

**The S.C. REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOURTH QUARTER MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2016
THE COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
COLUMBIA, SC**

State Chairman Matt Moore called the Fourth Quarter State Executive Committee Meeting to order on Tuesday, December 13th, 2016 at 4:06 p.m.

Mrs. Jo Ann Burroughs, Executive Committeeman from Greenwood County, gave the invocation. Mr. Jerry Rovner, Seventh Congressional District Chairman and Executive Committeeman from Georgetown County, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Cindy Costa, National Committeewoman from Charleston County, led the Republican Creed.

Recognition of Dignitaries and Guests

Chairman Moore recognized several elected officials and guests in attendance. Those recognized were: Mr. Brandon Newton, newly-elected State House Representative for District 45; Mrs. Lin Bennett, newly-elected State House Representative for District 114; Mr. Drew McKissick, RNC Faith Engagement Eastern Region Director; Sumter County Chairwoman Shery Smith's father, Mr. Jim Lanford; Dr. Louie Costa, husband of National Committeewoman Cindy Costa; and SCGOP staff members Mrs. Maxine Gross, Ms. DeLinda Ridings, and Mr. John Owens.

Roll Call

Mrs. Cindy Risher, Reading Secretary and Executive Committeewoman from Clarendon County, reported that the body had achieved a quorum with 30 counties and 34 voting members present.

Approval of Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes

Chairman Moore asked in the interest of time for approval of the August 20, 2016 minutes and the current meeting agenda without objection. Seeing none, the August 20, 2016 minutes and the meeting agenda were approved as distributed.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Moore welcomed members of the State Executive Committee and guests to the meeting. Chairman Moore spoke briefly about the November 8 election results. Chairman Moore stated that he was thrilled with the outcome and that the South Carolina Republican Party looked forward to working with the White House and the Republican National Committee during President Trump's term.

Chairman Moore pinned the following new members of the Executive Committee: Berkeley County Chairman Bruce Gonzalez, Jasper County Chairwoman Karen Wyld, Lancaster County Chairman Allen Blackmon, and Laurens County Chairman Alan Rickard.

Chairman Moore returned to the November elections, highlighting the strategies that made the SCGOP successful. Chairman Moore said the SCGOP had a solid data and digital strategy, door-to-door/ground game, absentee mail plan, and phone call plan for voter outreach. Chairman Moore said the Trump/Pence ticket ran on the idea of change, while the Clinton/Kaine ticket struggled with a lack of cohesive message.

Chairman Moore told the committee that the Trump/Pence ticket won over 2600 counties throughout the country and the Clinton/Kaine ticket won around 500.

Chairman Moore recognized six South Carolina counties that turned “red” from 2012: Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester, Colleton, Darlington, and McCormick.

Chairman Moore said the Trump/Pence ticket won South Carolina with 55% to 40% margin, and that Republicans added 83,000 more Presidential votes in South Carolina since 2012, compared to the Democrats losing 10,000 votes. Chairman Moore told the committee that while Congressman Clyburn was re-elected, he lost 40,000 votes in his district compared to 2012. Chairman Moore told the committee that the SCGOP picked up two seats in the State House with Mrs. Lin Bennett winning District 114 and Mr. Rick Martin winning District 40. Chairman Moore told the committee that the State Party worked hard to promote absentee voting by sending out over 250,000 absentee mailers. Chairman Moore reminded the committee of huge Democrat losses during the Obama Administration

Chairman Moore reminded the committee to be patient while South Carolinians “moved up” to help the Trump administration. Chairman Moore mentioned that the Inauguration was soon approaching. He said the South Carolina State Society Inaugural Ball would be on Thursday, January 19, 2017 and the Inauguration ceremony would be on Friday, January 20, 2017. Chairman Moore spoke about Governor Nikki Haley being nominated as the next United States Ambassador to the United Nations, and said the committee would be considering a resolution in her honor. Chairman Moore spoke about the great working relationship that he and the State Party had with Governor Haley and her staff. He asked each member of the committee to thank her at the Governor’s Mansion for all of her hard work on behalf of our state and party.

