

**The S.C. REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FOURTH QUARTER MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2014  
COLUMBIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
COLUMBIA, SC**

Chairman Matt Moore called the Fourth Quarter Executive Committee meeting to order on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 5:11 P.M.

Margaret Hendricks, Executive Committeewoman from Pickens County, gave the invocation and Allen Lollis, State 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairman, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Hope Walker, RNC State Director, led the Republican Creed.

**Recognition of Dignitaries and Guests**

None

**Roll Call**

Reading Secretary Nikki Trawick reported that the body had not achieved a quorum, with 24 voting members present.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

On a motion by Earl Capps, Executive Committeeman from Lancaster County, and seconded by Jim Ulmer, Chairman of Orangeburg County, the meeting agenda was approved without objection. On a motion by Tony Piscatella, Executive Committeeman from Dorchester County, the minutes from the August 16, 2014 meeting were approved without objection.

**Finance Committee/Treasurer's Report**

In the Treasurer's absence, Chairman Moore gave an update on the State Party's finances. Prior to the finance update, Chairman Moore reflected on the candidates who won all five of the State Party's targeted State House races: Richie Yow from Chesterfield County, Kirkman Finlay from Richland County, Craig Gagnon from Abbeville County, Stephen Goldfinch from Georgetown County, and Samuel Rivers from Berkeley County.

Chairman Moore then gave a brief update on the party's finances. He mentioned that elected officials are committed to helping the State Party. He announced that the 2015 budget would be presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015 meeting (per State Party rules). Chairman Moore also said there will be less focus on the ground game until 2016. He mentioned that the State Party would host many events with Presidential candidates over the next 15 months.

Chairman Moore said the RNC field staff program would end in every state except the Presidential battleground states. He then thanked the 2014 Victory team in attendance for their hard work: Tyson Grinstead, Jordan Kay, Marcus Finney, Kristen Beckham, and Hope Walker. He also announced that Kristen Beckham, formerly RNC Field Director, would join the SCGOP as Finance Director in January. He said Matt Orr, the State Party's Press Secretary, would join Attorney General Alan Wilson's office.

He also introduced Desiree Watson from Senator Tim Scott's office and Butch Wallace from Congressman Joe Wilson's office. He said that DeLinda Ridings, Midlands Field Director, would be leaving the party for other opportunities in January.

### **First Vice Chairman's Report**

State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman Lin Bennett encouraged members to be united following the successful 2014 election cycle.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Moore announced new members of the State Executive Committee. Tim Higgins was announced as the new Chairman of Dorchester County. Chairman Moore pinned Mr. Higgins with a county chairman pin. Steve Rapchick was announced as the new Executive Committeeman from Charleston County. Chairman Moore pinned Mr. Rapchick with an Executive Committee pin.

Chairman Moore gave a recap of the 2014 election cycle and best practices learned. He said it was the best election, in terms of victories, in the history of the South Carolina Republican Party. He said it was the first election cycle in which technology was used in a mature way. Chairman Moore said the State Party produced over 3 million social media impressions in support of Governor Haley and the Republican ticket. He mentioned that Vincent Sheheen received 115,000 less votes than he did in the 2010 election – and that Governor Haley gained votes. Chairman Moore said the focus is now 2016 and who is going to run against Hillary Clinton if she is the Democrats' nominee. Chairman Moore said three things were key to the SCGOP's historic success in 2014: targeting low turnout voters, using technology like never before and building a solid ground game. He said technology advances this past cycle included the new door-to-door iPhone app and an upgraded voter information system. He mentioned that Amendment 2, allowing the Governor appoint the Adjutant General, was failing by 19 points in September. Due to an aggressive strategy from SCGOP it was flipped around to 12 points in our favor on Election Day. Chairman Moore said the State Party produced over 2 million ad impressions in support of Amendment 2 on Facebook and social media. Chairman Moore also said Amendment 2, which agreed with the State Party's platform, was important to help further restructuring in state government. The party had 20 field staffers and 14 field offices across the state to support the ground game.

Chairman Moore then shared important upcoming dates: The State Young Republican convention is scheduled for January 24, 2015. In August 2015, Cleveland will host the first Presidential Debate. South Carolina's debate will be in mid- February 2016. Chairman Moore said the preliminary primary schedule has Iowa on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, New Hampshire on February 9<sup>th</sup>, South Carolina on February 20<sup>th</sup> and Nevada on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. South Carolina could have 11 uninterrupted campaign days before the primary. Moore said most presidential candidates will announce by March or April. The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Silver Elephant Dinner will be held on May 1, 2015 and State Convention will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The State Party's role in the presidential election is to facilitate debate among the candidates and allow our activists to have a voice. Chairman Moore said there is no preference given to any presidential candidate and each candidate is given the same opportunity.

