



The

Elephant's Ear

Vol. 1 No. 3

March '08

REP. GRESHAM BARRETT TO SPEAK AT MARCH 27 MEETING



Gresham Barrett

Rep. Gresham Barrett was sworn in as a member of the 108th Congress Jan. 4, 2003.

As elected, he maintains his conservative base advocating military efforts, safe and secure U.S. borders, less tax burdens, energy independence, strong families and individual freedoms.

Before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, he managed the family business, Barrett's Furniture, in Westminster and then served three consecutive terms in the South Carolina State House of Representatives.

Upon graduating from the Citadel in 1983, Barrett achieved the rank of captain and served in the U.S. Army Field Artillery until 1987. Barrett believes that it is vital that the American people remain steadfast in their resolve to win the war. His continued belief is that we must fight the terrorists in the streets of Kabul and Baghdad or face them in the streets of Washington, D.C., Atlanta, or Greenville.

As a former small business owner, Barrett is committed to finding ways to reduce federal regulations, making them less costly and complicated for small business. He believes by giving Americans more money in their wallet, our economy will continue to create more jobs and will increase citizens' spending and purchasing power. Since elected to Congress, Barrett staunchly ensures that energy policies are being pursued that promote clean, alternative energy sources like hydrogen and nuclear power. Barrett is an active member of the Immigration Reform Caucus and opposes rewarding those who violate our laws.

Personal responsibility, individual freedoms and strong families are top priorities for Barrett. He is firmly pro-life and believes that any attempt to harm or endanger the life of an innocent child is wrong. He continues to work to promote a culture of life and to ensure that traditional family values, like marriage between a man and woman, are upheld in our laws.

He is a native and current resident of Westminster. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Natalie, and they are the proud parents of three children. He knows he would not be where he is today without the love and support of his family—for Barrett, family always comes first.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Honorable Gresham Barrett as our speaker for our luncheon in March. *Kathy Davis.*

Highlights from the NFRW Spring Board Meeting in Washington, D.C.



From left: Rep. Gresham Barrett, Linda Rollins, Geri Warren, Suzette Jordan, LaDonna Ryggs, Betty Poe and Rep. Joe Wilson on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

Betty Poe and I traveled to Washington, D.C., to represent our club and the SCFRW at the National Federation of Republican Women's Spring Board Meeting last week. Eleven members from South Carolina attended the board meeting, and we tried to cram as much into each day and night as possible!

In addition to attending workshops on Membership, Leadership, Data Bases and Websites, some of the highlights of the week included a tour of the Pentagon; a White House Tea with Laura Bush for Regents; meeting with our own Congressman Bob Inglis; a visit to the U.S. House of Representatives while they were voting on the budget; attending a Senate Committee Hearing on port security; a visit to the U.S. Senate during a vote in which almost every senator was present; another visit to the House of Representatives when they debated and voted to have a secret session concerning national security; a visit with Congressman Gresham Barrett and Congressman Joe Wilson; a visit to the Bulgarian Embassy, which was arranged by Congressman Wilson; and several excellent presentations by speakers at the board meeting, including Congressman John Boehner, Joanne Davidson, co-chair of the Republican National Committee, and the Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor. As you can tell, it was a full, exciting and educational week.

I hope in the future you will try to plan to join us for one of the board meetings. They are open to everyone, and we would love to have you join us.

Geri Warren

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GCRW Members,

As always there is a lot going on and a lot coming up on South Carolina's political scene.

Kathy Davis is hard at work inviting state and local candidates to speak at our club for our April and May meetings before the Republican Primary June 10. As GCRW members, we are so fortunate to be able to see, hear and even question the candidates firsthand before we entrust them with our vote.

SCFRW's Legislative Day has been set for April 15. Each time I visit our capital in Columbia, I stand in awe at the

majestic beauty of our South Carolina State House and its beautifully landscaped grounds. I try to imagine the historical moments that have taken place within its walls. And to be invited for tea in our elegantly decorated Governor's Mansion. We will really be in High Cotton!

Our GCRW seal is complete with color, and so is our new membership pamphlet. We think they look distinctive and hope you will like them as well.

We lost a faithful GCRW member, Catherine Hendrix, on March 5. She was a special lady of many talents and skills (es-

pecially cooking and sewing) that she shared with many of us. Perhaps her greatest gift, according to her son, was that she loved everybody. We'll share Catherine's 48-year-old pound cake recipe with you at the March 27 meeting.

Sincerely,
Geri Warren



2008 Legislative Day Tuesday, April 15

One of the highlights of the year is to be part of the SCFRW's Legislative Day in Columbia.

We will be given the VIP treatment as we are introduced to the South Carolina House and Senate around noon. Then we are invited for tea at the beautiful and historic Governor's Mansion from 2 to 3:30. Wow! What could be more fun!!

Circle the calendar for April 15, plan to attend and by all means . . . o] Yj ' qgnj ' hj] I l a kl ' J = < ' gml P l & :] ' sure to sign up at our March meeting. More details will follow.

Sunshine Report

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Catherine Hendrix, who passed away March 5.