Executive Director’s Report

Miss Hope Walker, South Carolina Republican Party Executive Director, was recognized for her report. Miss Walker thanked the committee for all of its hard work during the past election cycle. Miss Walker announced that Precinct Reorganization would start in March 2017 and that the Precinct Reorganization training would be held after the next Executive Committee meeting on February 4, 2017.

Miss Walker reminded the committee of the calendar for Reorganization: Precinct Reorganization meetings are to be held in March, County Conventions are to be held in April and should be completed by April 28th, and the South Carolina Republican Party State Convention would be held on Saturday, May 13, 2017.

Miss Walker reminded the Committee that this year would be the 50th anniversary of Silver Elephant Dinner. Miss Walker said this year’s Silver Elephant Dinner would be a formal, black tie affair.

Miss Walker reminded the Committee to be mindful in planning County Conventions and to consider events like Spring Break, Easter, The Masters, etc. Miss Walker said the Committee would later be voting on the method to determine 2017 delegate numbers for Precinct Reorganization. Miss Walker acknowledged and thanked the SCGOP staff and interns and those who ran local Victory offices for all of their hard work during the past election cycle. Mr. Jonathan Hoffman, Executive Committeeman from Charleston County, was recognized to ask if the rules for this Precinct Reorganization would change. Miss Walker told the committee that the State Rules Committee would soon meet to determine rules for the reorganization process. Miss Walker took additional questions from the committee concerning Precinct Reorganization.

Treasurer's/Finance Committee Report

Chairman Moore recommended that the committee not go into executive session for the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer Sharon Thomson, of Richland County, reported that the current cash-on-hand for the SCGOP was \$30,416 and the only outstanding bills were for National Convention. Mrs. Thomson said generally expenses for the year were under-budget and highlighted consolidation of storage units. She said reasonable salary costs were a major part of lower expenses. Over-budget areas of expense were travel and transaction fees.

Mrs. Thomson stated that the state party spent considerably on election-related mail pieces. She said funds for this year's Victory efforts were raised in conjunction with Chairman Moore, and the campaigns for Senator Tim Scott and Congressman Mick Mulvaney.

Mr. Glenn McCall, National Committeeman from York County, was recognized to speak on behalf of the Finance Committee. Mr. McCall thanked the SCGOP leadership for all that they do on behalf of the party. Mr. McCall shared information with the Executive Committee on items that were being addressed by the Finance Committee.

Resolutions Committee

Mr. Terry Hardesty, Executive Committeeman from Berkeley County and Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was recognized to give the Resolutions Committee report. Mr. Hardesty reported that the Resolutions Committee met on December 9, 2016, and that there were two resolutions passed for consideration of the full Executive Committee. The first resolution was supporting The One Percent Spending Reduction Act of 2016. The second resolution was a resolution Honoring and Thanking Governor Nikki R. Haley for her success and leadership in South Carolina, and recognizing her pending nomination as United States Ambassador to the United Nations. Chairman Moore asked for discussion, and seeing none, recommended that both resolutions pass without objection. Both resolutions were passed by unanimous consent.

National Committeewoman's Report

Mrs. Cindy Costa, National Committeewoman from Charleston County, was recognized to give her report. Mrs. Costa stated that she was very pleased with the recent election results, and she always knew we would win. Mrs. Costa said she felt that comparing the two tickets and what they had to offer made things easier for the Republicans. Mrs. Costa reminded the committee that unity for our GOP ticket was also a key to our success. Mrs. Costa stated that she looked forward to seeing President-elect Trump's cabinet picks.

She encouraged the committee to always stay positive about president-Elect Trump's cabinet picks, and said President-elect Trump has business experience to fix our economy. Mrs. Costa spoke about the One Percent Spending Reduction Plan, stating it is time to govern well with such strategies. Mrs. Costa stated she is looking forward to the Inauguration and that we have much to be thankful for.

