



The

# Elephant's Ear

Vol. 2 No. 7

July '09

## HOPE IN TIME OF DESPAIR

*Dear Dr. Woodard,*

*Will you please tell us . . . ?*

- How long before the public recognizes that the stimulus package is a failure?
- What do you see as the impact of health care reform?
- Is there any possibility that the legislation challenging Obama's citizenship will be successful in the courts?
- What is going on in "HER" head? Running? Making money? Third Party?
- Will the voting public wake up in time to salvage the 2010 elections?



**Dr. J. David Woodard**  
Clemson Professor  
of Political Science  
Consultant, Pollster, Author

include the following: Bob Inglis for Congress, 1992; Lindsey Graham for Congress, 1994 and 1996; Jim DeMint for Congress, 1998; Bob Peeler for Lieutenant Governor, 1994; George W. Bush for President, 2000; Gresham Barrett for Congress, 2002; and Jim DeMint for Senate, 2004

J. David Woodard holds the Strom Thurmond Chair of Government at Clemson University, where he has taught political science since 1983. He is the author or co-author of several books, including *The Conservative Tradition in America* (2003), *The New Southern Politics* (2006) and *The America That Reagan Built* (2006). His latest book is *Why We Whisper: Losing Our Right to Say Its Wrong*, published in 2008. He co-authored

this book with Sen. Jim DeMint. He currently is completing a book titled *The Rise of Morality Politics in the United States* to be published by University of Toronto Press.

He has received many honors including Alumni Master Teacher Award, Golden Key and the Fluor Daniel Award for Excellence in Teaching. He was the first campus faculty inductee to receive the Mortarboard honor.

Let's give Dr. Woodard another warm welcome to our club as we look forward to his answering some of the pertinent questions of the day, and maybe he will give us reasons for encouragement in these challenging times.

We look forward to seeing you Thursday, July 23. *Kathy Davis.*

### Voter Registration by Party

Do you feel passionate about Democrats not being allowed to choose our Republican candidates?

Make plans to attend the next Greenville County Executive Committee Meeting Aug. 3 at Hughes Library in downtown Greenville and see what progress has been made on this critical issue and pose questions to the designated committee concerning the refiling of the lawsuit.

### According to the SC Policy Council

In spite of a change of rules in January that required recorded votes, tax payers were left in the dark **75 percent of the time** by the 2009 General Assembly: 1 out of 4 bills did not receive a recorded vote, so constituents do not know whether they voted for or against a specific bill.

### Also on the July 23 Agenda

#### 'It Kids'

Would you like to feel encouraged and positive about our youth and our education system? Then, come hear civics teacher **Kelly Payne** of Dutch Fork High School share her success story in organizing "It Kids," a grass-roots network to engage young people in current issues in their local communities and the state house. "It Kids" was organized at their school just this year and has already drawn statewide attention.

Maybe a chapter of "It Kids" could be encouraged in Greenville County High Schools.

## About Our GCRWC Family

# Liz Seman: It Takes a Community

Pick your strength, experience and expertise and use it to rally around a cause. This is the advice **Liz Seman** gave me when I asked her how a single person can make a difference in this ever-changing landscape we call America.

Liz, a GCRW member, feels that her strength is in leadership. That is why she ran and won a seat on the Greenville County Council this past November.

Further advice, pay attention to what elected officials are doing, and if you don't like it, find a candidate you do like. If you find one you like, then get behind him or her with money, ideas, moral support or all three.

"Candidates and elected officials not only need support, but would like to get some positive support and encouragement, and not just negative remarks about what they are doing wrong," Liz said. "That is so important for us."

Liz and her family have called Greenville home for the past 10 years. Liz grew up in Libertyville, Illinois, and attended Libertyville High School. She went to college at Miami



Liz Seman

University in Ohio. After college she stayed in the Cincinnati area for a job at McAlpens Department Store. This is where she met her husband, Steve. Although he attended the same college as Liz, they did not meet until she began working at McAlpens, which is where he was employed. They have been married for 15 years and have an 11-year-old son, Walker.

