lindsay Ackerman, Camila Torres, Rund Abdelnabi, Jessica Ni, Amber Magnuson, Xavier Adomatis, Haseeba Karim, Corinne Vicario, Allison Watts, Jack Markowitz, Ethan Magnuson, Mytekiauna Fuller, Josh Woo, Brendon Lee, and Trey Walk. Russell Stall shared the story with them that he was inspired to run for public office when he served as youth coordinator for Max Heller's mayoral race. We're already seeing the leadership potential blossom not only with Henry's new role at the state level, but Corinne is the current president of the Greenville High School Democrats Council and Josh is communications director for the SC Teen Democrats. If the effort and enthusiasm of the interns this summer is any indication of what's to come, the future of the Democratic Party is indeed bright!

Governor Protects Richard Quinn and Associates Instead of Rate Payers

COLUMBIA, SC --

Chairman of the South Carolina Democratic Party Trav Robertson called on Henry McMaster or his staff to disclose any knowledge of the relationship between the executive director of the Office of Regulatory Staff Dukes Scott, Richard Quinn, Richard Quinn's son-in-law, and the Governor's office. The Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") at the Public Service Commission has been leading the push for the V.C. Summer plant since the beginning. Our lawmakers trust their expert advice on complicated regulatory and technical matters. They repeatedly recommended rate hikes to the Legislature for approval, which have now totaled over \$1.4 billion. Despite a clear call from House Speaker Jay Lucas and other members of the General Assembly for the resignation of ORS Director Dukes Scott, Henry McMaster's refusal to accept his resignation demonstrates that accountability is not the main objective of the Governor's office. The Governor and his staff have once again moved to protect an ally of the Quinns. At ORS, Dukes Scott hired Richard Quinn's son-in-law, who has since moved to Willoughby & Hoefer, a firm closely connected to Attorney General Alan Wilson. These events and relationships do not appear to be a coincidence. "Henry McMaster has placed the cost of a failed business scheme on the backs of ratepayers to protect the friends of his consultants. This is one of the largest bailouts in the history of South Carolina."

The Quinnndom Begins to Unravel

By Roxanne Walker

In the summer of 1990, South Carolina's ongoing problem with political corruption drew national attention when the FBI revealed an undercover investigation named Operation Lost Trust. When indictments were handed down the Statehouse sting ensnared dozens of lobbyists and lawmakers. Operation Lost Trust ended with 27 guilty pleas and convictions, 17 of them from state legislators. Decades later political corruption at the SC state capitol continues unabated. The latest charges stem from a 2013 SLED investigation that centered on the messy campaign spending practices of long time House Majority leader Bobby Harrell. In the fall of 2014, Harrell pleaded guilty to misconduct in office and resigned. He admitted using his campaign funds for personal expenses. Harrell also began cooperating with special prosecutor David Pascoe. The probe has been slowed by Attorney General Alan Wilson, who stepped away from Harrell's prosecution and appointed special prosecutor David Pascoe. When Pascoe turned his attention to long time political consultant Richard Quinn, Wilson tried to have him removed and repeatedly disparaged him in public. The SC Supreme Court finally upheld Pascoe's appointment and the investigation continued. Richard Quinn and his son Rick Quinn are long time political operatives in Columbia, the State newspaper refers to their business as the "Quinnndom."

Columbia based Richard Quinn and associates has a vast network of clients including the University of SC, Attorney General Alan Wilson, state treasurer Curtis Loftis, Senator Lindsey Graham, US Rep. Joe Wilson (Alan Wilson's father), and our current governor, Henry McMaster. Richard Quinn Senior serves as the political consultant while his son state Representative Rick Quinn handles the clients' direct mail and marketing. Indicted state Senator John Courson's case provides a case study into the Quinn corruption scheme. Courson a 72 year old Columbia Republican, is accused of funnelling \$250,000 into Quinn's consulting firm and getting \$133,00 back for his personal use. The crux of the scam is this, since South Carolina is totally dominated by Republicans, once they win their seats they still raise money like it's a hotly contested race.

