

— IN THE SPOTLIGHT —

**DON'T MISS OUR JUNE PROGRAM  
ON AMERICANISM**

On Thursday, June 28, our annual program on Americanism will have three special features you will not want to miss.

Colonel Robert Browning (U.S. Marine Corps retired), our own Pat Browning's husband, will join us to discuss his experiences in the Middle East and his more recent service to support our men and women in the military.

Bob started and runs First Presbyterian Church's Military Ministry, and you will be amazed to learn what he has accomplished for our military personnel and what could be done at your own church or by other organizations.

Bob is a native of Florida and received his college degree from Florida State University. After joining the Marine Corps, he served two tours in Vietnam. Subsequently, he served in the United Kingdom and in Bahrain, a vital part of the Middle East. He also served in the Pentagon. After his retirement, Bob worked in the aeronautics industry, and he now has his own international consulting firm. We are fortunate to have Bob join us between his international work and travel.

In addition to Bob Browning, we will also feature another Marine veteran at our June 28 meeting. Al Bergman and his band will entertain us with patriotic music. Al was raised in a musical family, and he successfully followed in the family tradition. His uncle, Dewey Bergman, played with Guy Lombardo for more than 30 years. Following his service as a Marine, Al played with Charlie Spivak, and he still plays at Furman University, for his church, the American Legion, the Shriners and at various other places and occasions around Greenville.

In addition to Bob and Al, we will also have a pre-



Robert Browning

sentation that describes the purpose and success of the Fisher Houses, which are located at more than 30 military hospitals today. These facilities house military personnel, active and retired, and their families, in a home setting when they are undergoing medical treatment. Without these homes away from home, many military families would be unable to spend this important time with their veteran because of the expenses it would entail. This is a service deserving of support, and as part of our Caring for America program, we will provide envelopes for those who would like to contribute.

Thanks to Karen Mims for chairing this important Americanism program. Join us for a delicious lunch at the beautiful Poinsett Club at noon on Thursday, June 28. It will be a great way to start your Fourth of July celebration! *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, June 25.**

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: carolcobb@aol.com by noon, Monday, June 25. **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.*

**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBER!**

Christian Przirembel

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

If you were at the May luncheon, you heard our guest speaker, Bob McAlister. The first part of his speech was about the difference between Democrats and Republicans, and it was great and well received.

Then he began to tell us how much he supported the senior senator from South Carolina, and you could feel the air in the room quickly change, but you continued to be the gracious group that you are.

Well, later I received a telephone call from Mr. McAlister, who said that his wife sort of kicked his behind all the way home to Columbia and that he had lost sleep over the situation, so he apologized—not for what he said, but for how he said it. Apology accepted.

A sincere thank you to our members and associates who worked for my election to the board of the Greenville County GOP. It is so good to have a member of our club serve on the board. Many of our club members and associates serve as precinct presidents and executive committeemen.

Carol Cobb, Gisela Dales, Joanne Meadows, Betty Poe and Geri Warren represented you at the SCFRW quarterly board meeting, Saturday, June 9, at the Radisson Hotel in Columbia. Our own Mary Carolyn Garton was elected delegate at large to the NFRW convention.

The date of the SCFRW state convention will be Oct. 19-21 at the Sheraton Hotel in North Charleston. Some of the highlights of the meeting will be a campaign management school, presidential forum, dinner cruise for regents, and a prayer breakfast at Charleston Cypress Gardens.

Clubs can take one voting delegate for each 10 members. It is important that we increase our membership by the end of this month. Of course, we can take alternates and as many guests as possible. Cruising, dining, learning and voting! Ladies mark you calendar now. We are going to have a blast!

Hats off to GCRWC members who worked the polls for the June 12 Republican primary for city elections for mayor and water commissioner. This was a completely volunteer effort. Some of you worked a half day, some worked all day (that was from 6 a.m. to after 7 p.m.), and others worked at County Square receiving the boxes from workers. I would like to name you but I am afraid I would miss someone.

