

South Carolina Republican Party
Third Quarter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
South Carolina State Farmers Market, August 27, 2011

On Saturday, August 27, 2011 following a breakfast of Shrimp and Grits and other fresh food from South Carolina, the Third Quarter South Carolina Republican Party Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00am on August 27, 2011 by Chairman Chad Connelly.

The invocation was given by Mr. Bill Pickle, Chairman from Florence County, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mr. Jim Ulmer, Chairman from Orangburg County. Chairman Connelly noted that the concept for the breakfast and meeting was brought up by Mr. Ulmer and thanked him for his service.

The Republican Creed was led by Mrs. Susan Aiken, the Executive Committeewoman from Anderson County. Following the creed, DeLinda Ridings, SCGOP Secretary, reported that 37 counties were represented and that a quorum was present.

On a motion by Mr. Jerow, seconded by Mrs. Stroman the agenda was approved without objection. On a motion by Mr. Grimes and a second by Mr. McCall the minutes from June 11, 2011 were approved without objection.

Chairman Connelly thanked Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers for his help in securing the beautiful State Farmers Market facility, and welcomed him to speak. He also recognized Ellen Weaver from Sen. DeMint's office and Trey Walker from Governor Haley's office.

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 is in very good financial footing with a cash on hand balance of \$198,113.00.

The Executive Committeewoman from Richland asked Mr. Herren about outstanding bills on hand and the SCGOP Comptroller Sharon Thomson stated that there were some small utility bills but nothing major, nor were there any surprises.

National Committeewoman's report

Chairman Connelly recognized Cindy Costa, the RNC Committeewoman from South Carolina. Mrs. Costa stated that her motto is "I will begin a new" and recommended the book The Worlds Greatest Salesman.

Mrs. Costa gave a report on the RNC's Tampa Summer meeting and the meeting's guest speakers, including Gov. Bobby Jindal. She stated that that Republican National Convention will be August 27-31st, 2012 and that the Chairman of the RNC is doing a great job and able to make contact with large donors, and that the RNC has challenged Cindy, Glenn and Chad to raise \$10,000. She employed members of the State Executive Committee to support the Republican Nominee, donate to the RNC, and begin the election year as "today, we begin a new."

National Committeeman's Report

Chairman Connelly recognized Glenn McCall, the RNC Committeeman from South Carolina. Mr. McCall gave a report on the RNC Summer meeting in Tampa, and stated that Mr. Cousar and Mr. Johnson joined him on the trip. He stated he serves on the Committee overseeing the convention and is working to build a volunteer list, so all interested in helping should contact him.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Connelly began his report by recognizing June, July, August and September birthdays, as well as that two members of the Executive Committee that were getting married.

Chairman Connelly stated that on the RNC Summer Meeting to Tampa he had five goals, and that the major one was protecting our First in the South Primary. Chairman Connelly informed the Committee that district conventions and the State Convention will be held next year, that delegates from each will be elected to the 2012 national convention. Currently, South Carolina is projected to have 50 delegates and 47 alternates. 26 delegates and alternates will be elected at the State Convention and three delegates and three alternates will be elected from each Congressional District for a total of 21 delegates and alternates from the districts.

Chairman Connelly reported that at the October 15th meeting we will begin organizing the 7th District.

Chairman Connelly reported that as South Carolinians we have a front row seat to history. He explained that "people you meet and the books you read are the way you find out what defines what you will be in the future" and that each county rises and falls with the leadership of the county party. He asked that all County Party leaders work to bring their counties together and make our party much stronger.

Chairman Connelly thanked Senator Graham for his recent \$25,000 donation to the party, and Sen. DeMint for hosting an SCGOP fundraising event prior to his Presidential Forum. He also informed the committee that all five congressmen are donating as well. Chairman Connelly thanked the committee for the honor for allowing him to serve as Chairman.

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Connelly recognized Matt Moore, SCGOP Executive Director for his report.

Mr. Moore stated that we have had a very busy three months at the party, but have had a lot of positive media and great events. Mr. Moore stated that we need to fight Democrats with substance and asked County Parties to work with the State Party on their events with Presidential Candidates and that we have been working on unveiling county party websites. He informed the committee that the October 15th meeting will be a day long meeting focusing on grassroots training, social media and media messaging training. He closed by stating that we are being strict with our budget and are running a lean operation.

(Following a five-minute recess, the party moved into Old Business.)

Old Business.

Chairman Connelly stated that currently, the Presidential Preference Primary will be held during early to mid-February. Chairman Connelly then called on Stephen Brown, the lead attorney for the Greenville County Republican Party to give an update on the closed primary system.

