



The Elephant's Ear

Volume 7, No. 2 February 2014

Thursday, February 20, 2014

February Meeting: Common Core and Our Schools

We are pleased to have Dr Zais the Superintendent of Education coming to address the club on his accomplishments since he has taken office. Along with Dr Zais we will have Sheri Few speaking against Common Core.

Dr. Mitchell M. "Mick" Zais took the oath of office as State Superintendent of Education on January 12, 2011. In this capacity, he oversees the operation of 1,200 public schools, 51,000 teachers and administrators, 706,000 students and a budget of \$3.8 billion.

Dr. Zais grew up in a military family, he served as President of Newberry College for ten years, graduated of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he served thirty-one years on active duty in the United States Army, retiring as a Brigadier General. He also served as a professor at West Point, teaching leadership, organizational behavior, and management consulting.



Dr. Zais' military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; the Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Medal; the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; the Ranger, Airborne, and Combat Infantryman's Badges; and the South Carolina Meritorious Service Medal.

His civilian awards include the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest award for service. He has been named a South Carolina Economic Ambassador and is a three-time recipient of Future of Education's Golden Apple Award. He was also recognized by the South Carolina Taxpayers' Association as State Agency Director of the Year.

Dr. Zais understands the tremendous sacrifices teachers make and recognizes that being an educator is not a job, but a calling. Having visited more than 225 schools across the state, he is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with superintendents, principals, teachers, students and parents to advance flexibility in schools and foster innovation in our classrooms.

Sheri Few

Sheri Few, founder of South Carolina Parents Involved in Education, has fought tirelessly for student's education.

She has volunteered hundreds of hours to travel the state educating parents and other educational stakeholders about the problems with the federal Common Core Standards. She has recently announced her intention of running for the State Superintendent of Education. She is a committed parent and determined to protect our children from the liberal biases found in nearly every discipline of public education. Her website is www.sherifew.com

She states on her website that as Superintendent of Education, I will use every resource available to put parents and teachers back in the role of deciding what is in the best interest of South Carolina students. I will fight at every turn to prevent federal government overreach into our state's education and I will do all I can to assure education decisions remain at the local level. I will work tirelessly until Common Core is uprooted from our education system and replaced with local, teacher and parent-driven standards that reflect our values. I will not rest until we restore academic excellence to South Carolina public schools.



GCRWC Luncheon Dates

Feb 27, 2014
Mar 27, 2014
Apr 24, 2014
May 22, 2014
June 26, 2014
July 24, 2014
Aug 28, 2014
Sept 25, 2014
Oct 23, 2014
Dec 4, 2014

For Reservations:
[gcrwreply
@yahoo.com](mailto:gcrwreply@yahoo.com) or
Call Evelyn Balsiger
at 864-630-2315

Speakers for
March are
Bill Connor
for Senate
and
Pat McKinney
for Lt. Governor

Check us out
on our website:
www.GCRWC.org



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Greenville
County
Republican
Women's Club

Notes of Interest from Our President -- Linda Slaton

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

The GCRWC April meeting featuring Senators Trey Gowdy and Jeff Duncan will be one of two fundraisers in 2014. Standing reservations for April will not be used for this event. Everyone will need a pre-purchased ticket. The cost is \$20.00 per ticket. Tickets will go on sale after the program at the February and March luncheons, or may be paid via mail to: Linda Slaton, President, 21 Dahlglen Ave., Greenville, S.C. 29607.

IT HAPPENED AT THE BOARD:

A Board Meeting was held on January 21st changing the meeting day to either a Monday or a Friday. The reason for this discussion is that our politicians are in Washington from Tuesday through Thursday limiting the time they are available to speak to us. It was decided that we would continue meeting on Thursdays.

Also discussed was the possibility of being able to make reservations through the Club website by means of credit or debit card. There are fees to manage such accounts, as well as, fees per individual use, and would require more accounting by the treasurer. The Executive Board vetoed this, at this time.

Governor Nikki Haley really started our year off on a great note, and there will be more informative programs that you won't want to miss. See you at the club!

Membership Notes

It's time to renew your membership for the 2014 year! The annual membership fee is \$20. If you have any changes to your address, phone or Email please drop by the Membership Committee table at the next luncheon, February 27th, so we can update our records; or you can Email Janice McPhee at airborne82@charter.net with your changes. If you are interested in working on the Membership Committee we could use another volunteer please contact Janice McPhee, Membership Chairman.

