



The

Elephant's Ear

Vol. 2 No. 10

October '09

OCT. 22 PANEL: REGISTERING BY PARTY IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS

In an open primary, one party can organize its voters to vote in another party's primary and help choose the candidate they most agree with or that they think their party can most easily defeat. In an open primary, moderates and independents can vote in either party, which can dilute the vote of a particular party and lead to a nominee who does not represent the views of his particular party.

The Greenville County Republican Party Executive Committee voted unanimously Oct. 5 to pursue litigation against the State of South Carolina, including the South Carolina State Election Commission and such other agencies or individuals as legal counsel deems necessary. They retained the legal services of **Stephen H. Brown** and **J. Todd Kincannon** to act as its attorneys to pursue this litigation.

Bob McLain

Our panel of speakers for the Oct. 22 meeting will give us updated information and their thoughts on this critical issue. **Bob McLain**, program director of NewsRadio WORD, will head the panel discussion. Bob is the host of the popular Bob McLain Program that airs on AM 1330 and FM 106.3 from 3 to 6 p.m. weekdays.



Bob McLain

According to the WORD Radio web site, Bob started in radio at the age of 15 during the heyday of rock and roll, when he convinced the program director of a top 10 market station he should be on the air. After working for many legendary rock stations, he began a television career as a sportscaster and then as a weatherman and then rejoined radio as a program director and disc jockey in 1999. He moved to Greenville in 2002. He and his wife, Brenda, enjoy their two dogs, Keegan and Miss Charlotte.

Stephen Brown

Stephen Brown, a Greenville attorney, is certified as a specialist in the field of Labor and Employment Law by the SC Supreme Court.

Stephen graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He is also a graduate of Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in political science. He is a former naval officer having served in the United States Navy Reserves.

Stephen is the former chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party and has been active for years in furthering the conservative agenda of responsible limited government. He and his wife Debbie have three children.



Stephen Brown

Garry Smith

Garry Smith, representative for South Carolina District 27, is sponsoring a bill in the House of Representatives to require registration by party.

Joining Rep. Smith in sponsoring the bill are fellow Reps. Dan Hamilton, Wendy Nanney, Eric Bedingfield, James Harrison, Bill Wylie, M.A. Pitts, James Merrill and Speaker Bobby Harrell.

Rep. Smith is an area businessman with a B.A. and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of South Carolina. He has been in the South Carolina House of Representatives since 2003 and is currently the vice chairman of the Judiciary Committee and is on the Operations and Management Committee. He and his wife, Brenda, have two children.



Rep. Garry Smith

Many Republicans are concerned that crossover voting in primaries is influencing the outcome of our primary elections, and we are electing liberal politicians. Please come to the luncheon and learn more about this litigation and decide what stand you should take on this. We are looking forward to seeing a packed house on Thursday, Oct. 22. *Kathy Davis.*

About Our GCRWC Family

Never Stop Learning . . . Shirdale's Optimism

GCRWC member Shirdale Hebert, a.k.a. Grand-ma Dolly, is one busy and productive lady. She loves to read, cook, shop, spend time with family, friends and grandchildren, and volunteers at her church's food pantry and at St. Francis Hospital's senior program LIFEWISE. She is on the phone committee for GCRWC. She sends out a monthly newsletter for St. Theresa Guild, where she serves as president. She continually takes courses and seminars and claims to be a professional student at heart.

Shirdale grew up in Port Arthur, Texas, and she and her husband Loyd moved their family to Greenville in 1972. Shirdale worked at Cryovac as a marketing researcher, secretary, planner and on the editorial staff. Her greatest roles are wife and mother to her six children, Melinda, Randy, Melanie, Kevin, Michele and David.

Her son Major Randy Hebert USMC (Retired) is a Gulf War veteran. In college he joined ROTC and graduated as a first lieutenant. He served more than 15 years before being exposed to chemicals while his Marine company was clearing mine fields in Kuwait in 1991. He suffers from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Today he is totally paralyzed and uses a feeding tube and ventilator. He has lived with this infirmity for more than 16 years.