Carol Cobb, Kathy Davis, Marlene Dowd, Mary Carolyn Garton, Joanne Meadows, Betty Orders, Wanda Rabenda, Nancy Robinson, Geri Warren and I attended the SCFRW Leadership Training Session June 18 at the Marriott Hotel in Greenville. SCFRW President LaDonna Ryggs explained the duties of a club president. The SCFRW vice president, Mary McAbee, spoke on leadership development skills, and Marlene Saad, SCFRW fourth district director, told us how to have good programs for a better organization. We had breakout sessions where clubs could exchange ideas and share desserts.

Our June luncheon will be our annual Americanism program. It will be a day of flag waving, honoring our military, learning about Fisher Houses at military and Veterans Administration hospitals and an opportunity to contribute to the work they are doing. You just better show up or you are going to miss a really fun time.

See you June 28.

## — PROFILES: PAT BROWNING —

*Highlighting members of GCRWC — By Joanne Meadows*

Did you realize that among the members of the Greenville County Republican Women's Club there is a former marathon runner? One member has run in four Marine marathons. **Pat Browning** no longer runs marathons, but she still runs and swims daily. She is an early bird, and she enjoys her daily jogs around Thornblade.

Pat was born in Illinois, was reared in Florida, and has lived all over the world. She and her husband, retired Marine Colonel Bob Browning, met at Florida State University.

Pat has a degree in health care administration. She worked as office manager for a doctor in St. Louis.

The Brownings have one son, Scott Browning, who lives with his wife in northern Virginia. Scott is a paramedic, and his wife is a nurse practitioner. Pat is often on the road to Virginia visiting her two grandchildren: Matthew, 13; and Alexandra, 7.

Other weeks Pat heads south to Winter Park, Florida, to visit her mom. In between those travels, she flies to Portugal with her husband.

Geri Warren introduced Pat to GCRWC. They are in the same Sunday school class at First Presbyterian Church. Pat is on the congregational care committee.

She is also the lay leader of the Elderberry group at her church. She helps plan trips and speakers for the senior citizen's class.

The Brownings are busy planning a hiking vacation. They will fly out west and hike six to 11 miles daily in New Mexico and Colorado. Pat and Bob, her husband of 45 years, plan to be at the June 28 GCRWC meeting, where he will be the speaker.

Pat enjoys the GCRWC when she is in town. Unfortunately that is not too often. She did volunteer work for the Victory 2006 Campaign.

Sincerely,  
*Betty Poe*

## Volunteer Hours

From LaDonna Ryggs, state president: "Your women have worked hard and are some of the most dedicated women I know."

"I am glad for the contributions Greenville County Republican Women have made to the Greenville County GOP, the state GOP and the federation."

"We welcome the over 18,000 hours of the Greenville County Republican Women."

## Sunshine report

Catherine Hendrix had surgery, and tests indicate she is fine. She is home recuperating and would like to hear from you. Her address is 118 Aberdeen Dr., Greenville, SC 29605.

## DATES OF INTEREST

June 23	South Carolina Federation of Young Republicans breakfast, 8:30, Marriott—Pelham & I85
June 27	SCGOP luncheon, noon at Clarion Hotel, Columbia. Speaker: Fred Thompson
June 28	Noon — GCRWC at Poinsett Club
July 26	Noon — GCRWC at Poinsett Club
Sept. 28-30	NFRW Convention Palm Springs, California
Oct. 18-21	SCFRW Convention Sheraton Hotel North Charleston

### Meghan Dowd gets Eagle Forum Collegians Summit scholarship

Congratulations to Meghan Dowd, NFRW student associate member, daughter of Marlene Dowd, GCRWC member, for her selection as a scholarship recipient to the 14th Eagle Forum Collegians Summit in Washington, D.C., June 21-22.



Meghan has just completed her first year at the South Carolina School of Pharmacy in Columbia.

