
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one
mass movement.

Sections

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Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

“Let’s Hear it for a Dem Good Time”



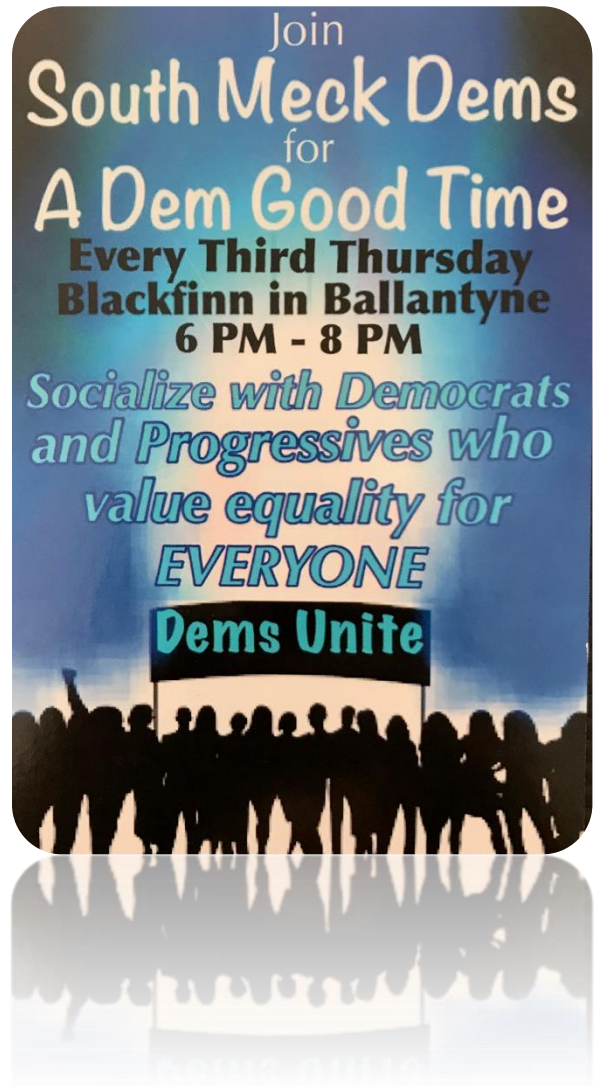
By

DonnaMarie Woodson

Janice Robinson, Chair Precinct 148 and Jennifer Gaddy, Chair Precinct 226 are the godmothers of an idea to bring together fellow Democrats, Progressives, and the Unaffiliated in their Precincts to foster communication, education, and strengthen neighborhood participation in our political process.

That idea was realized in their concept of a “Dem Good Time” (which in my opinion is a really clever hook!) Coming together at a local establishment to socialize and meet your neighbors is an event that has grown from one, to several “Dem Good Time” evenings around Mecklenburg County.

Last year Jennifer Gaddy shared with me her recipe for organizing and pulling off a successful “Dem Good Time.” These are some of her suggestions:



1) People seem to like the name “Dem Good Time”. Be sure to add something so people don't confuse it with other events -- like Dem Good Time Pizza & Politics, Dem Good Time Matthews, etc.

2) Pick a consistent night each month. Third Thursdays, First Thursdays, etc. that does not conflict with a standing Democrat auxiliary meeting.

3) Get a cluster of precincts involved.

There is very little setup involved - a sign in sheet, making sure the restaurant knows the date/time and reserves space, and someone brings the microphone/speaker. Ours is a portable Bluetooth \$120 speaker with mic from Costco that I use all the time, maybe someone has one.

4) Promote it as a Facebook event, on the precinct Facebook pages. Also, create an event on Nextdoor which is a neighborhood/region specific app. Some precincts print up little flyers.

5) Invite elected officials and candidates. People are more likely to show up if they think their Representative will be there.

6) You can try having a theme - like "immigration policy" or another relevant topic - each month. Keep the SPEECHES to a minimum and the focus on mingling and meeting others.



Now there's a 2nd
DEM GOOD TIME!
FIRST Thursday
of every month
@Brooklyn Pizza
6-8 PM

As Chair of Precinct 135, I'm happy to announce that after a year in the making, our community is finally going to have our 1st "Dem Good Time" on Thursday, April 18th from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Hickory Tavern, 9010 Harris Corners Pkwy.



Since Precinct 135 was just organized in 2018, I was looking for creative ways to engage my neighbors. So, when I heard about the "Dem Good Time" model, I was very excited to set-up one in North Charlotte.

Sharing ideas and being supportive of fellow Precinct Chairs is crucial in energizing Dems all over Mecklenburg County.

As a Precinct Chair, my goal is to educate, motivate, and engage my neighbors in a better understanding of their role in the community

and the power we can unleash if we are informed and vote in ALL elections, not just Federal.



**The 2018
Midterms
Tsunami is
an excellent
example of
what we can
accomplish
when we
show up and**

vote. We have the numbers and the power to shape our neighborhoods and indeed our country to be one that benefits all of its citizens.

#VOTE

#BlueWave

#MCDP

Editorial

Does Money have a Corrupting Influence in American Politics?

By Tarik Kiley
March 28, 2019



I don't pretend to completely understand the influence of money on American politics. But I do know that money has a big influence, as it takes a lot of it to win a major political campaign. Most recently, the question of "dark money" came up on the political radar screen when House Democrats introduced bill H.R 1. Let's look at it this way. Politicians need money to win. Wealthy persons have money.

Wealthy persons can call upon politicians for favors because they have donated money to the cause. So, in this corrupt fashion, money can influence political outcomes.

