

ANDERSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS

MAY 2007



Sprague greets Edwards

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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This is an exciting time to be a part of the ACDP. We have hosted our second

Presidential candidate, and we are looking forward to having the others come and visit us. Many volunteers are helping us to spread the word through our headquarters on Main Street, our newsletter, and our events. Come and join us for a first Saturday breakfast at the Golden Corral (May 5). Put July 7 on your calendar for our summer Bar-B-Q

One of the most fulfilling parts of the job I accepted is the wonderful people I meet as we do this work. There are lots of good folks in Anderson County who are tired of sitting in the back seat of the political bus around here. We have got to lay the foundation for a change in how our county, state, and country are being led. Jim Rex is making great strides in the Secretary of Education position, and we have some elected officials like Gracie Floyd, Martha Newton, and Cathy Phillips who serve us well. Paul Agnew represents a few in Anderson County in the Legislature. We need to get them some help.

The most pressing needs we have are for support for the county party and good candidates to run for local, state, and national offices. Please consider what role you can play: volunteer, supporter, candidate for office. Encourage others who share our philosophy to do the same thing.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 26 - Democratic candidates for president debate at SC State University in Orangeburg.

April 27 - Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner and Congressman Clyburn's fish fry in Columbia.

April 28 - SC Democratic Party State Convention in Columbia.

May 5 at 9:00 a.m. - The monthly ACDP meeting at the Golden Corral in Anderson. Our speaker will be Dr. Juan A. Brown. (See write-up in this newsletter).

The ACDP meets regularly at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

May 18 - Deadline for articles for the June issue of the Newsletter.

May 19 at 11 a.m. - Anderson County Democratic Women meet at the Golden Corral.

July 7 - Barbeque at Farmers' Market.

MEET OUR MAY ACDP SPEAKER

Dr. Juan A. Brown, a highly regarded retired Anderson physician, will speak to our monthly 9 a.m. meeting on May 5 at the Golden Corral. Dr. Brown will speak on developing a nearby area known as Rocky River Swamp into a nature preserve.

Dr. Brown is well-qualified to head this project as he is active in South Carolina Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy and The South Carolina Wildlife Federation. He will tell us about his plans for conserving and protecting this special area.

TV TO CARRY DEBATE



MSNBC will carry live coverage of the South Carolina Democratic Party's presidential primary debate on April 26, 2007 live on MSNBC from 7:00 to 8:30 pm (ET) and on WYFF-TV in Greenville. MSNBC, will preview the debate during the day on April 26th.

The network's signature political program, "Hardball with Chris Matthews," will air live from South Carolina State University at 5:00 pm (ET) with key interviews and analysis in anticipation of the debate. The network will also air comprehensive analysis of the debate upon its conclusion.

The Thursday night debate will serve as a kick-off to the South Carolina Democratic Party's 2007 convention weekend featuring the State Party's Jefferson Jackson Dinner and Congressman Clyburn's Annual Fish Fry held on Friday April 27 and the State Democratic Party Convention on Saturday April 28.

NEWS FROM THE STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(<http://www.scdp.org>)

WITTY WORDS

"Being president is like running a cemetery: You've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening."

Bill Clinton

HAMBY, HARBERT, OPPERMAN RUN FOR STATE OFFICE

Anderson County Democrats will have a voice in state party matters if local members are elected.

Charles Hamby who has been very active in the Democratic Party, announced that he is running for second vice-chair of the South Carolina Democratic Party. He has served as chairman of the Oconee Democratic Party twice and was treasurer of the SC Third Congressional District. He was also an elector in the 2004 Electoral College.

Also running for second vice-chair is Dean Harbert who has been a dedicated Democrat.

Joey Opperman, a graduate of Westside High School and USC, is currently studying law. He interned in the Columbia office of Congressman Jim Clyburn and for Anderson County government. Joey is a candidate for third vice-chair which is held by someone under the age of thirty. He promises to "bring laser focus and relentless work to the task of radically increasing youth participation in our party". All three of these candidates are members of the ACDP executive council.

The election of state party officers will be a main item of business at the Democratic Party Convention in Columbia on April 28.

CAROL



FOWLER ENLIGHTENS ACDP

At the April breakfast meeting of the ACDP, Carol Fowler informed members and guests about a number of interesting items. She is currently the unopposed candidate for SCDP Chair in the election at the convention on April 28. She noted election victories don't happen suddenly, but require long term preparation. She cited Montana, which had been a Republican stronghold, as an example of a state which developed a plan which is carefully followed and which has resulted in Democratic victories. South Carolina needs a plan to get our candidates elected.

Carol praised Howard Dean, the Democratic National Committee chairman, for his 50 state approach to winning elections. She said he has been generous to South Carolina in providing three DNC staff people at the Columbia Democratic

headquarters. He approved South Carolina's being the first presidential primary in the South in 2008.

The DNC has also improved the Voter File and made it more accessible. The SCDP has the Voter File for the 2004 presidential primary and sells access to this data to individual presidential candidates for \$65,000. This income will be used to help pay for the January 29, 2008 presidential primary which will cost \$200,000-\$300,000.

The Congressional Black Caucus plans to sponsor a presidential debate on January 24 which may take place in Myrtle Beach. The DNC has approved six presidential debates and one may be in South Carolina.