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Quinnndom

(Continued from page 6)

They funnel the money to the Quinns for “consulting” work and direct mail, the Quinns charge far less for the work, if it’s performed at all and hand the money back to their clients. Courson has been in the state senate since 1985, so one can assume he has a safe seat. Pascoe claims 54% of the money Courson paid into the Quinn’s firm was kicked back to him personally. Since 2009 Courson has paid Quinn \$533,000 for consulting and campaign work. Richard Quinn’s long term relationships with Governor McMaster, Attorney General Alan Wilson and Senate Majority leader Hugh Leatherman could possibly ensnare them as well as other top ranking state legislators. Rep. Jim Merrill who was named in the 2013 SLED report, recently pleaded guilty to a misconduct charge and has been removed from office. Merrill has also agreed to continue cooperating with Pascoe. This investigation is far from over and now that it’s focused on the Quinns and their clients, it’s picking up speed. Stay tuned, this is the best soap opera in South Carolina.

Money is the Mother's Milk of Politics

Following the losses of the Presidential Election last November, we’ve seen an awakening of the Greenville County Democratic Party like never before. Our monthly meetings have seen attendance increases of **500%**, our email lists have grown and are allowing us to reach thousands more Democrats in the Upstate, and our programming has seen an increase in attendance and press coverage.

But that isn't enough. **We need to win elections and get more Democrats into public office** - leaders who fight for our cause and give us allies to work with. We'll be honest, our ability to elect more Democrats needs your help. While we're the most organized we've ever been and we have a plan to get our organization on track, it just isn't enough.

We need to raise funds (and quickly) to ensure that we have the infrastructure in place to elect Lillian Brock Flemming and Russell Stall to the Greenville City Council and Dexter Reaves to the Greer City Council. Then, our attention can turn to 2018 and competing in the critical Local, Congressional, State Senate, State House, and SC Governor's and other Statewide races.

Our goal is to raise **\$10,000 by October 30, 2017**. This will cover our operating expenses through the beginning of 2018 and allow us to focus on managing volunteers, recruiting quality candidates, operating phone banks and canvasses, and hosting events for local candidates.

Every gift, no matter the size, contributes to our success. If you prefer to mail a donation, please address it to GCDP, 1300-J East Washington Street, Greenville SC 29607, Attn: Treasurer.

Help us to achieve our goal and get on track to shake the local political establishment this November, during next year, in 2020, and in every election so that we have the chance to elect Democrats who will fight for our ideals and our values - right alongside us.

Ready to WIN!
Your GCDP Leadership

PARTY LEADERSHIP

KATE FRANCH

Greenville County Chair

DEXTER L. REAVES

1st Vice Chair

GRADY PATTERSON

2nd Vice Chair

WHITNEY WRIGHT

3rd Vice Chair

GAYBRIEL GIBSON

Secretary

ANITA LEBOLD

Treasurer

CHRISTOPHER SHIPMAN

State Executive

Committee Delegate

INGRID ERWIN

State Executive

Committee Delegate

ROXANNE CORDONIER

State Executive

Committee Alternate

MICHAEL MCCORD

State Executive

Committee Alternate

JAKE ERWIN

Voter Protection Chair

JARROD WIGGINS

Communications Chair



Organizers gather for weekly demonstration.

The work of the Greenville County Democratic Party is made possible by the contributions of donors like:

PAULA CATTERALL

EDITH CHOU

DOROTHY DOWE

LORIANNE FORD

ERIC AND HELEN GRABEN

NICOLETTE GRUMBINE

KINARD JOHNSON

JENNIFER KNOX

MARY MCCARTHY

AMANDA SCOTT

JOHN SHIPMAN

Thank you.

You might have noticed that the Bray has undergone a number of style changes during the past year as we have explored layout and production options. I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the folks who have worked to bring the newsletter to you during that time: Linda Neely, Vera and Michael Stang, Roxanne Cordonier, Ann Funderburk, Karen Hahn, Jarrod Wiggins, Saleem Shabazz, Kathleen Smith, and Courtney Thomas. Getting GCDP news to you really does take a village and they have worked diligently to make it happen. Please express your appreciation the next time you run into one of them. Kate

Connect with us

GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1300 E. WASHINGTON ST. #J

(864) 232-5531

[HTTPS://GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/)



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