



**GCRWC 2018  
Luncheon Dates**

August 23  
September 27  
October 25  
December 6 \*

*Volume 11, No. 8*

*August 2018*

*August 23rd Luncheon Meeting  
12:00 Noon, Poinsett Club  
\$20.00 Members  
\$22.00 Non-Members*

**A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*Julie Hershey, President*

*"Government exists to protect us from each other. Where government has gone beyond its limits is in deciding to protect us from ourselves."*

*~ Ronald Reagan*

Midterm elections are sometimes regarded as a referendum on the sitting president's and/or incumbent's party performance. The party of the incumbent president tends to lose ground during midterm elections. Over the past 21 midterm elections, the President's party has lost an average of 30 seats in the House, and an average of four seats in the Senate. Moreover, in only two of those midterms has the President's party gained seats in both houses.

It is imperative that the members of GCRWC do our part to elect Republicans who will move the Trump administration's "Make America Great Again" agenda forward. Please consider volunteering with voter registration, the campaigns of Republican nominees running for November's midterm election, and/or financially supporting Republican candidates. Perhaps we'll accomplish a "rare incident" of gaining Republican seats in the House and Senate in the midterm elections!

For Reservations:  
[gcrwreply@yahoo.com](mailto:gcrwreply@yahoo.com)  
or call  
Evelyn Hargett  
864- 630-2315  
or go to  
[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and  
type in Greenville County  
Republican Women's Club,  
then click the event  
**\* Not 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

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



Join us on  
Facebook!  
Greenville County  
Republican  
Women's Club



## AUGUST LUNCHEON SPEAKER

### ***Racine Cooper, Program Chair***

Ashley Landess of the South Carolina Policy Council has graciously agreed to speak at our GCRWC August 23, 2018 meeting.

The Policy Council launched *The Nerve* in 2010 under her leadership. *The Nerve* is a news website that focuses on government and has been credited with restoring investigative journalism to South Carolina news media. *The Nerve* relentlessly highlights the lack of accountability in our state's government and the "legal corruption" at the highest levels.



Ashely will address the reasons our legislators have been called back to Columbia in September. She will also tell us how we can be more active in calling out our legislators and letting them know that we are educated women who are watching and listening.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### ***Dianne Mitchell, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President***

Welcome new associate member, Asbury Lawton, husband of Ashley. We love it when spouses become associate members!

Directories have been available at the last two meetings. Do you still need one? If so, please call or email Dianne, 244-2717 or [diannekm@charter.net](mailto:diannekm@charter.net). A decision will be made soon on whether or not a second printing is needed. They are \$5.00.

Please note a couple committee chair corrections on page 3 of the directory. Our By-laws chair is Laurel Shaler and our Parliamentarian is Ashley Lawton. Apologies to these ladies and thank you so much for serving.

Recently, the school board trustee representing District 21, Dana Rohleder, resigned. This is a great opportunity to get a conservative on the school board! Filing opens August 24<sup>th</sup> at noon and closes September 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon. Spread the word!

### **CAMPAIGN NOTES**

#### ***Janice McPhee, Campaign Committee Chair***

**Every vote matters – Every vote counts!**

If you or a family member or friend have not yet registered to vote in the November 6<sup>th</sup> election, please familiarize yourself with [scvotes.org](http://scvotes.org). There, you can register online or in person at your County Board of Voters Registration Office, 301 University Ridge, Suite 1900 in Greenville. Phone: 467-7250. You may also register by mail to vote in the 2018 General Election, but applications must be postmarked by October 9<sup>th</sup>. Those registering in person must do so by October 5<sup>th</sup>.

This November 6<sup>th</sup> midterm general election is critical with so many socialist Democrats running for Congress and the Senate to nullify Trump's agenda. Remember that every vote matters and every vote counts!

Please remember to give me your volunteer hours at the next meeting. I will be sitting with the Treasurer when you walk in and will have the Volunteer Notebook with me.

