

## **South Carolina Republican Party Fourth Quarter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes IT-ology, October 15, 2011**

On Saturday, October 15, 2011 the Fourth Quarter South Carolina Republican Party Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00am by SCGOP Chairman Chad Connelly.

The invocation was given by Mrs. Jo Ann Burroughs, the Executive Committeewoman from Greenwood County, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mr. KT Ruthven, Executive Committeeman from Aiken County.

The Republican Creed was led by Mr. Moyer Graham, the Chairman from Clarendon County. Following the creed, DeLinda Ridings, SCGOP Secretary, reported that 34 counties were represented and that a quorum was present.

On a motion by Mr. McCall, seconded by Mr. Johnson, the agenda was approved without objection. On a motion by Mrs. Costa and a second by Mrs. Aiken the minutes from August 27, 2011 were approved without objection.

Chairman Connelly recognized Mr. Stacey Swimp to speak for three minutes. Mr. Swimp is the President of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of Michigan and was visiting South Carolina. He spoke on the importance of black voters not being recognized by their color but by their conservatism.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Chairman Connelly recognized Mr. Dan Herren, the Executive Committeeman from Greenville County, to give the SCGOP Treasurer's Report. Mr. Herren stated that the party was in good financial footing for the year. The year-to-date income was \$800,342 (\$746,850 projected) which 107% of the budget.

Mr. Herren further stated that Chairman Connelly is operating under budget and doing a great job in saving the party's resources. Mrs. McCord motioned to accept the report and Mr. Rhame seconded the motion. It was approved without objection.

### **National Committeewoman's report**

Chairman Connelly recognized Cindy Costa, the Republican National Committeewoman from South Carolina. Mrs. Costa asked members of the committee to be good party representatives and help clean up social media so that we are not bashing individual candidates other than Barack Obama. She encouraged members of the committee to work as a team player with whomever is the nominee.

### **National Committeeman's Report**

Chairman Connelly recognized Glenn McCall, the Republican National Committeeman from South Carolina. In his report, Mr. McCall offered congratulations to Betty Poe, the Chairman of Greenville County, in her election as Third Vice President of the National Federation of Republican Women. He thanked everyone for how they have welcomed presidential candidates to South Carolina with open arms and asked members of the committee to continue to thank the legislative delegation in DC.

Mr. McCall explained that Lin Bennett, Sandy McGarry, Drew Johnson and York County are working with Mecklenburg County (NC) GOP to put together a team to “welcome” Obama for the DNC in Charlotte. He stated the the winter meeting will be held in New Orleans in January, even as we hoped for Myrtle Beach.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Connelly began his report by stating that “we are so lucky to have a well respected, organized and hardworking group of Republican Women in South Carolina.” He further stated that the “South Carolina Federation of Republican Women is the best chapter in the country.” Mr. Connelly then asked for applaud for Mrs. LaDonna Ryggs, the Chairman from Spartanburg, who was not in attendance, for serving on the Nominating Committee at the NFRW Convention.

Mr. Connelly continued by asking Betty Poe to come forward. After thanking her for her service he stated, “at the National Convetnion in Kansas City, the delegates to the National Federation of Republican Women Convention saw the hardwork and leadership that Betty provides in South Carolina and elected her the Third Vice President of the National organization.” Then, on behalf of the SCGOP he presented her with a framed South Carolina print thanking her for her service, and congratulating her for her achievements. Mr. Connelly then recognized members of the committee whose birthdays were in October, November or December.

Chairman Connelly also spotlighted the successful efforts of the members of the party who worked hard to win the Special Election in House District 100. He thanked Tim Callanan, Lin Bennett, Carroll Duncan, Terry Hardesty, Lanneau Siegling, Jordan Brygelson, Sen. Larry Grooms and Katie Baham and the House Republican Caucus for all of the work they did to help win that seat for Republicans. Chairman Connelly stated it was a difficult race, but 36% of voters turned out for the special election, and Republican Eddie Southard won with 60% of the vote.

