

PARTY LEADERSHIP

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Dexter Reaves
1st Vice Chair

Grady Patterson
2nd Vice Chair

Whitney Wright
3rd Vice Chair

Gaye Gibson
Secretary

Anita LeBold
Treasurer

Christopher Shipman
State Executive
Committee Delegate

Ingrid Erwin
State Executive
Committee Delegate

Roxanne Cordonier
State Executive
Committee Alternate

Greenville County Democratic Convention

by Kate Franch

On Monday, March 28, Chair Eric Graben called his final Greenville County Democratic Party Convention to order shortly after 6 pm with precinct delegates and alternates, candidates, and guests in attendance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Eric explained that he wanted to demonstrate the broad and inclusive nature of the Democratic Party by inviting representatives of four religious faiths to the podium to provide invocations for the evening: Reverend J. M. Flemming (Christianity); Rabbi Marc Wilson (Judaism); Professor Akan Malici (Islam); and Mr. Surendra Jain (Jainism). Each gentleman recited a gracious prayer of peace, goodwill, and prosperity for all.

The next agenda items pertained to the functioning of the convention itself. According to prescribed rules, a temporary convention president - Sen. Karl Allen - and convention secretary - Peggy Baxter - were nominated and

approved; the Credentials Committee consisting of Ann Funderburk, Ingrid Erwin, Susan Cyr, and Carlyle Steele was approved; and Carlyle was subsequently tapped to serve as convention parliamentarian. Ann presented a report on behalf of the Credentials Committee and Ingrid oversaw adoption of the convention rules. Finally, the permanent convention officers were elected to preside over the remainder of the meeting:

- President – Frank Holleman
- Vice President – Sen. Karl Allen
- Secretary – Peggy Baxter
- Treasurer – Anita LeBold

And, with great delight, the audience acknowledged that Joanne Montague was in attendance in spirit, sure to let us know if any gross missteps were taken!

Interspersing historical perspective, personal stories, and wit, Frank invited Democratic Party candidates who had

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Left to Right: Senator Carl Allen, Peggy Baxter, Mayor Steve Benjamin, Frank Hollerman and Eric Graben

Convention, Continued from Page 1

filed a 2016 Statement of Intention of Candidacy by the start of the convention to introduce themselves and their platforms to the convention. Present to speak were: Chris Fedalei running for US House District 4; Hosea Cleveland running for US House District 3; Senator Karl Allen running for reelection to SC Senate District 7; Representative Chandra Dillard running for reelection to SC House District 23; Representative Leola Robinson-Simpson running for reelection to SC House District 25; Reverend Ennis Fant running for County Council District 25; Bajeyah Eaddy running for County Council District 25; Reverend Martha Evans running for County Council District 25; and Councilor Lillian Brock-Flemming running for SC Senate District 7. All of the candidates discussed the need for communication, commitment, and community focus on issues as reasons for running for public office. Councilor Lottie Gibson and Bunk Johnson had also filed for the County Council District 25 seat, but were not in attendance this year.

Senator Allen then introduced the keynote speaker for the evening, the Honorable Steve Benjamin, mayor of Columbia. Mayor Benjamin received a very warm standing ovation as he came to the stage and spoke humbly and eloquently about the commitment of Democrats to serving their community. He implored the audience to keep up the good fight for social and economic equality and justice that have been and continue to be the backbone of the Democratic Party

agenda. And he finished with the very hopeful prediction that demographic changes will create a gradual, but eventual shift to the politics of “blue” throughout South Carolina.

While precinct delegates completed ballots to elect delegates to the SCDP state convention on April 30, remaining convention business was undertaken. A slate of GCDP officers for 2016-2018 was accepted by acclamation:

- Chair – Kate Franch
- 1st Vice Chair – Dexter Reaves
- 2nd Vice Chair – Grady Patterson
- 3rd Vice Chair – Whitney Wright
- Male State Executive Committee Delegate – Christopher Shipman
- Female State Executive Committee Delegate – Ingrid Erwin
- Alternate Female State Executive Committee Delegate – Roxanne Walker Cordonier

Chris Shipman presented a list of fourteen recommended resolutions compiled following precinct meetings by the GCDP Resolutions Committee for approval. The report was amended from the floor to include a resolution in support of simplifying the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

(SNAP) application for households of persons over the age of 60 and approved by acclamation. The full list of resolutions will be posted on the GCDP website. Frank led the audience in a standing ovation of thanks to Eric for his four years of service as GCDP chair, then relinquished the podium to him for the closing of the convention.

