

## — IN THE SPOTLIGHT —

### REP. DUNCAN HUNTER ADDRESSES GCRWC



Rep. Duncan Hunter

On Friday, April 13, the Greenville County Republican Women's Club welcomed its second Presidential candidate this year, Congressman Duncan Hunter, a conservative Californian in the tradition of another great conservative Californian, Ronald Reagan.

Congressman Hunter is the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee. The congressman's message focused on three pillars he has devoted himself to since being elected to Congress in 1980: ensuring our military is second to none, securing our nation's borders and protecting American workers from unfair competition.

A lively and informative question and answer period followed his address, with members and guests anxiously awaiting the congressman's answers on many relevant issues facing our country today. After the meeting adjourned, Congressman Hunter remained to meet, talk with and have his picture taken with many well-wishers.

Despite the fact that we had only nine days to change our regular meeting date to accommodate Congressman Hunter's schedule, we had a good turn-

out. Special thanks go to the following members who gave a tremendous team effort to make the special meeting a success:

Invitations—Design and Printing—Tom Hanson (who created several drafts and made several trips to the printers)

Calling Committee—Carol Cobb (who personally made 75 telephone calls over Easter weekend)

Mailing of Invitations—Joanne Meadows, Nancy Robinson and Betty Poe (who met on Good Friday afternoon at Willis Meadows' office to stuff envelopes)

Membership Labels—Kathy Davis (who made and delivered up-to-date labels even though she was recuperating from a car accident)

Reservations by Phone—Betty Poe (who took a flood of reservations up to the last minute)

E-Mails – Marlene Dowd (who took time out from her spring vacation in Charleston to help us)

You can see why I call it a team effort. Many thanks to everyone, and to those who were able to change their schedules to join us on such short notice. *Geri Warren.*

## Greenville GOP convention news

The Greenville County Republican Party conducted its election convention April 21.

Almost 600 Republican activists descended upon the Carolina First Expo Center to conduct political business and to listen to Republican leaders comment on the political scene. In addition, the convention was honored to have six Presidential candidates in attendance to greet our delegates and to explain their qualifications for the Presidency.

Two military personnel, one Army and one Marine, who returned from the Middle East conflict, led the convention in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Stan Eby led a stirring singing of our National Anthem.

Mayor Knox White gave a hearty Greenville welcome to convention attendees to start the festivities. In addition, we were privileged to have Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. Jim DeMint, Congressman Bob Inglis and Republican State Party Chairman Katon Dawson present relevant remarks about the state of American and South Carolina politics.

The convention was highlighted by the presence of six 2008 Presidential candidates—Sam Brownback, John Cox, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Rudy Giuliani and Mitt

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Four GCRWC members: Geri Warren, Mary Carolyn Garton, Joanne Meadows and I attended the NFRW Board Meeting in Washington March 27-31.

While they visited the German Embassy, I went to the White House for tea with First Lady Laura Bush. I enjoyed having a short conversation with Mrs. Bush concerning the importance of South Carolina in the Presidential primaries. She expressed how much she enjoyed coming to our state. Linda Butler Johnson and I were the only attendees from South Carolina.

It was also great fun that same night to tour the West Wing and see the Oval Office. I was hoping the President would be working late. (No such luck). Please read the full account of our trip on the opposite page of this newsletter.

Thirty-eight members of our club boarded a bus Tuesday, April 17, for the trip to Columbia for SCFRW Legislative Day. Ladies, we traveled in style. Geri and Mary Carolyn provided refreshments for us. Our first stop was the Governor's Mansion for a brunch by the pool and a tour of the Mansion, Lace House, and the gift shop, of course.

Then 197 red coated ladies entered the State House. We were introduced to the House and Senate. Rep. Glenn Hamilton, husband of GCRW member Joan Hamilton, introduced the members of our club.

The State Constitutional Officers invited us to visit each of them in their office, followed by a nice reception in the Governor's board room. This year the weather was beautiful and we assembled on the steps of the Capitol for a picture with Gov. Mark Sanford. I think it was the best Legislative Day I have attended. Please think about going with us next year. You will have fun.

I wish all of you could have been at the Greenville County Convention, Saturday, April 21. Three of our associate members were recognized: Bob Dill was presented the Strom Thurmond Leadership Award; Dennis Jones was given the Chairman's Award for his volunteer work for Victory 2006; and Ed Foulke was given a Special Award for his work as Greenville County party chairman. Johnny Mac Walters, husband of GCRWC member Donna Walters, was given the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Members, please send your volunteer hours to Kathy Davis as soon as possible. The deadline is May 10. If you want our club to win an award, please send her your hours.

