



The

Elephant's Ear

Vol. 2 No. 1

January '09

**IS YOUR S.C. LEGISLATOR
HIDING BEHIND A
VOICE VOTE?**

REP. NIKKI HALEY

'OUTSPOKEN VOICE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY'

ASHLEY LANDESS

PRESIDENT, S.C. POLICY COUNCIL

'THE CONSCIENCE OF THE LEGISLATURE'

JANUARY 22 MEETING

Nikki Haley and Ashley Landess are proponents of accountability and transparency in government. This is a hotly debated issue in the Legislature now, and we are fortunate that these two women will be our featured guest speakers at our January 22 meeting. They will bring their perspective on what is needed to correct this problem. You will not want to miss this luncheon!



Nikki Haley

Nikki Haley was the first GOP Indian American in the nation to win a State House seat in 2004. Nikki was named Chairman of the Freshman Caucus (2005), and Majority Whip (2006). In 2008, Nikki was re-elected by the largest margin of any state representative with a contested general election in South Carolina. Nikki has been an outspoken voice for added accountability and transparency in the Legislature.

According to a study from the SC Policy Council, a non-partisan think tank, less than 5 percent of all legislation that passed in the General Assembly last year did so with a recorded vote. That means citizens have no way of truly knowing how their individual legislator voted on a particular issue.

To ensure the most fundamental principles of representative democracy were upheld, Nikki introduced legislation that will require on the record votes for all legislation, with few exceptions, brought up on the floor of the State House.

A pro-business leader in the fight for lower taxes and less government, Nikki has fought wasteful spending at every turn during her time in Columbia, pushing for smaller, more efficient and more accountable government. In advancing reforms designed to make South Carolina more competitive, she has emerged in the House of Representatives as a true Reagan Republican, a tireless proponent of common sense legislation designed to raise income levels, create new jobs and materially enhance your quality of life.

Ashley Landess is president of the **South Carolina Policy Council**, a non-partisan public policy research organization located in Columbia. She has been at the Council since 1998, and previously served as its Vice President for Public Affairs.

Ashley has served on the SC Lottery Commission since 2003, when she was appointed by then-House Speaker David

Wilkins. She is on the Executive Committee of the Commission, and chairs its advertising and marketing committee. She was also appointed by Gov. Sanford in 2005 to chair the School District Consolidation, which was legislatively charged with analyzing the cost savings from consolidation.



Ashley Landess

Ashley also served as a member of the Governor's Health Care Task Force in 2003.

I am anxious to hear Nikki and Ashley, and I think it is a GREAT way to start 2009. I look forward to seeing each of you at the luncheon. *Kathy Davis.*

Legislative Corner

Governor Sanford and the Employment Security Commission (ESC) engaged in a public standoff in December over whether the Governor would apply for a federal loan to temporarily fix the agency's financial shortcomings.



The Governor argued that the ESC must commit to an **independent audit** of the agency's finances and be more open to sharing information with the SC Department of Commerce before he would apply for a federal loan. The ESC refused to cooperate on either request, yet still demanded that the Governor apply for the loan. With the threat of South Carolina's unemployed not receiving their checks, the Governor reluctantly applied for the loan despite the agency's shortcomings.

The Governor fears that if the systemic issues at ESC are not corrected, the agency will continue to run out of money, and eventually legislators will have to raise taxes to pay for it. The Governor asks that citizens make their voices known on reforming ESC, by starting with an independent audit. Please contact your legislator and make your voice known—the ESC must be more responsible with taxpayer money! *Jamie Bach.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Often Darkest Before the Dawn

Dear Members,

Many Republicans and most pundits are ready to declare the Republican Party dead, or at least in need of a drastic move to the left. As we begin 2009 and witness the inauguration of President-Elect Obama, many people are looking back to January 1977, when **Jimmy Carter** was sworn in as President of the United States.

The situation in 1977 was not very dissimilar to what we see in the United States and in the world today. Looking at the world in 1977,

- Israel and Palestine were engaged in conflict;
- Iran was in a state of anger toward the U.S.; and
- China's economy and quality of life were improving significantly.

In the United States, it was even more similar.

- The Democratic Party controlled both the House and the Senate, holding an edge of 292 to 143 in the House, and 61-39 in the Senate (the last time the Democrats had a filibuster-proof Senate);

- The inflation rate was relatively low, only around 5 percent in January 1977, but President Carter had great plans for increased spending, which ultimately drove the inflation rate to over 14 percent by 1980;

- There were political scandals in Washington, from KoreaGate, involving the alleged bribery of more than 100 members of Congress, to sex scandals with Democrats including Wayne Hays and John Young;

- Bert Lance resigned amid allegations of misused funds; and

- Hamilton Jordan, President Carter's Chief of Staff, became the target of a Special Prosecutor.

Now is not the time to despair or panic. Instead, we need to learn the lessons of 1977. Republicans did not

desert their fundamental conservative values then. They did not move to the center, much less to the center-left, looking for more votes. To the contrary, they fought the liberal efforts of President Carter and the far left House of Representatives controlled by the Democrats.

As a result of the commitment of conservative Republicans, President Carter was a one-term president, and the United States in 1980 elected one of our greatest Republican presidents, **Ronald Reagan**.

As the largest Republican Women's Club in the State of South Carolina, we need to remain active and help our Party maintain its focus on conservative principles. We can be an effective voice, and we can help regain control of Congress and the Presidency in 2012.

