

PRESS RELEASE

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SML Democrats

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### **SML Democrats Support “Protesting with Love” Protest at Westlake**

Three young women from Franklin County recently organized a peaceful protest at Wendy’s, Smith Mountain Lake, VA. Bridgette Craighead, along with her friends Malala Penn and Katosha Poindexter have formed “Protesting with Love,” a group they hope will be recognized by Black Lives Matter (BLM).

About thirty people showed up for the peaceful protest on a warm afternoon in June. Half in attendance were members of the SML Democrats who were there with their masks on and with signs to protest against racism.

Club President, Denise Tuttle, remarked about her experience at the protest: “It was heartening to be with these young women and a number of their young friends who are prepared to stand up to racism and face it head-on with passion, energy, and love. Bridgette told me that when someone shouts something ugly, she shouts back ‘I love you.’ When the going gets rough, this group does not back down but offers another way of fighting with love.”

The Smith Mountain Lake Democrats continue to be active during the challenging times of Covid-19. Members have participated with various BLM protests in Franklin and Bedford Counties. While the office has been closed due to Covid-19, the Election Support Committee is actively keeping members up to date with Election and Candidate news, along with reminders about voting and securing Absentee Ballots.

The Club has also participated in a postcard campaign and a calling campaign to remind people to vote.

For more information about the Smith Mountain Lake Democrats, voting in Virginia, and how to become a member, visit our Facebook page and our website, [www.SMLdemocrats.org](http://www.SMLdemocrats.org). Email: [smldems@gmail.com](mailto:smldems@gmail.com).

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