



# *The Elephant's Ear*

*Volume 5 No. 10 October '12*

**Thursday, October 25, 2012**

## **OUR SPEAKER IS CONGRESSMAN JEFF DUNCAN**



Jeff Duncan is a South Carolina native and a 1988 graduate of Clemson University. Prior to being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Duncan served as branch manager and an Assistant Vice President during his seven years of working in community banking. Later, he became the President and CEO of J. Duncan Associates, a South Carolina based, family owned real estate marketing firm which specialized in statewide real estate auctions.

Elected in 2010 to the 112th Congress, Jeff currently sits on three House committees including the Natural Resources Committee, the Homeland Security Committee, and the Foreign Affairs Committee.

A member of both the Republican Study Committee and the Tea Party Caucus, Jeff took a strong stand on major fiscal issues in the 112th Congress. Dissatisfied with the level of spending cuts offered, he split from a majority of Republicans in his opposition of: the final fiscal 2011 spending deal; the final debt limit increase deal in August 2011; both versions of a bill to keep the government operating at the start of fiscal 2012; and the final FY 2012 Appropriations bill. A strong believer in the Constitution, Jeff fought against ambiguous language in the National Defense Authorization Act which he felt could put certain American liberties in peril.

In September 2011, Duncan became the only member of Congress with a 100 percent rating on the Heritage Action for America legislative scorecard "covering the full spectrum of conservatism." He remains at the top of the House leader board as of October 2012.

Jeff has been married to his wife Melody for twenty-three years and they have three sons: Graham, John Philip, and Parker. The Duncan family are members of First Baptist Church of Clinton, South Carolina.

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### **NATURAL RESOURCES IN AMERICA**

**By Patricia Arceneaux**

America's natural resources are abundant and plentiful for generations to come. So what is the issue about energy independence? Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy: "The Obama administration has chosen to reject a domestic energy production agenda that will increase American-made energy and create hundreds of thousands of American-made jobs. Our economic and energy stagnation demands action."

A bill was introduced in the Senate this year, The Domestic Energy and Jobs Act, which is "a package of domestic energy production bills that will not only reduce energy costs that hard-working families and small businesses currently face, but also spur badly-needed economic growth and job creation. As part of a Republican energy agenda that embraces a true all-of-the-above approach, this bill will drive a manufacturing renaissance that will be a catalyst to America's overall economic recovery."

## Notes of Interest from the President—Debbie Spaugh

**There are only three weeks until the election. Please do everything you can to see that Republicans maintain the majority in the House, gain the majority in the Senate, and most important of all—remove Obama from the White House. If he maintains control of the Presidency, there will be nothing left of our Constitutional Republic. We will have information regarding volunteers needed leading up to and on November 6th at our October Luncheon.**

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### VOLUNTEER HOURS

**By Linda Slaton**

This is a reminder for you to bring a record of your volunteer hours to our next meeting. They can be entered into your sheet in the Volunteer Hours Notebook. Examples of volunteer hours that count are:

- :1. Attending such events as the "Take Our Country Back 2012" rally Sept 14, or any other events you attended just to hear speakers.
2. Attending the Greenville County GOP Executive Committee meetings.
3. Working for the Republican Office either downtown or on Wade Hampton Blvd.
4. Phone banking
5. Get out the VOTE calls
6. Poll Watcher ONLY. If you are paid to work a poll or be a poll manager, these hours do not count, as you received compensation.
7. Working on events at our club either BEFORE or AFTER the meeting, (ex: setting up and pricing for the auction), but the 12:00-1:00 scheduled time of the meeting does not count.
8. Remember to count your travel time to and from an event.
9. If you have any questions, please call Linda Slaton 288-0560 or email [ldslaton@yahoo.com](mailto:ldslaton@yahoo.com).

