



The Elephant's Ear

Vol. 1 No. 6

June '08



CELEBRATE THE RED, WHITE & BLUE AMERICANISM PROGRAM - JUNE 26 MEETING



Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser

On Thursday, June 26, our annual Americanism program will have three special features you will not want to miss.

We are excited to have Lt. Col. Clarence Bowser, a decorated veteran in the War in Afghanistan, joining us, along with Jo Dillard and Dot Bishop, both representing Blue Star Mothers. We will also have a very special presentation of patriotic music sung by Nancee Lee Yearick during the program this year.

Lt. Col. Bowser, a graduate of Livingstone College in North Carolina, with a Masters Degree in Military Management from Touro University International, volunteered to serve as an embedded officer with the Afghan military. He deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in May 2007, a critical area in Southern Afghanistan and a fiercely contested area of the country. Lt. Col. Bowser was responsible for training and mentoring Afghan soldiers fighting the Taliban, and he served as communications officer in the Southern region of Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Bowser distinguished himself in combat during his tour in Afghanistan, culminating in his receiving numerous awards and citations, including the Bronze Star for his valor.

I know you are familiar with the Blue Star Mothers of America. It is an organization comprised of mothers who either have, or who have had, children honorably serving in the military. Their goal is to support their children, each other, and our country by promoting patriotism. In the Upstate, we are fortunate to have four Blue Star Mother Groups, and there are eight other groups throughout the rest of South Carolina.

Jo Dillard, a Greenville area native and the early education principal at Southside Christian School in Simpsonville, will represent the Blue Star Mothers. She became an active member of the Blue Star Mothers during her son's

active duty as an infantryman and his deployment with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. Jo will give us an insight into her experiences, both as a mother and a member of the Blue Star Mothers.

Dot Bishop is a representative of the Greenville Area Blue Star Mothers, and she will provide us with more information about this wonderful organization. Her son Andrew graduated from Berea High School, Appalachian State University and Widener University, and now serves as a career soldier. He is stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, having previously served in Iraq in 2005-2006.



Sara Jo Dillard

As an added bonus feature to the program, our own GCRW member Nancee Lee Yearick will provide our patriotic music this year. Nancee Lee sang our National Anthem at the Greenville County Republican Party Stump Meeting recently, and I know you will thoroughly enjoy her special music presentation.

Thanks to Patty Stoner for chairing this important Americanism program. It will be a great way to start your Fourth of July celebration this year!

Blue Star Mothers will be collecting the following items at our next meeting to be sent to our troops.

Gatorade (powder)	paper, pens
drink mix (sweetened)	envelopes
trail mix	magazines
hard candy, gum	games and puzzles
tuna /chicken (foil pks)	(travel size)
crackers (ind. pks)	paperbacks (family oriented)
beef jerky	playing cards
coffee/condiments	AT&T prepaid phone cards
breath mints	crossword puzzles
sunflower seeds	letters and pictures drawn by children
canned nuts	X-Box games
Little Debbie cakes	PS2 games
cookies	DVD movies (family)
granola bars	CDs
chips (individual bags)	disposable cameras
power bars	small flashlights
fruit roll-ups	
hot chocolate mix	
dried fruit	



Blue Star Mothers Service Flag

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I would like to congratulate Samuel Harms, chairman of the Greenville County GOP, and Betty Poe, first vice chairman, for the great job they did raising approximately \$4,000 at the party's Old Fashioned Stump Meeting, May 24. Betty was instrumental in seeing the need for such an event, incorporating many innovative ideas and organizing all the details and staff. One of the added benefits was the estimated \$20,000 in free television coverage for the candidates.

Thanks also to GCRW members who volunteered their time, energy and resources to make the event a success:

Nancee Lee Yearick, Joanne Meadows, Karen Mims, Ann Brown, Connie Jones, Dennis Jones, Bob Davis, Willis Meadows, Steve Warren and Bob Dill.

