

**The S.C. REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SECOND QUARTER MEETING  
JUNE 30, 2015  
VIA CONFERENCE CALL**

Chairman Matt Moore called the Second Quarter State Executive Committee meeting to order on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 5:02 P.M.

Cindy Costa, National Committeewoman from Charleston County, gave the invocation and Glenn McCall, National Committeeman from York County, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Moore led the Republican Creed.

**Roll Call**

Reading Secretary Nikki Trawick from Richland County reported that the body had achieved a quorum, with 37 counties and 41 voting members present on the call.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

A motion was made by Terry Hardesty, Executive Committeeman from Berkeley County, and seconded by Tyson Grinstead, Executive Committeeman from Richland County, to amend the agenda to allow the Treasurer's Report to follow the Chairman's Report. The motion passed without objection. The full meeting agenda then was approved as amended without objection. On a motion by Sandy McGarry, Executive Committeeman from Lancaster County, and seconded by Cindy Risher, Executive Committeeman from Clarendon County, the minutes from the January 24, 2015 State Executive Committee meeting were approved without objection.

**Old Business**

It was agreed upon unanimously to not hear the Pickens County Convention protest in June out of respect for the victims and families involved in the June 17 Charleston shooting.

The Third Quarter State Executive Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 22 in Columbia.

**New Business**

Chairman Moore said the appointment of committees/officers and pinning of new members is typically done at the Second Quarter meeting, but it will be done at the Third Quarter State Executive Committee Meeting since this meeting was held by phone. Chairman Moore said committee appointments are now complete, but if a member wants to serve on a particular committee, please let him know.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Moore said he recognized that this meeting is a little unusual and that suffice to say, the past two weeks in South Carolina were unusual. He said a racist murderer broke our hearts...but they've been mended by the incredible grace shown in the wake of the Charleston shootings. He said thank you to all who've stepped up to help in various ways. Chairman Moore said for those who are new to the committee, it's not preferable that we meet via phone, but we do it from time to time.

Chairman Moore began his remarks by saying “thank you” for the incredible support committee members gave him this past spring during his re-election bid. He said the campaign won 83% of the vote because people believe the party is on the right track. Chairman Moore said we do have challenges, but he believes we have the vision and leadership to get the hard work done. He said the role of state parties has changed over the years...but we’re at the cutting edge of state parties. He said we are weighing in on the issues that matter, getting voters engaged online, and building the back-end infrastructure that candidates can use to mobilize voters when the time comes. Chairman Moore said his vision for the State Party is the same as it was when he was first elected chairman in 2013: a community and technology-focused organization that wins elections in every single county.

Chairman Moore said the Republican National Committee, the RNC, believes in its state parties. The RNC has hired a full-time State Party director who gives us great advice and helps us share best practices. The RNC is also beating the DNC when it comes to fundraising and infrastructure. He said someone has to be working behind the scenes until we get a Republican nominee. Chairman Moore said a friend recently asked why we attack Hillary Clinton so much...well it’s for that reason. Our candidates are busy! Our future nominee will inherit a party that is clicking on all cylinders from the national level to the state down to the precincts. Chairman Moore said committee members are an important part of that team.

Chairman Moore said for those who are new members he would say this: we are a team and a family. We work together and cheer for each other. We share best practices and prayers and happiness and sadness. Even when we disagree, we do it like family...never out in the streets. Chairman Moore encouraged each county’s leaders to work with counties of similar size. He said we are always learning. Chairman Moore said tomorrow he is headed to West Virginia with fifteen other State Chairmen to share best practices and to get to know them better.

Chairman Moore then outlined the committee’s priorities for the next two years.

First and foremost, he said it is our job to make South Carolina look good in the Presidential Primary process. Since 2013, candidates have made 103 visits to SC and spent 131 days campaigning here...the numbers are staggering. He said with our “First in the South” primary comes great responsibility. Chairman Moore will not personally be endorsing a candidate...but members are not barred by our rules from doing so. A word of warning though: if a candidate feels like a county chair or leader is against him, that candidate probably won’t attend party events.

Many, many events are planned over the next 8 months. Keep an eye on our Facebook, Twitter, and emails for updates. Also if your county party would like to host events, let the State Party know of the specific candidate you’d like to request.

Chairman Moore said the national media is flocking to South Carolina. They can, at times, ask tough questions. If you would like some media training or help with a question, always let the State Party know. It’s better to tell a reporter, “let me think and get back to you” than to say the wrong thing.

Also, in your county leadership folder that’s available at the State Party, we’ve included some media training and tips. That folder also includes access to GOP Data Center and a “user guide” for leadership in your county. Chairman Moore said the State Party is a resource to help counties...let us know how.

Important dates this cycle:

August 6 – First Presidential Debate in Cleveland

August 22 – Third Quarter State Executive Committee meeting and Pickens Co. Protest Hearing

September 18 – DeMint/Haley Heritage Action Event with Presidential candidates  
September 30 – Tentative last Day for Republican candidates to file for President in South Carolina  
October 6 – Potential grassroots event with Governor Nikki Haley  
December – Christmas Party and Fourth Quarter State Executive Committee meeting

February 1, 2016 – Iowa Caucus  
February 9 – New Hampshire Primary  
February 13 – S.C. Debate  
February 20 – S.C. Primary

March – Counties convene as necessary to elect delegates to Congressional District conventions  
March 15 – Super Tuesday, likely nominee  
March 16 – March 30 – Candidate filing for State House, State Senate, Congress, etc.  
April – Congressional District Conventions to elect national delegates (3 per district, 3 alternates)  
May – State Convention (likely 13th or 20th) to elect national delegates (26 statewide, 26 alternates)  
June 14 – Primary Day  
June 28 – Runoff Day (if necessary)  
July 18–21 – National Convention in Cleveland  
November 8 – Election Day

Chairman Moore said that at our next meeting we will pass a resolution regarding delegate selection to the National Convention. This is a standard resolution that we pass every four years. He said we will elect three (3) national delegates from each Congressional District and twenty-six (26) delegates at the State Convention, plus the National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, and State Chairman who are automatic delegates under RNC rules – for a total of fifty (50) delegates. There will be forty-seven (47) alternates. So in other words, it will be a large group going to Cleveland. If you haven't attended previously, National Conventions are one of the more memorable experiences in politics. History is being made, party business is being done...and we'll have fun at parties, meeting elected officials at delegation events, etc.