Eric presented the Funderburk-Montague GCDP Volunteer of the Year Award for 2014 to Linda Neely and for 2015 to Linda Hardman with flowers and sincere appreciation for their many hours of dedication and work on behalf of the County Party. Everyone then joined him in heartily thanking the team who served with him in leadership during the past four years:

- 1st Vice Chair – Shirley Scott
- 2nd Vice Chair – Susan Cyr
- 3rd Vice Chair – Ben Saul and Whitney Wright
- Secretary – Peggy Baxter
- Treasurer – Anita LeBold
- Male State Executive Committee Delegate – Joe Waters and Allan Jenkins
- Female State Executive Committee Delegate – Ingrid Erwin
- Alternate Male State Executive Committee Delegate – Rev. James Massey
- Alternate Female State

Executive Committee Delegate – Roxanne Walker Cordonier

Passing the hat collected more than \$800 to support GCDP activity. Eric thanked all for attending and symbolically rapped the gavel to adjourn his convention just before 9 o'clock. All eyes now turn toward Columbia for the April 30th SCDP Convention and then to Philadelphia in July!



Saleem Shabazz & Carlyle Steele engage in conversation while waiting to register

At the convention



Chris Fedaeli & Roxanne Cordonier arrive to register



Neelima & Surendra Jain arrive to attend the reception & convention



Jill Littlejohn and Leola Robinson-Simpson converse with Columbia, SC Mayor, Steve Benjamin



Harry Chapman & Ann Funderburk in conversation



Fred & Leah Garrett make their choices on SC convention delegates

Meet the Democratic Leadership Team;

GCDP Chair - Kate Franch

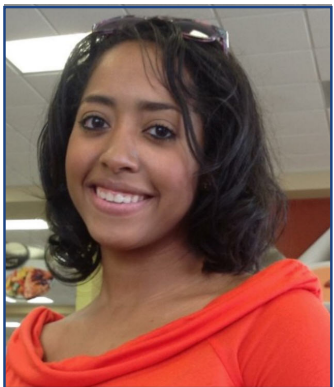


Kate Franch is a lifelong Democrat born in Fort Benning, Georgia to a South Carolina native, Clemson graduate Army officer father and Georgia/North Carolina heritage Southern belle mother. She has lived in twelve states, Germany, and England. Kate currently works in the Development Office at Camperdown Academy. Since moving to Greenville from Raleigh in 2007, she has served as president of Democratic Women of Greenville County and is assistant secretary of the Greenville Branch of the NAACP, chair of the Barbara Stone Foundation, member of the League of Women Voters of Greenville County, and president of the Mauldin 6 Precinct. Kate is married to Bill Franch and they have six children - Scott, Jared, and Evan Wofford and Billy, Ellen, and Carol Franch - spread from Brooklyn, New York to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Grady Patterson - 2nd Vice Chair

Grady Patterson is originally from Columbia, SC and is a lifelong Democrat. He is one of the co-owners of XL Scientific, LLC which performs research and development professional services for the Department of Defense. Grady is married to Kate Weaver Patterson of Greenville and they recently welcomed their first child, Jane Gray Patterson, last November. Previously Grady was an Active Duty Air Force Officer in New Mexico and currently serves with the South Carolina Air National Guard. He is active in the local community serving on the Greenville County First Steps and Pleasant Valley Connection Board of Directors. He is an active member of the Downtown Greenville Rotary Club and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Last year, Grady and Kate founded Upstate Carolina Education Outreach; a non-profit focused on encouraging local high school students to pursue courses of study in math and science after graduation.

Whitney Wright - 3rd Vice Chair



Whitney Wright is the Human Resources Director at Heartland of Greenville West skilled nursing facility. She is on the LEAD Academy Board of Directors, and a member of "The Voices" of Allen Temple AME Church choir. Whitney earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Southern Wesleyan University in Central, SC in 2009, and taught for the School District of Oconee County in Seneca, SC for four years before moving to Greenville and earning a Master of Science degree in Human Resources, from Thomas Edison State College (Trenton, NJ). She graduated with a 4.0 grade point average in December 2013, and worked for one year at CertusBank's Greenville, SC Flagship branch to gain business professional environment experience. In late 2014, she accepted an offer from an international staffing firm and worked there as a Recruiter and Sales Representative until accepting her current position in September of 2015.

