



The

Elephant's Ear

Vol. 1 No. 8

August '08

DR. TONY BEAM TO SPEAK AT AUG. 28 MEETING

We are privileged to have Dr. Tony Beam as our featured guest speaker for our August luncheon.

Dr. Beam is the vice president for Student Services and Christian Worldview at North Greenville University. He is a member of the board of directors of the Palmetto Family Council.

Dr. Beam is the host Monday through Friday on ChristianTalk 660 for "Christian Worldview Today" and a columnist for ChristianPost.com, Crosswalk.com and *The Times Examiner*. (Our own associate member, Bob Dill, is the editor of *The Times Examiner*).

In the April 9 edition of *The Times Examiner*, Dr. Beam wrote a column titled "Reagan's 'Star Wars' Program, Now Part of Bush Legacy." A quote from this column is as follows: "Somewhere, Ronald Reagan is smiling. The legacy of freedom which began with Reagan's vision to win the Cold War is alive and well in President Bush. History will link them together and reward them for their strong stands against the tide of appeasers and naysayers who always stand against the idea of peace through strength."

Dr. Beam has been interviewed on Fox News with Carl Cameron and CNN's Campbell Brown Show. He and his wife, Denise, have two daughters and one son.

Rebecca Steen, Outreach Advisor for Gov. Mark Sanford, will be speaking to us briefly about her position working with county organizations, coalitions and other groups to aid in the Governor's long-fought battle against government waste and pork barrel spending to make South Carolina a better place for all of us. We will be asked to complete a survey that includes ranking the most important to least important the following issues:

- individual rights and freedoms
- fiscal responsibility
- immigration reform
- education reform



Tony Beam

- restructuring and transparency in government
- improving the business climate
- environmental conservation
- religious and family values.

Rick Freeman, candidate for South Carolina House of Representatives District 25, will be introduced. He is in a race against the Democratic incumbent, Karl Allen. Freeman is the owner of Hawk's Bay Developers, a construction company. He is entering the political field due to frustration with South Carolina's inability to eliminate property tax, DUI laws/difficulty prosecuting DUI offenders and continued support for the right to life. He and his wife, Brenda, have two children and one grandson.

Julie Hershey, a GCRW members, was appointed to serve on the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). She will be giving us an insight into the purpose of this committee.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the luncheon. *Kathy Davis.*

Note from the County GOP Chairman

The Greenville County Republican Party Executive Committee met Monday, Aug. 4, in the J. Verne Smith Auditorium at Greenville Tech.

The main topic of new business was locating a suitable headquarters for the Party. The lease for the office on Pleasantburg Drive expires at the end of August, and the officers and a special search committee have been scouring the county for a new location. Various locations were recommended, including a place on Wade Hampton Blvd. near Bob Jones University and the office used by Mitt Romney during the presidential primary.

The Executive Committee voted to allow the officers and the search committee to choose the new location. For now, headquarters will stay on Pleasantburg Drive as part of the Victory 2008 campaign until November.

Also, excitement grows for the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Sept. 1 to 5. I will serve on the convention operations committee.

Samuel Harms

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I was shaken by the realization that one of our former GCRWC members, Carolyn Rice, who had moved to the Republic of Georgia, was in danger. Carolyn is the daughter of Vivian and Max Rice. Carolyn heads an abortion recovery ministry in Georgia and has been traveling back and forth over the past eight years. She was evacuated from Tblisi by the American Embassy Aug. 11 and traveled to the Ukraine for safety.

Carolyn, who has also had crisis training for victims of mass disasters and tragedies, has returned to the Republic of Georgia to help refugees who have suffered trauma as a result of the war.

How amazing it is to have members who not only play a major role in Greenville County, South Carolina, and Washington, but on the international scene as well. We continue to watch and pray for her safety, as well as her mission.

— GRASSROOTS: JULIE HERSHEY —



Highlighting members of GCRW — By Fiona Davidson



Julie Hershey and her husband, Raymond, live in Greer, South Carolina, and attend Grace Church in Greenville. Julie and Raymond have raised one son and two daughters and are looking forward to two weddings. Julie and Raymond also have two grandchildren.

Julie was born and grew up in Michigan. After graduating from Sparta High School, Julie attended and graduated from Grand Rapids College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

After graduation, she began working as an auditor for Ford Motor Credit Co. in Grand Rapids. Julie met Raymond in Michigan and they later married.