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### Ongoing Fund Raising Opportunities

**By Kathy Snyder-Garrett**

We have three fundraising items all relating to Republican Victory 2012. First, Our Republican Health Care Plan Books- "Ten keys that Cure" --for Adults and "Count to Ten and be Healthy" for Children. These scripture based books along with President Romney's guidance for a freedom-based health-care plan will put "Obama Care" where it needs to be--"Never, Never Land"!!! Cost of books - \$20.00. Second, we have new items. We offer a huge Thank You to Cheryl Garrison who so generously donated over 200 prints of her husband's artwork-a beautiful rendition of our State House, with both Flags flying. The Title is "Nothing Could be Finer". Cheryl's reason for giving is heartfelt and one that we all share---To live up to the title, it will take President Romney and a Republican Majority in the House and Senate. Cost \$20.00. Third, we have a Patriotic CD, which was created in 2003 and used to raise funds for Victory 2004--to put more Republicans in office. The title "Blessed to be Living in America" is from the heart of a 14 year old girl. Songs include—"America the Beautiful", "Over the Rainbow", "The Prayer", "Blessed" and a medley including "The Star Spangled Banner", "God Bless the U.S.A.", and "God Bless America". We are calling it our "Take Back Our Country, Victory 2012 CD". If we don't take back our country, we may be able to still sing the songs, but it will no longer be our America we have been blessed to live in. Cost of CD - \$10.00. All proceeds from all items go to the GCRWC. All can be purchased at the October meeting. If you have any questions, or requests to purchase anytime-call 864-787-8550 and ask for Kathy!

I promised a few more details on some of the legislation that passed this year in Columbia. Two of the biggest pieces of legislation were the Retirement bills, one for state workers and one for elected officials. For state workers, any worker hired after June 30th of this year must wait until age 60 to retire. Existing employees can retire after 28 years of service no matter how old they are. The employee contribution increased by 1 percent and will be phased in over the next 2 years. The TERI program will be phased out by 2018 so employees can no longer "double-dip" from retirement funds. And beginning in 2013, those who retire and go back to work would have a yearly earning cap. As far as legislators, their employee contribution also increased by 1 percent and their special retirement system is closed to new members. New members will have to use the same retirement system as state workers. What seems to be a drawback of the legislation is a new Authority that was created to oversee administration of the pension system. Obviously, someone was already overseeing this in the past, but we still created a new authority to help.

A couple updates on legislation we thought should already be in effect. The federal government approved a law allowing citizens to register to vote online. This is a good move in the right direction to make it more convenient and to use technology for more efficiency. South Carolina is one of only a handful of states that now allow this. Also, our Voter ID law was finally upheld by a federal three judge panel. We can start using it in 2013, of course. The panel determined no one would be turned away from voting and ruled it constitutional.

We are nearing the end of this legislative year and in a couple of months, we will have newly elected House and Senate members in Columbia, hopefully a new President of the United States, and a lot of new bills that will be introduced, fought, delayed, passed, and filibustered. Sounds like government in action. I want to start this newsletter off with a plea. Because we need to have good, honest, conservative people in office come January. There are many opportunities to get involved over the next few weeks. There are House and Senate races from the Greenville area, School Board races, and yes, the Presidential election too. These next 3 weeks are critical and we need all hands on deck. If you like to talk on the phone, you can go to our Victory office downtown to make phone calls. If you like talking with people face to face, join a candidate as they go door to door to talk with voters, and if you don't like to do either of those, give money to a candidate. It is a good thing to identify the issues we face, but until we are willing to put effort into changing those issues, they will always remain. Join me and join the GOP as we fight to take our country and our state back!

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### **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

The Membership Committee is pleased to add three new members: Jamie Hedlund, Jackie Biedlingmaier, and Pam Foster. Please welcome these ladies as we announce them at our October luncheon.

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

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

Join us on Facebook  
Greenville County Republican  
Women's Club

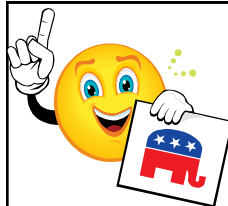
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### GCRWC Luncheon Dates

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Thursday	October 25
Thursday	December 6



**October Luncheon 12:00 - 1:00  
THE POINSETT CLUB**

Please make reservations to [gcrwreply@yahoo.com](mailto:gcrwreply@yahoo.com) or by calling Cheryl Cuthrell at 864-335-8094 by 8:00 PM Monday, October 22. Cancellations must be made by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, October 23 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, October 23.