



The Elephant's Ear

Volume 5 No. 7 July '12

Thursday, July 26, 2012

OUR SPEAKER IS STEPHEN H. BROWN

Stephen Brown is a Greenville attorney who is certified as a specialist in the field of Labor and Employment Law by the South Carolina Supreme Court. He handles all manner of cases related to the employment relationship, including contract, discrimination, wages and benefits cases. His practice includes the representation of employers, as well as employees, in a wide range of employment disputes. His law practice has expanded over the past few years to include election law disputes. Stephen is one of the leading proponents of registration by party. He currently serves as legal counsel to the Greenville County Republican Party on a case pending in federal court, seeking to close the Republican primaries in South Carolina to prevent Democrats from having a hand in the selection of Republican Party nominees.

Stephen is a life-long conservative activist, having served as a former Chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party, the SCGOP Platform Committee, and Delegate to several Republican National Conventions. He has been active for years in furthering the conservative agenda of responsible limited government. He is a graduate of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce Leadership Greenville Class XXII. He has served as a member of the Board of Regents for Leadership Greenville. He is a former naval officer, having proudly served in the United States Navy Reserve.

Stephen Brown will speak about the ballot fiasco in South Carolina. Approximately 180 challengers in both parties were kicked off the primary ballot. Most of these challengers filed their candidacy with either their county party chair or with their local election office, paid their fees, and filled out all the paperwork that was put in front of them. Most additionally filed an online current Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), which in most cases for challengers is a blank form. The State Ethics Commission recently changed their rule. They no longer supply a paper form, and no longer accept anything other than an online submission of the SEI.

The SC Supreme Court heard a case brought against these challengers which resulted in their removal from the ballot for not following the law. The law requires a paper form of the SEI be filed at the same time and with the same person, but only for challengers. Since the State Ethics Commission changed their rules and do not supply or accept a paper copy, the law and the State Ethics Commission rules are in conflict.

Incumbents are exempt from that requirement to file a paper copy, and are able to rely on the SEI they have on file already. Incumbents who are late or not in compliance with the filing law have a penalty of a \$100. Challengers are removed from the ballot. Incumbents appoint the S.C. Supreme Court which made law in this case by creating a penalty for challengers—removal from the ballot—which does not exist for incumbents. Operation Lost Vote is an effort by citizens to help challengers get signatures on petitions, so that the challengers may be on the ballot in November. **By Patricia Arceneaux, Program Chair**

GOVERNOR HALEY'S BUDGET VETOES

By Debbie Spaugh

The S.C. General Assembly has done it again. Last year's budget was the highest in state history. This year's budget (\$23.6 billion) is more than a billion dollars larger than last year's. Governor Haley issued a list of 81 vetoes to this budget. The title of the Greenville News' (that bastion of conservatism) editorial on July 22, 2012 was "Override Haley's reckless vetoes". The editorial rants about the veto that ends almost \$2 million in funding for the S.C. Arts Commission. According to the Governor, "supporting the arts and supporting the Arts Commission are not the same thing... A full 30% of the funds allocated to the Arts Commission in Part 1A are dedicated to administration, personnel, and operating expenses. Who would donate to a charity that spent that much money on overhead? Instead of taking a command-and-control approach to promoting the arts, we would be better off returning these funds to the public, to let them decide for themselves what artistic endeavors deserve financial support." This statement applies to so much of state and federal spending. **Do we want to live in a state/country in which a large percentage of our hard-earned income is taken by the government to spend as it sees fit?**

If you think state government should spend your tax dollars on such earmarks as the North Myrtle Beach Historical Museum (\$300,000), regional marketing and advertising for the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (\$200,000), etc., then you will be happy to know that the State House and Senate are rushing back to Columbia July 17th and 18th to override many of the Governor's vetoes. Meanwhile, Americans for Tax Reform has this to say about Governor Haley. "Governor Haley has aggressively championed and pursued pro-growth reforms and policy initiatives that will attract employers to South Carolina and make it a more competitive state to do business and create jobs in the process." "Governor Haley signed into law H.5418 that would lower the income tax rate for small businesses from 5% to 3% over the next three years." "Governor Haley has issued line item vetoes that eliminate over \$67 million dollars of wasteful spending in South Carolina's budget. Tax relief such as this represents an important first step in the right direction for small businesses who are struggling under the burden of over-regulation and over-taxation advanced by the Obama administration."

GCRWC FUNDRAISING PROJECT—AN AUCTION!!!!!!