Thanks to **Carol Cobb** for handling reservations for Cheryl Pressley last month. Your expertise was a great help!

Patty Stoner, chairman of the Americanism program, has been hard at work for months planning this patriotic event. So let's rally round our flag and show our true red, white and blue colors at our Americanism program June 26.

Sincerely,

Geri Warren

— GRASSROOTS: KAREN CRANE —



Highlighting members of GCRW — By Fiona Davidson



Karen Crane and her husband, Jim, live in Greer, South Carolina, and attend church at Taylors First Baptist. Karen has one adult son, John, and two twin sons, Blake and Blane, who are seniors at Greer High School.

Karen was born in New Albany, Indiana, and grew up on her family's corn farm in Paoli, Indiana. Karen has three brothers and three sisters. Karen later attended the University of Southern Indiana and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. Karen's honors included the Golden Key National Honor Society, Pinnacle National Honor Society and the Dean's List.

After working in sales for about three years, Karen enrolled at Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, Florida.

While in Jacksonville, Karen and Jim met. He later persuaded Karen to move to South Carolina, and she finished her last semester of law school

at the University of South Carolina.

Jim is from Greenville and graduated from Clemson University. He works in sales. In 2007, Karen opened her own law practice with a concentration in family law matters as well as wills and probate.

Outside of work, Karen enjoys snow skiing and exercise, especially running. Karen is active in various community volunteer activities, including leadership roles in area chambers and clubs.

Karen is also active in professional organizations, including the Greenville County Bar Association, Children's Law Committee/Legislative Committee and the Hollywild board of directors.

Karen serves as the Upstate region president of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association. Karen is interested in running for political office in the future. She joined the GCRWC about a year ago.

June 10 Primary Election Results

U.S. Senate (R)

Lindsey Graham	176,323	67 percent
Buddy Witherspoon	87,142	33 percent

U.S. House District 4 (R)

Bob Inglis	37,511	67 percent
Charles Jeter	18,502	33 percent

U.S. House District 2 (R)

Joe Wilson	43,989	85 percent
Phil Blake	7,639	15 percent

S.C. Senate District 6 (R)

Mike Fair	5,484	62 percent
Patrick Haddon	3,378	38 percent

Senate District 12 (R)

Scott Talley	4,194	44 percent
Lee Bright	3,588	38 percent
L.B. Watson	1,717	18 percent

Senate Dist 7 (R)

Shane Martin	4,748	50 percent
Jim Richie	3,065	32 percent
Max Hyde	1,760	18 percent

S.C. House District 16 (R)

Tommy Stringer	1,522	59 percent
Pete Smith	1,055	41 percent

S.C. House District 21 (R)

Bill Wylie	1,744	61 percent
Bob Leach	1,103	39 percent

S.C. House District 22 (R)

Wendy Nanney	2,219	62 percent
Gloria Haskins	1,336	38 percent

S.C. House District 32 (R)

Derham Cole	1,972	52 percent
Christina Jeffrey	1,848	48 percent

S.C. House District 34 (R)

Mike Forrester	2,054	56 percent
Ken Roach	1,627	44 percent

Greenville County Offices

Greenville County Sheriff Office (R)

Steve Loftis	20,715	79 percent
Stephen Salter	5,540	21 percent

Greenville County Council 18 (R)

Joseph Baldwin	896	41 percent
Tony Trout	666	30 percent
Steven Pruitt	647	29 percent

Greenville County Council Dist 21 (R)

Jim Burns	1,518	51 percent
Brad Medcalf	1,479	49 percent

Greenville County Council Dist 22 (R)

Bob Taylor	2,607	69 percent
Bryan Haskins	1,171	31 percent



Welcome New Associate Members!

Berry Ponder and Bob Leach



Sunshine Report

Congratulations to Shelly and Patrick Haddon on the birth of a daughter, Mary Laree, born on May 17.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Laura Richards for the loss of her sister Ethel R. Smith. Also, please continue to pray for Laura, who is having some health issues of her own.

