



The Elephant's Ear

Vol. 1 No. 4

April '08

CANDIDATES TO SPEAK AT APRIL 24 MEETING



Patrick
Haddon



Dan
Hamilton



Pete
Smith



Tommy
Stringer



Bill
Wylie



Bob
Leach



Wendy
Nanney

We are pleased to have a lineup of candidates for the June 10 primary who will be introduced at our April luncheon. We will have the candidates for House Districts 18, 20, 21 and 22 and Senate District 6 represented.

Patrick Haddon, a landscaping company owner, will be running against incumbent **Mike Fair** in Senate District 6. Haddon is chairman of the South Carolina Federation of Young Republicans, vice president of Greenville County Farm Bureau board of directors, a Parker Fire and Sewer District commissioner, and is an associate member of GCRWC. He and his wife, Shelley, have one son and another child due in May. Shelley is a member of GCRWC.

Dan Hamilton will be replacing his father, Glenn, in House District 20. He is the operating partner of Keller Williams Realty and is a principal in a residential development and construction company. Dan and his wife, Kelly, have three children. Before starting his real estate business, Hamilton worked as an aide to then Congressman Jim DeMint. His mother, Joan Hamilton, is a member of our club.

Tommy Stringer and **Pete Smith** will face each other in the June primary for House District 18. Stringer founded his own pension compliance company eight years ago. He was elected to serve on the Coastal Carolina University board of trustees by the General Assembly in 2006. He and his wife, Carrie, have one son. Smith has been an optometrist for the past 30 years, and his practice is in Greer. He and his wife, Rosalind, who is also an optometrist, have two children. Both candidates are lifelong residents of District 18.

Bill Wylie will be running against incumbent **Bob Leach** for the House District 21 seat. Leach has been the representative for District 21 since 1997 and was on Greenville County Council from 1980 to 1996. He serves as the chair of the Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee and is on the Ways and Means Committee. He and his wife, Marilyn, have five adult children (one deceased). Wylie was the executive director of Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midland South Carolina from 2002 to 2007. Before that he was president of Stone International from 1998 to 2001, Umbro America from 1996 to 1998,

executive vice president of Umbro International from 1991 to 1996 and vice president operations for Stone Manufacturing from 1985 to 1991. He and his wife, Janie, have three grown children and 10 grandchildren.

Gloria Haskins, the incumbent for House District 22, will be facing **Wendy Nanney** in the June primary. Gloria has been in the House since 2001. She is on the Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee and the Judiciary Committee. She was married to the late Terry Haskins and she has four sons. Gloria will be represented by her son at the meeting because the General Assembly is in session. Wendy is credit manager for Interfilm Holdings in Piedmont. She is immediate past chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party and former treasurer of Upstate Republican Women. She and her husband, Tim, have five children. Tim is Greenville County's register of deeds. *Kathy Davis.*

Here Come the Directories!

Do you remember W-A-Y back in high school, how excited we all felt when it was time for our long anticipated yearbooks to arrive? Well, I feel like it's that time again!

Our hard-working Membership Directory Committee, made up of Karen Mims (chairman), Melinda Lindberg, Nancy Cline, Virginia Waters and Tom Hanson, has been planning, typing, calling, running, correcting, etc. for more than three and a half months, and the Big Day is fast approaching. Our directories will be ready for distribution at our monthly meeting on April 24! Make sure you are there so you can receive your beautiful GCRWC pictorial membership directory — hot off the press!

The pictorial directory will be a great asset for our club, enabling us to put the right GCRW name with the right Republican face and providing all of us with a convenient resource for contacting each other and many of our elected officials. I hope you will make a special effort to thank each member of the Membership Directory Committee and thank them for the outstanding job they have done! On the entire club's behalf, I want to say, THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Geri Warren

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

We are looking forward to hosting seven candidates for the South Carolina House at our meeting on April 24. This is a wonderful opportunity to listen, evaluate and determine who gets your vote.

As you know, the upcoming elections are more important than ever as we go through the economic times we are facing. These men and women will have the power to take our money in taxes, improve or worsen our educational system and expand or reduce some of the freedoms we now enjoy. And the list of issues they can and will face could go on and on.

Let's make sure we come to the meeting on April 24 prepared to ask the important questions of this outstanding group of candidates. We can ask those questions in a cordial and polite way, but we need to ask them the questions that you feel

are important in determining for whom you will vote. As the meeting approaches, be sure to be thinking about the question, or questions, you would like to have them answer. There are certainly plenty of issues confronting us this year.

Also, remember that there is a great opportunity for you to volunteer to help your candidate as they campaign this year. Be sure to count the hours you work toward your volunteer hours for GCRW. And don't forget to pass this information along to Carol Cobb. We want to continue to be recognized as one of the most active clubs in the state.

We have many, many events and parties coming up, so be sure to check our calendar of events in the newsletter or on www.gcrwc.org. We don't want you to miss out on any of these events because we're having a great year and a lot of fun when we get together.

Sincerely,
Geri Warren

— GRASSROOTS: PEGGY KIRBY —



Highlighting members of GCRW — By Fiona Davidson



Peggy Kirby and her husband, Will, have lived in Greenville for many years and are active in Northgate Baptist Church. Peggy and Will met at First Baptist Church in Clemson when Peggy was a senior in high school. They will soon celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

Peggy and Will have raised two sons, Gary and Dee. Gary and his wife live in Atlanta, where Gary works as a marketing and public relations specialist for real estate development. Dee, his wife and young son live nearby in Greenville. Dee works for AT&T Mobility. Peggy and Will enjoy their first grandson, Daniel, and their granddog River.

Peggy was born in Seneca and grew up in the Clemson area as her father was a professor at Clemson University. She graduated from Daniel High School and then went to Winthrop University and received a degree in Elementary Education. Peggy taught school in Greenville County for nine years.

Will is originally from St. George, South Carolina, and graduated from Clemson University with a degree in History. He then spent two years in the Army. Will works as a business consultant for physicians and dentists and prepares their tax returns. As you can imagine, Peggy does not see much of Will at this time of the year.

Peggy's family has quite the Clemson University connection. Peggy's father graduated from Clemson in 1933.

He obtained his doctorate in horticulture and taught at Clemson for many years.

He retired from teaching in 1975. At 98 years young, he still likes to attend football games.

Will graduated from Clemson in 1964, and both of their sons, Dee and Gary, graduated from Clemson in the late 1970s. Gary served as student body president.

Peggy has many hobbies and interests that include volunteering at schools, snow skiing, antiquing and traveling with her family. Peggy has a lifelong love of music.

Peggy is also talented at decorating and gardening. It comes from a reliable source (that would be our own president, Geri Warren) that Peggy's Christmas decorations are something to behold. Peggy and Will have about two acres of land and her favorite plants are azaleas and ferns.

Peggy is proud to be a Republican, and her family also follows politics closely. Peggy joined the GCRWC about five years ago and serves on the executive board as committee chairman for decorations.



Peggy Kirby

Old Fashioned Stump Meeting May 24

The Greenville County Republican Party will have an old-fashioned stump meeting Saturday, May 24, in a hangar at the Greenville Jet Center at the Downtown Airport.

Betty Poe, first vice chairman of the Greenville GOP, said the event will feature Republican candidates running in the June 10 primary, pop corn, hot dogs and soft drinks.

The event, a fund-raiser for the Greenville GOP, costs \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information contact Betty Poe at 907-1577.

Sunshine Report

Doris Latham is improving after her stroke and has regained her balance.

Carol Cobb's electronics in her home are slowly being replaced after lightning struck her home a couple of weeks ago.

Dot Stroud's health issues are improving, and she hopes to be joining us again soon.

Welcome New Members!

Mitsy Ballentine, Susan Beeco, Karen Lawton, Marilynn Leach, Sandra Price, Z Rosti, Cheryl Smart, Linda Wallace and Janie Wylie.

Legislative Corner

By Jeff Schilz, Guest Writer

Jeff Schilz, a native of Greenville, is one of Gov. Sanford's policy advisers and staff attorneys. Before moving to Columbia, Jeff was in private practice as an attorney and was a frequent visitor to GCRWC meetings. He is this month's guest writer on issues in the state house:



During his State of the State address in January, Gov. Sanford called on the General Assembly to pass strong DUI and illegal immigration reform legislation within the first 30 days of the session. This is an update on where we are on these two issues.

DUI Reform

On April 15 Gov. Sanford signed a bill that represents an important step in making our roadways safer. In 2006, South Carolina ranked third worst in the nation, with 50 percent of all driving deaths being alcohol-related.

The legislation the Governor encouraged the General Assembly to pass, H. 3496, will do a number of things to strengthen South Carolina's DUI laws, including:

- Stiffen penalties for repeat offenders
- Remove some of the loopholes and technicalities that currently aid defense lawyers in winning dismissals
- Require individuals convicted of violating the DUI laws to enroll in an alcohol treatment program
- Strengthen penalties for suspects who refuse to take a breathalyzer test.

H. 3496 also creates what is referred to as a "tiered penalty system." Under the tiered penalty system, an individual with a higher blood-alcohol content level is punished more than an individual with a lower blood-alcohol level.

Illegal Immigration Reform

While immigration is a federal issue, we can address several issues at the state level. The Governor has also called upon the General Assembly to pass meaningful immigration reform legislation.

The South Carolina Illegal Immigration Reform Act, S. 392, passed the House and the Senate and is now in conference. This bill does a number of things to strengthen South Carolina's immigration laws, including:

- Requires employers doing business with the state to verify the citizenship of their workers
- Denies business expense deductions to employers of illegal workers, as well as mandates withholdings on wages paid to illegal workers
- Creates a felony for harboring or transporting illegal aliens
- Provides additional penalties for ID fraud in connection with immigration
- Establishes a state hot line for reporting suspected violations of immigration laws
- Directs the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Federal government to serve as an auxiliary immigration and customs enforcement agency.

One concern Gov. Sanford has with current proposals is the absence of a strong verification requirement for private employees. The House version of the bill does not contain any verification requirements for private employers. The Senate version contains a verification requirement for private employers, using the Federal I-9 form verification process. The I-9 process has proven to be an ineffective system because fraudulent documents can be used to satisfy the verification requirements. At the same time, Federal law prohibits employers or states from checking the validity of the documents.

Gov. Sanford would favor a system that would require private employers to check valid South Carolina driver's licenses or use the online e-verify system. Arizona has reported that illegal immigrants are starting to self-deport due to the effectiveness of the e-verify system.

Greenville County Executive Committee Hears from Candidates

The Greenville County Republican Executive Committee met April 7. Chairman Samuel Harms announced that Candidates School will be conducted May 2 in Columbia. For more information call Sam Harms at 238-5900.

The Republican Party is thrilled to have a candidate for every office on the Greenville County ballot for the first time since the 1880s. According to Doug Wavle, state executive committeeman, the Candidate Recruitment Committee "beat the bushes and worked hard to fill each and every slot."

Dennis Jones of the Finance Committee began his discussion of the budget by saying, "We are not in ancient Greece and the kill the messenger rule is not in effect." That was a good tip-off that bad news was to follow. Headquarters rental will increase from \$800 a month to \$1,425 in September. Several options are being looked into. Moreover, \$15,700 is projected to be needed this year. It was suggested to start a fund with three tiers: the Reagan Fund for \$100, the Eisenhower Fund for \$50 and the Bush Fund for \$25.

Betty Poe, first vice chairman, presented an idea for an old-fashioned stump meeting at the Greenville Jet Center at the Downtown Airport May 24 with candidates attending. Next discussed was the idea for a Bronze Elephant dinner in the fall. Congratulations are in order for Geri Warren, who was elected second vice chairman of the Greenville County GOP.

The last event was the speaker section in which we heard from candidates Mike Fair, Patrick Haddon, Buddy Witherspoon, Rex Rice, Max Hyde, Bob Leach, Bill Wylie, Brad Medcalf, Tommy Stringer and Charles Jeter. *Karen Crane.*

SCFRW Board Meeting

The second SCFRW board meeting will be Saturday, May 3, at Embassy Suites in Columbia.