Due to a job transfer with the Fabri-Kal Corporation, the Hershey family moved to the Upstate in 1991.

After moving to South Carolina, Julie began to get involved in her community. She was elected to the Greenville County School

Board and served from 1992 to 1996.

Julie served as a trustee for Anderson University from 2002 to 2007 and was appointed to serve on the Governor's Math and Science Advisory Board and the Governor's Education Task Force.

She was most recently appointed by Gov. Mark Sanford to the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC).

Since 1999, Julie has also served as the regional director of Heritage Community Services.

When spare time permits, Julie and Raymond like to visit family in Michigan. Julie and Raymond are active in church activities, including a marriage savers program and Bible study. Julie has been a member of GCRWC for a couple of years.



Julie Hershey

On a much different kind of "battlefield" that is much closer to home, you can also make a difference by getting involved and giving your time to help get good Republican candidates elected.

Victory 2008 will be located in the Greenville County Republican headquarters on Pleasantburg Drive. Please volunteer and don't forget to count those hours!

And speaking of counting hours, I would like to thank Carol Cobb for the outstanding job she is doing as chairman of campaign volunteer hours. She is *so* unbelievably organized. Many thanks, Carol!

I look forward to seeing all of you on Aug. 28.

Sincerely,

Gerri Warren

Volunteer Hours

My sincere thanks to all of our members for submitting your volunteer hours for the year-end report. I was overwhelmed with the great response!

We all know how difficult it is to keep track of our individual hours for an entire year, so I hope you will welcome a new approach to this task. I am in the process of getting in touch with each member to obtain your July 2008 hours. I think this is the key to producing a more accurate accounting of our hours, which will result in more hours being reported. I will ask each of you for a monthly report, so it will be easier for you than waiting until next June.

I welcome questions at any time to help you discern what activities qualify. Please report your hours to me at carolbcobb@aol.com or by phone at 220-5068. Let's make this a great year for volunteering!

Carol Cobb



Welcome New Members!

Le Anne Garrett, Suzanne Hughes and Steve Mauriello (associate).



Sunshine Report

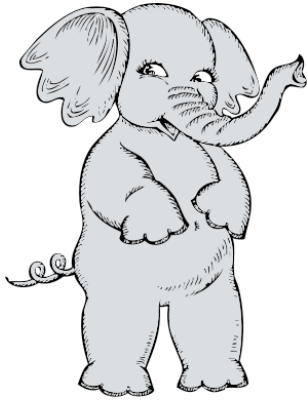
Please keep Charlie and Mary Carolyn Garton in your prayers. Charlie remains in serious condition. Mary Carolyn's family would also like to thank you for your prayers, cards and messages during the illness and passing of her mother Elva Gannon July 10.

Laura Richard's surgery is set for Aug. 26. We pray for her successful surgery and speedy recovery.

Edna Cobb continues to do well with her rehabilitation following hip replacement surgery in July. Edna is at National Health Care on Pelham Road.

Fill Your Trunks With Treasure at the 2008 Elephant's Auction Oct. 23

Get ready to fill your trunks with treasure at the 2008 Elephant's Auction, Greenville County Republican Women's Annual Fundraiser, Oct. 23.



Chairs Wendy Foulke and Barbara Poole are hard at work to make this the best auction ever!

This year there will be some great items including a weekend in Edisto Beach and a weekend in historic Alexandria, Virginia, including a tour of The White House, a book on the Governor's Mansion signed by the Governor

and his family, two White House Christmas Ornaments from 2007, two cashmere pashminas and Geri Warren's famous apple pies.

In addition, this will be an opportunity to support the Greenville County Republican Women and pick up a little treasure for your trunk! We need all members to help acquire items for the October event by donating items in addition to asking for merchants they do business with in Greenville and South Carolina to donate. Please remember to invite friends, family, business associates and especially those who want the chance to bid on some fabulous items. Stay tuned for more information at the next meeting.

Victory 2008

Many of you are already familiar with the Victory program, an arm of the Republican National Committee established in every state to support all Republican candidates on the ballot.

