



# *The Elephant's Ear*

*Volume 4 No. 10 October '11*

Thursday, October 27, 2011

## **TAX REFORM** **Representative Tommy Stringer - House District 18**

**Socialism:** Webster's dictionary has three separate definitions of the word; all are similar. The one that seemed most appropriate to this administration was as follows: a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done.

Having recently returned from a trip to China, I was particularly struck by a comment made by our Beijing guide, who stated that he thought it interesting that as China moves slowly toward capitalism the U.S. moves toward socialism.

We are remiss if we are not constantly aware of the corrupt methods being employed to convince the American people that socialism is the path to follow. The Wall Street protests are being fueled by the AFL-CIO, SEIU, ACORN (still alive and well, renamed and being funded by none other than the American taxpayer), Tides, MoveOn organizations, and George Soros. This administration and the wealthy elite will never be affected by a socialist government; however, this conservative believes that if we do not return to our roots in a constitutional government the poor as well as the middle class will never be able to rise above that station in life to which they were born.

### **Did You Know?**

Margaret Thatcher once said, "My policies are based not on some economics theory, but on things I and millions like me were brought up with: an honest day's work for an honest day's pay; live within your means; put by a nest egg for a rainy day; pay your bills on time; support the police." *Pamela Sowell*

### **Tommy Stringer**

A native of Northern Greenville County, Tommy grew up in the Blue Ridge community. He attended both public and private schools including Skyland Elementary School and Southside Christian School in Greenville. After graduating high school, he earned an accounting degree from Bob Jones University and entered graduate school at Clemson. His career path was set when he was hired as a pension compliance administrator by Hunt, DePree, Rhine in Greenville. He career success can be traced back to the work ethic demanded by his parents and the qualify education that he received at both public and private schools. Tommy founded his own pension compliance firm ten years ago. Headquartered in Greer, Stringer Resource Group provides ERISA compliance services for 350 companies in the Carolinas. As a business owner who provides jobs right here in Greer, Tommy understand that small businesses like his clients are the backbone of our economy. Tommy believes that governmental regulations and taxes should be decreased so that business owners can do what they do best create jobs. Tommy also believes that citizens should give something back to the communities who support them. Before being elected to the General Assembly in 2008, Tommy served as a Trustee at Coastal Carolina University. Elected to the Board in 2006, Tommy served as Board Secretary and chairman of the Audit Committee. Tommy's work on the Audit Committee has drastically improved CCU's financial practices.

He serves on the Agriculture Committee and chairs the House Republican Caucus Tax Study Committee in the South Carolina House of Representatives where he represents District 18.

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

We had a wonderful luncheon learning more about the NFRW and SCFRW history presented by LaDonna Ryggs, Spartanburg County GOP Chair and remembering times past with nine of the previous presidents attending our luncheon. We made every attempt to locate all past presidents and nine of these were able to attend after being contacted by myself , Jamie Bach or Pamela Sowell.

Patricia Haskell-Robinson 1976-1977; Jane Luthi 1980-1981;  
Gisela Dales 1984-1985; Gale Crawford 1994-1995  
Betsy Farnsworth 1996-1997; Betty Spencer 1998-1999  
Anne Danciu 2000-2002 Joanne Meadows 2003-2005 and Geri Warren 2008-2009

**An article in the Greenville News Lifestyle Section (Sunday, October 16) titled *Seven Decades of Memories* written about a Greenville High School reunion has our own member and past president Betsy Farnsworth mentioned and quoted.**

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A **HUGE** thank you goes to Jan Christianson who has faithfully labeled the newsletter and mailed them each month for me. She patiently waits until I finish with the newsletter, picks it up at Bellis Copy Center and gets it ready for mailing and then makes sure they make it to the post office. (I think Glenn may help with that part) I couldn't have done it without her help. Thank you, Jan.

**Slate of Officers for the 2012-2013 will be voted on at the October luncheon.**

- Debbie Spaugh - President**
- Patricia Arceneaux - 1st Vice President**
- Kathy Snyder-Garrett - 2nd Vice President**
- Treasurer - Jenny Earle**
- Recording Secretary - Nancee Lee Yearick**
- Correspondence Secretary - Cheryl Boyd**

**We did not receive any nominations “from the floor” for any of these offices.**

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**Delegates elected at the September meeting to attend the SCFRW Convention: Sylvia Bass, Mary Bellinger, Cheryl Boyd, Cheryl Cutthrell, Marlene Dowd, Jenny Earle, Jane Erkes, Kathy Snyder-Garrett, Mary Carolyn Garton, Shelly Haddon, Julie Hershey, Faye Jay, Jane Kizer, Laurie Lee, Sylvia Long, Vicky Mahaffey, Janice McPhee, Joanne Meadows, Andrea Piscirik, Lisa Simpson, Pamela Sowell, Debbie Spaugh, Gayle Stanley, Patty Stoner, Geri Warren, and Carol Wilcox. The alternate is Judy Cason.**