If you have any questions, please call me at 864-967-9618 or email me at [jatmwgm@charter.net](mailto:jatmwgm@charter.net).

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES

*Stacy Shea, Legislative Chair*

The 2017-2018 legislative session officially ended on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and since the Special Session June 27-28 at which it approved the budget and a few other matters, the General Assembly has not met. Other than reconvening to vote on the Governor's vetoes, which is planned sometime in September, the legislative session is now complete.

Last month, we reviewed highlights including the FY 2018-2019 budget. This month's report will focus on issues which the Legislature did not address.

**DOT or STIB Reform:** Reforms were promised as "phase 2" when the gas tax increase was passed in 2017. No such reforms occurred or were even discussed in 2018.

**State Pension Plans:** Just as with the DOT, reforms to the state pension plans were promised when their financing was increased in 2017, but no reforms have materialized.

**Consumer-based Solar Power Generation:** State law requires that electric utilities pay for electricity generated by their customers through solar panels, but the aggregate amount of such payments is capped. Solar advocates have been pushing to lift that cap as an incentive for more such "renewable" energy. Bills were introduced to do so but all stalled, primarily over the issue of how to calculate the amount of such payments (i.e. wholesale or retail rates).

**Constitutional Carry:** This issue has been on the agenda of a number of conservative legislators for several years, but the bills have died in committee in both chambers.

**Abortion:** Numerous bills, such as the "Personhood Act," which would restrict or effectively outlaw abortion in this state, were introduced in session, but none made it out of committee. A bill to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood also failed; the House stripped Planned Parenthood funding from the budget, but it was reinserted by the conference committee. The Governor has vetoed this provision, but whether or not it survives as an override remains to be seen.

**Income Tax Reconciliation:** The state income tax law needs to be reconciled with federal law to reflect the significant changes enacted in Washington early this year. Bills were introduced to accomplish this, and the issue was among the items to be addressed in the Special Session, but nothing occurred. If this is not resolved early in 2019, some people will face significant state tax increases.

Except for the special session to consider the Governor's vetoes, this legislative session is now complete. The next biennial session (2019-2020) will open in January 2019 (bills can be pre-filed in December). However, there is one ongoing matter which might be of interest:

A proviso in the 2018 budget created the Public Service Authority Evaluation and Recommendation Committee, which is charged with analyzing whether state-owned Santee Cooper should be sold, and if so, coming up with a valuation. The committee consists of eight legislators (6 Republican and 2 Democrat) plus the Governor (who appointed himself). None of its members has any experience in managing utilities, or expertise in valuing them; the committee will have to hire outside consultants, even though there is no specific provision for that. Who those consultants are, and how they are selected, should be interesting. More importantly, at least three of the committee members have significant conflicts of interest, and Governor McMaster is an outspoken advocate for sale, so it seems doubtful that the committee will produce a unanimous report. The committee is directed to make its recommendations to the General Assembly "as soon as practicable" and reportedly, has already had its first meeting.

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# The Elephant's Ear

Volume 11, No. 8

August 2018



*August 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon*

*12:00– 1:00 p.m.*

*Poinsett Club*

***\$20 Members / \$22 Non -Members***

Make reservations at [gcrwreply@yahoo.com](mailto:gcrwreply@yahoo.com), or call  
**Evelyn Hargett at 864-630-2315 by Sunday, August 19th.**  
You can also go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) (preferred for non-members),  
click the GCRWC link and pay ahead of time by credit card.

***Be sure to make reservations for all guests and include any special meal requests.***  
*Any lunches (including "standing reservations") not cancelled by noon on Monday, August 20th will be billed. Please be aware that once the number of reservations has been turned in, the club must honor our commitment to pay for that number of lunches. Thank you!*

Greenville County  
Republican Women's Club  
Julie Hershey, President  
215 Rivendell Drive  
Pelzer, SC 29669

Polly Dilworth, Editor

Check out  
our website:

[www.GCRWC.org](http://www.GCRWC.org)



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