OUR LUNCHEON ON AUGUST 23RD WILL BE AN AUCTION!! I THINK WE ALL AGREE THAT OUR AUCTIONS ARE FUN, FAST, AND A BLAST! WE WILL HAVE A CELEBRITY AUCTIONEER {TO BE ANNOUNCED} FOR LIVE BIDDING, WHILE A SILENT AUCTION WILL BE SET UP FOR YOUR BIDS. JUST THINK—ALL THOSE UNIQUE BARGAINS! THE LAST AUCTION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND RAISED GREAT FUNDS FOR OUR CLUB. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ENSURE SUCCESS THIS YEAR! YOUR GREAT, GENEROUS, UNIQUE ITEMS YOU BRING FOR THE AUCTION ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR MAKING IT FUN AND ECONOMICAL FOR YOU:

1. Shop sales for jewelry, home décor, accessories at places like Steinmart, Ross, Macy's, Belks, etc.
2. Goodwill—you can find unbelievable unique bargains in home décor
3. Friends who sell jewelry, 31, etc. will donate for business
4. Ask for items or gift certificates from places where you spend—Restaurants, Boutiques, Salons, etc.

IMPORTANT KEYS—GET CREATIVE—START NOW!

Everyone should invite friends to the luncheon. More friends—more fun—more success!

WE NEED COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO HELP. IF THIS INTERESTS YOU, PLEASE CALL ME, KATHY SNYDER-GARRETT (cell—864-787-8550). We will have a brief meeting after the luncheon next Thursday. (If you can't be there, it's OK. We will fill you in.)

"A general dissolution of principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy. While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but when once they lose their virtue then will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader." --Samuel Adams

It is quite educational and indeed inspiring to read quotes from our founding fathers and of wise men since, those who understood freedom, its cost and from where it originates. This quote from Samuel Adams seems to ring more true today than ever. There are a few treaties that are being pushed in Washington right now that would indeed force the United States as a nation to forfeit our freedoms to an outside invader.

The Arms Trade Treaty is an international treaty designed to control international arms sales to criminals. On the surface, making sure criminals cannot obtain firearms sounds like a great idea. Who wants such a thing to occur? But I also have never seen a criminal who obeys the law. That's why they are called criminals. So, this law will only affect law abiding citizens. And its true intent is the limitation of arms in the United States. The United Nations has been trying to erode U.S. sovereignty for years through international code and regulation. This is another attempt to allow outside forces across the globe to take away our very liberties. Did I mention Iran has been placed on the committee to oversee the implementation of this treaty?

And, it must be U.N. month, because there is another treaty called "Law of the Sea" that is going to see a vote in Congress later this year. Senator Graham is still not sold on whether this is a good idea or not. This treaty is an attempt to allow the U.N. to regulate and manage the use of the waters of the world. What could further hinder the U.S. economy better than limiting where we can go when shipping out exports or bringing in goods?

Both of these treaties are further, and more blatant, attempts to undermine the freedoms our Constitution guarantees and everyone else in the world would like to take away. Call your Senators today and make your voice heard!

"Find out just what the people will submit to and you will have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either words or blows, or both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress." - Frederick Douglass

"Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature .. If the next centennial does not find us a great nation...it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces." - James Garfield in 1877



Welcome to our New Member for June - Jeanne Camby

Republican Candidates Need Your Help!
By Linda Slaton, Campaign Committee Chair

The election did not end with the primaries. There are several candidates in contested races who need your help. If you are not sure what offices are up for election in your district, please contact The Election Office at 301 University Ridge, 467-7250 for clarification (or refer to the flyer which was passed out at the last meeting). One of the purposes of the GCRWC is to inform and encourage participation about activities within the Republican Party. If you help a candidate, please remember to keep track of your volunteer hours.

Greenville County Republican
Women's Club
Debbie Spaugh - President
108 Four Lakes Drive
Easley, SC 29642

**Check out our
website:
www.gcrwc.org**

Join us on Facebook
Greenville County Republican
Women's Club

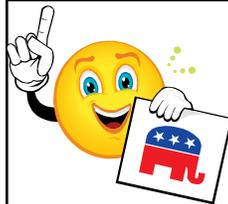
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GCRWC Luncheon Dates

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Thursday	July 26
Thursday	August 23
Thursday	September 27
Thursday	October 25
Thursday	December 6



**July Luncheon 12:00 - 1:00
The Poinsett Club**

Please make reservations to gcrwreply@yahoo.com or by calling Cheryl Cuthrell at 864-335-8094 by 8:00 PM Monday, July 23rd. Cancellations must be made by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, July 24 to avoid the \$15.00 luncheon fee.

If you have a standing reservation contract for the 2012 year and not able to attend, please email Cheryl by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, July 24.