Mrs. Costa congratulated Mrs. Lin Bennett for her win in the State House District 114 race. Mrs. Costa also thanked Representative-elect Lin Bennett, Reading Secretary Cindy Risher, and Mr. Moye Graham, Chairman of Clarendon County, for praying for everyone on their nightly Facebook Prayer Quilt. Mrs.

Costa lastly thanked National Committeeman Glenn McCall for all of his hard work at the National Convention.

National Committeeman's Report

Mr. Glenn McCall, National Committeeman from York County, was recognized to give his report. Mr. McCall thanked National Committeewoman Cindy Costa for all of her hard work during the convention and the election cycle, and for her positive attitude. Mr. McCall stated that he, too, prayed for our nation.

Mr. McCall stated that he was excited for the party, and thanked Chairman Moore, Executive Director Hope Walker, and the SCGOP staff for all of their hard work in this past election cycle. Mr. McCall mentioned that South Carolina 5th District Congressman Mick Mulvaney was nominated by President-elect Trump for the position of Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Mr. McCall also added that RNC Chairman Reince Priebus has done a great job leading the RNC, and has been selected as President-elect Trump's Chief of Staff. Mr. McCall also stated that Ronna Romney McDaniel, Chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, would be voted on as the next RNC Chair at the RNC Winter meeting.

Old Business

There was no pending Old Business before the Committee.

New Business

Chairman Moore stated the Committee would move into the business of approval of the 2017 Precinct Reorganization Delegate Allocation. Chairman Moore stated that historically the number for delegate allocation was based upon Presidential Primary numbers instead of General Election numbers. Chairman Moore read SCGOP Rule 4-c-5 stating that there would be one delegate per twenty-five votes cast in the 2016 Presidential Preference Primary or one delegate per twenty-five cast in the 2016 General Election, depending on the committee's vote.

Chairman Moore recommended that the committee vote to use Presidential Primary numbers for delegate allocation. Miss Hope Walker was called upon to mention that delegates to the State Convention would still be based on numbers from the 2010 Census. Mr. Moye Graham, Chairman of Clarendon County, moved that the Executive Committee use the 2016 Presidential Primary numbers to determine delegates for Precinct Reorganization. Mr. Chad Groover, Chairman of Greenville County, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mr. Terry Hardesty, Executive Committeeman from Berkeley County, spoke briefly about the upheaval over school board candidates in the Lowcountry. He said there were now four conservative school board members in Berkeley County. Mr. Hardesty encouraged county leaders to get involved with their local school board races.

Mr. Ben Kinlaw, Chairman of Barnwell County, spoke briefly about the presidential electors, and said the harassment that they were facing was coming from Democrats.

Chairman Moore reminded the committee that the Electoral College would meet on Monday, December 19, 2016 in the Blatt Building at the Statehouse Complex to certify the election of President-elect Donald J. Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence. Chairman Moore said he received over 2,000 emails from

people across the country requesting that he “change his vote.” Chairman Moore said changing the vote of the people would be “tyrannical.”

Mr. Duane Naquin, Executive Committeeman from Lexington County, asked Chairman Moore about the budget. Chairman Moore stated that by state party rules, the 2017 budget would be presented at the First Quarter Executive Committee Meeting.

Mr. Jim Ulmer, Chairman of Orangeburg County, relayed a conversation that he had with his old pastor about how they were longing for a President who would kneel before God.

Mr. Glenn McCall, National Committeeman from York County, told the committee that he knows people on the Presidential Transition search team, and they are looking for qualified people to serve in the new administration. He asked that if anyone is interested, please contact him.

Mrs. Cindy Costa, National Committeewoman from Charleston County, announced that her daughter Christian Costa would be going to work at the Heritage Foundation as an intern.

Mr. Buck Griffin, Chairman of Greenwood County, moved to adjourn. Mr. Craig Caldwell, Chairman of Lexington County, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Trawick, Recording Secretary
South Carolina Republican Party

Approved by the South Carolina Republican Party State Executive Committee - February 4, 2017