Liz is Executive Director of Greenville Meals on Wheels (MOW), where she wears many hats. Her primary responsibilities involve overseeing a staff of 24 and managing a \$2 million budget. MOW delivers 1,500 meals every day. Liz previously served as Executive Director of "Hands on Greenville" for three years and also served as Volunteer Director and Development Director for the Red Cross.

Liz and her family attend Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenville. She volunteers for the Downtown Rotary, Junior League, sings in the church choir and is youth adviser and youth choir assistant at her church. **Karen Crane.**

### 2009 GCRWC Membership Directories Are Ready for Pick Up!

Our beautiful 2009 membership directories are ready for distribution to our GCRWC's members and associate members. The updated pictorial directory will be a great asset to our club, enabling us to put the right GCRW name with the right Republican face and providing all of us with a convenient resource for contacting each other and many of our elected officials.

Many thanks go to **Karen Mims**, Chairman of the membership directory; **Tom Hanson**, photography and layout; and **Bob Stoner**, Palmetto Tab and Bindery. Also, thanks go to other members of our committee including **Wanda Rabenda**, **Virginia Waters**, **Ann Brown** and **Jamie Bach**, who assisted with the directory this year. In addition, make sure you thank our many business card sponsors by using their place of business wherever possible. They paid for the directory, and we even ended up with a profit!

### Sunshine Report

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of GCRWC founding member and former president **Ruth Clinkscales**, who passed away June 18. She was elected a delegate to the 1980, 1984 and 1988 Republican National Conventions. She was a first vice chairman of the South Carolina and Greenville County Republican Parties.

**Michelle Chambers** barely escaped bodily harm when a tornado touched down June 12 in the room where she was located. Her home sustained considerable damage but thankfully she was not physically hurt.

### NFRW 35th Biennial Convention Sept. 10-13, Orlando, Florida

The official call to the 35th biennial convention is now available on line at [www.nfrw.org](http://www.nfrw.org). The 16 page document is a complete overview and guide for this highly anticipated event.



### Attention GCRW Members! Get Involved in the Political Process at the Community Level

**Filing Dates:**  
**Special Purpose Districts**  
**July 15, noon until Aug. 14, noon**

Office	Members	Term	2009 Election
<b>Special Purpose Districts</b>			
Belmont Fire & Sanitation	5	4	2
Berea Public Service	3	6	1
Brookfield Special Tax	5	4	3
Clear Spring Fire	5	4	2
Duncan Chapel Fire	5	6	1
Foothills Fire	5	4	3
Gantt Fire Sewer and Police	5	6	2
Glassy Mountain Fire	7	4	4
Gowensville Fire	5	4	3
Lake Cunningham Fire	6	6	2
Marietta Water Fire Sanitation and Sewer	3	6	1
North Greenville Fire	5	4	3
Parker Sewer and Fire	5	6	2
Piedmont Park Fire	3	6	1
Slater Water and Sewer	3	6	1
Slater Marietta Fire and Police	5	6	1
South Greenville Fire	5	6	1
Taylor's Fire and Sewer	3	6	1
Tigerville Fire	7	4	3
Wade Hampton Fire and Sewer	3	6	1

For more information, call **Laura Keck**, Greenville County Voter Registration & Elections, at 467-7262.

## Legislative Corner Who Is in For Governor 2010?

So far here is a list of rumored and declared candidates.

**Rep. Gresham Barrett** is well-known in the Upstate and third congressional district for his conservative voting record and outstanding constituent service. He may face wary supporters over his vote on the bailout.



**State Attorney General Henry McMaster** is former chairman of the state Republican Party and is well known and liked in GOP circles. He has proven to be adept at raising money, but he may face some opposition for his tendency to use his office to chase after publicity seeking issues.

**Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer** is a younger face in the Republican Party. While he is known for his conservative stands and as a hard worker on the campaign trail, he will have to work to overcome those who have reservations (prompted by prior speeding incidents) about his readiness to take over as chief executive of the state.

**State Sen. Larry Grooms** is a consistent conservative and one of the handful of voices to speak out against waste in the SC Senate. While he also is a known social conservative, he faces the challenge of competing with those who already have broader name recognition (and bigger bank accounts).

**State Rep. Nikki Haley** stands out as the only woman and only SC House member to enter the race so far. Haley has been a champion of transparency and accountability during her short career as a legislator. She faces similar challenges to Sen. Grooms in name recognition and fundraising.