Dot Stroud is still not doing well. She has a problem with a blood clot in her leg.

Welcome New Members!

Lorene Cooper, Barbara Hales, Connie Jones, Carol Adams Wilcox. Associates Jackie Fiedler, June Kellam, Sandra Zwolak.

– Grassroots: Jamie Bach –



Highlighting members of GCRW — By Fiona Davidson



Jamie Bach and her husband, Adam, live in Greenville and attend First Presbyterian church. They have been married for almost four years. They have no children, but adore their dog Ellie.

Jamie was born and grew up in Greenville. She graduated from Greenville High School. Then, she attended Furman University and in 2002 graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

Adam is originally from Atlanta and graduated from law school at the University of South Carolina. Adam works as an attorney in Greenville for the law firm, Gallivan, White and Boyd.

Jamie has packed a considerable amount of political experience into a few short years. Starting in 2000, she volunteered for President George W. Bush's first presidential campaign. Then in the first half of 2002, Jamie worked for the Bob Peeler gubernatorial campaign as an Upstate field representative.

After graduating from Furman, Jamie moved to Washington, D.C., after receiving a job offer in the United States Department of Health and Human Services as special assistant to the White House liaison under the Immediate Office of the Secretary.

At this same time, Adam also received a job offer in Washington. Later, Jamie worked as a primary assistant to the director of White House Personnel. One more opportunity in Washington became available, and Jamie went back to the Department of Health and Human Services as depu-

ty White House liaison.

After getting married in the summer of 2004, Jamie moved to Columbia, South Carolina.

She worked for the South Carolina Republican Party as political director for the Victory 2004 campaign.

In November 2004, Jamie went to work for the Office of Gov. Mark Sanford as director of Boards and Commissions and also served as executive director of the Victory 2006 campaign. Jamie continues her position in the Governor's Office and commutes to Columbia once or twice per week.

In her spare time, Jamie likes to exercise and read, especially, long sagas and historical fiction. She also has an ongoing goal to take up sewing.

Jamie and Adam enjoy traveling to the beach and have camped in Canada. Next they hope to visit London, England.

Jamie's parents live in Greenville and Jamie credits her mother with helping her to develop a keen interest in politics. Jamie joined the GCRW in 2007 and serves on the executive board as committee chairman for Legislative/C.A.P. Alert. She also writes the Legislative Corner in the GCRWC monthly newsletter.



Jamie Bach

Showcase Your Business Card for Only \$25

We want to support the people who support us! This is your opportunity to advertise your business card in our pictorial membership directory for only \$25. We welcome businesses (yours or a Republican friend's), candidates or individuals as sponsors to be included in this year's directory.

The GCRWC Executive Committee met Feb. 27 to discuss the new format for the membership directory. This year's book will be a great resource for everyone. Not only will it contain each member's picture, address, telephone number and e-mail address, as well as city, county, state and national elected officers. This should be convenient for member use when the need for contact arises.

In order to defray the cost of printing and to add dollars to the club coffers, we are offering at a cost of \$25 a space at the back of the directory for business cards. Each page will hold six to eight cards.

There will also be a page dedicated to sponsors at various levels of contribution: Palmetto Tree, \$200; Carolina Wrenn, \$100; Yellow Jasmine, \$50; and Contributor, \$25. This would include anything from personal contributions to businesses, elected officers.

We will advertise this special opportunity through our newsletter, web site and e-mails. And it goes without saying that we will be happy to sign up anyone at our meetings.

Hurry! Time is limited. We hope to distribute our new GCRWC membership/resource books in April.

Pam Sowell, Finance/Fund-raising

Legislative Corner

This is an important election year with many state House and Senate seats up for election. As engaged political activists, it is important to stay abreast of contested races. Below is a list of the announced candidates for Republican races. However, these are only the announced candidates, and this list does not include rumored candidates.

Thirteen Republican legislators are retiring, compared to six at this time last cycle (2004—when Senate and House elections were held).

- Senate District 2: Sen. Larry Martin, Mac Martin
- Senate District 5 (open): Phil Shoopman, Mike Meilinger
- Senate District 10 (open): Chip Stockman, Dee Compton, Bryan Hope, Norman Ouzts
- Senate District 12 (open): Lee Bright, Scott Talley
- Senate District 16 (open): Mick Mulvaney
- Senate District 23: Sen. Jake Knotts, Katrina Shealy
- Senate District 33: Sen. Luke Rankin, Greg Killian, Randal Wallace
- Senate District 38: Sen. Randy Scott, Former Sen. Mike Rose
- House District 3: Rep. B.R. Skelton, Trey Whitehurst
- House District 16: (open) Mark Willis
- House District 18: (open) Tommy Stringer, Pete Smith
- House District 20: (open) Dan Hamilton
- House District 21: Rep. Bob Leach, Bill Wylie
- House District 22: Rep. Gloria Haskins, Wendy Nanney
- House District 32: (open) Christina Jeffrey, Derham Cole Jr.
- House District 35: (open) Mike Forrester, Ken Roach
- House District 36: (open) Rita Allison
- House District 79: (open) Sheri Few
- House District 81: (open) Brad Boni, Scott Singer, Tom Young Jr.
- House District 94: Rep. Heyward Hutson, Jenny Horne
- House District 105: (open) Kevin Hardee
- House District 123: Rep. Richard Chalk, Stu Rodman, Starletta Hairston



Jamie Bach

Lights! Camera! Action!

