



# *The Elephant's Ear*

*Volume 4 No. 7 July '11*

**July 28, 2011 12:00 - 1:15**

## **REDISTRICTING AND END OF SESSION UPDATE**

**BRUCE BANNISTER**  
**DAN HAMILTON**

**REPRESENTATIVE S.C. HOUSE DISTRICT 24**  
**REPRESENTATIVE S.C. HOUSE DISTRICT 20**

Republicans continue to be astounded at the rhetoric of our president as he offers increasing taxes as a solution to the debt ceiling crisis. His solution of taxing corporate jets is not unlike his idea of tire inflation in order to solve oil shortages and decrease green house gases.

We watch as Michelle (Marie Antoinette) and her entourage travel to Spain and South Africa on the taxpayer's dollar and Mr. Obama continues to fly the Air Force One whenever and wherever he feels campaigning is needed. This administration has no problem with increasing taxes because its members know it will never affect them.

This conservative believes that the less informed voter has no idea what is being served up by the elitists Democrats and will fall for the same old story in 2012. Republicans must do everything to debunk the lies; handling of the debt crisis may very well determine 2012 election outcomes.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Barack Obama will be fifty years old on August 4, 2011. He is planning an extravagant birthday bash on Aug. 3 at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago including a concert teeming with celebrities and for couples contributing \$38,500.00, a private dinner with the president. All this is to take place just one day after the government is scheduled to run out of cash! *Pamela Sowell*

### **Bruce Bannister**

- Elected to the South Carolina House in 2005
- Davidson College - B.A. 1995
- University of South Carolina J.D. 1998
- Managing Partner in firm of Bannister and Wyatt, LLC
- Greenville County Bar
- Completed Leadership Greenville Class of XXVI
- Selected one of Greenville's Best and Brightest under 35 in 2007 by *Greenville Magazine*
- Chairman of the Lawyers Legislator Task Force and General Law Subcommittee in 2009
- Assistant S.C. House Majority leader from 2008-2009
- Member – Peace Center Board
- Married to Mary Margaret - they have four children and attend Christ Church

### **Dan Hamilton**

- Elected to South Carolina House in 2008
- Bob Jones University – B.S. 1998
- Operating Principal – Keller Williams Realty
- Field Representative for United States Representative Jim DeMint 1999-2001
- Completed Leadership Greenville Class of XXVI
- Selected one of Greenville's Best and Brightest under 35 in 2007 by *Greenville Magazine*
- Chairman of the Upstate Caucus
- Served as Vice-Chairman of the Freshman Caucus
- Serves on the Judiciary Committee
- Assistant Chief Whip for the House Republican Caucus
- Married to Kelly - they have three children and attend Heritage Bible Church

### Notes of Interest from the President—Kathy Davis

#### **Wednesday August 31 - Luncheon PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY, TIME, AND DATE.**

We are honored to have Senator Jim DeMint and Congressman Trey Gowdy as our guests speakers. We have asked the Upstate Republican Women to join with us for this luncheon. Advance tickets will only be sold at the luncheon on Thursday, July 28th. Reservations will be taken for the August after the July luncheon and must be made by Thursday, August 25. Please email your reservations to [gerwreply@yahoo.com](mailto:gerwreply@yahoo.com) or by calling Mary Bellinger at 268-3942. Cost of the luncheon will be \$20.00. He will have his latest book *The Great American Awakening: The Two Years That Changed America, Washington, and Me* available for purchase.

#### **NFRW Convention in Kansas City, MO September 28—October 2.**

If anyone is interested in attending the National Federation of Republican Women's Convention to be held at the end of September - please see me. Information regarding the convention can be found on the NFRW website - [www.nfrw.org](http://www.nfrw.org)

#### **SCFRW Convention in Greenville - Friday October 28 - Sunday October 30**

The convention will be held at The Westin Poinsett in Greenville and our club is the host club for this event. The cost of the convention is to be determined and this information will be sent to you as soon as it is available. We will be nominating and electing the delegates for our club at the July luncheon. If you are chosen to be a delegate you will need to be able to attend the entire convention. Our club will pay the convention fee for you.

### CARING FOR AMERICA PROJECT - June Luncheon

Lisa Simpson—Caring for America Chair

Thanks for the great response to our request for items for the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson. I was able to take 185 items to be used by the men and women veterans at the home. We plan to send several boxes out to our men and women in the Armed Forces before the end of the year and will be giving you an update on this in future emails and newsletters.

