What you don’t do can be a destructive force.  
-Eleanor Roosevelt


What should you say in response?

Let’s not make a joke about crying babies, neighbor’s dogs, police sirens, or the like. Everyone has heard every variation of those clichéd answers. We must be candid and honest; a direct answer to a now too common question. In this political environment, there is no room for evasiveness. Accountability is paramount.

So, what keeps me up at night? The systemic attempt to dismantle healthcare and education for all, the erosion of women’s rights, our local economics, and the complete lack of accountability, responsibility, and civility that we witness almost daily.

And what am I doing about it? Showing up and speaking out!!! I’m having these conversations with others and sharing solutions. I’m standing up and asking “what can I do to help?”

I’m making my voice and vote be heard.

“At the end of the day, the best way we can speak out is to vote.” We are more powerful in numbers. When we vote, we can make a difference in making issues known and getting them addressed accordingly. In numbers we can disrupt the gap and force a change through voting. In order to move onward and upward, we can’t be molded by events that happened in the past. Instead, we need to make our vote count to change the outcome of tomorrow.

Our organization will not shrink from our pledge of equality for all, to give a voice to those who remain voiceless. We will positively manage through today’s challenging environment just as we have positively navigated through challenging moments in the past. Our organization has weathered many types of storms. Our brand of democracy has never been stronger or more relevant. Our long term commitment to solve/resolve the issues that make one ask the question, “What keeps you up at night?” is unwavering.

My confidence in our organization and all of you has never been greater. We are on the cusp of great change and I believe we have the ability to sway change with more women having a profound strong voice. We will continue to look through the lens of humanity fight to fix those things that, “keep us up at night”.

Onward and upward,

Varnar Spencer

President, Democratic Women of Johnston County
Introducing our 2017—2019 Officers

Varnar Spencer—President

“As a little girl, every time I went to receive my childhood shots, I would cry and have a hissy fit. It took two nurses to give me one shot….I swore that I would never be a nurse …Now I’m a Nurse Anesthetist.”

Carolyn Crenshaw—1st Vice President

“I love watching football... while listening to classic music.”

Gail Chandler—2nd Vice President

“I am an accomplished scarf juggler! “

From Left:
Kerry Kreisler, Pamela Nelson, Carolyn Crenshaw, Varnar Spencer

Pamela Nelson—3rd Vice President

“I’m your one-stop shop for Minnesotan accents, Golden Girls trivia, and rides home in a blizzard.”

Dr. Deborah Hooker—Secretary

“I was born just over the NC line in Danville, VA but have lived in NC for all but two of my 66 years. It’s home, warts and all.”

Kerry Kreisler—Treasurer

“I am an avid sports fan, and was voted ‘most athletic’ in high school.”

Four of our new DWJC Officers were sworn in on May 18, 2017 by North Carolina Supreme Court Justice Mike Morgan
Democrats are a diverse group of people, all with different life experiences and opinions on various issues. We don't all agree on every topic.

But there is one point that Democrats are united on—we respect and celebrate the diversity of our membership, even when we don't always agree.

We acknowledge that our country is better when we have checks and balances, the inalienable right to have and express our opinions and our philosophies, and the right to be respected even when we disagree.

It is true—we live in a “red” County. But our opinions, our priorities, our needs, are just as valid and important as everyone else’s.

And we owe absolutely no explanation to those who would try to bully or shame us into silence.

This is our year of empowerment.

We are the Democratic Women of Johnston County.

And we are Stronger. Together.

Our Year of Empowerment

It’s a Training Jamboree!

Saturday, August 12th promises to be an important day for the Johnston County Democratic Party. Precinct officials, party leaders, and engaged volunteers will meet for a series of workshops designed to build a stronger county infrastructure.

Four workshops will be held at the Benson Conference Center, beginning at 9:00 a.m. These workshops will cover Voter Protection (a topic of increasing urgency, given both state and national voter suppression efforts), Social Media and online tools that can enhance our ability to connect with our members and reach those critical volunteers, Vote Builder training which will teach our Precinct officials how to best utilize this powerful tool, and a workshop on working in Precinct Clusters and taking that important first step underwriting all other efforts – recruiting volunteers.

Many thanks to our dedicated members who have worked so diligently in planning this event and preparing the training sessions. Several volunteers from the JCDP, DWJC, the Orange County Democratic Party, and the NCDP have all come together to help ensure that we will be more than ready for the 2018 elections.

In Loving Memory of Patricia Anthony & Florence Penny Williams

Blessing the boats
(at St. Mary’s)
may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss

the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love your back—may you
open your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that

-Lucille Clifton
Join us on Thursday, August 17 for our first monthly meeting of the season! This month, we’ll be focusing on our members—bring your energy, your excitement, and your ideas, and let’s make some awesome plans for our organization!

*Note for this meeting—we’re running a Back to School Supply Drive! Please bring donations of new school supplies to be distributed at our local Johnston County schools!

Thursday, August 17 at 6:30 PM
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
218 S 2nd St
Smithfield, NC 27577
(And remember, our meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month!)

Find us on Facebook!
Democratic Women of Johnston County
Johnston County Democratic Party

Stronger. Together.

M a r k  Y o u r  C a l e n d a r!

Feelin’ like you need to get out and socialize with awesome people? Interested in checking out a new local restaurant?

Then our First Saturday dinners or our Second Thursday Luncheons are just what you need! The locations of these social events change each month, so if you’re interested in joining us, watch for our monthly emails or check out our Facebook group for info!

These are our regularly scheduled gatherings .... But we’ve got so many more awesome and fun events coming up this autumn—from festivals to training sessions, town hall meetings to fundraisers and social events

Stay in the loop by signing up for our email updates and joining our Facebook group!