

History of Georgia Women (And Those Who Stand With Us)

3-28-19

On the morning of January 22, 2017, a call was issued from the Women's March on Washington (WMOW.) The request was to assemble 10 – 12 friends for a "Signing Event."

This was to be the **1st Action** of a "10 Actions in 100 Days" campaign sponsored by WMOW.

A public event was created on Facebook and over the next week it was shared widely.

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, fifty people came together at the home of Claire and Charlie Cox in a gathering that drew people from all over Macon, most of whom had never met.

More than 150 postcards were handwritten and mailed to Senators and Congressmen.

Connections and friendships were initiated, and **Georgia Women (And Those Who Stand With Us)** was formed as a result of conversations in their den.

The first action taken by the group was to visit Representative Austin Scott's office.

Media Coverage was large, and many people were directed to our newly formed Facebook group and email address. We grew. A lot. Quickly.

A Steering Committee was formed and still meets weekly. The original steering committee was Claire Cox, Brenda Sutton, Marty Koplin, Lynn Snyder, Tracie Jenkins, Amy Dever and Roz Goudeau.

On Saturday, February 11, 2017, we gathered for the **2nd Action**.

The Women's March designed an agenda for 10 - 12 friends to Huddle to discuss what they cared about and engage in future visioning. We expected, and planned for, 50 – 60. The attendance was around 140.

Input from the Huddle was used to write Guiding Principles detailing what issues we care most about and to assemble a spreadsheet of gifts and talents in our membership.

The group grew. 200, 300, 350. A website and email network were created.

We participated in the **3rd Action** (an online town hall) and the **4th Action** (A Day Without A Woman.)

We wrote postcards, distributed a #NoBanNoWall video, participated in Conservation Day at the Georgia Capitol, made visits to both of Georgia's US Senators offices, successfully led a coalition that was instrumental in passing a Family Leave policy in Warner Robins and, later, in Macon-Bibb County, and worked at, and marched in, the March on Macon and the Crowd Out Discrimination Campaign, successfully working alongside others in a coalition that passed gender and sexual orientation hiring protections for Macon-Bibb County employees.

We continued participating in the "10 Actions in 100 Days", coming together for Actions...not Meetings.

On April 8, 2017, an Advocacy Training Day was held at First Baptist Church of Christ where we equipped ourselves to be successful advocates and learned what groups exist in Georgia with which we can work to effect change and improve the lives of women and other minorities in our state.

Additional trips to Senators and Congressmen's offices were made. When our representatives held Town Halls, we attended.

We continued to grow...400...500...

We created a short, but highly successful campaign, MACON CLIMATE SENSE, asking Mayor Reichert to sign the Climate Mayors Network agreement saying that Macon will do all it can to further and uphold the Paris Climate Accords despite our Federal Government withdrawing from them.

Salons, or community conversations, were scheduled to go deeper into topics related to our 5 Core Principles. The first related to Healthcare. Others pertained to Immigration and best various aspects of advocating.

With the climate of our country in a declining spiral of civility, this group will remain focused, without aligning with a party or any candidates, on the issues that were decided upon in our first Huddle, February of 2017:

- Protection of Civil Liberties
- Fair and Representative Elections
- Quality Public Education
- Access to Affordable Healthcare
- Protection of our Environment

This is how our story began. It is up to all of us to write the future.