Chairman Connelly then explained that he sent a letter to all P1s in the state about joining the Silver Elephant Club and he thanked members of the committee who had joined the committee by pinning them with their Silver Elephant Pins. He explained that raising money for the party was coming from all directions, big and small, as Cindy Costa, Lin Benett, and Charm Altman have been selling bumperstickers all over Charleston, Kevin Thomas having all of his active members join the club and he also thanked by name the elected officials who gave to the party as well. Pastor Max Kaster then stated that he had even challenged all of his deacons to join as well.

Chairman Connelly then gave an update on the PPP. The party is doing extremely well in fundraising, and the manner in which the party engaged the media gave us a tremendous boost with the media. He stated that Florida robbed South Carolina of a month, and South Carolina must recoup this. He had a list of demands for Chairman Preibus, including a swing through South Carolina to raise money for the SCGOP in the next month, not giving us bad hotels or seating at the Convention, among other things. He stated he has been meeting with Fox News Channel, and that they were coming to the coast to visit and see where the SCGOP debate will be held.

Chairman Connelly stated he had been to over 34 counties since becoming Chairman and more were planned in the next two weeks.

Chairman Connelly also gave a short preview of the party’s Legislative Agenda, and then spoke on the issue of Counties fighting the PPP, stating that the party will “pay for all legitmate and approved expenses by the party.”

## **Old Business.**

Chairman Connelly stated that committee was now in line for Old business. Hearing no old business the party moved into new business.

## **New Business**

*(At this time, 40 voting counties were present, and 44 votes were eligible to be cast)*

Chairman Connelly stated that committee was now in line for new business and recognized Mr. Phillip Bowers the Chairman of the Platform and Resolutions Committee. Mr. Bowers explained that his committee had received a resolution concerning the National Popular vote, that the Committee had passed the resolution and that he was offering the Resolution for consideration by the Executive Committee.

On a motion by Mrs. Costa, Mr. Bowers read the resolution.

The party then moved into a period of debate. Chairman Connelly asked for a motion to limit discussion to five minutes per side. Mr. Piper made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bill Pickle. The committee approved the debate limit, with one vote of opposition. The Chair appointed Drew McKissick as time keeper. The Chairman stated that "it has been moved and seconded for a resolution concerning the National Popular Vote be considered by the body. The resolution is now open to debate. Debate will be set at ten minutes, equally divided between the two sides."

Chairman Connelly then recognized Mr. McCall. Mr. McCall stated that the electoral college is important, and under the popular vote compared to New York City, South Carolina is not important. He stated that major media markets would elect the president. California and New York City alone make up 22% of the population, so we must keep what our founding fathers set up for us. Mr. McCall then yielded his remaining balance of time to Mrs. Costa.

Mrs. Costa stated that the National Popular Vote plan is unconstitutional. She stated that our founding fathers put the system of the Electoral College in place so all states would have a weighted and equal vote to make the decision for the Presidency of the United States. She stated that we must make sure our members of the house oppose this measure.

Mrs. Costa's time having expired, Chairman Connelly recognized Mr. Rich Bolen to oppose the resolution.

Mr. Bolen stated that our electoral system is not perfect, and stated that South Carolina will not see a Presidential Candidate after our primary on January 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated that it makes sense however under the National Popular vote to come to South Carolina to get as many popular votes as possible. He then stated that we did not need to take a position as a party, as we are picking a fight where we do not need to. He stated that if we pass this resolution it will alienate members of our party and the media will cite infighting, as some of our elected officials are sponsoring this bill. Mr. Bolen yielded back the balance of his time.

Mr. Herren made a motion to table because we do not have enough information to vote today. Chairman Connelly called the question to table, and the motion to table did not pass.

Mr. Piper raised a point of order to note that debate had expired, and that a vote was now necessary.

Mrs. Susan Aiken raised a point of order to ask who could vote. Chairman Connelly stated that the motion would be a roll call vote.

After a roll call vote, the Resolution opposing the National Popular Vote was passed with 42 members in favor; Mr. Herren opposed, and Mr. Tommy Plonk abstained.

