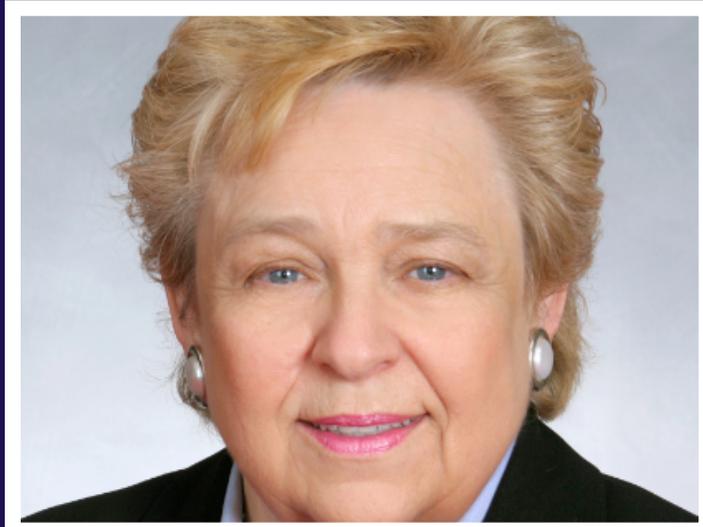


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Rep. Justice accepts new role as President

by Sandy Best

What a local radio talk show host has called “A great move” by the Lower Cape Fear Republican Women’s Club Executive Committee in appointing Representative Carolyn Justice as president of our organization, has been, in essence, a no-brainer. Besides being widely respected, there is no other member of our club with any better leadership and political experience. More

importantly, she understands the importance of the grassroots effort. The executive committee knows that beyond the aforementioned assets that Rep. Justice brings to the table, her enthusiasm and dynamic style of diplomacy will serve to move our club forward into becoming the best women’s club in the state—possibly even the nation. The sky is literally the limit.

Carolyn’s resume is impressive. Notably, she’s been a legislator for ten

**Victory
in
2012!**

years, and was a Pender County Commissioner for nine years before that, serving as its chair. As a



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legislator, Carolyn was named “Legislator of the Year” by the NC Coastal Federation in 2011, the NC Mental Health Associations in 2007, and the NC Health Department Directors in 2004. The Hampstead Chamber of Commerce named her “Citizen of the Year” in 2005. She's a small business owner who has been honored with the YWCA's "Women of Achievement" Award. In our club, Carolyn has been the recipient of the Pat Carroll Award, the Alice Cumberworth Award, and our club's choice for the NCFRW Women of Achievement Award.

Even with all of her public success, she'll be quick to tell you that her greatest achievements are her sons, William and Robert, and her forty-one year marriage to Bill. Her sons have grown into fine, successful men. William is a public relations genius which he gets from his mom, who started the *Topsail Voice*—then called *Sounds of Pender East*. He and his wife, Julie Justice, Ph.D., have the “world's most precious son,” Liam, who is the apple of his Farmor's (Swedish for

grandmother)eye. Just ask her! Robert is a musical prodigy. Both sons have inherited their mother's artistic gifts and generous spirit.

When Carolyn was running the newspaper, she needed a place to keep her young son, Robert, who was not yet school-age. At the time, there were no daycares in Hampstead. In typical Carolyn-style, she found a solution; she and Reverend Jerry Smith, of the Hampstead Baptist Church, opened the first daycare and preschool in Hampstead—right across the street from her newspaper. Interestingly, Reverend Smith is the grandfather of Carolyn's successor in the NC House, Chris Millis.

A devout Christian, Carolyn gives God the glory for her successes. Every right-minded person knows that Carolyn is the best public speaker in these parts. With such a wonderful gift of gab, it would be easy for her to get carried away; however, Carolyn has a sure-fire way of staying grounded: Sunday School. For the last twenty-one years, she has led a group of what she

refers to as “little old ladies” in Sunday School at Hampstead United Methodist Church. “They don't give me any slack,” laughs Carolyn. “They tell it like it is!”

The Lower Cape Fear Republican Women's Club has been very fortunate for over a decade to have her as a member. She has been a driving factor in the successes of our many auctions, helping to raise funds and lending her professional printing expertise, not to mention her stellar auctioneering skills. Through her many years in the General Assembly, she has been able to call on dynamic speakers to help us draw good crowds to our events. Always the steady, reasonable voice in the room, Carolyn will be a natural in her new role. We are ecstatic that she will be leading our club to victory during the 2012 elections as its president!

NCFRW President Dena Barnes and Coastal Region VP Helen Pannullo will install Carolyn as President at our meeting on Aug. 2.