



The

# Elephant's Ear

Vol. 2 No. 4

April '09

## AMBASSADOR AND MRS. WILKINS TO SPEAK AT APRIL 23 MEETING

It is with great honor that we have **Ambassador and Mrs. David Wilkins** as our guest speakers this month. In June 2005, Mr. Wilkins became the 21st U.S. Ambassador to Canada. We will hear about their experiences living in Canada and representing the United States.

### Mrs. Wilkins

**Susan Wilkins** is a native of Gaffney, South Carolina, but has called Greenville her home since 1971. She graduated from Limestone College and earned a master's degree in Speech Pathology from the University of South Carolina. She taught kindergarten and first grade for five years, until her sons were born. Susan is a past commissioner at Greenville Technical College, and she served on the board for the Meyer Center school for children with disabilities.

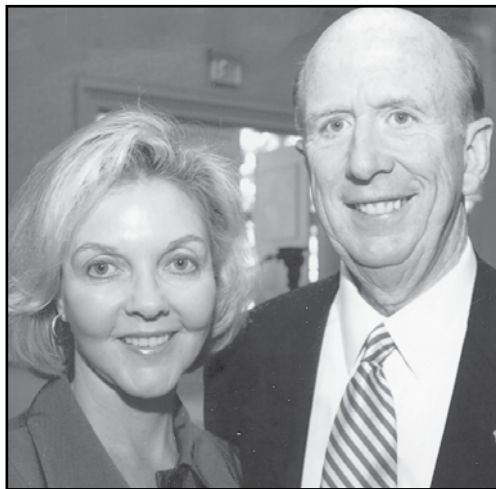
Susan has raised thousands of dollars for charity, serving as chairman of the Hope Ball (for the Cancer Society) and the Rose Ball (which raises money for St. Francis Catholic Hospital, as well as other local charities). She also served as the honorary patron of the Habitat for Humanity 2006, 2007 and 2008 annual gala in Ottawa, Canada.

### Mr. Wilkins

On April 27, 2005, Mr. Wilkins was nominated by President George W. Bush to become the U.S. Ambassador to Canada and was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on May 26.

During his tenure, Ambassador Wilkins helped to resolve some of the most high-profile issues between Canada and the United States, including a decades-old softwood lumber dispute. He is known on both sides of the border as an honest broker who worked for solutions on the toughest issues — energy, national security, the environment, trade and travel — issues affecting millions of citizens in both countries.

Mr. Wilkins was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1980 and served there for 25 years. He quickly rose through the ranks in the House, serving six years as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and two years as speaker pro tem before being elected speaker, a position he held for 11 years. He was the first Republican elected speaker of any legislative body in the South since 1882 and retired as one of the longest-serving speakers in the country.



David and Susan Wilkins

Mr. Wilkins served as the state chairman of the Bush-Cheney '04 campaign and as co-chair of the campaign in 2000. He was appointed by the president to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2002 and served for three years.

Before his appointment as Ambassador, Mr. Wilkins practiced law for 34 years in Greenville. He is now a partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and chairs the Public Policy and International Law practice group, which focuses primarily on representing businesses on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border and offers experience on a wide range of strategic bilateral issues.

Ambassador Wilkins earned his undergraduate degree from Clemson University and his law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He also served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves. The Ambassador and Susan have been married for 37 years and are the parents of two grown sons and two grandchildren.

I hope to see each of you at the luncheon. *Kathy Davis.*

### Note from the County GOP Chairman . . .

#### Greenville County Republican Convention

The Greenville County Republican Party Convention will be take place Saturday, April 25, at 9 a.m., at the Greenville Shrine Club at 119 Beverly Road in Greenville.

It will be an exciting convention with remarks from every person running for governor: Gresham Barrett, Henry McMaster, Andre Bauer and Brent Nelsen. In addition, we will hear from candidates wanting to serve as the next congressman from the Fourth District.