Chairman Connelly then stated that we were in line for a vote to charter the South Carolina Teenage Republicans organization. He recognized Mr. Piper who spoke about reaching out to young people in the party, and his plan to do so. Chairman Connelly thanked Mr. Piper, and then stated that "Rule 7 (c) (1) of the SCGOP Rules states that the State Chairman of official Republican auxiliaries shall be ex-officio members of the committee." He asked for a motion to accept the South Carolina Teenage Republican Federation as an official auxiliary of the SCGOP. Mr. Piper made the motion, with a second by Mrs. Jo Ann Burroughs. The motion passed without objection.

Chairman Connelly then recognized Mr. Jim Jerow to give a report on the preparations for the State Convention on May 19, 2012. Mr. Jerow stated that the committee had met three times, and that there are eleven counties represented on the committee. He informed the committee that the State Convention will be held on May 19, 2012 which is also Armed Forces day, and so the theme of the convention will be Honoring our Military. The Convention will begin at 10am with registration beginning at 8am, and will be held at the Carolina Coliseum.

Chairman Connelly thanked Mr. Jerow and the committee for all of their work, and then introduced Kerry Wood who spoke on the Legislative Agenda. Mr. Wood informed the committee of an agenda consisting of comprehensive tax reform, school choice, school district consolidation, partisan school board elections, banning union check off, and other items inline with the GOP platform. The Chairman accepted this as information.

Chairman Connelly then notified the committee of his establishment of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Organization Committee. The committee will be charged with overseeing the establishment of the new 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Organization, its convention, and its election of officers. He appointed Mr. Pickle as chairman of the temporary organizational committee and appointed the Executive Committeeman and Chairman from Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Florence as voting members of this committee. He appointed Mrs. Costa, Mr. McCall, and Mr. Tom Grimes as non-voting, ex-officio members.

Chairman Connelly then recognized Mr. Jim Ulmer to give a report of the building committee. Mr. Ulmer recognized the party staff for the manual labor and upkeep they have been doing to the building. He informed the committee of the neglect the roof has been in, but informed the committee that Billy Stannick patched the roof at no cost to the party, but at some point the roof would have to be completely fixed. Mr. Ulmer thanked State Treasurer Curtis Loftis for providing Home Pest Control to service the building for no cost, and stated that the HVAC system will have to be replaced soon. He asked for help from the committee members to replace ceiling tiles, doors, carpets, and that we are building the future of liberty brick by brick at the State Party.

Chairman Connelly thanked all members of all committees for doing a great job.

### **Announcements**

Seeing no other new business, Chairman Connelly asked for announcements for the committee. Mr. Claude O'Donovan of Aiken County announced that on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> the Aiken GOP would be recognizing all five Congressmen and asked everyone to come.

Ms. Lou Nolan invited the committee to Carolina Wings on October 24<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the marriage of Matt Moore and Meg LeHeup.

Mr. Ashby Rhame said the Occupy Wall Street group should not be compared to the Tea Party, and we should call them the Flea Party. He suggested referring to their members as Fleabaggers.

Mr. Ben Kinlaw invited the committee to Barnwell on Monday October 17<sup>th</sup>, and recommended that members of the committee attend Gov. Haley's townhalls.

Mr. Mark Palmer invited the committee to attend a Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> online meeting at Hertiage.org where the Heritage Foundation will address the National Popular Vote issue.

Mr. Adam Cates introduced himself to the committee as the new Young Republicans Chairman and recognized some of the Young Republicans who were attending.

Mr. Lanneau Siegling recognized Lin Bennet for doing a great job in getting stuff from the opposition.

Mr. Terry Hardesty thanked the committee for helping to get Eddy Southard elected to the State House from District 100. He expressed his pleasure with the committee and the margin of the vote won by the Republican.

Mr. Jim Jerow stated that Rep. Ryan's House 108 seat needed to remain Republicans, and said he wanted to recognize those who had worked hard to get the lines drawn.

Mr. Sam Cerezo, Mr. Bowers, and Mrs. Bennett all recognized guests in attendance, and Mr. Jon Parker quickly explained that his phone banking operation would be giving demonstrations in the lobby.

Chairman Connelly asked that everyone please refer any rumors swirling about any issue to the state party, and let everyone know that the next meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

Chairman Connelly asked for a motion to adjourn, and without objection the meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

Minutes prepared by:  
DeLinda Ridings  
Secretary, SCGOP

Approved by the Executive Committee: \_\_\_\_\_