### Betty Poe elected second vice chairman of Greenville County GOP

Betty Poe, GCRWC president, was elected second vice chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party June 4 by the executive committeemen. Bob Dill nominated Betty, and Geri Warren seconded the motion. Mrs. Poe ran against Mike Green. Betty was elected because of the hard work of GCRWC members and associates.

### Mary Carolyn Garton elected delegate to national convention

Mary Carolyn Garton, second vice president of the Greenville County Republican Women's Club, was elected delegate at large June 9 to the National Federation of Republican Women's national convention.

She was elected at the SCFRW board meeting in Columbia to represent the South Carolina Federation of Republican Women at the Oct. 28-30 convention in Palm Springs, California.

## Brit proud to be Republican

I have been blessed with the opportunity to be a proud Republican for many years now.

My interest in politics and the Republican Party has been shaped by a process that began during the 1976 Presidential election when my sixth grade class took part and followed the campaign and the election. I vividly remember being only one of a handful of students that campaigned for and supported President Gerald Ford.

At this time, my mother and I were still resident legal aliens from Great Britain. My father had already become a United States citizen, and my sister had been born in the United States. As national events continued to unfold over the next three years, my mother decided that it was definitely time for us to apply for United States citizenship. This detailed process began in 1979, and five additional years would pass before we would get to take the oath of citizenship.

With great delight at Ronald Reagan winning the presidency in 1980, I found myself following political events in the newspaper and television as much as possible. Then in 1982, as a high school senior, my Government teacher gave us all a great assignment. That assignment was to write a formal letter to the President. I sat down and wrote a letter of encouragement to President Reagan.

Much to my surprise, my other classmates started quickly receiving form letters of acknowledgement, but I did not receive one. I will admit that I was quite disappointed. However, on a cold Sunday afternoon in February 1983, our postmaster came driving up. He delivered a large brown box with all kinds of official stamps and stickers. The postmaster brought it personally because he thought we were in some kind of trouble with the FBI. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

Inside this box was a beautiful package with a book about the White House, post cards and a letter addressed to me from President Reagan. I was in complete shock to think that the leader of the Free World took the time to write to me. Well, needless to say, I was now hooked for life as a Republican.

Luckily, several months later, my mother and I received word that processing of our citizenship would begin. In early 1984, after a trip to Charleston for an oral FBI interview, my mother and I took the oath of citizenship on June 15, 1984. I will never forget the importance of this day as long as I live. Shortly thereafter, my mother and I registered to vote. It was extremely important to both of us that we vote to help re-elect President Reagan.

Since 1984, I have taken the opportunity to vote seriously. I have done my best to stay on top of issues and events as well as support local and national Republican candidates. However, I have always wanted to take a more active role in the political process. This desire became extremely intense after the outcome of the 2006 mid-term election and the monumental importance of the coming Presidential election for our great nation. Luckily, a dear co-worker, Frankie White, introduced me to Betty Poe, and as they say, "the rest is history." I consider being given the opportunity to be an active member of the Greenville County Republican Women's Club a dream come true as well as a sincere honor and privilege. *Fiona J. Davidson.*

### Book of the Month

*How to Raise an American: 1776 Fun and Easy Tools, Tips, and Activities to Help Your Child Love This Country* by Myrna Blyth and Chriss Winston.





Greenville County  
Republican Women's Club  
Betty Poe, President  
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Greenville, SC 29602-0053

Postage



## Celebrate America!



*"It is easy to take liberty for granted,  
when you have never had it taken from you." Vice President Dick Cheney*

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## The Elephant's Ear

June '07

*Join Us for the June Luncheon Meeting*

Thursday — Noon  
June 28

*at the Poinsett Club (807 E. Washington St.)  
in beautiful downtown Greenville, S.C.*

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND & BRING A REPUBLICAN FRIEND.

THE COST FOR THE LUNCHEON IS \$14 PER PERSON.

— REMEMBER —

GUESTS NEED TO MAKE RESERVATIONS BY NOON  
ON MONDAY BEFORE THE LUNCHEON

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