GCRW Pictorial Directory/Resource Book Take 3!

Last chance to get your picture taken



The March meeting will be the last meeting in which pictures will be taken.

Make sure you are included as one of the GCRW Republican leaders of Greenville; to recognize a GCRW member by name.

Tom Hanson will again help us on this important project by taking individual pictures of members and associate members beginning at 11:15 before our March 27 meeting and for a short time after the meeting.

*For those of you who work and cannot come early or stay late, we will try to arrange times that will be more convenient for you. Call Tom at 704-3453 to set up a time to have your picture taken.

P.S. If you don't get your picture taken for our directory/resource book, [Just kidding!]

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

Greenville County Council votes down proposal to take over road paving program

The Greenville County Council voted down a proposal at the March 4 meeting for the county to take over its controversial road paving program after Councilman Willis Meadows tried to convince his colleagues that the price was too high. Meadows showed how the county is paying \$661,000 more than it should pay for the 2007-08 road paving program. He said the county also paid \$782,000 too much last year.

Each year the county administrator recommends the method that should be used to pave county roads. This year they chose to use the Design Build method, which allows one contractor to design, build and pave roads without having to go through a bidding process. In order to be able to use this program it must be shown that the contractor can do the work cheaper and quicker than any other method. In the administrator's letter he says the county can manage the program in house for \$1,101,000. Yet, the county will pay \$1,762,000 for the same services. If this is true, according to the state procurement code, the Design Build method may not be used.

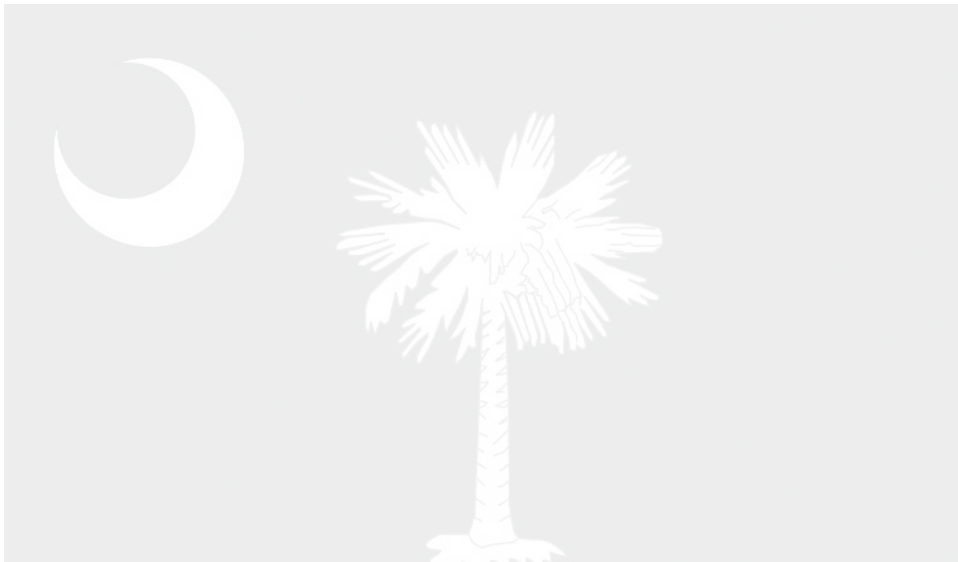
Meadows said that if this overpayment has been occurring for the past 10 years, the money spent needlessly would pave a two-lane road from Greenville to Columbia.

Comparisons to Spartanburg County's paving program using the bid system showed the 2006-07 paving cost per mile was \$68,935 while Greenville County's cost per mile was \$115,144.

Since the contractor cannot do the work cheaper than the county could do it in house, Meadows made a motion for the county to manage its own program. County Council, wanting more information, voted not to make any changes in the paving program. Council Chairman Butch Kirven said the vote more than likely would not end the discussion, and "we've got council members who've still got lots of questions." *Karen Crane.*

Greenville County
Republican Women's Club
Geri Warren, President
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Postage



GCRWC web site
www.gcrwc.org

Join Us for the March Luncheon Meeting
Thursday — Noon — March 27
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, March 24. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., March 24.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 27	Noon: GCRW at Poinsett Club
April 1	Greenville County Council, 6 p.m., County Square
April 7	Greenville County GOP Executive Committee Meeting 7 p.m., Verne Smith Auditorium, Greenville Tech.
April 15	SCFRW Legislative Day, Columbia
April 15	Greenville County Council, 6 p.m., County Square
April 21	Fourth Congressional District Convention, 7 p.m., Verne Smith Auditorium, Greenville Tech.
April 24	Noon: GCRW at Poinsett Club
May 22	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