

– IN THE SPOTLIGHT –

**LADONNA RYGGS, SCFRW PRESIDENT,
 TO SPEAK AT DEC. 6 MEETING**

The National Federation of Republican Women will be the central focus of our Dec. 6 meeting.

As many of you know, the NFRW, with more than 110,000 members, has developed into one of the largest and most widespread memberships of Republican women in America.

Organized in 1938, the NFRW offers countless resources that allow Republican women opportunities to become involved in politics.

LaDonna Ryggs, president of our own South Carolina Federation of Republican Women, has been elected to the member-at-large position on the NFRW board. LaDonna will share her insight into this amazing Federation at our Dec. 6 meeting. The NFRW has undoubtedly helped shape our governments policies and procedures.

The Federation has more than 2,000 clubs and offers women in all 50 states the opportunity to become involved



LaDonna Ryggs

in one of those clubs. The Federation has the following goals:

- Electing Republican candidates to public office
- Training campaign leaders and volunteers
- Recruiting women candidates for public office
- Educating the members on legislative issues
- Promoting the principles of the Republican Party
- Supporting Republican legislative policies

Come learn how the South Carolina Federation of Republican Women joined forces with the National Federation of Republican Women in 1961 and, together, have been equipping women with the skills necessary for political participation and leadership in our state and country for more than 45 years.

In addition to the presentation on the NFRW, our by-laws provide for the installation of our newly elected officers at our December meeting. Our slate of officers for the term 2008 and 2009 include the following:

- Geri Warren, President
- Kathy Davis, First Vice President
- Carol Cobb, Second Vice President
- Mary Carolyn Garton, Treasurer
- Pat Jenkins, Recording Secretary
- Betty Orders, Corresponding Secretary

Who can resist the Poinsett Club at Christmas time! Plus, an added feature of special Christmas music will be performed by the Goodwin String Quartet all students at the Fine Arts Center. They will also have fresh green wreaths for sale at the luncheon.

Make plans to join us at noon on Dec. 6 as we look back with pride and gratitude on GCRWC's many accomplishments as a club during 2006 and 2007 and look forward to 2008 with anticipation, prayers and hope for our club and our country. *Geri Warren.*

Members, Make Your Reservation Today!

Members, please call the appropriate person below or e-mail Carol Cobb to make your luncheon reservation by **noon, Monday, Dec. 3.**

- Last Name A C: Nancy Cline 281-0534
- Last Name D F: Linda Slaton 288-0560
- Last Name G J: Ann Brown 295-3964
- Last Name K M: Lucy Kilby 233-6000
- Last Name N P: Karen Mims 288-2162
- Last Name Q R: Wanda Rabenda 325-6568
- Last Name S Z: Shirdale Hebert 268-2540

Carol Cobb e-mail carolbcobb@aol.com by noon, Monday, Dec. 3. **Cancellations: Call 220-5068 by 8 p.m. on the Monday before the luncheon.**

Please note: You will be billed \$14 if you make a reservation and do not come to the luncheon.

Wreaths for Sale at Dec. 6 Meeting

Members of the Goodwin String Quartet will sell Christmas wreaths at the Dec. 6 meeting. The wreaths come in circular and candy cane shapes and sell for \$30 and \$25. Bows will also be for sale.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

It has been a privilege to serve as president of the Greenville County Republican Womens Club for the past two years.

It has been a successful two years in many ways. Our membership has grown to the largest in the state with 156 members. We have had interesting and informative programs (three presidential candidates), but most of all, you have become more active in the Republican Party.

You have organized precincts, become elected officers in

precincts, including executive committeemen, volunteered in campaigns and for the party, have been hired as staff in campaigns and have run for office. That is success any way you look at it, and I am so proud of you.

I would like to thank the following officers and committee chairmen: Geri Warren, Mary Carolyn Garton, Gisela Dales, Faye Jay, Pat Jenkins, Joanne Meadows, Laura Richards, Kathy Davis, Kathy Snyder Garrett, Patty Stoner, Pat Rowe, Karen Mims, Melinda Lindberg, Mary Anne Inglis, Nancy Robinson, Carol Cobb, Becky Egert, Betty Orders and Nancy Ellis. What a tremendous job they have done.

My friend Geri Warren will be a great president, and I look forward to the next two years as she leads us to even greater success.

May you and your families have a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,
Betty Poe

— PROFILES: LaDonna Strange Ryggs —

Highlighting members — By Joanne Meadows

LaDonna Strange Ryggs lives in Greer, works in Greenville, attends church in Simpsonville, and belongs to a Spartanburg Republican Womens Club.

She was born at Barge Memorial Hospital in Greenville, where her father attended Bob Jones University. The family moved to Florida when she was three years old. The family later moved to Lexington, Kentucky, where LaDonna attended school.

After high school, she returned to Greenville to attend her father's alma mater. She graduated with a bachelor of science degree from BJU in speech education.

After graduation, LaDonna visited her father's new church in Fort Myers, Florida. He had hired an assistant, who also served as the school administrator for the Winkler Road Baptist Christian School. That young man was Robert Ryggs, and he married LaDonna in 1987. Robert is from Van Buren, Indiana, the popcorn capital of the world.

A daughter, Judy, was born in 1988, and a son, Robert David, was born in 1992. Judy is a sophomore in college, and Robert is a sophomore at Bob Jones Academy.

LaDonna taught school in Florida and then managed a music store. In 1999 the Ryggs moved to Greenville for LaDonna to work on her master's degree. She graduated from BJU with a master of arts degree in communication.

She now works at the BJU Press. She has traveled extensively in her job leading workshops for Christian school administrators and home school leadership conferences throughout the country.