Sincerely,

Gerí Warren



Welcome New Member!

Jan Rice

Sunshine Report

Please continue to keep associate member **Jackie Fiedler** in your prayers. Her medical condition is stable now following complications from hip surgery, and she has moved to the Kessler Institute, a rehab center in West Orange, N.J., to be near her sister Stephanie and her family.

Dot Dodson's husband, **Nigel**, has had several emergency surgeries and numerous complications following surgery on his appendix and his heart. Please pray for him to regain his strength and make a full recovery. It has been a long process.

Please continue to keep **Shirley and Dean Anderson** in your prayers as they travel to Texas for a follow-up evaluation on Jan. 21 at M.D. Anderson concerning Shirley's knee. Shirley received a clear report from the doctors in Greenville, and we pray for another good report from the specialists there.

Dues Are Due

Please remember to renew your membership for the January to December 2009 club year at our Jan. 22 meeting. Please bring a check for \$20 made payable to GCRW, designated for Annual Membership Dues or mail it to Mary Carolyn Garton, 107 Sabra Drive, Easley, SC 29642-2959.



SCFRW Quarterly Board Meeting

The South Carolina Federation of Republican Women's Quarterly Board Meeting will take place Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Palmetto Club in Downtown Columbia. Registration begins at 10:30, and the meeting starts at noon.

Kevin Hall and Rick Beltram, candidates for chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, will speak. Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer has also been invited to speak.

Cost for registration and lunch is \$25. All GCRWC members are welcome to attend.

2009 GCRWC Membership Contest

Extravagant PRIZES!

(Details to follow)

Can you imagine if each member invited one Republican friend to join our GCRWC — we could double the size of our club . . . WOW!!!

But don't settle for just one member —
go for the GRAND PRIZE!

Lights! Camera! Action!
GCRW Pictorial Directory / Resource Book
2009 Edition



Last year, we published our Club's first bound pictorial membership directory to help each of us develop closer relationships with our fellow GCRW members. It was quite a challenge for a club as large as we are. This year, we have 167 members and 26 associate members!

For this year's edition, we plan to use last year's photographs with updated information for members who had their pictures taken last year. It is important, however, that all new members, associate members and prior members who did NOT have their pictures taken last year have their pictures taken and submit their personal information form.

Tom Hanson will be helping us again this year with the taking of pictures of new members, new associate members and prior members who were unable to have their pictures taken last year. We certainly want everyone in our Directory!

Tom will begin taking pictures at 11:15 a.m. before our upcoming meeting on January 22, and he has agreed to continue taking pictures after the program for a short time. He will also take pictures again at our February meeting.

So, new members, new associate members, and prior members who did NOT have their pictures taken last year, wear a big smile, come early, and don't miss being included in the 2009 GCRW Pictorial Membership Directory.

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.

This year's book will again be a great resource for everyone. Not only will it contain each member's picture, address, telephone number and e-mail address, but it will also have a list of GCRWC officers and committee chairmen, as well as city, county, state and national elected Republican officials and their addresses and telephone numbers. 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 Republican officials or candidates.

Pam Sowell, Finance/Fund-raising

GCRW Members Give Generously

to Our Christmas Caring for America Project

It has been GCRW's tradition at Christmas to remember a worthy group with special needs by bringing special gifts. Once again our members gave generously this past December by donating two carloads full of nonperishable food items.

Kathy Snyder-Garrett, chairman of our Caring for America Committee, chose Triune Mercy Center and delivered our two carloads of items.

More about the Triune Mercy Center . . . from its pastor

Deb Richardson-Moore



Kathy Snyder-Garrett (left) and Pastor Deb Richardson

Triune Mercy Center is a mission church to the homeless at 222 Rutherford St. (next door to Tommy's Ham House).

Supported by 46 partner churches in Greenville, it provides a welcoming worship community for the housed and unhoused, the healthy and the broken, the sober and the addicted. Because many of our parishioners are street people, we provide emergency relief in the form of four hot meals a week; a clothes closet that distributes coats, blankets, toiletries and clothes; a food pantry that distributes groceries to 60 families per week; and a laundry room.

However, we know that emergency relief does not get people off the street. Thus, we counsel people about drug treatment opportunities and line them up for treatment centers all over the Carolinas and Georgia.

In the past three years, we have sent 216 people into treatment. We also host a Narcotics Anonymous meeting on Sunday afternoons.

We are now in the process of building housing, primarily for those people who are successfully maintaining sobriety.

But the most important thing we offer is an accepting, worshipping community that accepts and cherishes people who feel excluded and discarded by society.

At a Triune worship service (11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays), you will find homeless parishioners greeting, ushering, singing and leading the responsive reading, then serving and sharing lunch afterward.

We also have Sunday school, a nursery and afternoon Bible study.

We attempt to live out our mission statement: To share Christ's love by meeting physical needs and providing life-changing opportunities to the disadvantaged.

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 January Luncheon Meeting

Thursday — Noon — Jan. 22

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, Jan. 22. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., Jan. 19.

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www.ThomasHanson.com*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 22	GCRWC Noon at Poinsett Club
Feb. 2	Greenville County GOP Executive Committee Meeting
Feb. 7	SCFRW Quarterly Board Meeting Palmetto Club, Downtown Columbia
March 2	Greenville County GOP Precinct Reorganization
April 25 (Tentative)	Greenville County GOP Convention
May 15	Silver Elephant Dinner, Columbia
May 16	GOP State Convention, Columbia