

SOUTH CAROLINA STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

The South Carolina Stonewall Democrats (SCSD) was founded in 2007. Already the organization has inspired many gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered (GLBT) and allied Democrats to become active in the South Carolina Democratic Party and several campaigns.

Even before SCSD was legally formed as an organization, members were out in force and recognized as having played a major role in hosting the Democratic Presidential Debate at the Citadel in July, 2007.

In 2008, SCSD was successful in helping to elect the first ever openly gay delegates representing South Carolina at the National Democratic Convention – Tom Chorlton of Charleston and Ann Willbrand of Aiken.

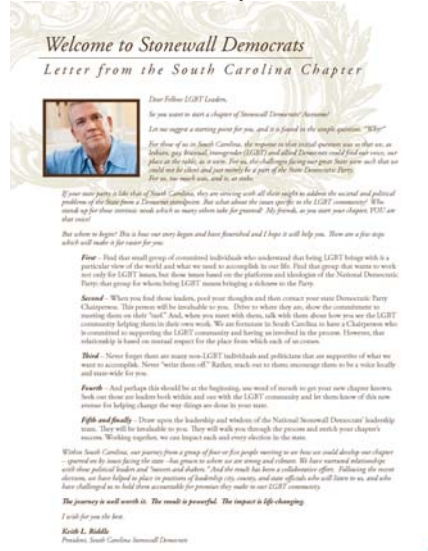
SCSD also proudly supported the campaigns of two extraordinary Democratic candidates who happened to be gay – Linda Ketner for U.S. House of Representatives SC District #1 and James Akers for Greenville County Council. They both executed competitive campaigns raising more dollars and garnering more votes than decades of Democratic candidates before them running for those same offices.

And even more exciting, SCSD saw the election of the first openly gay public official in South Carolina, Nick Shalosky, who was elected to the Charleston County Constituent School Board as a write-in candidate. His on-line campaign was subtle, ingenious, and effective!

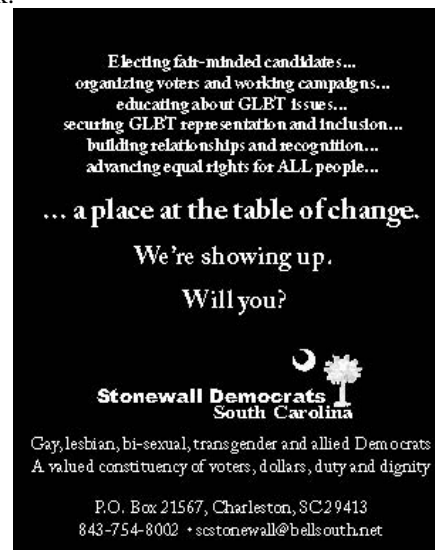
In its first two years, SCSD boasts the following achievements:

- SCSD came into existence – from opening a post office box to filing with the IRS as a legal entity! It holds a database of over 500 contacts interested in the political process and GLBT inclusion in the Democratic Party.
- SCSD held membership meetings and sent out regular newsletters with announcements and volunteer opportunities.
- SCSD supported fair-minded candidates including Barack Obama, Linda Ketner, Anne Hutto-Peterson, Colleen Condon, Vic Rawl, and James Akers.
- SCSD was present and active at Precinct Re-Organization Meetings, County Democratic Conventions, and the South Carolina State Democratic Convention.
- SCSD registered and/or identified GLBT and allied voters at South Carolina PRIDE, Myrtle Beach PRIDE, Peace One Day, and in partnership with the Trident Tech GSA.
- SCSD members hold leadership roles in County Parties across the state including such positions as Second Vice Chair, Get-Out-The-Vote Coordinator, County Executive Committee, and Precinct Officer.
- SCSD members held leadership roles in campaigns across the state – some of the positions held included Regional Field Director, Campaign Manager, and Director of Finance.
- SCSD organized and supported GLBT candidates in running for delegate to the National Democratic Convention and produced a mailing to all 1,300 SCDP State Convention Delegates introducing SCSD and the GLBT candidates.
- SCSD members were present and active at the National Stonewall Democrats Convention in Denver prior to the National Democratic Convention.
- SCSD solicited support from Charleston County Council members to consider GLBT appointments and has submitted one application thus far for a County appointment.
- SCSD gained a place at the table with the South Carolina Democratic Party which amended its Party Rules to add the President of the South Carolina Stonewall Democrats as an ex officio member of the SCDP State Executive Committee.
- SCSD members submitted resolution proposals at the County Conventions and followed up with the SCDP Platform and Resolutions Committee, resulting in the following resolution being added to The Platform and Resolutions of the South Carolina Democratic Party:
 34. Resolved: To oppose any amendments to the South Carolina Constitution that codifies discrimination in any form harming the equal treatment under law for all citizens; and to support equal and full civil rights for all citizens, including gay, lesbian, and transgender citizens.

- SCSD sent a letter to Barack Obama's Campaign regarding Donnie McClurkin speaking at the SC Obama Rally and SCSD representatives attended conference calls to discuss/discourage Obama's welcome of McClurkin and his ex-gay ministry.
- SCSD joined a coalition with South Carolina Equality, the Alliance for Full Acceptance, and the Log Cabin Republicans to work on the passage of human rights ordinances across the state protecting GLBT citizens from discrimination in housing and public accommodations.
- SCSD's start-up is featured as a Case Study in the new National Stonewall Democrats Chapter Organizing Manual with an introduction letter by SCSD's President Keith Riddle.



- SCSD was featured in articles in the *Charleston Post & Courier*, *Charleston City Paper*, *Myrtle Beach Weekly Surge*, and *The Advocate.com* as well as an interview on Rainbow Radio.
- SCSD placed ads in the *Charleston City Paper*, *Myrtle Beach Weekly Surge* and the SCDP State Convention program book.



- SCSD provided featured speakers to the Charleston County Democratic Women and the MUSC Gay-Straight Alliance. SCSD representatives also attended the SC Progressive Network Retreat.
- SCSD conversed with leaders in Columbia and Greenville to start SCSD caucuses in those communities.
- SCSD organized a mutually beneficial fundraiser for SCSD and the National Stonewall Democrats.
- SCSD played a leadership role in organizing Democracy for America Training and many members attended to learn more about political grassroots organizing.
- SCSD volunteers were out in force on Election Day 2008 poll-checking, distributing flyers, and driving voters to the polls.
- SCSD is honored and thankful to work with Carol Khare Fowler, South Carolina Democratic Party Chair, who was honored by the National Stonewall Democrats at its Capitol Champions Event for her commitment to the inclusion of GLBT people in the South Carolina Democratic Party and her support in the founding of the South Carolina Stonewall Democrats Chapter.