#### **A few words from our Membership Committee**

The contests have closed and the results are not yet known as of the July meeting, but the results will be posted when the winners are announced. This does not mean that you should stop inviting people to our club. With South Carolina being the first primary in the South, there will be many opportunities for meeting candidates, and many other meetings centered around politics. At any of these meetings, you are in comfortable territory to invite people to attend our excellent educational meetings and hear relevant speakers. The interest in things political is rising and those I have talked to are excited to learn about GCRWC. Offering the opportunity to introduce people to our club is as simple as talking to those in your immediate surroundings and make it a point to become an inviter. You will be pleasantly surprised at how many have not heard of the GCRWC and they will thank you for the invitation.

Linda Slaton—Membership Team

S.C. Legislation School Choice

On May 25, 2011, sixteen House Republicans joined with the Democrats to defeat the SC Educational Opportunity Act, H3407 (School Choice bill). Sponsors of H3407 cited School Choice successes in states such as Florida where students achieved major gains in reading and math scores, as well as a rise in the on-time graduation rate. State auditors in Florida found that the program saved \$1.49 in education spending for each dollar in School Choice tax credits claimed. According to the SC Republican Platform, “we support the concept of ‘school choice’ and affirm the right and responsibility of parents to make the best education decisions for their children, whether they home-school their children or send them to private or parochial schools of their choice.” It also states that, “We acknowledge public schooling is a function of the State and support our history of state-sanctioned local control, but also believe that no student should be forced because of attendance zones to attend a school that is not serving them well.” Further, “We support education funding in which funds are attached to the child and urge that such funds be spent at the classroom level and in addressing critical school building needs.” The sixteen House Republicans who violated the Republican Platform and denied students in South Carolina the opportunity for a better education are: Rita Allison, Joan Brady, Doug Brannon, Derham Cole, Dan Cooper, Mike Forrester, Marion Frye, Mike Gambrell, David Hiott, Joan Horne, Steve Moss, Steve Parker, Lewis Pinson, B.R. Skelton, Edward Talton, and William Whitmire.

The projected average per-pupil funding in SC in 2009-2010 was: \$4,867 state revenues, \$1,097 federal revenues, and \$5,516 local revenues, for a total of \$11,480. Analysis by the SC Budget and Control board shows that since 2000, only 45 cents per dollar reaches the classroom in the form of “instructional” spending. According to the Southern Regional Education Board, South Carolina public schools rank 48<sup>th</sup> in high school graduation rates. In a School Choice video, 3/7/11, Senator Jim DeMint stated, “What our students learn and how they learn it is ultimately our responsibility as parents.” “That’s why parents’ involvement in education is so important, and being able to choose where your child is educated is a critical part of student success that should not be limited to a privileged few.” Milton Friedman, a Nobel Prize winning economist and strong supporter of the free market, stated, “Education spending will be most effective if it relies on parental choice and private initiative – the building blocks of success throughout our society.”

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**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES FOR MAY**  
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Brandi Ariail      Kathleen Barton      Mary Beth Green      Connie Sutherland

**SUNSHINE NEWS:** Contact Shirley Cowart at LScowart@bellsouth.net or by phone 277-2764

Please continue to pray for Charlie Garton - he is in liver and kidney failure and has a very weak heart. Faye Jay had surgery on July 19th. Shirley Cowart will be having knee replacement on August 2nd.

Greenville County Republican  
Women's Club  
Kathy Davis—President  
10 Falcon Drive  
Taylors, SC 29687

**Check out our  
website:  
[www:gcrwc.org](http://www:gcrwc.org)**

Join us on Facebook  
Greenville County Republican  
Women's Club

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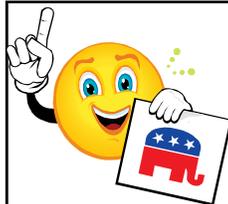
### 2011 Luncheon Dates

12:00 noon

The Poinsett Club

Thursday	July 28
*Wednesday	August 31
	11:30 - 1:00
Thursday	September 22
Thursday	October 27
Thursday	December 1

\* PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF  
DAY AND DATE IN AUGUST.



**July 28 luncheon 12:00—1:15 PM**

**THE POINSETT CLUB**

Please make reservations to [gcrwreply@yahoo.com](mailto:gcrwreply@yahoo.com) or by calling Mary Bellinger by 8:00 PM on Monday, July 25. Cancellations must be made by 8:00 on Tuesday, July 26 to avoid a \$15.00 charge.

Reservations for the August meeting will begin after the July luncheon. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.