Jim Ulmer, Chairman of Orangeburg County, asked if the Democrats would hold their presidential primary on the same day as the Republicans. Chairman Moore stated that as it currently stands, the

Democrats could hold their primary one week later. Mr. Ulmer also asked who will pay for the primary? Chairman Moore mentioned the recent history of presidential primaries- that the state paid for the 2008 and 2012 primary elections in order to comply with federal law. Chairman Moore also said that state law has been fixed since the last primary, so there should be no lawsuits. Chairman Moore discussed the structure of filing fees in the last presidential election. The 2016 presidential filing fee in South Carolina has not yet been determined.

There was discussion regarding the date of the next State Executive Committee meeting. Chairman Moore said it would be probably be held in late January or early February 2015.

### **National Committeewoman's Report**

Chairman Moore then recognized Cindy Costa, the Republican National Committeewoman. Mrs. Costa said that with the 9<sup>th</sup> win for Republicans in the U.S. Senate over a week ago, the Republican Party should be proud. Mrs. Costa recognized Mr. McCall for serving on the 2013 Growth and Opportunity Project and developing new strategies following Mitt Romney's loss in 2012. The Republican victories were wide and deep. Mrs. Costa thanked the County Chairmen and their volunteers for their efforts during the election. Mrs. Costa gave a "shout out" to Miss Walker and Mrs. Beckham for going to Louisiana to help get the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Senate win. Mrs. Costa thanked Chairman Moore for his leadership. Mrs. Costa shared that she led a delegation to Taiwan in September. The purpose of the trip was to help people understand the plight of the Taiwanese people. Mrs. Costa announced she will be going to Israel in January with RNC members and faith leaders.

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

Chairman Moore then recognized Glenn McCall, the Republican National Committeeman. Mr. McCall thanked the committee for its support of RNC Chairman Reince Priebus, himself, and Mrs. Costa. He also thanks the committee for their hard work on the election. Mr. McCall asked members to remember 1 Timothy 2 and pray for those in authority, our leaders, and for those who were recently elected. Mr. McCall also thanked Miss Walker and the team for going to Louisiana.

### **Resolutions Committee Report**

Chairman Moore stated that Terry Hardesty, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was not present. He said there are two resolutions presently before the Resolutions Committee for consideration prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015 meeting.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Chairman Moore spoke briefly on precinct reorganization. Chairman Moore announced that Miss Walker will be the State Director for re-org. Chairman Moore then recognized Miss Walker to discuss precinct reorganization.

Miss Walker thanked everyone for his or her hard work during the past election cycle. Miss Walker then reviewed the two reorganization handouts that were distributed at sign-in. First, Miss Walker discussed the key 2015 SCGOP Reorganization Dates. Precinct meetings may begin on March 1<sup>st</sup> and she suggested a countywide makeup meeting. The last date to hold a County Convention is April 18<sup>th</sup>. Then Miss Walker discussed the Overview Memo, which covered the 2013 process. She asked that the committee continually check their e-mails for updates. Miss Walker advised that delegate numbers for County Conventions will be slightly different and Miss Walker explained how the numbers for delegates are derived for each county. She said the delegate number at the State Convention remains at 870 because that number is based on the last census.

Chairman Moore reminded County Chairmen to be mindful of setting dates early for their County Conventions and inviting speakers to attend. Counties in close proximity should try to coordinate holding conventions on the same date in order to increase the odds of getting better speakers.

Mr. Ulmer asked if the counties were still required to run three ads for the County Convention and will the counties be reimbursed as they have in the past for the expense of the ads? Miss Walker stated that the advertising requirements are in the handout. State law requires two ads in a newspaper that is generally circulated in the county for two consecutive weeks. It was suggested to place the ads in the local newspaper that costs less; some County Chairs place the announcement under “Upcoming Events” in the paper at no cost.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Mike Vasovski, Executive Committeeman from Aiken County, announced that Phillip Bowers, Chairman of Pickens County, won a school board seat in November. Dr. Vasovski also shared his recent experience at the S.C. School Boards Association meeting in Hilton Head. Dr. Vasovski then announced that he plans to run for school board in Aiken.

Earl Capps, Executive Committeeman from Lancaster County, praised Sandy McGarry, Chairman of Lancaster County, and 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Chairman Brandon Newton for their tireless efforts in getting Randy Newman elected as 6<sup>th</sup> District Solicitor. Mr. Capps said Mr. Newman's win was the highest-level office in South Carolina to change party hands in this election cycle and represents a historic win for both the State and Lancaster County GOP.

Mr. Capps also congratulated Chairman Moore for receiving his Masters Degree from the University of South Carolina.

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bryan, Recording Secretary  
South Carolina Republican Party

*Approved by the South Carolina Republican Party State Executive Committee – January 24, 2015*