On Sept. 19, Randy's hometown of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, sponsored its fourth ALS walk to the beach, in honor of Randy, raising more than \$60,000 for the ALS Foundation. About 400 Marines



Shirdale Hebert

marched in formation behind Randy's motorized wheelchair. Randy's siblings and parents were there to support him and this worthy cause. Several young Marines there said they didn't know Randy personally, but he was their hero. In 2007, the walk raised more than \$163,000 during a stronger economy than today's.

In 1996 Randy was still active in the Marine Corps and testified before Congress about his Gulf War experience and related illness. Randy has difficulty walking and speaking, and he was physically supported by his wife Kim and father Loyd. He entered and remained standing for the Pledge of Allegiance, choosing not to sit.

Congressman Christopher H. Shays (R-Conn.), in charge of the committee's hearing, told Randy, "Son, I had no idea." Many young, healthy military men and women came home with major war-related health problems. As difficult as his life has become, he is an inspiration to all and a warrior for God.

Shirdale's motto is: "Life is a wonderful journey as each day is a gift. What more could I want." And Gen. Robert E. Lee said, "A man's education is never complete until he dies." I agree. We all should have an unquenchable thirst for knowledge for life, like Shirdale Hebert. *Lisa Simpson.*

We filled in the ballroom in honor of Sen. Jim DeMint!

It was a grand moment when Sen. DeMint walked into the ballroom Sept. 21 that was draped in red, white and blue, and he received a hero's welcome by nearly 300 of his greatest fans.

The audience listened intently as the senator gave a frank discussion concerning the dire state of affairs he faces in Washington. The distinguished guest list included representatives from four Upstate Republican Women's Clubs (Anderson County, Upstate Republican Women, Palmetto House and GCRWC), students from four colleges (Clemson, Furman, North Greenville and Bob Jones), numerous County Councilmen and other elected officials and candidates.

Mary McAbee, SCFRW president, presented Sen. DeMint the Strom Thurmond Award for Excellence. Patriotic music was provided by **Bruce Schoonmaker**, professor of music at Furman, and accompanied on the piano by his wife **Gail. Glenn Christianson** entertained us with a piano prelude of our favorite all-American music.

Having Sen. DeMint was truly the highlight of the year — but it didn't just happen. Many people worked hard to make the event not only successful but to run smoothly. Thank you to the following GCRW members: **Peggy Kirby**, floral arrangements and flag decorations; **Betty Poe**, phone and e-mail reservations; **Mary Carolyn Garton, Pam Sowell, Joanne Meadows, Patricia Arcenaux, Michelle Moody and Andrea Pisarcik**, check-in; **Kathy Davis**, organizing book signing, gifts for musicians, place cards; **Anne Danciu**, decorations — bunting; **Bob Dill**, *Times Examiner*, publicity, photography; **Tom Hanson**, invitation design and photography; **Linda Slaton, Gayle Stanley, Anne Brown**, telephone committee; **Wanda Rabenda, Shirdale Hebert, Karen Mims, Lucy Kilby, Joan Hamilton, Jan Christianson**, greeters.

Also, special thanks to **Jerry Dempsey** for his help in planning the event.

Oct. 5 Greenville County Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee meeting of the Greenville County Republican Party took place Monday, Oct. 5, at the J. Verne Smith Auditorium at Greenville Tech College.



The meeting was sponsored by Florence County Councilman Ken Ard, a candidate for South Carolina lieutenant governor.

Treasurer Linda Garner reported a balance of \$4334.01. Ms. Garner said she was available to accept anyone's check for annual membership dues of \$25 per member.

Committee Reports

The various committees (precinct, reorganization, rules, candidate recruitment, education) gave reports.

Voter Registration by Party

A report by the Registration by Party Committee was given by committeeman **Stephen Brown**, who is an attorney. Stephen said the lawsuit previously filed by **Samuel Harms**, former Greenville GOP chairman, was dismissed, and action by the Greenville County Executive Committee was necessary to move a lawsuit forward to challenge the South Carolina state election laws.

South Carolina **Rep. Garry Smith** (Simpsonville) is sponsoring a bill for registration by party. Members of the Executive Committee voted unanimously to go forward with the lawsuit in federal court.