Her husband Robert works for the

South Carolina Department of Transportation as the district utility coordinator. The couple enjoy visiting historic places on weekend vacations. They are members of Calvary Baptist Church in Simpsonville.

LaDonna has been a lifelong Republican. She first got involved in politics because of such issues as abortion and anti-lottery. Later she helped get legislators elected. This led her to the GOP and Republican Womens Club. She has been involved from the precinct level to the national level.

· 2001 to present: precinct committeeman or president

· 2003 to present: Spartanburg GOP executive team

· 2003-2006: President Palmetto House Republican Women and co-founder.

· 2005-2006: SCFRW membership chairman

· 2005: Graduate of South Carolina Winning Women program

· 2006-2007: SCFRW state president

· 2007 to present: Spartanburg GOP executive committeeman

· 2008-2009: NFRW member at large

As SCFRW president, LaDonna has traveled throughout the state visiting the many clubs. She enjoys reading when she can find a few spare moments.

Under LaDonna's leadership the South Carolina Federation of Republican Women took home many honors at the national convention in California in September including the Betty Heitman Award for State Excellence; the Campaign Award; and the Caring for America State Federation Award. She was one of five finalists for the Ronald Reagan Leadership Award.

Sunshine Report

The GCRWC extends deepest sympathy to Kathy Snyder Garrett in the passing of her father, Joe Manning Snyder, Oct. 28. He was a native of Greenville, and he served our country in the United States Air Force. *Mary Carolyn Garton.*

Thank you Bob Dill

The GCRWC honors Bob Dill, publisher of the *Times Examiner*, for his coverage of GCRWC events and keeping us informed of important events in the Upstate.

The *Times Examiner*, the Independent Conservative Voice of the Palmetto State, is a bargain at \$25 for 52 issues a year. Get a subscription for yourself or give subscriptions to friends and relatives for Christmas.

You won't want to miss the *Times Examiner* in an election year.

Visit the

GCRWC web site

www.gcrwc.org

Learning, fun, awards at SCFRW's Convention

The 2007 South Carolina Federation of Republican women's Convention took place at the Sheraton Hotel in North Charleston Oct. 18 to 21.

The weekend began with a beautiful dinner cruise around Charleston Harbor Thursday evening, Oct. 18. It ended much too soon for me.

Friday morning came early as Geri, Joanne and I attended the Campaign Management School. The day began at 7:30 a.m., and class ended at 5:30 p.m. The class was taught by Joe Gaylord and Holly Robichaud. If you plan to run for office just see us, because we learned a lot in 10 hours and would like to justify being in school instead of going to the market in Charleston.

Friday night's activities began with a buffet dinner, and a keynote address by Katon Dawson, South Carolina GOP chairman, who told of his trip to New Hampshire to set dates for the 2008 presidential primaries. Then a presidential panel discussion took place moderated by Rocky D., apparently a popular DJ in Columbia. The participants were Katon Dawson, Holly Robichaud and Earl Capps, a must-read South Carolina blogger.

Saturday morning, Oct. 20, President LaDonna Ryggs called the convention to order. The invocation was given by Suzette Jordan, chaplain. The presentation of colors was conducted by the Eagle Military Academy, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Diane Carr, Americanism chairman. Beth Fox sang the National Anthem, and Joanne Wiegand recited the Republican Creed.

State Representative Shirley Hinson was introduced as honorary convention chairman.

Lisa Sox called the roll, and a quorum was present. A total of 101 delegates attended.

At the Saturday luncheon, a panel discussion took place with members of the Republican Women's Caucus. Catherine Ceips, Nikki Haley, Shirley Hinson and Annette Young participated, and Rita Allison was the moderator.

By-law changes

1. SCFRW bylaws would conform to NFRW bylaws.
2. The state president, with approval of the executive committee, could appoint someone to fill the unexpired term of a district director position if vacant.
3. If the need arises, a vote of the executive committee could be taken by phone or e-mail.
4. The number that constitutes a quorum was changed.
5. Club dues payment dates were changed to conform with NFRW.
6. Club assets will go to SCFRW if club dissolves.

New officers elected

- President Mary McAbee, Anderson Republican Women
- First Vice President Betty Poe, Greenville Republican Women



Greenville County Republican Women at convention

- Second Vice President Sandra Bryan, Capital City Republican Women
- Recording Secretary Mikki Hunter, Knightsville Republican Women
- Treasurer Lisa Sox, West Metro Republican Women

District Directors Elected

District One Peggy Appler, Berkeley Republican Women; District Two Sara Reardon, Beaufort Republican Women; District Three Belva Few, Greenwood Republican Women; District Four Brenda Schoolfield, Upstate Republican Women; District Five Diane Carr, York Republican Women

Awards

- Strom Thurmond Award** Starletta Hairston
- Woman of the Year** Betty Poe, Greenville Republican Women
- SCFRW My Favorite Teacher** Marlene Dowd, Greenville Republican Women
- SCFRW Top Campaign Hours** Lin Bennet, Sea Island Republican Women 10,000 hours

Membership Award

- First Place Greenville Republican Women
- Second Place Charleston Republican Women
- Third Place Beaufort Republican Women

Newsletter

- First place Greenville Republican Women
- Second place Charleston Republican Women

Sunday Prayer Breakfast

Sunday morning a prayer breakfast took place in the beautiful Cypress Gardens in Goose Creek, South Carolina.

After a buffet breakfast, Rep. Gresham Barrett gave a moving talk.

Some of us took a boat ride through the black swamp. It was a quiet and peaceful place to end a busy and tiring but fun weekend. *Betty Poe.*

DATES OF INTEREST

Jan. 10	Presidential Debate Myrtle Beach
Jan. 24	Noon GCRWC at Poinsett Club

