

South Carolina Republican Party
First Quarter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Myrtle Beach Convention Center, January 16, 2011

On Monday, January 16, 2011, in conjunction with the South Carolina GOP Experience and Debate Weekend in Myrtle Beach, SC, the SCGOP State Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M. by Chairman Chad Connelly.

The invocation was given by Mr. Mark Palmer, the Executive Committeeman from York County, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mr. Larry Richardson, Executive Committeeman from Horry County.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Connelly recognized dignitaries in attendance. They included Congressman Joe Wilson, Congressman Jeff Duncan, Attorney General Alan Wilson, Adjutant General Bob Livingston and Representative Alan Clemmons.

The Republican Creed was led by Mr. Jim Jerow, the Chairman from Georgetown County. Following the creed, DeLinda Ridings, SCGOP Secretary, reported that 28 counties were represented and that a quorum was present.

On a motion by Mrs. Sandra Stroman, seconded by Mr. Jim Jerow, the agenda was approved without objection. On a motion by Mr. Glenn McCall and a second by Mrs. Lin Bennett, the minutes from the October 15, 2011 meeting were approved without objection.

Treasurer's Report

Chairman Connelly recognized Mr. Dan Herren, the Executive Committeeman from Greenville County, to give the SCGOP Treasurer's Report. Mr. Herren reported on the 2011 budget. In his report, the projected gross income for 2011 was \$900,000 and the actual gross income was \$1,368,825. The gross expenses were projected as \$800,000 but were actual \$1,133,712. The net income for the 2011 budget was projected at \$100,000, but the actual net income for 2011 was \$235,113.

Mr. Herren reported that in the Third Quarter of 2009, a staffer at the SCGOP at the time accidentally short-paid \$6,979.86 to the IRS. Since then, Heartland Payroll Service has been processing all SCGOP payroll, and remits all payroll taxes. The IRS contacted the SCGOP at the end of 2011 regarding the penalty, and on December 12, 2011, SCGOP requested the IRS to abate the penalty. The IRS has not yet responded to the party.

Mr. Herren then reported on the 2012 budget. Projected gross income is \$1,811,200, and projected gross expenses are \$1,710,830, with a net projected income of \$100,370.

Mrs. Susan Aiken motioned to accept the report and Mr. Ashby Rhame seconded the motion. It was approved without objection. Chairman Connelly noted the actual budget would be voted on later in the meeting.

National Committeewoman's Report

Immediately prior to the National Committeewoman's report, Governor Nikki Haley dropped in to say a quick hello and to let everyone know how excited she was about the First in the South Presidential Primary.

Chairman Connelly recognized Cindy Costa, the RNC Committeewoman from South Carolina. Mrs. Costa gave remarks on our motto as a party, as well as the need to have good attitudes and come together for our party. She praised our National Chairman Reince Priebus and explained a resolution that passed at the RNC concerning Israel unanimously.

National Committeeman's Report

Chairman Connelly recognized Glenn McCall, the RNC Committeeman from South Carolina. In his report, Mr. McCall thanked Chairman Connelly and SCGOP staff for what they are doing in the state. He said he is looking forward to being the Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements in Tampa at the National Convention and promised to get a great hotel for South Carolina and that a great welcome party would take place.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Connelly began his report by pinning the new Executive Committeewoman from Georgetown County, Joyce Jerow, who replaced Glen O'Connell who resigned due to health issues.

Mr. Connelly also recognized Matt Moore, Alex Stroman, Hope Walker, David Smith and Sharon Thompson, staff at the SCGOP for doing a great job with the debate. He explained that 2,980 seats would fill the debate hall. He then recognized the members of the committee who had birthdays in January, February and March.

Mr. Connelly mentioned Carroll Duncan had taken a rough fall at the Huckabee Presidential Forum the night prior and went through surgery. He wished her the best, and reported that she was doing much better.

Chairman Connelly reported extensively on his discussions with Stephen Colbert and the issues of the court challenge by four counties around the primary. Chairman Connelly discussed that South Carolina had received extensive news coverage, and that before he did anything with regards to Stephen Colbert he first talked to Senator DeMint and others. When the Supreme Court ruled in our favor, and also ruled the State had to pay for the primary, Chairman Connelly told Colbert that we were no longer interested.

Jordan Bryngelson, the Executive Committeeman from Dorchester County, stated that Chairman Connelly did the right thing in examining Mr. Colbert's proposal. Bobby Smith, the Chairman from Laurens County also made a statement, and Bill Pickle, the Chairman from Florence County stated that Chairman Connelly was definitely earning his salary (zero). Drew Johnson, the Chairman of Chester County, asked who were the counties attorneys and who were paying the legal fees.

Chairman Jim Jerow of Georgetown County asked if we needed a resolution to sell the party naming rights to Colbert, but said that he ultimately trusted Chairman Connelly to make the right decision.

Cindy Costa reported that Florida had received penalties at the RNC meeting for their hotel, guest passes, and delegates.

Jim Dickson, the Executive Committeeman from Beaufort County, stated that Florida should lose all of their delegates.

Dan Herren asked Chairman Connelly how losing delegates would affect the primary. Chairman Connelly responded that the winner of the state would receive all of our at-large delegates, which are 11. He stated the winner of each Congressional district would be awarded two delegates for each Congressional district won, for a total of 25 delegates to the national convention.

Chairman Connelly ended his report stating that May 19th is the State Convention and that Chairman Jerow is working hard to get the Convention together and that we have over 750 people who have given to the Silver Elephant club.

Executive Director's Report

Chairman Connelly recognized Matt Moore, SCGOP Executive Director. He thanked Dan Herren for guiding the party on the budget, and stated that a busy spring is coming with regards to candidate filing.

He stated the party is working on getting Marco Rubio, Chris Christie and others to be our Silver Elephant Dinner Speakers.

He stated that the party is working to make the state headquarters a better workspace, and reminded counties that would like a website that the state party can do this for \$500.

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

(by this time, 34 counties were represented)

On a motion by Mr. Herren, seconded by Mr. Bowers the committee voted unanimously on a voice vote to pass the 2012 budget as presented in the Chairman's report.

Hearing no other new business the party moved into announcements.

Announcements

Larry Richardson, Executive Committeeman from Horry, made a pitch to recruit poll workers and by this possibly reorganize precincts that have not been organized.

Dan Herren expressed the need for registration by party. He announced that Stephen Brown, the attorney for Greenville County in the suit was present and could answer questions.

Lin Bennett, First Vice Chairman, stated that candidates can be chosen by state convention, and that this could be a trump in our pocket to choose our nominees.

Chairman Connelly reminded the committee that we had other events to attend and that registration by party could be discussed at the next meeting.

Susan Aiken, Executive Committeewoman from Anderson, asked that we have an Executive Committee meeting before spring.

Ashby Rhame, Executive Committeeman from Sumter County, stated that U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder should stay out of South Carolina's Business.

Bobby Smith, the Chairman from Laurens County, stated that he has a candidate running as a Republican who is a disgrace to the party. He wishes that he could tell him he can't file as a Republican, but he can't find a reason to not allow him.

Chairman Connelly thanked the Committee for all of their hard work.

Upon the motion by Susan Aiken, and without objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:21pm.

Minutes prepared by:
DeLinda Ridings
Secretary, SCGOP

Approved by the Executive Committee: May 5, 2012