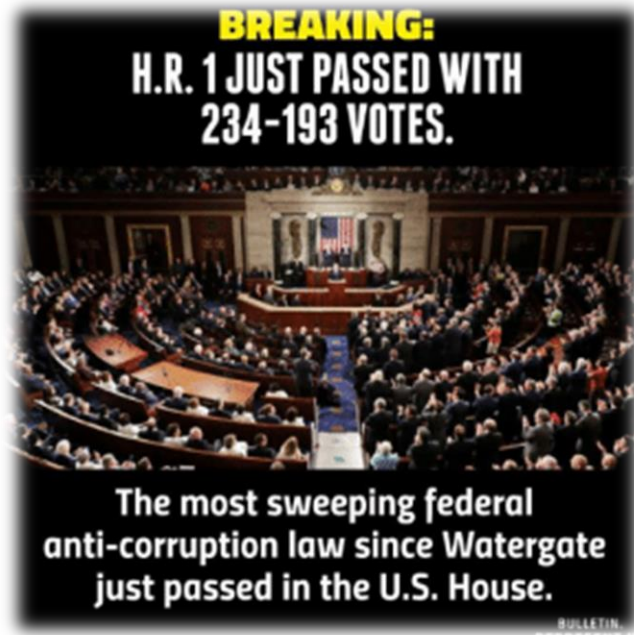
If money determines access, then poor people will not have access. It is the lack of access to influence political decisions which is at issue here.



House Democrats have tackled the issue...according to The Guardian, “H.R 1, known as the For the People Act, includes strong provisions designed to combat corruption by forcing all organizations involved in political activity, including so-called “social welfare” groups, to disclose large donors.” Though somewhat comical, to me this is like a race car driver wearing the corporate logos of all person sponsoring

them in a car race. What better way to understand your policies, than to see who is truly funding you?

Additionally, “The ambitious compendium, at nearly 700 pages, includes proposals designating Election Day as a federal holiday, automatically registering citizens to vote, and restoring voting rights to people who have served felony sentences. It also creates a six-to-one matching system for donations of up to \$200 to congressional and



presidential candidates who reject high-dollar contributions, funded by an additional fine on corporations found to have broken the law,” according to The New York Times.

Needless to say, Senate Republicans oppose these measures. Yet, the bill passed

the house in the beginning of March 2019. And, people who stand to lose status from allowing others to be able to be more easily elected, or for things to be made fairer, of course would oppose a campaign finance reform and anti-corruption bill. And, why is fairness, which could be equated with justice, being called socialism? Admittedly

socialism does not work, but when did having an equal say become socialism? I thought this was called democracy.



Yes, I thought it was called democracy, but yet, we live in a time of partisan gerrymandering, and other attempts by those in power to reduce the

voices of the political opposition. This is not to mention, that we also have a wholly undemocratic electoral college, which can elect a president despite that said president losing the popular vote. And how do we live in a system where the wealthy actually don't carry their tax burden and aren't held up to standards of social responsibility?

If I don't work, then I don't eat. And, if I need help then I am a "lazy bum on welfare." When actually, corporations receive tremendous tax breaks at times, and this corporate welfare remains unchallenged in the political discourse. "Money to get power, power to protect money" was the motto of the Medici family. It seems sadly relevant to American politics today," so says the Democracy Journal.

Works Cited

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/feb/13/political-funding-dark-money-anti-corruption-trump>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/08/us/politics/house-democrats-anticorruption-voting-rights.html>

<https://endcitizensunited.org/in-the-news/theyre-saying-statements-senate-introduction-people-act/>

<https://democracyjournal.org/magazine/27/how-big-money-corrupts-the-economy/>

Announcements



CLT NOW Monthly Mtg - Q & A with Sheriff McFadden

National Organization for Women, Charlotte Chapter

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Wedgewood Church

4800 Wedgewood Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28210

Annual Meeting of Region 4, Democratic Women of North Carolina

Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

129 W. Water St.

Lincolnton, NC 28092

Democrats of N. Mecklenburg Monthly Meeting

Thursday, April 7th, 2019 7:00 PM

MAGNOLIA WOODS

12125 STATESVILLE ROAD

HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078

**(SHARED DRIVEWAY WITH CAROLINA VETERINARY
SPECIALISTS)**

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Announcements



North Mecklenburg Progressives Monthly Dinner

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr., Huntersville

(Off Gilead, in front of Earthfare)

RSVP – Email: n.meck.progressives@gmail.com

Social Justice Within Gentrification

**Hosted by Reeder Memorial Baptist Church Social Justice
Committee**

Hosted by People's Voice

Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

3725 Beatties Ford Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28216

Announcements



Hitting Close to Home: Community Conversation About Immigration

Hosted by YWCA Central Carolinas
Thursday, April 25th, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
3420 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

Register to attend: <https://ywcacentralcarolinas.org/events-2/>

13th Annual Evening at the Courthouse

Hosted by Justice Initiatives
Fundraising Event
Thursday, April 25th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Mecklenburg County Courthouse
832 East Fourth St
Charlotte, NC 28202

There is a minimum requested donation of \$50, and this event is open to the public (not suitable for children under 16 years old).

Tickets: www.justiceinitiatives.org



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery

Mecklenburg County Democratic Party Convention March 23, 2019



(1st photo: Michelle Blumenthal, Jenna Tyrell, Candice Todd, DonnaMarie Woodson, Kevan Woodson. 2nd photo: DonnaMarie Woodson, Dimple Shah, State Senator Jeff Jackson, Naomi Brezi, Kristen Heidkamp. 3rd photo: DonnaMarie Woodson, City Councilman Justin Harlow. 4th photo: Supreme Court Justice, Cheri Beasley. 5th photo: Convention Attendees. 6th photo: Mecklenburg County District 12 Chair, Cozzie Watkins. 6th photo: Dan McCready.)

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley