



The

# Elephant's Ear

Vol. 1 No. 2

February '08

## BOB McLAIN, TALK SHOW HOST, TO SPEAK AT FEB. 28 MEETING

The Greenville County Republican Women's Club is honored to have Bob McLain as our speaker for our February luncheon.

Bob is the host of the popular Bob McLain Program that airs on AM 1330 from 3 to 6 p.m. weekdays.

According to the WORD Radio web site, Bob started in radio at the age of 15 during the heyday of rock and roll, when he convinced the program director of a top 10 market station he should be on the air. He went on to work



Bob McLain

for many legendary rock stations all around the country—Washington, D.C., Winston-Salem, New York, Phoenix, Sacramento, New Orleans, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Charleston and many other stations.

He began his television career as a sportscaster at WCIV-TV in Charleston, knowing nothing about television. Eight months later he was named sports anchor at KDFW-TV in Dallas. His next stop was WJLA-TV in Washington, D.C., where President Ronald Reagan was a regular viewer. He sent Bob an autographed picture of himself to prove it.

After several other stops, he ended up as a weatherman at WMC-TV in Memphis, where he spent 15 years before resigning and rejoining radio as a program director and disc jockey in 1999.

Bob moved to Greenville in 2002. He served as program director and was on the air in the morning at WGVC-FM, building the station from the ground up. In 2006 Entercom asked Bob to take over as the program director for NewsRadio WORD.

Come meet the face that goes with the voice that we listen to every afternoon. And who knows—GCRW may be his next topic! *Kathy Davis.*

## Governor's State of the State Address

On Jan. 16 Gov. Mark Sanford delivered his state of the state address, using technology to emphasize major points of his speech. He spoke on several familiar themes including reforming DUI laws, restructuring, limiting government spending, and education.

Gov. Sanford advocated changes to DUI laws to stiffen penalties for repeat offenders and to remove some of the administrative roadblocks and loopholes that currently impede police in their efforts to enforce the state's DUI laws. Backed by the S.C. Sheriff's Association and Solicitors, the issue is being debated in the General Assembly.

In addition, Gov. Sanford pushed for restructuring, arguing that the current structure of state government is based on an 1895 constitution designed to keep a black person from becoming governor. He further emphasized that the current structure leaks money and discourages accountability. The Governor pointed specifically to the existence of the Budget and Control Board, citing that South Carolina is the only state with a non-accountable entity that has so much power within state government.

In the speech, the Governor argued that the Budget and Control Board has wasted taxpayer money by giving bids to those who are politically connected rather than the best deal for the state. A third party report found a potential \$500 million in savings at the Budget and Control Board alone.

In addition to eliminating the Budget and Control Board, the Governor also pushed for restructuring the law so that the Governor would appoint some constitutional officers. (On a personal note, I would highlight our fractured executive branch by pointing out the current fact that the Governor and Superintendent of Education come from different parties with different philosophies, thus discouraging cooperation and stifling the ability of the Governor to move major agenda items forward.) He also pushed for the

(See State of the State, page 3)

## Meals on Wheels Receives Gift from GCRW

Pat Browning (right), GCRW's public relations committee chairman, presents Maureen Leslie, assistant executive director of Meals on Wheels of Greenville, a 2007 Pennies From Heaven check from the GCRW at the Jan. 24 meeting. [Photo by Thomas C. Hanson]



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GCRW Members,

The South Carolina Republican primary is over, and it appears that, once again, South Carolina has chosen the Republican presidential candidate. It was another hard-fought campaign, and I know many South Carolinians would have preferred another candidate. We can all be proud of the fact, however, that we worked and voted for our own favorite candidate—an American tradition.

As the nomination process proceeds, I know we all hope that South Carolina is recognized for the leadership we have

provided the Conservative cause. Two of our favorite South Carolina Republicans, Gov. Mark Sanford and Sen. Jim DeMint, are high on the list of potential vice presidential candidates. Let's hope our eventual nominee selects one of these true conservatives as his running mate. This would certainly help reunite our state and our party.

Our own club continues to move forward in 2008 to achieve the goals and objectives we have set. Eighteen committee chairs and officers met to discuss the functions and duties of our various committees and their plans for

this year. Everyone was enthusiastic, creative and energized. We will experience the fruits of this meeting as the year progresses. Special thanks to Carol Cobb, Betty Orders, Patty Stoner, Nancee Lee Yearick and Kathy Snyder-Garrett for the delicious home-cooked meal they provided.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize two special members of our club. They just happen to be sisters, and both have seen and influenced the change as South Carolina became a Republican state.

One is 92, and the other is 96 years old, and despite a deep personal loss and some health issues, both joined us for our January meeting because they wanted to be with their GCRW friends, who share similar hopes and dreams for the city, state and country they truly love.

You have probably guessed by now who I am speaking of—Marguerite Taylor and Doris Latham. They are both truly an inspiration and role models for all of us!

I look forward to see all of you at our February meeting.

Sincerely,  
*Gerí Warren*

### — GRASSROOTS: PAMELA SOWELL —



*Highlighting members of GCRW — By Fiona Davidson*



Pamela Sowell and her husband, John, live in Greenville and attend church at First Presbyterian.

They have been married for 20 years and raised two boys, John and Clay. John lives in Oregon and attends Oregon State University. Clay lives in Atlanta and works as a computer consultant. He is married and has a young son, Quinn. Pamela and John are enjoying being grandparents.

Pamela was born in Greenville, but spent her growing-up years all around the Southeast. Pamela's father worked for Daniel Construction, and this required the family to move as needed. Pamela graduated from Easley High School and decided on nursing as a career path. Pamela enrolled in the Greenville Hospital School of Nursing sponsored in part through Furman University.

John is originally from Atlanta and attended Emory College and Emory University School of Dentistry and finished his medical training as an oral surgeon at the Medical University of South Carolina. John practices as an oral surgeon in Greenwood.

Pamela has quite a varied nursing career including several years of service in the U.S. Army Reserve Nurse Corps, where she attained the rank of captain. She worked in Germany for 4½ years, and then moved back to the United States, where the pharmaceutical industry became center-stage in Pamela's nursing career.

Pamela enjoyed 10 years with Johnson & Johnson and was their national sales leader two years in a row. She spent almost two years with Searle Pharmaceuticals (now part of Pfizer), and the

past 16 years with GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals. Pamela is a certified medical representative and her extensive knowledge and success has led to her current position as senior executive representative.

Several years ago, Pamela and John met on the job. John's oral surgery practice was part of Pamela's territory when she worked for Johnson & Johnson, and Pamela would regularly call on his office. John tried to get Pamela's attention for quite some time, and eventually John's persistence paid off and the rest is history.

Pamela is quite the world traveler having visited Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Canada and Scotland. Pamela also experienced East Berlin before the wall came down.

Pamela and John celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in style by visiting the Greek Islands, other areas of the Mediterranean and Croatia. They have a trip planned to Holland and Belgium.

Outside of work, Pamela and John like to collect antiques (furniture and porcelain). Both have even taken a fly-fishing course. They also love their dog, Klaus. Pamela has many hobbies and interests that include swimming, golf, tennis and a passion for Italian opera and classical guitar.

Pamela also has a serious love for gardening and is a master gardener. She and John have an herb garden, and they try to cook what they grow.

Pamela is proud to be an active and lifelong Republican. Pamela serves on the 2008 GCRW executive board as committee chairman for finance and fund-raising.

### What a Great Start!

Eighty-nine members have already joined the club this year. If you have not already done so, now is the time to renew your GCRW membership.

Please pay \$20 for the January to December 2008 club year to Mary Carolyn Garton at the Feb. 28 meeting or if you know for certain you will not be at the meeting please mail a check to her at 107 Sabra Drive, Easley, SC 29642-2959.

## You Should Have Been There . . . The Greenville County Executive Committee Meeting . . . That Is!

Many important issues were brought to our attention at the Feb. 4 Executive Committee Meeting.

The results and analysis of the Jan. 19 South Carolina Republican primary were discussed.

The election of a national committeeman will take place May 31 at the state convention. Other important issues included the process of choosing delegates for the National Republican Party Convention to take place Sept. 1 to 4 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Candidates for the June 10 primary introduced themselves as follows:

Liz Seman	County Council District 24
Brad Metcalf	County Council District 21
Bill Wylie	S.C. House District 21
Wendy Nanney	S.C. House District 22
Justin Alexander	S.C. House District 23

Greg Shorey, the first chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party, gave an impassioned speech on the importance of registering to vote by party.

Wendy Nanney, first vice chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party, tendered her resignation in order to run for the S.C. House seat in District 22.

Betty Poe, second vice chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party and immediate past president of GCRW, was nominated and unanimously elected to fill the first vice chairman's slot.

Patrick Haddon, chairman of the South Carolina Young Republicans and an associate member of GCRW, was unanimously elected to the second vice chairman's position. Congratulations Betty and Patrick! We know you will do a tremendous job in leading Greenville County Republicans to the next level. We are proud of you.

(See what you missed??)

## SCFRW Board of Directors Meeting

The SCFRW board of directors meeting took place Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Embassy Suites in Columbia. Geri Warren, Betty Poe and Carol Cobb were in attendance from Greenville.

President Mary McAbee welcomed everyone and presented LaDonna Ryggs with a gift of appreciation for her service as our state president for the past two years. The gift was a beautiful teapot depicting our state symbols.

Mary stressed the importance of supporting the Republican presidential candidate. She reminded us of our role as a collective force to advance the power of women through political access and participation. She went on to say that she would like to have a Republican women's club in every county of our state.

It was announced that as we record our campaign volunteer hours each month that we are now required to note in detail the activities in which we take part. This will enable us to present the State and National Federation with a clear picture of what we are doing.

Glenda Rawlings of the Homeland Security Committee will be sending "Beacon Alerts" to each club, which will keep us up to date on items of national security such as the new I.D. requirements for travel in the U.S. and abroad.

The featured speaker was Henry McMaster, SC Attorney General. McMaster is working on legislation to abolish parole for all crimes in our state. He wants to establish a middle court to focus on education and job training for appropriate nonviolent offenders.

The next SCFRW quarterly meeting will be May 3 at the Embassy Suites in Columbia. Rep. Gresham Barrett will be the featured speaker. *Carol Cobb.*

## Lights! Camera! Action! GCRW Pictorial Directory . . . Take 2!



If you had your picture taken at our January meeting, I think you will agree that the organization and efficiency that the Membership Directory Committee provided was amazing.

Our very own professional photographer, Tom Hanson, and directory committee made up of Karen Mims, Nancy Cline, Virginia Waters and Melinda Lindberg were so organized that they not only were able to photograph 61 members in a short amount

of time, but they were also able to get each member's up-to-date address information that will be included in the directory.

Tom will again help us on this important project by taking individual pictures of members and associate members beginning at 11:15 before our Feb. 28 meeting. He has also agreed to take more pictures for a short time after the meeting and then continue at the March meeting.

For those of you who work and cannot come early or stay late, we will try to arrange times that would be more convenient for you. We want everyone to be included!

Special thanks to Willis Meadows for the use of his professional backdrop.

## Governor's State of the State Address

(Continued from page 1)

Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run on the same ticket.

In a year that South Carolina's economy is faced with a looming recession and shortfalls in revenue, Gov. Sanford argued that we must limit spending not only for a balanced budget, but for South Carolina to remain competitive in bringing in new business. Gov. Sanford listed several ways that we should limit spending, including restructuring, getting rid of a corrupt competitive grants program, and establishing a statutory cap on new spending at population plus inflation, with a requirement that all money above this cap be returned to the taxpayers or dedicated to our state's unfunded pension plan.

Among other points, Gov. Sanford pushed for more parental choice in education, giving children who are trapped in bad schools the ability to go to better private schools with tax credits. He also emphasized the need for consolidated school districts and advocated linking higher education to its costs.

Link to the State of the State address: [www.scgovernor.com/news/releases/jan\\_16\\_08.htm](http://www.scgovernor.com/news/releases/jan_16_08.htm) *Jamie Bach.*

## NFRW Spring Board Meeting



The National Federation of Republican Women's Spring Board Meeting will be in Arlington, Virginia, March 12 to 15.

The first meeting of the 2008 Board of Directors marks the Federation's 70th anniversary.

For more information, visit the NFRW web site at [www.nfrw.org](http://www.nfrw.org).

## MEMBERS, MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

Please call the appropriate person below or e-mail Cheryl Pressley—[gcrwreply@bellsouth.net](mailto:gcrwreply@bellsouth.net) by **noon, Monday, Feb. 25.**

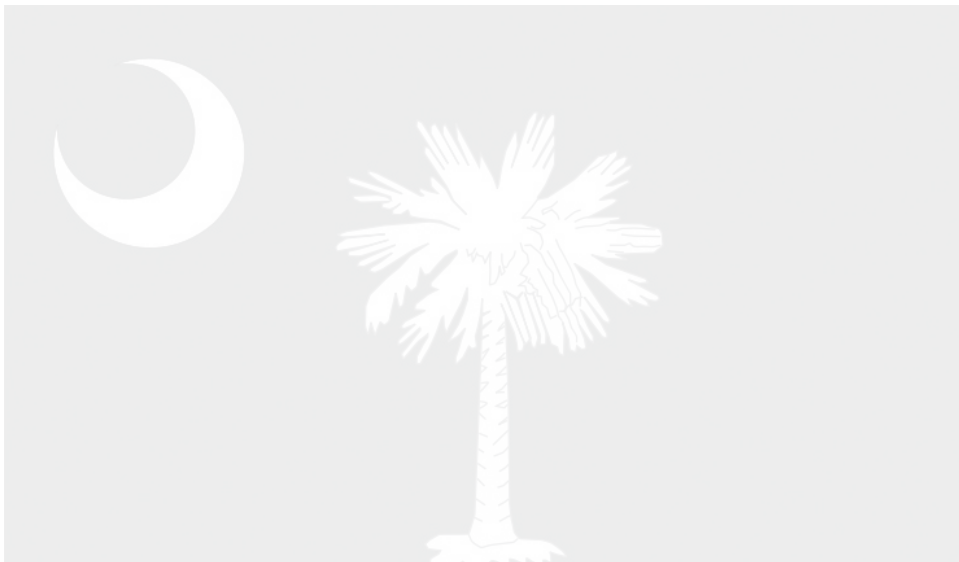
A-C: Nancy Cline 281-0534	N-P: Karen Mims 288-2162
D-F: Linda Slaton 288-0560	Q-R: Wanda Rabenda 325-6568
G-J: Ann Brown 295-3964	S-Z: Shirdale Hebert 268-2540
K-M: Lucy Kilby 233-6000	

*To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., Feb. 25.*



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 February Luncheon Meeting*  
**Thursday — Noon — Feb. 28**  
*Poinsett Club downtown Greenville*



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## **Sunshine Report**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Peg Gerold in the loss of her husband Roger in January.

We extend our sympathy to Patricia Arcenaux, who lost both of her parents within three months last fall.

Loretta Bell is doing well after surgery on her shoulder Feb. 14.

First Lt. John Warren returned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., after six months overseas with the 22nd Military Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

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*Editor: Geri Warren  
Layout: Thomas C. Hanson  
www.ThomasHanson.com*

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Feb. 28	Noon: GCRW at Poinsett Club
March 12 to 15	NFRW Spring Board Meeting, Arlington, Virginia
March 27	Noon: GCRW at Poinsett Club
April 21	District 4 Convention to select national delegates
April 24	Noon: GCRW at Poinsett Club
May 30	Silver Elephant Dinner, Columbia
May 31	South Carolina Republican Party Convention
Sept. 1 to 4	National GOP Convention Minneapolis, Minnesota