Please remember Elva Gannon (Mary Carolyn Garton's mother), who is living with Mary Carolyn and is now under hospice care.

Please keep Diane Carr, president of York Republican Women, in your prayers. Diane suffered a stroke a few days after the state convention.

South Carolina Republican Party Convention Highlights

Several GCRW members and associate members traveled to Columbia May 31 to represent Greenville County at the South Carolina Republican Party Convention.

Of the 625 total delegates, Greenville County had the largest delegation with 65 voting delegates and seven unseated alternates.

Those members who attended as delegates were **Betty Poe, Joanne Meadows, Karen Mims, Geri Warren, Bob Dill, Willis Meadows, Dennis Jones, Samuel Harms, Tom Mims, Wendy Nanney and Dan Rawls.** **Connie Jones** also attended.

This year's convention delegates had the opportunity to hear from state leaders beginning with our Gov. Mark Sanford.

The governor gave a rousing and detailed speech challenging all to "know what we believe" and "to stay true to our principles." He was interrupted by several standing ovations.

Other elected leaders who addressed the convention were U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham and Jim DeMint; and Reps. Bob Inglis, Joe Wilson and Gresham Barrett.

The state officers who spoke were Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer, Attorney General Henry McMaster, Treasurer Conrad Chellis, Secretary of State Mark Hammond, Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom and Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weather.

All statewide candidates were given a few minutes to speak also. President George Bush and Sen. John McCain sent taped messages to the convention. *Geri Warren.*

Legislative Corner

Governor signs immigration bill

Gov. Mark Sanford signed an immigration reform bill June 4 that was passed after tough debate by the S.C. House and Senate. While the majority of issues surrounding illegal immigration still have to be addressed at the federal level, the new state law creates the following reforms:



- Requires private employers to verify lawful status of all employees by either (1) using E-Verify or (2) requiring S.C. driver's license or equally secure driver's license from another state. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) can impose fines of \$100 to \$1,000 on employers for failing to properly verify the legal status of all employees.

- Prohibits private employers from knowingly and intentionally hiring illegal workers. LLR can suspend imputed S.C. business licenses of employers who violate this provision.

- Requires government contractors to verify employees' work authorization status with E-Verify.

- Authorizes S.C. Law Enforcement Division to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice and Homeland Security that allows state and local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws.

- Requires state and local agencies to verify lawful presence in the United States of all aliens over the age of 18 who apply for public benefits, with exceptions for emergency medical services, disaster relief, prenatal care, federal college aid, domestic violence and S.C. retirement benefits. Verification is to be made through the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program.

- Establishes hotline, web site and database for reporting and tracking alleged violations of immigration laws.

- Prohibits wages paid to illegal workers from being deducted from state income taxes.

- Requires jails to verify lawful presence of inmates.

- Prohibits local governments from prohibiting law enforcement from enforcing immigration laws. *Jamie Bach.*

Housekeeping Tips

Just a reminder that it is a big help to the club when you pay for your luncheon with a **check** instead of cash.



Delegates Elect Glenn McCall National Committeeman

Delegates at the S.C. Republican Party Convention overwhelmingly voted to elect Glenn McCall S.C.'s national committeeman. If you will recall, Glenn was GCRW's featured speaker July 2007

Cindy Costa (unopposed) was re-elected as S.C.'s National Committeewoman.

GCRW Member Receives Statewide Award

Betty Poe, first vice chair of the Greenville County Republican Party, first vice president of SCFRW, and immediate past president of GCRW, was presented the James Edwards Volunteer Award by former Gov. James Edwards at the state convention. Also receiving the award was Tony Denny. Congratulations on this honor!