It is put into effect every two years, and I have been asked to be the organization's executive director for South Carolina for this cycle. I follow Greenville's Jamie Bach, who ran the program in South Carolina in 2006. To illustrate the importance of Victory, Jamie's efforts in South Carolina led to victories in nine of 10 statewide races — with the one loss by a razor thin margin — on a night that, to be candid, was a debacle for the GOP nationwide.

One important thing about Victory in South Carolina — none of us is imported from another state. All of us on the Victory staff are residents of South Carolina and are plugged in to our communities. As many of you may know, I served as chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party. Our political director, Shell Suber, was chairman of the Richland County Republican Party. I tell you this because I want you to know that we are cognizant of the need for communication to the volunteers. We promise to keep you posted on what's going on with Victory.

Every region in South Carolina will have a full-time director. We will have regional offices in the Upstate, the Midlands, the Grand Strand, the Lowcountry and also in Beaufort and York counties. All regional directors are experienced with campaigns in South Carolina, and we will have an aggressive strategy for the election. This will include an extensive voter identification effort, door-to-door activities, mailings, events and get-out-the-vote efforts.

But no organization such as Victory can succeed without a big volunteer effort. That means we need your help. If you can volunteer some of your time for Victory, please contact me by phone at 803-465-1444 or by e-mail at warren@scgop.com. I will be glad to discuss any volunteer opportunities with you to assure that the Republicans have a big night in November.

Warren Mowry, Executive Director of Victory 2008

The Voucher System: You Decide!

Each year, about \$65 million is spent by foundations and individuals to promote vouchers. A voucher is a certificate issued by the government by which parents can pay for the education of their children at a school of their choice rather than the public school to which they are assigned.

Proponents assert that voucher systems could promote free market competition among schools of all types, which would give schools an incentive to improve. Successful schools would attract students, while bad schools would be forced to reform or close. The purpose of this is to localize accountability instead of relying on government standards.

Proponents next argue that vouchers would allow for greater economic diversity by offering lower income students opportunities to attend previously unaffordable private schools.

The growing movement for school choice calls for a voucher or tax credit system to inject greater market pressures into the education system.

The simplest way to create a system of educational choice is a voucher plan or a tax credit system. Under such a plan, the state would give the parent of every child a voucher or tax credit to be spent on educational services at any public or private school in the state. Government schools would honor the voucher or tax credit as full payment, but independent schools would be free to charge an additional amount if they choose to do so, thereby allowing more variety in the educational system.

Proponents of a voucher or tax credit system generally target around \$2,500 as the per pupil figure, as in California's Proposition 174. Opponents of choice frequently allege that such a small amount could

not possibly cover tuition at a private school. However, not all private schools are pricey. Government figures show that the average private elementary school tuition in America is less than \$2,500. Since the average tuition for all private schools, elementary and secondary, is now \$3,116, less than half the public school figure of \$6,857, it might be logical for advocates of choice to propose a voucher of \$3,000.

Critics contend that it is possible to have a choice between different schools within the public school system without vouchers. The key reason given for being allowed to choose private schools is the belief that private schools offer better education and that with competition public schools will improve.

Some critics believe that a voucher is defined as a coupon for which you receive something for no cost. Voucher proponents contend that the voucher is paid for by their taxes. In this case the voucher becomes a discount coupon for those who can afford the full cost of a private school education as well as low income families that could not afford private education.

Critics believe student achievement should be the driving force behind any education reform initiative. Further, where vouchers are in place — Milwaukee, Cleveland and Florida — a two-tiered system has been set up that holds students in public and private schools to different standards. Should the same standard apply to both systems?

You decide!



Karen Crane

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Postage



GCRWC web site

www.gcrwc.org

Join Us for the August Luncheon Meeting

Thursday — Noon — Aug. 28
Poinsett Club downtown Greenville



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 28	GCRWC: Noon at Poinsett Club
Sept. 1	NFRW Fall Board Meeting — Minneapolis, Minnesota
Sept. 1 to 4	National GOP Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Sept. 25	GCRWC: Noon at Poinsett Club
Oct. 4	SCFRW Quarterly Board Meeting, Palmetto Club, Downtown Columbia
Oct. 6	Greenville County Republican Party Executive Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., Verne Smith Auditorium, Greenville Tech.
Oct. 23	GCRWC: Auction Fundraiser Noon at Poinsett Club
Nov. 4	Election day — Vote!

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