



The

# Elephant's Ear

Vol. 2 No. 3

March '09

## TWO MORE CANDIDATES FACE OFF FOR S.C. GOP CHAIRMAN SPARTANS KAREN FLOYD AND RICK BELTRAM

Since the vote for the South Carolina GOP state chairman will take place in May, we want to present the candidates that are running for this position. We heard Kevin Hall at our February luncheon, and we will hear from Karen Floyd and Rick Beltram at our March luncheon.

### Karen Floyd

Karen believes that we must stand on the creed of the Republican Party, which is the bedrock of values sturdy enough to carry our families into the future. She believes we must stand on the ideology of our party.

Karen grew up in Irmo, South Carolina. After high school, she earned a bachelor of arts degree, and later went on to receive a J.D. from the University of South Carolina Law School. Karen's legal career began when she worked as a staff attorney for the South Carolina Senate. She later served as assistant circuit solicitor in the Seventh Circuit, prosecuting cases in the Family Court and General Sessions Court, and served as Spartanburg County's youngest chief magistrate. In 1998, she was elected as chairman of the Spartanburg County Council.



Karen Floyd

In 2006 Karen ran for State Superintendent of Schools and was defeated by less than 500 votes in a race where more than one million votes were cast.

Today Karen serves as CEO of the Palladian Group, a business development, technology and marketing firm she founded more than 10 years ago. She is married and has two sons.

### Rick Beltram

Rick Beltram has served as the chairman of the Spartanburg County Republican Party since 1999. During this time, he has created a grassroots volunteer base, supported candidates through county fundraisers, implemented a technology based communications



Rick Beltram

system, established multiple outreach programs, recruited candidates and attracted state and national GOP leaders to participate in multiple events.

Spartanburg had a strong presence on national stage with nearly 50 presidential candidate visits before the 2008 primary. Rick was awarded the James B. Edwards Award in 2007.

Rick has an engineering degree from Lafayette College. He is self-employed as a manufacturer's representative for food service equipment. He was appointed by the governor to be the agency head of the Salary Commission. He is married with five children and five grandchildren.

You will have seen, heard and met all three candidates. Which candidate do you want to represent the South Carolina GOP nationally? . . . You decide! *Kathy Davis.*

### Legislative Corner

Gov. Sanford, one of the most vocal critics of the stimulus package, applied for a waiver to allow the discretionary \$700 million (the rest of the stimulus money is federally programmed) of the \$2.8 billion allocated for South Carolina to be used to pay off current debt rather than to start or continue new programs that the state could not pay for once the stimulus money runs out.



According to his press release: "South Carolina currently has roughly \$20 billion in unfunded political promises in its retirement system, and stands at number one in the entire Southeast in per capita debt. The state is 57 percent above the Southeastern average and three times higher than neighboring Georgia in its per capita debt load."

On March 16, the President rejected the Governor's initial waiver request, and Gov. Sanford responded by narrowing his waiver request.

If Gov. Sanford rejects the stimulus money, then the state legislature has a chance to override the Governor's rejection after a 45-day waiting period. Please contact your legislator, and encourage him or her to support the Governor in attempting to make sure we make long-term financial decisions for the future of SC. *Jamie Bach.*

### Did you forget ...



### to rejoin the GCRW?

We want you to be included in our **new membership directory** and also plan to join your Republican friends for our annual trip to the Governor's Mansion and the State House for **Legislative Day** April 28. The club year runs from January to December.

If you would like to rejoin the GCRWC, please send your \$20 dues to Mary Carolyn Garton at 107 Sabra Drive, Easley, SC 29642-2959.

We hope to see you at our March 26 meeting at the Poinsett Club!

# Annual SCFRW Legislative Day in Columbia

We are excited to announce the annual SCFRW Legislative Day, **April 28**, in Columbia.

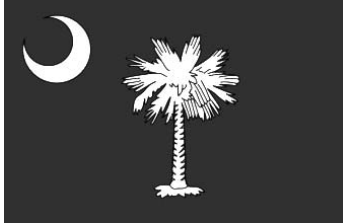
Our day begins with brunch with First Lady Jenny Sanford at the beautiful and historic Governor's Mansion from 10 to 11:30. We will continue on to the Capitol at noon, where we will be introduced to the South Carolina House and Senate.

Our photograph will be taken on the State House steps, and hopefully, Gov. Mark Sanford will join us for this event.

Please plan to attend this fun-filled day and remember to wear your prettiest **RED** outfit. Be sure to sign up at our March meeting and bring your checkbook. The cost per person for the brunch is \$7 and \$23 for the bus, totaling **\$30**.

*Sylvia Bass and Debbie Spough  
Legislative Day co-chairs.*

We will depart from Greenville promptly at **8 a.m.** At the March meeting we will provide information regarding an optional box lunch.



**Departure location:** 1 Chicksprings Blvd., behind the Chick Hampton Office Building on the lower level. This is at the intersection of Wade Hampton and Chicksprings with a CVS Pharmacy and a Hickory Point convenience store on opposite sides of the street. This was the location years ago of the Republican Headquarters.

Drive to the lower level of the Chick Hampton Office Building. Please park on the opposite side of the building and board the bus there.

*Please pay at the March 26 meeting or mail payment to Debbie Spough, 108 Four Lakes Drive, Easley, SC 29642. For security reasons, we must have your name, address and phone number by **April 18** to send to Columbia.*

## About Our GCRWC Family

### Up Close and Personal: 'Delegate Duo'

By Karen Crane

"Change we can believe in." The new Democrat buzz words brought unprecedented numbers to the polls in November to vote and conquer the Republican candidate. However, for many conservatives the words bring fear, worry and a sense of unease.