Sincerely,  
*Betty Poe*

## — PROFILES: CHERYL PRESSLEY—

*Highlighting members of GCRWC — By Joanne Meadows*

Cheryl Pressley loves being in new places. She has fond memories of the openings of Summit Drive Elementary, Wade Hampton High School, the Peace Center and the Bi-Lo Center.

She is a native Greenvillian. Cheryl and her parents, James and Martha Sue Shives, lived in the Dellwood area. Her father was a real estate agent. Before there were subdivisions in the Greenville area, he sold lots on dirt roads.

Her early memories of Greenville include only a few restaurants: the historic Poinsett Hotel, Charlie's Steakhouse, Howard Johnson's and the Toddle House on Stone Avenue.

When the Peace Center opened in 1990, Cheryl was there. She was an usher and then joined the box office staff. She loved being able to attend the many events at the Peace Center. She ushered at 13 productions of *Cats*, the musical, and loved it better each time. She worked with Conway Belangia at the voter registration office for two years, '97-'98.

In September 1998, Cheryl was in the box office for the opening of the Bi-Lo

Center. She worked there until August 2006.

Cheryl retired early and is now enjoying free time with her two grandchildren. Her daughter, Mary Brockman Rankin, is married to Tim Rankin. They live in Pebble Creek with their 4-year-old son, Shives, and daughter, Avery, who is almost 2.

In June last year, Cheryl moved from East Avondale to Bradford North, where she loves her new patio home. She has been a Methodist all her life. Her hobbies include playing bridge, reading, walking and baby-sitting her grandchildren.

Cheryl's roots in the Greenville County Republican Women's Club go deep. Her aunt, Mozelle Shives, was president of the club in its early days. Mozelle was her aunt on both sides (brothers married sisters).

She loves having time to take up the legacy of her aunt. She can now attend GCRWC meetings regularly. She has assisted the treasurer, Pat Jenkins, at many meetings. She is the chairman of the GCRWC nominating committee.

## Nominating committee elected

GCRWC elected the following to serve on the nominating committee for 2008-2009: Cheryl Pressley, chairman; Mary Carolyn Garton, secretary; Judy Cooter; Faye Jay; and Joanne Meadows.

## SCFRW Board Meeting June 9

The South Carolina Federation Board meeting will take place at the Radisson Hotel (formerly the Columbian) on Bush River Road in Columbia, Saturday, June 9, at 10 a.m. Cost of the meeting is \$18. Please let Betty Poe know if you are interested in attending.

## 2007 Dues

A reminder: If you have not paid your GCRWC 2007 dues, please pay \$15 at the next luncheon or mail to Pat Jenkins, Treasurer, 10 Capers St., Greenville, SC 29605.

# Four GCRWC members attend NFRW spring board meeting

South Carolina had one of the largest contingents at the National Federation of Republican Women meeting in Washington March 28 to 31. The 23 representatives from South Carolina were the third largest group behind Texas and California.

GCRWC members who attended the meeting are as follows: Betty Poe, Geri Warren, Mary Carolyn Garton and Joanne Meadows

The Sea Island Republican Women's Club sent eight members to D.C., which was the largest group from South Carolina.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich addressed the Saturday luncheon, March 31. He gave the women a great send-off. He fired up the group to go home and work to protect the Presidency for the GOP. His comments on illegal immigration and English as the only language were interrupted by lots of applause.

During the business session the need to raise NFRW dues was discussed and approved. In addition, a nominating committee was elected. The site of the 2011 convention was also selected.

NFRW convention sites: 2007, Palm Springs, California; 2009 Orlando, Florida; 2011 Kansas City, Missouri.

## SCFRW tours West Wing

SCFRW President LaDonna Ryggs worked with Sen. Jim DeMint's staff to schedule tours of the West Wing on the evening of March 27.

Small groups were guided on a tour to view the Oval Office, Cabinet Conference Room and other offices in the West Wing of the White House.

The tour ended with photos in the White House Rose Garden outside the Oval Office and at the guest entrance to the West Wing.

## Legislative Day on the Hill

NFRW Legislative Day began early. Twenty-three SCFRW members boarded the four chartered buses at 7 a.m. on Thursday, March 29. Breakfast was at the Capitol Hill Club. The group heard many lawmakers including the following: Rep. Joe Wilson, South Carolina; Rep. Duncan Hunter, California; Sen. Trent Lott, Mississippi; and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas.

