

# SPOTLIGHT *Karen Watson*

As a former payroll, accounts payable, marketing, life insurance and treasury department employee of GEICO at their administrative office in Washington, DC, Karen is a true veteran of corporate life. Ending her career with them in 2009 as their Philanthropic Foundation Administer of \$16m per year of charitable dollars (with their promise to support her continued charitable work), the Heathrow Women's Club is lucky indeed to have her as a member!



Growing up, Karen spent countless North Carolina summers on the Pamlico Sound where her grandmother lived. She was born in North Carolina, but moved to northern Virginia when she was six. She was one of 3 - the only girl amongst her siblings. She can be a woman of few words or many, but none are lost professing her love of going to school. She wasn't a big fan. However, while working with GEICO's life insurance company, Karen received the designation of Fellow with the Life Management Institute, with specialization in Human Resources administration.

She and husband Howard have been married for 21 years and moved here in 2009, mostly to escape the cold weather. She wanted to live close to one of her brothers who both live in Florida and chose Central Florida where Dale lives. Her older brother Tom lives in south Florida, as does her niece, nephew and family and a grandniece and nephew. Back in Springfield, Va., Karen has a nephew named Brandon. She joined the Heathrow Women's Club almost immediately, in a quest to meet new people after relocation. She has served in Charitable Endeavors and affirmed her interest to help wherever needed. When asked what she's good at she responded "anything I'm really interested in!"

She and Howard have taken many cruises and love the Caribbean and any place warm. She described her favorite holiday as a trip the couple made to London. They were invited to a catered birthday party (a company that also caters at Buckingham Palace) at Sir Allen and Lady Sarah Trails country estate. They also took the hydrofoil over and back to Calais, France for lunch. Well done!

Trim and petite Karen has a fondness for the beach, although she avoids too much sun these days. She likes to sew and work out on the treadmill and free weights at Florida Hospital's Wellness Center. She loves suspense and romantic novels and is accused of being *in love with love*, by Howard.

Her years at GEICO remain dear to Karen's heart and in true Capricorn fashion, she rose to a position of importance and one she really loved during her many years with the company. She frequently attended glamorous functions including a visit to the White House and dined amongst many Washington notables. She has met and been photographed with Laura Bush and Warren Buffet (who owns GEICO). Karen's influential connection to GEICO has brought us a highly valued Platinum sponsor. This year, she has arranged to increase their contribution beyond the level of any past sponsorship. Again, well done Karen!

BY CAROLYN TAYLOR