For two new members of the Greenville County Republican Women's Club, Sylvia Bass and Debbie Spough, the change is exactly why they became more active and began taking leadership roles in the conservative party. Both are hoping to make a difference in the future of our nation one task at a time. **Sylvia Bass** and **Debbie Spough** have also become great friends after connecting as volunteers at Republican headquarters during the Victory 2008 campaign.

Sylvia lives in Easley, but is a native of Greenville. She has been widowed since 2001. She has two children, Therese Allen and Amelia Props, and two step-children, Jimmy Bass and Nancy Harris. She is the grandmother of eight.

Sylvia graduated from Greenville High School in 1957. She attended Draughon's Business School and Greenville Tech. She retired from Sears after 25 years in the auditing department.

She has recently been a volunteer for "Get the Vote In," and has been involved with precinct reorganization in Pickens County. She is now the executive committeeman for the Rock Spring precinct. She is a delegate for Pickens County and hopes to be a delegate at the state convention.



**Sylvia Bass**

At this time Sylvia has no intentions for running for office. She stays busy with her other volunteer work, which includes serving on the Board of Directors and as the Financial Committee chairman for Habitat for Humanity. She also does various volunteer work for her church, Easley Presbyterian Church.

**Debbie Spough** also lives in Easley. She has moved around quite a bit. She moved to Easley in 1995 from Raleigh, N.C. She attended high school in Lexington, N.C., and graduated in 1970. She attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she majored in Industrial Relations. She met her husband while in college and they have been married since 1975.

They have two daughters, Katie and Kelly, and both are at Clemson. Debbie has been a stay-at-home

mom for several years, but has also worked in banking as an internal auditor for several years. She has also worked part-time in a physician's office for five years.

Debbie volunteered to help Saxby Chambliss with the run-off for his senate seat in the 2008 election. She was involved in the Pickens County precinct reorganization and has become an officer in the precinct, a delegate for the county convention and hopes to be a delegate to the state convention.

At this time, Debbie does not have political aspirations, but is more of a grassroots type person. She has serious concerns about the future of our country and where we are heading. "I feel I have to do something as the new world order seems to be taking us down this socialist path that I don't want to go down."



**Debbie Spough**



## GCRW and SCFRW Membership Contests

### Not One but Two Contests!

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!

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).)

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

**Precinct Reorganization** on Monday, March 2, was a tremendous success. A record number of people showed up at their voting places despite the fact that six inches of snow was on the ground and an ice advisory in effect.

It was a testament to the dedication of the Greenville County Republican Party activists and faithful. Some precincts had triple the number of people come from two years ago, and more precincts were organized than two years ago.

Also, the party raised a significant amount of money from the reorganization effort, and the Party finances are in good condition. I would like to thank everyone who weathered the storm, and the Executive Committee for agreeing to fund the advertising campaign I asked to implement. **Samuel Harms**.

## Advertising Opportunity . . .

### Showcase Your Business **Card** for Only \$25

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.

In order to defray the cost of printing, we are offering a space for your business card for \$25 in the back of the directory. Each page will hold six to eight cards.

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

A special thanks to the following businesses

<b>Bill Wylie</b>	District 21 House of Representatives
<b>Charlene Kelley</b>	YTB Travel Network, referring travel agent
<b>Janet Burnett</b>	Salon 417
<b>Jim Garrett</b>	G & S Electrical Services, LLC
<b>Fred Shealy</b>	America's Lighting, LLC
<b>Sean Porter</b>	Carolina Foothills Studio (Marble & Granite Interiors)
<b>Mike Reynolds</b>	Reynolds Mechanical Contractors
<b>Tim Earle</b>	Landscaping & Hauling
<b>Carol Wilcox</b>	Wealth Concepts Group
<b>Faye Jay</b>	Sponsor
<b>John Oliver</b>	Williamson Evans
<b>Bob Dill</b>	Times Examiner
<b>Samuel Harms</b>	Harms Law Firm, PA
<b>Willis Meadows</b>	Willis Meadows Insurance

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

*Last Chance  
to Get Your  
Picture Taken!*

## WANTED

Pictures of GCRWC Members

For our 2009  
Membership Directory!

The March meeting will be the last meeting in which pictures will be taken. Tom Hanson will be helping us again before the March 26 meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m., and he has agreed to continue taking pictures after our program for a short time.

So, new members, associate members and prior members who did NOT have their pictures taken last year, plan to be included in the 2009 Membership Directory.

## Welcome New Members!



Gloria Griffin  
John Oliver (associate)  
Kevin Hall (associate)



## Sunshine Report

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Mary Groves** in the loss of her husband **John**.

**Peg Gerold** is recovering from a fall in November and a broken wrist. She is enjoying her new home in a gated community.

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

Postage



GCRWC web site

[www.gcrwc.com](http://www.gcrwc.com)

or

[www.gcrwc.org](http://www.gcrwc.org)

*Join Us for our March Luncheon Meeting*

Thursday — Noon — March 26  
*Poinsett Club downtown Greenville*



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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, March 23. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., March 23.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 26	GCRWC, Noon at Poinsett Club
April 6	Greenville County GOP Executive Committee and Precinct Reorganization Make-up Meeting. Free pizza donated by Kevin Hall.
April 15	Bay Buchanan to speak, Furman College Republicans Younts Conference Center.
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

### *In This Edition*

— Legislative Corner —

*The Governor vs. the Stimulus Package*

— Features —

*Annual SCFRW Legislative Day*

*About Our GCRWC Family:  
Up Close and Personal: 'Delegate Duo'*

*GCRW and SCFRW  
Membership Contests*

*\$25 Business Card  
Advertising Opportunity*

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