At the convention, elections will be conducted for the positions of Chairman, First Vice Chairman and State Executive Committeeman. Delegates and alternates have already been selected at the precinct reorganization meetings, however, if you want to attend as a visitor you may come. The cost for a visitor is \$15. The Party has had tremendous growth over the past two years and I hope to see you at the convention. **Samuel Harms.**

**More Greenville County Republican Party news on pages 2 and 3.**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Springtime: Important, exciting and fun events

Well, spring has finally arrived and with it has come a flurry of important, exciting and fun events. We are honored to have David Wilkins, the former Ambassador to Canada and former Speaker of the S.C. House, and Mrs. Wilkins be our guests and featured speakers at our April 23 GCRWC meeting. It should be intriguing to hear about their sometimes "icy" experiences with our neighbors to the north.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Greenville County Republican Party Convention Saturday, April 25, at the Shrine Club across the street from the farmer's market. County delegates, who were chosen at the precinct reorganization meetings, many of whom are members of our club, will have the responsibility and privilege of voting for our state executive committeeman, party chairman and first vice chairman. Come hear the gubernato-

rial candidates, congressional candidates and others, as well as see who wins an award for their contributions to the Party.

Then, the following Tuesday, on April 25, the GCRWC has chartered a bus for our annual SCFRW trip to S.C.'s capital city to enjoy brunch at the Governor's Mansion and then onto our historical and beautiful State House. We are hoping the GCRWC will again have the largest group of ladies in red down there!

And don't forget that in May, we have the state GOP Silver Elephant's Dinner on Friday the 15th, with the State Republican Convention the next day on the 16th, both in Columbia. So, hop on board and enjoy the ride!

Sincerely,  
Geri Warren

## *Pick up your 2009 GCRWC Membership Directory at the May 28 meeting!*

### **Record Number GCRWC Members Elected Delegates to Greenville County Convention**

The following GCRWC members were elected delegates to the Greenville County Republican Party Convention April 25.

Joan Hamilton  
Patricia Arceneaux  
Virginia Waters  
Marlene Dowd  
Kathy Davis  
Joanne Meadows  
Aurie Latham  
Faye Jay  
Heidi Aiken  
Judy Cooter  
Kathy Snyder-Garrett  
Nancy Robinson  
Jamie Bach  
Ann Powell

Linda Slaton  
Shelly Haddon  
Anne Danciu  
Karen Mims  
Jennifer Earle  
Lucille Sullivan  
Catherine Pence  
Betty Poe  
Wanda Rabenda  
Gail Stanley  
Julie Hershey  
Geri Warren  
Andrea Pisarcik  
Mary Drawdy  
Pat Earle  
Angela Green  
Patty Stoner  
Lorie Nelsen  
Janet Callaway  
Shirley Anderson  
Grace Lynn Curry

The following associate members were elected delegates to the County Convention.

Brent Nelsen  
Willis Meadows  
Bob Dill  
Bob Dowd  
Joe Dill

James Gibney  
Patrick Haddon  
Tom Hanson  
Samuel Harms  
Constance Holmes  
Jill Kintigh  
Berry Ponder  
Tom Mims  
Billy Mitchell

### **SCFRW Strom Thurmond Excellence in Public Service Award**

The GCRWC Executive Board is proud to nominate **Sen. Jim DeMint** for the Strom Thurmond Excellence in Public Service Award.

This award is presented annually to a Republican elected official who strives for excellence in his or her office.

Criteria include constituent service, excellence in representing the constituency and an overall attitude of seeking excellence for the people served.

The elected official may be on any level: local, state or federal (representing South Carolina). Each club may nominate one person. The Executive Board voted unanimously to nominate Sen. DeMint.

A ballot will be compiled and voted on by the members of the SCFRW board of directors at the May-June meeting. The award will be presented at the state convention in October.

### **Sunshine Report**

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of our longtime member Dot Stroud, who passed away peacefully at home on March 28.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Lucille Sullivan and her husband, Hewlett**, who suffered a stroke several days ago.

**Virginia Harper** has experienced a rough month with a couple of stays in the hospital. She is glad to be improving back at home.

**Laura Richards** is doing well following cataract surgery on April 7. Laura plans to have surgery on her other eye in a few months if all continues to go well.

# Overflow Crowd at Precinct Reorganization Make-up Meeting April 6

At 7 p.m., Monday, April 6, many men and women, young and old, were still streaming into the J. Verne Smith Auditorium at Greenville Tech. The precinct reorganization make-up meeting was scheduled that night for people who had not attended the March 2 meeting at their own precinct. It snowed on March 2, and many were unable to attend.



Samuel Harms, the Greenville Republican Party chairman, had set at goal of 1,000 people for the March 2 meetings, and we fell two short. But inside the J. Verne Smith Auditorium, seats were filled and people were standing in the aisles.

After the business portion of the meeting, we re-convened our precinct meetings to allow more delegates and alternates to the County and State Conventions to be signed up.

