



# *The Elephant's Ear*

*Volume 6 No. 1 January '13*

Thursday, January 24, 2013

**OUR SPEAKER IS ASHLEY LANDESS, PRESIDENT, SCPC**



Ashley Landess, a native of South Carolina, graduated from the University of North Texas with a journalism degree. Her twenty-year career in communications includes a public policy background as well as consulting work for private businesses and charitable organizations. She 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. Landess served on the SC Lottery Commission, the Governor's Health Care Task Force, and was appointed to chair the School District Consolidation in 2005 by Governor Sanford. Landess writes opinion columns on issues such as education reform, tax policy and government transparency. Those columns are published in dailies and weeklies across the state. Landess has appeared on statewide television and radio and has delivered expert testimony on several issues.

Ms. Landess will speak about the eight reforms needed in South Carolina government in order for the citizens of South Carolina to take the power back from the politicians:

- **Restore judicial independence—South Carolina is the only state in which the legislature unilaterally appoints judges even when vacancies arise.**
- **Make the governor fully accountable for the Executive Branch— SC lawmakers control the executive branch through a complicated web of boards and commissions.**
- **Ensure a true citizen legislature by shortening session— Our state has one of the nation's longest legislative sessions: a system that favors career politicians over citizen-legislators.**
- **Open the state's secret incentives process— Corruption is virtually guaranteed when politicians have the power to strike secret deals with private companies using public money.**
- **End lawmakers' ability to police themselves—House and Senate members police their own ethics violations.**
- **All South Carolina elected officials should report their income sources— The public has no way to ensure that lawmakers don't personally profit from legislation on which they vote.**
- **Strengthen the state's open records law and abolish lawmakers' exemption from it— There's certainly no justification for lawmakers exempting themselves from the state's Freedom of Information law.**
- **Enforce the state law that mandates an open budget process— The law requires the governor to write "the" budget and the legislature to hold "joint open hearings" to debate it.**

For more information go to: [SCPOLICYCOUNCIL.ORG](http://SCPOLICYCOUNCIL.ORG) BY PATRICIA ARCENEUX, PROGRAM CHAIR

**Notes of Interest from the President—Debbie Spaugh**

Please remember our Reservation Policies. All reservations must be called in (or emailed to) Cheryl Cuthrell by 8:00 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday luncheon. No late reservations will be accepted. All cancellations must be made by 8:00 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday luncheon. If you have a Standing Reservation, and you will not be able to attend the luncheon, you must notify Cheryl Cuthrell by 8:00 p.m. the Monday before the Thursday luncheon. According to our policies, if you have a reservation and do not come to the luncheon, you must pay the \$16 lunch fee. The exception to this “no show” policy would be if you are ill, or have some other uncontrollable situation. If you “walk-in” to the luncheon, you will have to wait to see if there are any empty seats. We must accommodate those with reservations first.

**Volunteer Hours—by Linda Slaton**

Please review all of your volunteer hours for the 2012 year and be prepared to record them at the Jan. 24th meeting. Hours count if you attended any political meetings, made phone calls for the Republican Party/candidates, volunteered for any Republican candidates, attended the GCRP Executive Committeeman meetings, or worked for our club before or after the luncheon time. If you have any questions, please call Linda Slaton at 288-0560.

**AUCTION—FUNDRAISER—BY KATHY SNYDER-GARRETT**

We are excited to announce that our club will have another auction—fundraiser this year! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed last year’s auction. We will have a silent auction and a live auction, either in August or September. If you would like to serve on the Auction Committee, please contact Kathy Snyder-Garrett (787-8550, or ksgwithphd@gmail.com) . So, please start looking for good deals on treasures to donate for the auction!!!!

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Membership Committee will be presenting details to give prizes for members and associates who recruit the most members and the most associates during 2013. Our meetings, newsletters and announced events are an excellent opportunity to become more informed voters and political participants. Let us aim for 300 members and associates, not just for numbers sake, but for the sake of our country, state, neighbors and friends. Remember how you felt when you discovered there were others you could gather with who agreed with our Republican Creed.

The last month has been a very scary time for our 2nd amendment. Since the school shooting in CT, where 20 students and 6 adults died, there have been discussions about what can be done to limit gun violence in America. Many would be open to such a discussion because no one wants to have such a massacre occur ever again. The NRA suggested we have armed guards at each school. That would give a faster response in the case of an incident. It would also deter potential threats by having an armed presence.

That suggestion by the NRA was mocked by the White House, claiming armed guards would not deter a gunman. So, over the last week, Vice President Biden has been meeting with pro-gun and anti-gun groups in hopes of coming up with a recommendation for the President to enact. Senator Feinstein (CA) plans to file a bill that would ban many "assault" weapons, limit magazine capacity, and even stop the transfer and sale of firearms. She was also the one who introduced the Assault Weapons ban in 1994 that was passed. With the split in Congress, it is unlikely that such a far reaching ban would be passed. But, not to be stopped, there is also rumor of the President using executive order to deal with this issue. Guns and ammo have been flying off the shelves since just before Christmas. Gun companies are back-ordered for 2 years, and prices have doubled and tripled on gun auction websites.

Many might ask why assault rifles are necessary. After all, we have police and the military. It all comes down to the 2nd amendment and its original intent. The people are allowed to be armed in case there is a need to defend their freedom against a tyrannical government. Since our founding fathers had just come from such a government, they knew what was necessary to defend the freedom they were about to pen. "The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

— [Thomas Jefferson](#)

## Renewal Form

**You may fill-out this form and turn it in at the luncheon.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ Membership OR \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Renewal Form (Please *Print* clearly.)**

**Dues are \$20.00 Jan 1, 2013 through Dec 31, 2013**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**9 Digit Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**Preferred Phone Number (only one)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Federal Congressional District (House)** \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**Standing Reservation for 2013? YES** \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* **NO** \_\_\_\_\_

**Will you accept the Newsletter by email? Yes** \_\_\_\_\_ **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Required by the NFRW**

**\*\*Standing Reservations request form turned in to Cheryl Cuthrell, Reservations Chair**

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

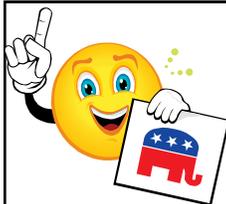
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### GCRWC Luncheon Dates

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Thursday	January 24
Thursday	February 28
Thursday	March 28
Thursday	April 25
Thursday	May 23
Thursday	June 27
Thursday	July 25
Thursday	August 22
Thursday	September 26
Thursday	October 24
Thursday	December 5



**January 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, January 21. Cancellations must be made by 8:00 PM on Monday, January 21 to avoid the \$16.00 luncheon fee.

If you have a standing reservation contract for the 2013 year and not able to attend, please email or call Cheryl by 8:00 PM on Monday, January 21.