



WCRWC Elephant Ears

Wake County Republican Women's Club

Mary E. Tatum, Corresponding Secretary
www.wakerepublicanwomen.org

January 2006

Issue 45

Our Upcoming Speaker

Les Merritt, Jr., State Auditor of North Carolina

Leslie W. (Les) Merritt, Jr. is a lifelong resident of North Carolina. He was raised on a farm in rural Sampson County between Clinton and Magnolia, where his family raised hogs and cows and grew tobacco, soybeans, corn and other produce crops. Les' parents instilled in him the values that guide him today: hard work, the importance of faith and family, the difference between right and wrong, and the importance of spending every penny wisely.

Les graduated from Union High School in 1970. He then enrolled at North Carolina State University, where he went on to earn degrees in Economics and Accounting. He is both a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Financial Planner (CFP).

Prior to being elected State Auditor he served as president of Merritt, Petway, Mills and Hockaday, an accounting and auditing firm with offices in Zebulon and Raleigh. Les' experience as a small business owner taught him the importance of conserving and effectively utilizing resources. He learned the importance of client service, doing things right the first time, planning and budgeting, and treating employees and clients with fairness and honesty.

Les was elected to the Wake County Board of Commissioners in 1994. During his time as a County Commissioner he developed a reputation as a voice of fiscal responsibility. Under his leadership, Wake County residents

received a 17% property tax cut while a record number of new schools were being built.

Les Merritt won a three-way primary to become the Republican nominee for State Auditor in 2000. In the general election he received 49.5% of the vote despite being outspent three to one by an entrenched incumbent. Les received 67% of the vote in the 2004 primary to again secure the GOP nomination for State Auditor. On November 2, 2004 Les Merritt achieved a historic victory, defeating the incumbent State Auditor. Les became the first Republican challenger to defeat an elected Democrat incumbent on North Carolina's Council of State. Additionally, he is the first Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed in North Carolina to serve as State Auditor.

January Meeting

January 19, 2006 at the
 NCSU University Club
 4200 Hillsborough Street
 Raleigh, NC
 Social 11:15 AM
 Lunch & Program 11:45 AM
 Cost: \$13.00
 For Reservations visit our website or call Connie Johnson at 571-2191

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Wake County Republican Women's Club

Mary E. Tatum, Corresponding Secretary

President's Message

Happy New Year! What an exciting way for me to begin the new year as the new President of the Wake County Republican Women's Club. It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity and I am very fortunate to have such a dedicated Executive Board. I would like to thank our outgoing President, Becky Matthews, for her outstanding work as President. Becky worked tirelessly for two years on behalf of our club and I know we all appreciate her efforts. Many thanks also to Judge Barbara Jackson who agreed to install all new officers at our December meeting. It was particularly meaningful to have a member of our club perform the installations.

I am delighted to be serving as president and would like to ask for your patience as I get acclimated with this new role. One of my goals for 2006 is to focus on increasing our membership, thereby providing greater assistance to Republican candidates running for office. Please consider bringing a friend to our meeting. Also, if you are not doing so already, I would like to ask you to consider serving on a committee. We still have several vacancies, such as the important nominating committee where we are short two members. Our club would greatly appreciate your help.

Please join us in January to welcome our special guest, State Auditor Les Merritt. This will be an informative, exciting meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone in January.

Laura Riddick
President WCRWC



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Elephants & Jewelry

How about our jewelry display? So many ladies came up to me and have sent me messages regarding our jewelry display, and how great it is and how much they enjoy having it. Thank you Robin for all your hard work and planning!!!

Please Remember:

To wear your "Elephant" and buy some jewelry.

Renew your membership.

If you make a lunch reservation, you must pay for it even you do not attend the meeting, because we guarantee the meal.

You will not receive this newsletter in paper copy, unless you notified Mary E. Tatum at 786-5040.

The January newsletter is now available on our website at www.wakerepublicanwomen.org. If you do not have web access or are not receiving any e-mails regarding the Wake County Republican Women's Clubplease sign up to receive future hardcopy newsletters in the mail.

WCRWC 2005 Officers

President	
Laura Riddick	781-8144
First Vice President	
Zan Bunn	414-0473
Second Vice President	
Sidney Troidl	212-6611
Corresponding Secretary	
Mary E. Tatum	786-5040
Recording Secretary	
Carol Wakely	571-0271
Treasurer	
Connie Johnson	571-2191
Assistant Treasurer	
Rosemary Queenan	556-9135

Board meetings will precede the monthly club meetings. The next board meeting: January 19, 2006 @ 11:00 AM



*Until Every One Comes Home.**

Next Meeting Date: Feb 16

Speaker: Kevin Miller

WPTF Morning Host

Remember to bring your cookies to the January meeting. Dot Schafer will be taking these to the Raleigh USO location at the airport. RDU Center - 840-0941