We appreciate Carol's coming to share with us and look forward to working with her if she is elected chair of the SCDP.

BARBEQUE PLANNED FOR JULY

Be sure to put July 7th on your calendar. We are definitely going to host the second annual Anderson County Democratic Party Barbeque. The location will be in the Farmers' Market on Murray Street as before. Ron Gilreath will provide the barbeque. Charles Hamby's band will play.

Presidential candidates are invited to attend. A straw poll for president among the Democratic candidates will be taken.

ACDP SEEKS CANDIDATES

If you are interested in holding political office, do not wait for the ACDP to come pleading with you to run. Step forward and tell Stuart Sprague that you want to be a candidate. There are numerous offices waiting to be filled in the 2008 election. Now is the time to start campaigning. The party has several ways to help candidates run a successful campaign.

Among the races coming up are all County Council officers except District 2 where Gracie Floyd will be the candidate. South Carolina House Districts 6, 7 and 9 are open. Charles Griffin has declared his candidacy for District 8. We really need an aggressive candidate to run for State Senator against Kevin Bryant. No one has declared for Congressional District 3 for the U.S. House of Representatives.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNTY DEMOCRATS

The ACDP is seeking a candidate for Anderson County representative on the SC State Democratic Party Executive Committee. The requirements are that the candidate must be a female who is able to attend meetings in Columbia once a month. If you wish to be considered, notify Stuart Sprague.

Our County Headquarters on Main Street is now open five days a week. Volunteers are needed to man the telephone and answer questions. Also, the front window of the headquarters is in need of

someone to design eye-catching displays. Call Rufus Moss at 287-5282 to volunteer for these important tasks.

At the Third Congressional District quarterly meeting in March, attendees discussed forming an executive committee consisting of one representative from each of the eight counties. This committee could be called to deal with issues that arise between quarterly meetings. At the April monthly meeting of ACDP, the measure was voted and approved, so one of our members will be selected to serve on this committee.

Join the yellow dog democrats

Yellow Dog Democrats are members who pledge a monthly amount to help fund the SCDP's operations. You can charge the amount on your credit card or you can pay by check.

Membership grants members access to a special Yellow Dog Democrat VIP Lounge at this year's state convention. Democrats can sign up at the convention or they can join online at the website www.scdp.org and click on "Yellow Dog." If you have any questions, contact Ashley Medbery at 800-841-1817 or amedbery@scdp.org.

DEMOCRATS BELIEVE:

- In equal opportunity for all citizens.
- In rewarding honest, hard work with a living wage.
- In family values that are more than a political slogan.
- In quality education that gives all citizens the opportunity to reach their potential.
- In freedom from government interference in our private lives and personal decisions.
- That individual strengths in our diverse population are a benefit.
- In security in our homes and safety on our streets. Criminals should face swift and certain punishment.
- In separation of Church and State to preserve the freedom to pursue our beliefs.
- In a strong United States – morally, economically and militarily.
- In commonsense reforms that give us cleaner and safer air and water.

The Democratic Beliefs came to us from Shameka Grayson, Operations Manager in the Democratic Headquarters in Columbia.

DUES ARE DUE

As of April 7, sixty-nine members have paid dues which are \$20 per person for the calendar year from January through December. Twenty-six people have contributed \$2,800 to the \$100 Fund to keep the headquarters open on Main Street. The goal is 100 people contributing \$100 each, but 10,000 people

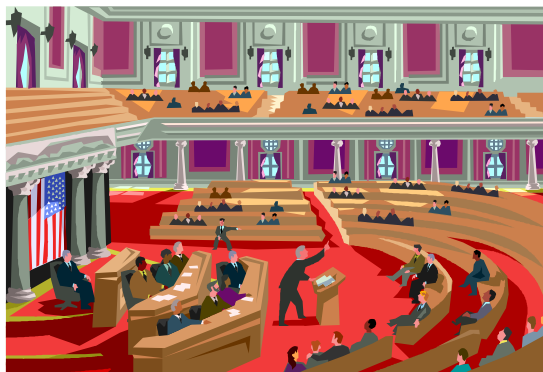
contributing \$1 works just as well. The enclosed envelope is for dues, contributions to the \$100 Fund or any other contributions which are most welcomed.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Six hundred forty-seven individuals are on our mailing list, although only 69 are dues-paying members. It costs approximately sixty cents per person to send the newsletter. Do you know someone who should be receiving our newsletter? Give their name and address to Rufus Moss at 287-5282 to add to our mailing list.

It will save a great deal of money if we can deliver the newsletter to you (in living color) by E-mail, so if you haven't given us your E-mail address, please send it to us at wbl120@gmail.com.

BSL



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OFFICERS

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Stuart Sprague: | Chairman |
| Gracie Floyd | 1 st Vice-chair |
| Jean McNair | 2 nd Vice-chair |
| Joey Opperman: | 3 rd Vice-chair |
| Frances Symons: | Treasurer |
| Gladys Robertson: | Secretary |
| David Vandiver: | Executive committeeman |
| Dean Harbert | Alternate committee person |
| Charles Hamby: | HQ Coordinator |
| Philip Cheney: | Immediate Past Chairman |
| Bonnie and Bill Ledbetter | Newsletter Editors |