Treasurer - Anita LeBold

Anita LeBold is a native of Charlotte and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She and her husband Jeff moved to Greenville from Raleigh NC due to his work. Anita became involved with the Democratic Women a few years later serving as Arrangements Chair, Membership Chair, Treasurer and President. She has been the Treasurer for the Greenville County Democratic Party for 3 or more terms. Anita's father jokes that she must have been switched at birth as both parents are Jesse Helms Republicans who cannot understand how she became a Democratic. She is a mortgage banker by day and enjoys reading and pulling for the Tarheel men's basketball team in what little spare time she finds.

Christopher Shipman - State Executive Committee Delegate

Christopher Shipman was born and raised in Spartanburg, where he attended Dorman High School and Wofford College. From 2009 to 2015, Chris lived in Columbia, where he attended the University of South Carolina School of Law and began practicing law. The week before being sworn into the bar, in 2012, Chris volunteered as a poll watcher in eastern North Carolina. The next week, he began representing indigent defendants in Sumter. After commuting for eight months, Chris got a job closer to home in the Richland County Public Defender's office. In 2014, his fiancée moved to Greenville, and he followed a year later. Chris and his future wife, Catie, met as 1L's at the University of South Carolina. In 2015, they were married at St. James Episcopal Church in Greenville. They both look forward to putting down roots and growing into the community in Greenville.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

April 21, 2016 (Thursday) 6:30pm

Bajeyah Eaddy Campaign Kick Off
(County Council, District 25)
Dr. Mac Arnold's Blues Restaurant
1237 Pendleton Street
Greenville, SC 29611

April 23, 2016 (Saturday) 8:30am

GCDP Breakfast Meeting (*Details on right*)
Long Branch Baptist Church
28 Bolt Street
Greenville, SC 29605

April 26, 2016 (Tuesday) 5:30pm

GCDP Executive Committee Meeting
Augusta Road Library
100 Lydia Street
Greenville, SC 29605

April 30, 2016 (Saturday) 8:00am

2016 SCDP State Convention
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201

May 6 & 7, 2016 (Saturday) 12:30 - 2:30pm

Southeastern Symposium on Mental Health 2016
sponsored by GHS/NAMI
Hyatt Regency Downtown
220 N Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601
Featured Speaker: Patrick Kennedy
Luncheon registration: \$60 /<http://sesmh.org>

May 9, 2016 (Monday) 12:15pm

Democratic Women Lunch Meeting
Southern Fried Green Tomatoes
1175 Woods Crossing Road
Greenville, SC 29615
(*Details on right*)

June 8 - 12 2016 (Wednesday - Sunday)

National Federation of Democratic Women
Convention (Hosted by SCDW)
Francis Marion Hotel
387 King Street
Charleston, SC 29403
Register on-line at www.NFDW.org

Greenville County DP May Breakfast Meeting

The Greenville County Democratic Party Breakfast Meeting will be held Saturday, April 23.

"US Senate and House candidates on the Democratic Party ballot are being invited for a conversation about constituent issues." Those candidates are: US Senate District 2 - Thomas Dixon; US House District 3 - Hosea Cleveland; and US House District 4 - Chris Fedalei.

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

Democratic Women May Lunch Meeting

The May meeting of Democratic Women of Greenville County will be a lunch meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016. The speaker will be from the Veterans Affairs Office.

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

Follow Fedalei

Chris Fedalei, candidate for the 4th District Congressional scheduled of events

April 20:

- Meet and Greet at Stomping Grounds
11:30am-1:30pm
208 Trade Street
Greer, SC 29651

April 29:

- Meet and Greet at Heritage Main
5:30-9:30pm
220 North Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601

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.