Tentative plans include a workshop from 11 to noon, lunch from noon to 1 and a business meeting from 2 to 4 p.m. An invitation has been sent to county party chairmen and state executive committeemen to join us for lunch. The cost will probably be \$25.

For more information, contact Mary McAbee, SCFRW President, telephone 375-1715, or e-mail marymac@famview.com.

GET YOUR NEWSLETTER EARLY — BY E-MAIL

You can get your newsletter by e-mail a day or two earlier than snail mail. To do so, just send an e-mail to Tom Hanson at tom.hanson@thomashanson.com

Virginia Boney awarded GOP internship

Virginia Boney, a junior political science major at Furman, was awarded the Dorothy Kabis Internship for this summer at the National Federation of Republican Women headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.



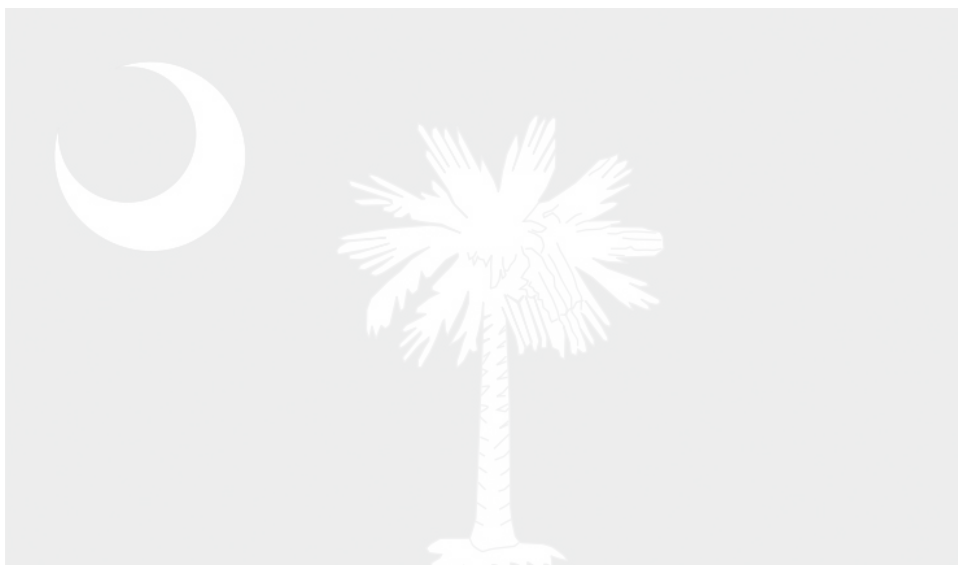
Boney was one of three nationwide to receive the six-week internship. She was honored at the Greenville County Republican Women's Club meeting March 27 at the Poinsett Club. The internship provides housing, round-trip airfare and a small monetary allowance.

Boney is active in the Furman College Republicans and worked in the Mitt Romney presidential campaign last fall and winter. Dr. Glenn Halba-Neubauer of Furman was instrumental in helping the GCRWC choose Virginia as its nominee.

Kabis was president of the National Federation of Republican Women from 1963 to 1967. She was U.S. treasurer under President Richard Nixon from 1969 to 1971. *Thomas C. Hanson*

Greenville County
Republican Women's Club
Geri Warren, President
P.O. Box 53
Greenville, SC 29602-0053

Postage



GCRWC web site
www.gcrwc.org

Join Us for the April Luncheon Meeting
Thursday — Noon — April 24
Poinsett Club downtown Greenville



The
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MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

Please e-mail Cheryl Pressley at gcrwreply@bellsouth.net or call her at 246-6448 by noon, Monday, April 21. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., April 21.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 21	Fourth Congressional District Convention, 7 p.m., Verne Smith Auditorium, Greenville Tech.
April 24	Noon: GCRW at Poinsett Club
May 3	SCFRW Quarterly Board Meeting Embassy Suites, Columbia
May 22	Noon: GCRW at Poinsett Club
May 24	Old Fashioned GOP stump meeting Greenville Jet Center, Downtown Airport
May 30	Silver Elephant Dinner, Columbia
May 31	South Carolina Republican Party Convention
Sept. 1 to 4	National GOP Convention Minneapolis, Minnesota