

Bernie Sanders 'revolution' makes its way to Lake Keowee

BY CARLOS GALARZA-VEVE
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SENECA — When Democratic Party presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders delivered his live-streamed message to 3,000 house parties throughout all 50 states eager to support his grassroots, progressive movement, the candidate's message made its way to a Waterford Pointe home on Lake Keowee.

The host of the local get-together, Paulette Keffas-Chassin, said she was surprised to see such a diverse group arrive at her home to hear from Sanders.

"It was great to see people from different backgrounds, ages and geographic areas show up," Keffas-Chassin said Thursday. "They all find (Sanders) refreshing and appealing."

Sanders spoke to supporters from a house party in southwest Washington, D.C., which he attended Wednesday night. His message centered on ways to build "a political revolution."

"This campaign is not simply about electing me; I hope we accomplish that, but that isn't the most important thing," the U.S. senator from Vermont said, according to his official website — bernie-sanders.com. "The most important thing is building a political movement in which millions of people

who have given up on the political process — including a lot of young people — get involved."

Keffas-Chassin said Sanders' message resonated with her guests because he is fueling his campaign through individual donations and is not taking any



Sanders

Super PAC money or donations from corporations and lobbyists.

Most repugnant to Keffas-Chassin and like-minded voters is how big money, more so than ever before, is attempting to be the king maker in the 2016 presidential election. For example, Keffas-Chassin said the Koch brothers alone are pouring up to \$1 billion toward their favorite Republican candidates during this presidential election cycle.

Although she is active with the Oconee County Democratic Party, Keffas-Chassin said the get-together at her home was not an Oconee Democratic Party event, and she went out of her way to invite Republicans and independents to her gathering, along with Democrats.

Keffas-Chassin said strangers who were able to check on Sanders' website for nearby parties also made it to her door. They came from Walhalla, Six Mile, Easley and other

places, and she welcomed them all.

The host said she is impressed with how Sanders is using technology and social media to get his message across in much the same way Barack Obama did to make his way into the White House in 2008.

Keffas-Chassin said she jumped on Sanders' bandwagon and not Hillary Clinton's because the former first lady is lining her campaign war chest with donations from special interests and lobbyists.

"The same people that donate to Jeb Bush donate to Hillary," Keffas-Chassin said.

Notwithstanding her appeal to Sanders' message, Keffas-Chassin said that if Clinton wins the party's nomination, she and Democrats everywhere will rally around her "historic" run.

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A large group showed up at the Lake Keowee home of Paulette Keffas-Chassin to be part of a nationwide organizing event for Democratic Party presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders.

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