South Carolina's state government is creating a new multimillion dollar agency. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, the General Assembly ratified the creation of the I-95 Corridor Authority. This legislation establishes a state agency to "carry out economic development and educational improvement activities" with the intention of improving the economy of the 17 counties along I-95 in South Carolina. Please try to think of one country where a centrally planned economy has succeeded (Cuba, the Soviet Union, North Korea?). Republicans are supposed to stand for a Constitutionally limited government, free enterprise, personal responsibility and opportunity. Republicans hold a majority in the S.C. House and Senate. Yet, the South Carolina Senate passed S211, "The I-95 Corridor Authority Act" 27 to 7 on 4/5/11. The House passed it 84 to 17 on 5/19/11.

S211 mandates that the I-95 Corridor Authority must "oversee the implementation of the recommendations contained in the I-95 Corridor Human Needs Assessment." This assessment was written by the Research Triangle Institute International in North Carolina, and lists six areas of need: Leadership and Local Capacity; Regional Economic Development; Education; Infrastructure; Tax and Finance; and Healthcare and Social Service Disparities. This Authority will have power over almost every aspect of the lives of people living in those 17 counties. The Authority will receive state funding and will be controlled by a 19-member board, most of whom will be appointed by the Legislature. The S.C. Policy Council lists three reasons why this Authority is a bad idea: 1. "Creating one agency to address the different needs of all 17 counties is bound to fail." 2. "the authority would be administered by legislative appointees, with virtually no executive oversight". 3. "South Carolina has spent more than \$1.5 billion on economic development incentives over the past 15 years. Yet, the state still ranks near the bottom in terms of employment and per capita income."

Thankfully, Governor Haley vetoed "The I-95 Corridor Authority Act". Unfortunately the S.C. Senate voted on 6/15/11 to override the Governor's veto. The vote was 30 to 10. The House will vote on the veto January 10, 2012. Please contact your Representative and insist that he/she votes to sustain the Governor's veto on S211. To see how your Representative and Senator voted on S211 and how your Senator voted on overriding the Governor's veto, go to: [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/php/web\\_bh10.php](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/php/web_bh10.php).

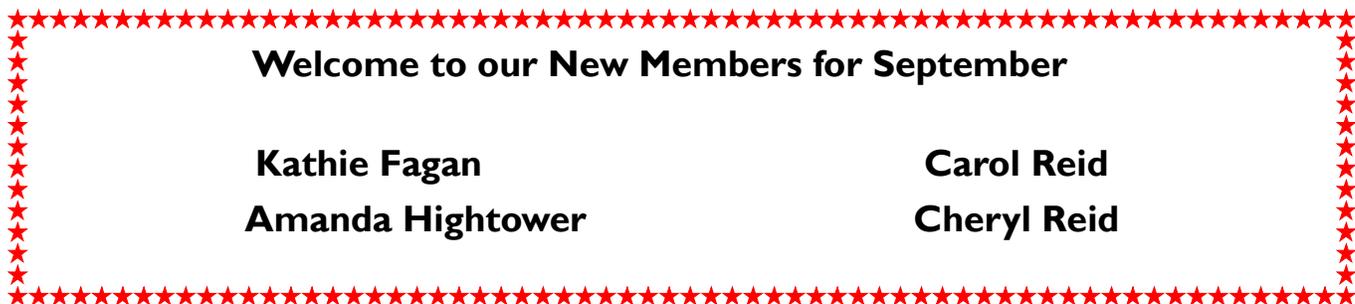
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**Welcome to our New Members for September**

**Kathie Fagan**

**Carol Reid**

**Amanda Hightower**

**Cheryl Reid**



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

One last chance to register for the SCFRW convention. If you would like to attend, please leave me a message or email me and I will meet you to pick up your registration and check and will make sure that it gets to the proper person.

244-1155 - phone  
[president@gcrwc.org](mailto:president@gcrwc.org)

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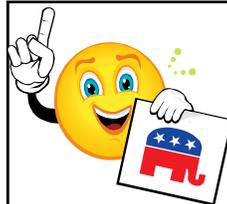
### 2011 Luncheon Dates

12:00 noon

The Poinsett Club

Thursday  
Thursday

October 27  
December 1



**October luncheon - 12:00 noon  
THE POINSETT CLUB**

Please make reservations to [gcrwreply@yahoo.com](mailto:gcrwreply@yahoo.com) or by calling Mary Bellinger at 268-3942 by 8:00 PM on Monday, October 24. Cancellations must be made by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, October 25.

If you have a standing reservation and cannot attend please call or email Mary Bellinger by 8:00 on Tuesday, October 25.