*** Volunteer Work Hour Reminder -- Julie Hershey ***

This is a reminder to turn your volunteer work hours into Julie Hershey so that our club can receive credit for hours attending and working for Republican Party efforts and candidates for office. There are many good 2014 candidates who will appreciate your volunteerism - let's help to get them elected . . . as well as receiving credit for our club. Please report all activity hours from July 2013 through the present. Have you attended committee meetings or attended Republican events? Be sure to count your travel time as well. Report your total hours by the month to Julie Hershey at jrhershey@charter.net.

Legislative Notes - - Karen McManaway

Common Core “ruption”

The 2014 legislation sessions includes House Bill 3943 which prohibits adoption or implementation of the Common Core State Standards. These standards are a new set of education benchmarks that have already been adopted in 45 states and D.C. which are intended to ensure all students around our nation are held to the same educational standards. The Obama administration has contrived a “Race to the Top” competition with the implementation of this program which offers extra federal cash to the winners.

Gov. Nikki Haley is urging our South Carolina lawmakers to scrap the national Common Core curriculum that is being phased in our schools throughout the state. Our U.S. senators, Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, and Sen. Lee Bright do not support these standards. Bright is pushing the bill that would void these standards. The critics say the standards were developed without public input, are “developmentally” inappropriate for our children, and feel the federal government is forcing its agenda on the states. Supporters say the standards were state-developed, voluntarily adopted, are clear and rigorous, and challenge students to engage in critical thinking and problem solving, preparing them for careers, college and competing globally. There’s one thing both sides agree on: When fully implemented, Common Core stands to reshape American classrooms.

Many parents and teachers argue that the states were pressured to sign onto the Common Core standards to get federal economic stimulus money to keep teachers on the job. In fact, to qualify for more than \$4 billion in aid, states had to put into place standards to prepare students for life after high school and test student performance. Common Core wasn’t specifically prescribed, but the Obama administration clearly signaled it was the preferred option starting in 2009. No Child Left Behind, after all, started what some call a tsunami of standardized testing that angered and mobilized parents and teachers who now see the tests aligned to the Common Core as more of the same: a test-driven reform that stresses kids out and robs them of a well-rounded education.

Students in participating states immediately face more demanding assignments. Supporters are convinced that students will rise to these challenges and make up for our country’s lag in the global education race. But maybenot! Kentucky students were the first to adopt the standards in 2010. One year later, their students’ scores fell across the board. There are many states revolting against Common Core, such as New York and Rhode Island.

Why are states revolting? Not only is it expensive and proving to be a flop, but maybe it is the mistrust and half-truths we are leery of in Washington: “If you like your local control of education, you can keep it. Period.”

Welcome to our New Members for January

Judith Allen, JoAnn Anderson, Betty Barnes, Linda Bryorton, Leslie Burgess, Mary Callahan, Nancy Cline, Naomi Corsini, Shannon Donahoo, Christine Donnelly, Tami Flowers, Harbin Guram, Kathy Howard, Becky Kaplan, Elizabeth McClure, Dianne Mitchell, Karen Morrey, Alice Neal, Jean Ann Nigh, Joan Novelli, Weesie Poole, Selena Riddle, Anne Rigdon, Felicia Robbins, Judy Sienkiewicz, Marilee Snider, Beth Veach, Susan White, and Ann Wilson

Welcome to our New Associates for January

Tom Flowers and Dan Herren

Greenville County Republican
Women's Club
Linda Slaton - President
21 Dahlglen Avenue
Greenville, SC 29607

Check out our website:
www.GCRWC.org



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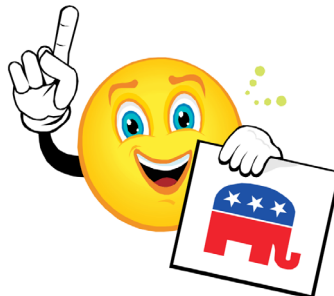
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12:00 - 1:00

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February Luncheon 12:00 - 1:00
THE POINSETT CLUB

Please make reservations to gcrwreply@yahoo.com or by calling Evelyn Balsiger at 864-630-2315 by 8:00 PM Monday, February 24th. Cancellations must be made by 8:00 PM on Monday, February 24th to avoid the \$16.00 luncheon fee. If you have a standing reservation contract for the 2014 year and not able to attend, please email Evelyn by 8:00 PM on Monday, February 24th.