Upcoming GOP fundraisers and volunteer opportunities were reported: a golf tournament Oct. 26, a GOP fundraiser at **Geri Warren's** home Nov. 5, **Roger Milliken's** offer to match state funds for capital projects, a legal defense fund, and a get out the vote trip to Virginia to help elect Bob McDonnell, the Republican candidate for governor.

Guest Speakers

The meeting was adjourned by **Chairman Patrick Haddon** following guest speakers, **Ken Ard**, candidate for lieutenant governor, and **Bruce Aughtry**, candidate for Greenville Water Commission. *Julie Hershey.*



GCRWC Business and News



Kathy Davis



Pamela Sowell



Jamie Bach



Betty Orders



Carol Cobb



Patricia Arceneaux

Kathy Davis	President
Pamela Sowell	First Vice President
Jamie Bach	Second Vice President
Betty Orders	Recording Secretary
Carol Cobb	Corresponding Secretary
Patricia Arceneaux	Treasurer

According to the GCRWC's by-laws, its 2010-2011 slate of officers will be voted on by secret ballot at the October meeting.

Join the Greenville County Republican Women's Club on Facebook at www.Facebook.com

Sunshine Report

Congratulations are in order for **Adam and Jamie Bach** on the birth of their son **Warren Crittendon**. Master Bach was born Sept. 22 and weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz. Jamie is second vice president-elect for 2010-2011.

Jean Stillwagon is home recuperating from surgery to repair two fractured vertebrae in her back she incurred in a fall. Jean feels she has "turned the corner."

We hope **Michelle Chambers** feels better soon. She was unable to attend the SCFRW convention.

Office of the Governor

I wanted to write and give you a brief update on how some of our recent economic development efforts have paid off for South Carolina.

First, I'd say that our Department of Commerce has a lot to be proud of because of its efforts to attract jobs to our state.



For instance, just in the last couple of weeks a technology-based company called Red Ventures announced that it is relocating to South Carolina and is expected to make a \$27 million investment and create 1,000 new jobs. Another company, Softee Supreme Diaper Co., announced that it will expand its operations with a \$6 million investment expected to create 262 jobs.

The Greenville area saw GE announce that it would be adding 100 jobs, while BMW announced that it would add 700 temporary workers.

In South Carolina, 134,000 more people are working today than were working in January 2003, putting us in the top one third of all states in job growth. Part of this success is thanks to Commerce's back-to-back record years in job creation and capital investment: In 2007, \$4.05 billion in capital investment and 15,666 jobs were created, and in 2008, \$4.1 billion in capital investment and 19,000 jobs were created.

Our administration will continue to stay focused on economic development efforts, and we hope to carry this momentum into the next legislative session, where we will work to reform our state's tort system, unemployment insurance system, worker's compensation system, and government structure.

These reforms will help to make South Carolina the premier place to do business among Southeastern states and throughout the nation, and we would ask that you make your support for these issues known in Columbia.

Sincerely,
Mark Sanford

Greenville County Republican Party Hosts the 2010 Candidates for Governor

Gresham Barrett
Andre Bauer

Nikki Haley
Henry McMaster

Larry Grooms

Platinum Level \$1,000

Gold Level \$500

Silver Level \$250

Place

Home of Geri and Steve Warren
504 Hidden Hills Drive
Greenville, SC 29605

Date

Thursday, November 5, 2009

Time

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Heavy Hors D'oeuvres Will Be Served
Business Attire

\$100 Per Couple

Please RSVP to Linda Garner
linda.treas@charter.net or call (864) 244-4205

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 October Luncheon Meeting

Thursday — Noon — Oct. 22
Poinsett Club downtown Greenville



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Greenville GOP to Host
Candidates for Governor
Event at Geri and Steve Warren's home

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

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

Please e-mail Cheryl Boyd at gcrwreply@charter.net or call her at 609-0500 beginning Sunday evening, Oct. 18. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., Oct. 19.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 17-18	GOP Grassroots Leadership and Activist Training GOP Headquarters
November	No GCRWC Meeting
Nov. 3	City Election Day
Nov. 5	GOP Fundraiser Candidates for Governor Home of Geri and Steve Warren
Dec. 3	GCRWC, Noon at Poinsett Club