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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

July 15, 2009

Glen OConnell, Treasurer
South Carolina Republican Party
P.O. Box 12373
Columbia, SC 29211

Response Due Date:
August 19, 2009

Identification Number: C00034033

Reference: Amended June Monthly Report (5/1/09-5/31/09), received 6/29/09

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 7 items:

**1.** Schedule A of your report discloses a receipt(s) of $5,371.97 from the "SCGOP Non-Federal Account." Please clarify whether this transfer(s) is from an account maintained by your committee for non-federal activity. If so, be advised that such a transfer is prohibited by 11 CFR §102.5(a)(1)(i) and the full amount of the transfer(s) should be returned to the non-federal account. Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for the transfer-out. In addition, the transfer-out should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 of your next report.

If this transaction represents an "internal transfer" of funds from one federal account to another, and the source(s) of such funds has been identified in previous reports of receipts and disbursements, please note that such transfers should not be itemized as doing so inflates total receipts and cash on hand. If this is the case, please amend your report accordingly.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of funds from a non-federal account, your prompt transfer-out of the impermissible funds or clarification of the transaction, will be taken into consideration.

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**2.** Commission Regulations require that a committee disclose the identification of all individuals who contribute in excess of $200 in a calendar year. (11 CFR §104.3(a)(4)(i)) Identification for an individual is defined as the full name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer. (11 CFR §100.12) Your report discloses contributions from individuals for which the identification is not complete.

You must provide the missing information, or if you are unable to do so, you must demonstrate that "best efforts" have been used to obtain the information. To establish "best efforts," you must provide the Commission with a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. Establishing "best efforts" is a three-fold process.

First, your original solicitation must include a clear and conspicuous request for the contributor information and must inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information. (11 CFR §104.7(b)(1))

Second, if the information is not provided, you must make one follow-up, stand alone effort to obtain this information, regardless of whether the contribution(s) was solicited or not. This effort must occur no later than 30 days after receipt of the contribution and may be in the form of a written request or an oral request documented in writing. (11 CFR § 104.7(b)(2)) The request must:

- clearly ask for the missing information, without soliciting a contribution;
- inform the contributor of the requirements of federal law for the reporting of such information, and
- if the request is written, include a pre-addressed post card or return envelope.

Third, if you receive contributor information after the contribution(s) has been reported, you shall either a) file with your next regularly scheduled report, an amended memo Schedule A listing all the contributions for which additional information was received; or b) file on or before your next regularly scheduled reporting date, amendments to the report(s) originally disclosing the contribution(s). (11 CFR §104.7(b)(4))

Please provide the missing information or a detailed description of your procedures for requesting the information. For more information on demonstrating "best efforts," please refer to the Campaign Guide.

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**3.** The identification of each contributor, including an adequate occupation and name of employer for each, must be provided if the person has contributed in excess of $200 in the aggregate during the calendar year. Please amend Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i) for each entry inadequately identified as "Gentry, W. M.," "PBHE/CRNA," and "US Government/Manager."

**4.** Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "ITEMIZE: health insurance," "net pay," and ""payroll taxes." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(2), salaries and wages for employees who spend more than 25% of their compensated time in a given month on Federal election activity (FEA) or activities in connection with a Federal election must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Rather, only federal funds may be used. Further, the Commission concluded in Advisory Opinion 2003-11 that amounts spent for employee-specific "fringe benefits," consisting of health insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, retirement benefits and payroll taxes, fall into the category of compensated time.

Please clarify whether this activity is for employees who spent 25% or less of their time during the month(s) referenced above on FEA or activities in connection with a Federal election. If this is not the case, any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this payment is not permissible and must be returned. Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding any improper allocation activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**5.** Schedule H4 supporting Line 21(a) of your report discloses a payment(s) for "advertising," and "ITEMIZE: advertising." Please be advised that pursuant to 11 CFR §300.33(c)(1), expenditures for public communications (as defined by 11 CFR §100.26) that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any such candidate for Federal office must not be allocated between or among federal and non-federal accounts. Only federal funds may be used.

Further, expenditures and disbursements for public communications that refer to a clearly identified candidate for Federal office and that promote, support, attack or oppose any candidate for Federal office, meet the definition of Federal Election Activity under 11 CFR §100.24 and should be disclosed on Schedule B for Line 30(b) along with the identity of the candidate(s). However, public communications that meet the definition of Federal Election Activity <u>and</u> that also contain express advocacy as defined under 11 CFR §100.22, but do not meet the conditions of exempt activity,

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would constitute an in-kind contribution, an independent expenditure or a coordinated party expenditure and should be properly disclosed on a Schedule B, E or F supporting Lines 23, 24 or 25, as appropriate, rather than on Schedule B for Line 30(b). Please amend your report to properly disclose this activity or provide clarifying information.

If this activity was categorized incorrectly, the Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account for this activity back to the non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

**6.** Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "equipment rental," "silver elephant event," and "Silver Elephant Event." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

**7.** Schedule H4 of your report discloses payments to "Advanced Video" and "Ovations,-" which are categorized as Administrative expenses; however, the purposes of disbursement disclosed are "silver elephant event" and "Silver Elephant Event." Please be advised that payments made for your committee's fundraising activities must be allocated according to the funds received method and the ratio reflected on Schedule H2. Please amend your report to clarify the appropriate category for this activity or provide clarifying information regarding this apparent discrepancy.

**Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter.** Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1139.

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Sincerely,

Nicole Della Rocco

Nicole Della Rocco
Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division

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