The featured speaker was Doro Bush Koch, daughter of George H. W. Bush. She read excerpts from her new book, *My Father, My President*. Her report on the compilation of the material for the book was quite amusing. She even told how she lined the walls of her dining room with chronological materials.

After the breakfast, the women in the red jackets (NFRW women wore red jackets during their visit) posed on the steps of the Cannon House Office Building for a picture for the NFRW magazine.

Sens. Jim DeMint and Lindsey Graham were in committee meetings in the Hart Senate Office Building, but they took breaks to make brief remarks and have photos taken.

Afterward, members of Sen. Graham's staff escorted the South Carolina women from the Hart Building through the Russell Senate Office Building through special corridors where they finally boarded underground trams to the Capitol.

Lunch in the Congressional Dining Room was delayed.

President Bush was on the Hill that day, and the Secret Service shut down several hallways.

Rep. Bob Inglis hosted the lunch for the Greenville and Spartanburg County attendees. Afterward, he escorted the group to the House chamber, where the representatives were voting on the budget. The next bill to recess was met with shouts of "work, work" by the Republicans. The Democrats won, and they recessed. Rep. Gresham Barrett stopped by to greet the visitors.

A tour of the Rotunda and Senate chamber was not possible. The President was still on the Hill, where he presented medals of honor to the Tuskegee airmen, a World War II unit with the first black airmen.

The group was led outside for photos on the Capitol porch. Another staff member guided the group to the gift shop. The women then limped back to the bus for the short ride to the hotel for much needed rest.

## S.C. group visits German Embassy

Ellen Weaver of Sen. DeMint's office arranged for the S.C. women to visit the German Embassy in the northwest area beyond the Georgetown section. Andreas Kruger, the German political director, talked to the group. He expressed his surprise at how America was so difficult to describe because it is so diverse and vast. His travels revealed that even in states, like New York, there are major differences between city and rural areas. He had visited the South Carolina coast and was impressed with Southern hospitality.

## Ann Romney keynote speaker at fashion show

Ann Romney, wife of Presidential candidate Mitt Romney, spoke of the "bag of rocks" each one carries. She talked of her personal battle with multiple sclerosis.

Michael Steele, GOPAC chairman, was the master of ceremonies for the event. U.S. Marines escorted the models for the show.

A silent auction and a live auction took place. A bronze bust of Ronald Reagan, which weighs more than 50 pounds, miraculously fit into the trunk for the trip to Greenville. It now resides with Betty Poe.

## Sunshine Report

Jean Stilwagon fractured her shoulder. She is doing fine, and is still planning to go on the trip she had planned.

Kathy Davis was in two auto accidents, but is doing fine. Janice Lollis' daughter and boyfriend were in an accident.

Marguerite Taylor fell and broke her shoulder blade. Laura Floyd's baby Jack had minor surgery and is doing fine.

The GCRWC extends sympathy to the following members:

- Shirdale Hebert in the death of her father, who passed away April 3
- Peggy Kirby in the death of her mother, who passed away April 12
- Sara Ellen Woerner in the death of her nephew

Mary Carolyn Garton



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Postage

## Celebrate America!

*But a Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever. President John Adams*

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in Washington, D.C.*

*Editor: Betty Poe  
Layout: Thomas C. Hanson*

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Romney. All the candidates talked with delegates before the convention opened, and their supporters manned tables to hand out campaign literature. Each Presidential candidate gave a 10-minute presentation to the delegates on why they should be elected President.

After the Presidential candidates had departed, the delegates voted in a straw poll to determine their preference for President. The results were:

- Mitt Romney 132 (31 percent)
- Mike Huckabee 111 (26 percent)
- Duncan Hunter 87 (21 percent)
- Rudy Giuliani 35 (8 percent)
- Sam Brownback 19 (4.5 percent)
- John McCain 17 (4 percent) (Sen.

McCain was not present)

- John Cox 10 (2 percent)
- Others 10 (2 percent)

*Dennis Jones*

### DATES OF INTEREST

May 10	Volunteer hours due
May 14	Silver Elephant Dinner. Columbia, S.C.
May 15	Presidential Debate of GOP Candidates
May 19	South Carolina Republican Party Convention
May 24	Noon — GCRWC at Poinsett Club
June 9	SCFRW Board Meeting Radisson Hotel, Columbia
June 28	Noon — GCRWC at Poinsett Club