Delegates and Alternates now number xxx, greatly exceeded the goal of x,xxx. The actions of the new U.S. President may be spurring the grassroots of the Republican party to be reorganized and energized. Precincts and County Conventions are where the revitalization of our whole party begins!

Thanks to the members of GCRW who turned out as precinct and county officers or as part of the ranks to sign up to go to the Conventions: **Geri Warren, Betty Poe, Heidi Aiken, Patricia Arceneaux, Judy Cooter, Marlene Dowd, Shelly Haddon, Aurie Latham, Joanne Meadows and Debbie Spaugh.** Associates attending are **Samuel Harms, Bob Dill, Bob Dowd, Patrick Haddon, Christina Jeffrey from Spartanburg, Willis Meadows and Billy Mitchell.**  
*Judy Cooter.*

## Candidates for State Executive Committeeman

The following four candidates are seeking the important Greenville County Republican position of State Executive Committeeman on April 25: **Thomas Baker, Chris Lawton, Dan Herren and Doug Wavle** (incumbent). Only Greenville County delegates are eligible to vote at the convention.

## Legislative Corner: Stimulus Battle Continues

The battle over \$700 million (which is only a fraction of the stimulus money allocated for South Carolina) in discretionary stimulus money continues as Gov. Mark Sanford and some supportive members of the legislature battle Sen. Hugh Leatherman (R-Florence), chairman of the Finance Committee, and members of legislature over how the money should be spent.



Gov. Sanford has applied for the stimulus money, but says he will not certify the funds to be used unless the Legislature agrees to use the money to pay down debt. The Governor argues that more tax dollars are being spent in our state than ever before, and going into debt does not solve a problem that was created by debt in the first place.

Please call your legislator to let him or her know that you support Gov. Sanford in his effort to make sure South Carolina has a sound budget and one that can be sustained after the stimulus money has been spent. *Jamie Bach.*

## Welcome New Members!



Sherry Capitan, Kris Cassel, Betty Hinkle, Kay Farmer, Pat Goss, Kirstin Griffin, Jessica Griffin, Julie Janson, Margie Jennings, Kacy Lyons, Pat McManaway, Frankie Powell, Margaret Swasney, Connie Weisner and Philip Bradley (associate)

So far . . .

Marlene is out in front with five new members . . . but 'the race ain't over yet!'



## SCFRW and GCRW Membership Contests

*Not One but Two Contests!*

How does a weekend on a beautiful S.C. beach sound? [Garden City to be exact]

The **SCFRW** is also sponsoring a statewide Membership Contest for the member who brings in the most new members (at least five). The contest runs from February 2009 to May 31, 2009. (For more details — [www.scfrw.org](http://www.scfrw.org).)

The **GCRW** is sponsoring a (new member) membership contest with three extravagant prizes.

First place — **\$65** dinner for two at **Soby's**

Second place — **\$40** dinner for two at **City Range Restaurant**

Third place — **\$25** lunch for two at **Mary's** (in Falls Cottage)

Wildcard! A drawing will be held for third place. The more new members you bring in the more chances you have. Example: three new members equals three chances to win.

The GCRWC contest runs from Feb. 09 to Aug. 12, 2009. The same GCRW member could also be the winner of the SCFRW Beach Weekend. Go for It, Girls!

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

Postage



**GCRWC web site**

**www.gcrwc.com**

**or**

**www.gcrwc.org**

*Join Us for our April Luncheon Meeting*

**Thursday — Noon — April 23**  
*Poinsett Club downtown Greenville*



*The*  
**Elephant's Ear**

*Vol. 2 No. 4*

*April '09*

*In This Edition*

— President's Message —  
*Important, fun and exciting events*

— Legislative Corner —  
*The Governor vs. the Stimulus Package*

— Features —  
*Annual SCFRW Legislative Day*

*GCRW and SCFRW  
Membership Contests*

*Overflow Crowd  
at Precinct Reorganization*

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

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**

Please e-mail Cheryl Pressley at [gcrwreply@bellsouth.net](mailto:gcrwreply@bellsouth.net) or call her at 246-6448 by noon, Monday, April 20. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., April 20.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

April 23	GCRWC, Noon at Poinsett Club
April 25	Greenville County GOP Convention Shrine Club
April 28	SCFRW Legislative Day and Brunch at Governor's Mansion
May 15	Silver Elephant Dinner, Columbia
May 16	GOP State Convention, Columbia
May 23	SCFRW Board Meeting Palmetto Club, Downtown Columbia