Books We Love *My Life on The Road* by Gloria Steinem

by Roxanne Cordonier

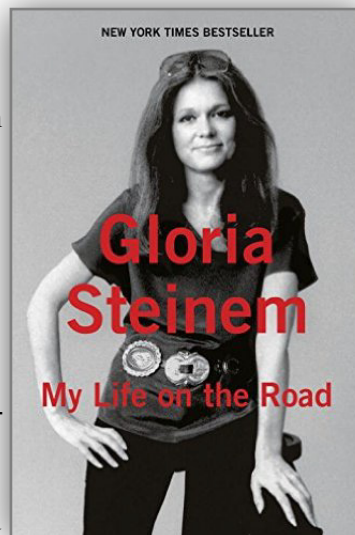
I learned about feminism when I was in middle school by reading "The Female Eunuch" by Germaine Greer. Later on I discovered Gloria Steinem, reading her life story, "Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions." She's been one of my heroes ever since.

Steinem's new autobiographical book, "My Life On The Road" chronicles her lifelong travels as part of her work as an organizer, rabble rouser and feminist trailblazer. Her encounters with everyday people, like cab drivers gave her a unique perspective on the real world and the struggles of average working people. She actually seems more engaged with working folks then dazzled by all the stars she's encountered in her long

and rich life. Along the way she tosses out nuggets of knowledge like the fact that the Catholic Church "not only didn't oppose abortion but actually regulated it until the mid nineteenth century." Steinem is forthright about her own failings and foibles. She had to learn how to be a dynamic public speaker, overcoming her nerves and insecurities. She's far from a perfect woman and maybe that's why I find her so endearing. By opening up about her own insecurities she helps women to understand

their own.

I find Steinem to be a unique and enduring American political leader.



At age 82, she's still out there raising consciousness about sexism and continuing to make headlines as she did recently during an interview on the Bill Maher show on HBO. Steinem admits that creating a balanced life was difficult for her, until she was in her 50's she lived a nomadic and unsettled life. Her evolution evokes our own struggles to achieve our dreams while nurturing our families and ourselves.

THE FIGHT HAS COME TO SOUTH CAROLINA

Transgender Bathroom Bill Filed In The Senate

Senator Lee Bright (R-Greenville) filed a bill (S.1203) similar to a new North Carolina Law that bars transgender citizens from using the bathroom associated with their gender identity. SC Equality, the state's largest LGBT rights group, calls on members of the South Carolina Senate to not take up this discriminatory bill and risk the

economic backlash that North Carolina is currently experiencing.

Many conservatives are proactively seeking ways to discriminate against the LGBT community by misusing the legislative process. Recent polls show that the window for singling out transgender people is closing, and the results are acts of desperation.

"This law is sheer government overreach and it opens a Pandora's box," said Jeff Ayers, Executive Director of South Carolina Equality. "Will people need to carry their birth certificates to use the restroom? Will we see DNA testing? Gender inspections/anatomy checks and pat downs? Body scanners? Video cameras? Government simply has no

*Continued on Page 7, See **Fight***

Thanks to Our Contributors!

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

Amanda Braswell
Sadie Carter
Roxanne Cordonier
Chandra Dillard
Democratic Women of G'ville
Glenn Dorsey
Bajeyah Eddy
Ingrid Erwin

Leah Garrett
Margaret Glasgow
Bill and Linda Hardman
Surendra and Neelima Jain
Allen Jenkins
Robert and Carol Kelley
Gwen Kennedy
Leo and Stephanie King

June Ladson
Linda McKay
Linda Neely
Margaret Paylor
Richard Riley
Ilia Rivera
David Roop
Anna Smith

Report from South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee

by Ingrid Erwin

The Executive Council met by teleconference on March 30, 2016. Party Chair Jaime Harrison reviewed the events of the past few months, beginning with the Presidential Candidates Forum in Rock Hill on November 6. In December, the Association of Democratic Party Chairs from across the country met in Charleston. January marked the First in the South Dinner and the Presidential Debate. Jaime noted that over twenty members of Congress were present for the debate. February highlights were a Clinton--

Sanders Town Hall and the state primary. Precinct reorganization meetings and county conventions took place in March. Jaime has received many compliments on these events and believes that South Carolina Democrats have been presented in a positive manner to the whole country.

Preparation now turns to the April 30 state convention. There will not be a Jefferson-Jackson Dinner in connection with the convention, but Congressman Clyburn will have his Fish Fry on Friday evening. In prepara-



Ingrid Erwin
State Executive Committee Delegate

tion for the convention, committees (Rules and Platform/Resolutions) will meet during the first week in April. All caucuses will have meetings during the convention. Jaime hopes to have a candidate training session at the convention.