Note from the County GOP Chairman

Airplanes, Barbecue and Candidates, Candidates and More Candidates at Stump Meeting

The Greenville County Republican Party, with the help of the GCRW, conducted a successful Old Fashioned Stump Meeting at the Greenville Jet Center Saturday, May 24. Around 300 people paid \$15 to hear speeches, eat fine food and have a good time. Twenty-nine candidates spoke at the event, including candidates for the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House, countywide offices, county council, the state House and the state Senate. Also, the party had the pleasure of hearing from the two candidates running for the S.C. national committeeman position, Glenn McCall and Drew McKissick.

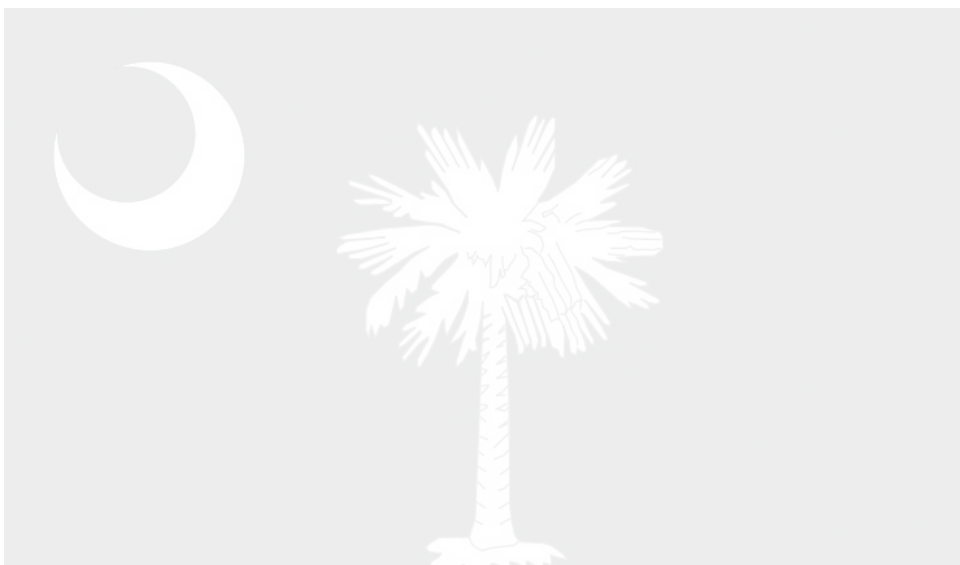
Almost all of the candidates with a contested election who spoke at the stump meeting were victorious on election day. In addition, Buddy Witherspoon spoke at the event, and he carried Greenville County (the only county he carried).

The event was a lot of fun for children and families. The moon bounce, face painting and basketball games were hits. A straw poll was conducted during the festivities, and the winners are posted on the party's web site, greenvillegop.com.

Barbecue and hot dogs were catered by We're Pigs Barbecue on Orchard Park Drive. Bottled water was donated by Atlas Food Systems and featured different presidents. Desserts and brownies were provided by GCRW members and other volunteers. *Samuel D. Harms.*

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 June Luncheon Meeting
Thursday — Noon — June 26
Poinsett Club downtown Greenville



The
Elephant's Ear
Vol. 1 No. 6 *June '08*

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

Please e-mail Cheryl Pressley at gcrwreply@bellsouth.net or call her at 246-6448 by noon, Monday, June 23. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., June 23.

In This Edition

*Annual Americanism program set
for June 26 meeting.*

*— President's Message —
from Geri Warren, President GCRW*

*— Grass Roots —
Highlighting GCRW members
This month features
Karen Crane*

*— Features —
South Carolina
Republican Convention*

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 21	NFRW 70th Anniversary, Chicago
June 26	GCRW Americanism Program Noon: Poinsett Club
July 24	Noon: Poinsett Club
Aug. 4	Greenville County Republican Party Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Verne Smith Auditorium, Greenville Tech.
Aug. 28	Noon: Poinsett Club
Sept. 1 to 4	National GOP Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Oct. 4	SCFRW Quarterly Board Meeting, Palmetto Club, Downtown Columbia