Mr. Brown stated that legal services are being provided pro-bono but expenses are being occurred. He stated that the federal judge that ruled against the party was appointed by Barack Obama and that an appeal was in process and to see him for more information.

Chairman Connelly stated that Congressman Joe Wilson would be discharged from the hospital and after hearing no other old business the party moved into new business.

New Business

Chairman Connelly stated that committee reports would be heard from the Platform and Resolutions Committee, the Strategic Partnership Committee and the Candidate Recruitment Committee.

Chairman Connelly recognized Mr. Phillip Bowers, Chairman of Platform and Resolutions.

Mr. Bowers stated that the committee's second meeting was held immediately prior to the Executive Committee Meeting. Mr. Bowers had three resolutions brought to the floor from the committee and recommended passage.

Mrs. Bennett asked about County Conventions being required to reconvene and that the convention would be called four weeks prior instead of two. Chairman Connelly recognized Mr. Denny, Rules Co-Chairman, who stated that party rules were changed, and stated county conventions were left open to help split counties.

Mr. Bryngelson stated that the resolution should be reworded. Mr. Denny explained that it is advisable to reconvene to get the number of delegates necessary. Mrs. Bennett stated that the way the delegates are proportioned would be the same. Mr. Denny stated that the way things are done and the way the rules are read are not the same.

Mr. Graham asked a question about re-electing delegates. Mr. Siegling stated a point of information by asking the chairman if this could be tabled until next month.

Chairman Connelly explained that this needed to get to the RNC and was unbinding. Mr. Bowers made a request to get to the motion. Mr. Denny explained that some counties will need to re-elect delegates for split counties. Those other counties will not need to meet again.

Mrs. Bennett made a point of order stating the motion to table is not debatable and must be put to a vote.

The motion to table was defeated. The resolution was amended to correct Scribner errors and to change wording from "shall" to "may." The question was called and seconded and passed unanimously.

Other resolutions from the resolutions committee passed unanimously with changes passing without objection. Chairman Connelly then recognized Second Vice Chairman EJ Cousar to report on the Strategic Partnership Committee. Mr. Cousar stated that the committee is working to improve on Hispanic outreach, but Strategic Partnership committee includes all coalition groups of the party.

Chairman Connell then recognized the Mr. Hallman, the Chairman of the Recruitment Committee, for his report. He stated that they had a hood meeting and upon a question from the Mr. Herren stated that there will be guidelines on vetting handed out soon.

Chairman Connelly then recognized Mr. Gay Suber the Chairman of the Historical committee. Mr. Suber thanked the party for fighting for what is right, and talked about the time when he was Executive Director for the party. He discussed the first Presidential Preference Primary, the election of Governor Edwards, and Senator Thurmond's party switch, and urged the continuance of the Silver Elephant program.

Chairman Connelly then explained the 2012 State Convention stating that it will be called next year for the purpose of electing National Delegates as well as National Committeeman and Woman. Chairman Connelly stated, "Our staff has been researching the best possible date for us to have our State Convention and we've concluded Saturday, May 19, 2012 is the best day. The Convention will begin at 10am on Saturday, May 19th at the Carolina Coliseum in Columbia and we are estimating spending only about 60% of how much the party spent on the 2011 convention."

Chairman Connelly then asked for a motion to accept the date as presented and give the State Chairman the ability to enter into a contract with the Carolina Coliseum for this date. Upon a motion by Mr. Grimes and a second by Mr. Kaster the motion carried without objection.

Chairman Connelly explained that in past years the State Executive Committee has given the State Chairman the ability to secure a loan, if necessary, to hold the 2012 Presidential Preference Primary. Chairman Connelly recognized Mr. Siegling who stated "Mr. Chairman, to make sure we secure our important place in electing Presidents, I would move that the party give Chairman Connelly the ability to secure a loan, if necessary, to run the 2012 presidential preference primary, and make a report the Executive Committee before the loan is secured, if such loan is necessary." Upon a second by Mrs. Bennett, the motion carried without objection.

Announcements

Chairman Connelly announced that on October 15th, 2011 the SCGOP will host a grassroots training event in conjunction with our State Executive Committee. After the quarterly meeting, classes on grassroots training classes including leadership, communications, and voter vault.

Chairman Connelly asked for announcements from the floor. Eaddy Willard introduced a national leadership-training program, Mr. Piper recognized two high school students present, the RNC Committeewoman announced she was seeking re-election, and the Mr. Rhame gave a motivational comment about the upcoming election.

Chairman Connelly asked for a motion to adjourn, and without objection the meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

Minutes prepared by:
DeLinda Ridings
Secretary, SCGOP

Approved by the Executive Committee: 10/15/11