**Dr. Brent Nelsen** is a Chair of the Political Science Department at Furman University. He has proven to be a good speaker on the stump and to be well-versed in the issues, however, he has an uphill battle since he is running for the highest office in the state as a relatively unknown candidate without any former political experience.

## There's Still Time

There is still time to become a GCRW cheerleader and invite a new member to join our club, but don't delay. The GCRW Membership Contest ends in August.

Many thanks to the following GCRW cheerleaders who have introduced at least one new member to join our club during our membership contest: **Marlene Dowd, Faye Jay, Karen Mims, Shelly Haddon, Mary Drawdy, Loretta Bell, Grace Lynn Curry, Jessica Griffin, Cheryl Pressley, Pat Earle, Gayle Stanley, Betty Poe, Toni Martin, Michelle Moody, Cara Perry, Judy Cooter and Geri Warren.**



Three delicious prizes are:

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 changes you have to win. The GCRWC contest will continue to Aug. 12. Go for it, Girls!

## Patrick Haddon: YRNF Man of Year

**Patrick Haddon**, former Chairman of the South Carolina Federation of Young Republicans, received the YRNF "Young Republican Man of the Year" Award July 11 at the Young Republicans National Convention in Indianapolis. The award recognizes a male Young Republican's contributions to the YRNF and the Republican Party. Patrick now serves as Chairman of the Greenville County GOP and First Vice Chair of the South Carolina GOP.

## Congratulations to Thomas Baker!

Associate member **Thomas Baker** was elected 2009-2010 President of the Greenville Chapter of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

## GCRW's Americanism Program: A Red, White and Blue Tribute to America

Once again, **Patty Stoner**, Chairman of the committee, did an outstanding job planning every detail of our 2009 Americanism Program. The program, which was enjoyed by over 100 members and guests included four main features:

The Air Force Jr. ROTC of Southside High School presented the colors in an exemplary manner under the leadership of **Master Sergeant Ken Gause**.

Our patriotic music was sung by guest soloist **Sharon Cochran**, who then led us in the singing of "America the Beautiful" at the close of the meeting. Sharon was accompanied by professional pianist **Glenn Christianson**. Glenn entertained us with a piano prelude before the meeting and provided more music during the meeting.

A short film was presented on behalf of the **Wounded Warrior Project** narrated by Col. Bob Davis. Addressed envelopes were made available on each table for those who wished to contribute.

Our featured speaker was **Lt. Col. Bill Connor**, who

told of his many experiences with the brave men he served with during his yearlong combat deployment in Southern Afghanistan. Following the meeting, Mr. Connor was bombarded with members and guests who wanted to have him autograph his book *Articles From War*. All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to Christian schools in South Carolina.

**Peggy Kirby**, Chairman of Our Decorations Committee, created beautiful patriotic centerpieces consisting of blue hydrangeas, variegated vinca, curly willow and miniature American and South Carolina flags. **Anne Danciu** and her granddaughter **Caroline** assisted Peggy with draping the entire ballroom with an array of American flags and red, white and blue bunting, which added to our festive, patriotic theme.

Our Americanism Program this year was a moving tribute to the America that we all love and cherish! Thanks again to Patty and everyone who worked so hard to make it a grand success — well done! *Geri Warren*.

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

Postage



GCRWC web site

**www.gcrwc.com**

*Join Us for our July Luncheon Meeting*

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



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### *In This Edition*

— July 23 Meeting —  
*David Woodard,*  
*Clemson Political Science Professor*

Focus on GCRW Members  
*Liz Seman*

— Legislative Corner —  
*Who Is in for Governor?*

— Special Purpose Districts —  
*Filing Dates*

Membership Contest  
*GCRWC Membership Contest Continues*

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### **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, June 22. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., June 20.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

July 23	GCRWC, Noon at Poinsett Club
Aug. 3	Greenville Executive Committee Meeting Hughes Library, Downtown Greenville
Aug. 27	GCRWC, Noon at Poinsett Club
Sept. 10-13	NFRW 35th Biennial Convention Orlando, Fla.
Oct. 15-18	SCFRW Convention Beaufort, S.C.