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS

The State of South Carolina allows High School students who are sixteen and seventeen years old to assist at the polls. With proper training, students will serve as poll workers on Election Day.

Greenville County is accepting applications for additional poll workers to assist in conducting upcoming elections. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about the election process and receive payment of approximately \$120.00. IT IS A LONG DAY (6 AM until approximately 8 PM), and the

commitment is for the entire day, no exceptions. You must provide for your lunch, snacks, etc., and will be expected to be on site the entire time. You will learn a tremendous amount of information about our election system and work with some fine citizens.

Fill out the application and return it promptly. Training classes are held 30-45 days prior to an election and will last three hours. You will be sent a schedule and you can then select one of the classes. Some of the duties you will perform on Election

Day will include assisting in setting up a polling place location, qualifying voters, and other administrative responsibilities.

If you will turn 18 on or before an election, you must register to vote and complete the application form. Return both applications to our office.

Join the team, learn more about our governmental process, meet a lot of nice people, and get paid, too!

Conway Belangia, Director

Call (864) 467-5972 for an application

Continued from Page 6, See **Fight** place in our bathrooms"

This proposed law is unnecessary. We already have laws in place that make it illegal for anyone to enter a restroom to harm or harass people, or invade their privacy. Police already use these laws to keep people safe, make arrests, and hold criminals accountable.

All of us know what it's like to urgently need to use the restroom. But this law is designed to make it impossible for transgender people to

go about their daily lives like other people. For example, a transgender woman who was born a boy but has lived her entire adult life as a woman would risk harassment and violence if she used the men's room, but would be subject to arrest if she used the women's room.

Ayers noted that we all care about safety in restrooms, which is why it's important to know that allowing transgender people to use the restroom that matches the gender they live everyday doesn't compro-

mise that. "In fact, more than 200 cities and 17 states across the U.S. have passed and successfully implemented laws that protect transgender people from discrimination in public places, with no increase in public safety incidents," said Ayers. "The idea that men would pretend to be transgender to sneak into a women's restroom has been debunked by law enforcement experts, government officials and women's safety advocates in cities and states across the country".

Slate News & Events

THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY 2016 STATE CONVENTION

Dear Fellow Democrats,

Thank you to all the Democrats who attended your precinct reorganization meetings and county conventions in the past month. We are a grass roots organization, and our Precinct Leaders and County Parties are the foundation upon which our statewide organization rests.

Now, we turn our attention to the South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention, where we will elect Delegates and Alternates to the Democratic National Committee Convention held July 25th - 28th in Philadelphia, PA, elect National Committee Members (Man, Woman, and At-Large), discuss platform resolutions and transact other such business as may properly come before the convention.

The 2016 State Convention will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center located at 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Credentialing for Delegates, Alternates, and Guests will begin at 8:00am. There will not be a Jefferson-Jackson Dinner at this year's convention, however are are coordinating with Congressman Jim Clyburn regarding his World Famous Fish Fry to be held on the evening of Friday, April 29th. We will release more information about the Fish Fry in the days to come.

Who can run for national delegate? All candidates for National Delegate or Alternate MUST have: 1) voted in the February 27th Primary, 2) attended your precinct reorganization meeting and been elected a Delegate or Alternate to your county convention, and

3) attended your county convention and been elected a State Delegate or Alternate.

All the information you need to know to be a Delegate or Alternate to the National Convention can be found on the website at

scdp.org/steps-to-becoming-a-scdp-national-delegate/

We created a website that captured the results of the Presidential Preference

Primary, and, based on those results, we allocated exactly how many Delegates or Alternates each Democratic Presidential Candidate will receive. You can see those results on our website at <http://scdp.org/south-carolina-democratic-primary-results/>

So, if you voted in the Primary, attended and were elected as a County Delegate or Alternate at your precinct meeting, and attended and were elected as a Delegate or Alternate to the SCDP State Convention, all that remained to be a candidate for National Delegate or Alternate was to submit a 2016 Delegate Filing Form (found at <http://scdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2016-Delegate--Filing-Form.pdf>) by 5pm, Monday, April 4, 2016 and be elected at our state convention.

All the best,

Jason Perkey

Executive Director, South Carolina Democratic Party
President, Association of State Democratic Executive Directors



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.