Chairman Moore said regarding Presidential debates: Glenn McCall, Cindy Costa, and I have been working for three years to bring order to our Presidential Primary process. He said many members know there were twenty-three (23) debates last cycle. It was a traveling circus...debate after debate, sometimes even the morning after. That has changed. Currently there is one debate per month until February, when there will be two – including one in South Carolina. These are all sanctioned debates...and no debates will happen outside of them.

Chairman Moore said the RNC has no control over who participates in the debates. He said some committee members signed the letter recently sent by Lt. Governor Henry McMaster. Chairman Moore said he shares the Lt. Governor's concerns, but he can promise members those concerns have been voiced properly at the RNC and elsewhere. Chairman Moore said he told the *Wall Street Journal* recently that he was opposed to national polling being used for early debates. Only Iowa, NH and SC should matter at this point. Sadly, there's simply no way to get 15 or 16 candidates on stage at the same time. Now there are other ideas...and they aren't all bad on how to do debates...brackets, two debates on the same night, etc. But the fact is...Fox News, CNN, and the other networks own their airtime. They have to sell ads and pay for the debates. These debates are extremely expensive. It's about \$2 million in cost to the networks. So it's hard for us, the RNC, to dictate what a network should or should not be doing... Further, 46 states want to be like South Carolina, New Hampshire, Iowa and Nevada...and our sending letters to the RNC complaining is not taken well. We have a debate and primary that everyone else wants. Let's not

jeopardize it going forward. There is a process, and he admits it's not perfect...but it is a process that is much improved.

Chairman Moore said South Carolina's Republican debate is scheduled for February 13, 2016. He has been informed by the RNC and CBS that the final decision remains with CBS regarding the debate location. Many people in Greenville, Columbia, Florence, Myrtle Beach, Charleston and elsewhere have been communicating with the SCGOP. CBS will be in state this summer and should make a final decision by the end of August. Chairman Moore said he has no doubt some people will be upset depending upon where CBS chooses to have the debate. For that he is sorry...but they have to do what's best for their production team and bottom line. CBS is working with us...and he can promise our debate will be great.

Chairman Moore said he doesn't know how many candidates will be in the race by then, but it seems like many.

Finally, Chairman Moore said the State Party's focus following the debate and primary turns to National Convention, nominating a Presidential candidate, and getting that Presidential nominee elected here in South Carolina – along with Senator Tim Scott and the rest of the Republican ticket. He said we will have a large get-out-the-vote (GOTV) effort next fall – it won't be as big as 2014 in some ways, but we are putting together plans already. Turnout will be higher – around 70% of people will vote. Chairman Moore gave some statistics on why GOTV is so important – President Barack Obama received 866,000 votes in South Carolina in 2012. Governor Nikki Haley received 696,000 votes in 2014.

In closing, Chairman Moore said the State Party would continue to do many things well:

1. Continue to rely on the traditional ground game strategies (knocking on doors, attending festivals, etc.)
2. Use technology even more (better walk app and voter modeling using analytics) to target voters – that overlaps with an absentee ballot strategy.
3. Use social media (particularly Facebook even more) after last year's proven success with social media
4. Provide a clear contrast between the S.C. Republican Party's candidates and the Democrats...yes, that does require us to be "negative" sometimes...but it allows our candidates to stay focused...because a contrast does exist between a pro-life, pro-values party and the Democrats...who will say and do anything to win.

Chairman Moore repeated what he said during his campaign, that winning is NOT an accident. He thanked members for the trust they have placed in him. He looks forward to serving as we win and have fun over the next two years.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Chairman Moore then stated that all of the Silver Elephant bills had been paid. This year's Silver Elephant was one of the most successful events in history. He also stated that State Convention did not lose money this year. Chairman Moore then thanked members for their online registration and Hope Walker for overseeing the process. At the last RNC meeting, the State Chairman used South Carolina's State Convention registration process as a national model for best practices. Chairman Moore then stated that there is a plan in place to retire the debt this year.

Treasurer Sharon Thomson reported finances on two events in May. She updated the committee on each month's baseline revenue and expenditures. Treasurer Thomson stated that the annual audit is complete, but she has not received the final audit response. Treasurer Thomson said the State Party has used the same audit company for years and she doesn't expect any problems.

Treasurer Thomson said Finance Committee co-chairman Lanneau Siegling, of Lexington County, visited the office last week and performed due diligence and was pleased with accounting processes.

Treasurer Thomson then discussed Presidential Primary filing fees and progress on the State Party's loan incurred due to 2012 legal fees.

Chairman Moore reminded the committee that State Party Rules require an annual audit by an independent outside accounting firm. The State Party is run like a business, Chairman Moore said. Chairman Moore then stated that anyone is welcome to stop by the office anytime and take a tour.

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

Chairman Moore then recognized Glenn McCall, National Committeeman from York County. Mr. McCall shared with members the three areas he is responsible for serving on the 2016 National Convention Committee on Arrangements. One is delegates and guests transportation, two is technology and the third is the overall delegate experience working with the Cleveland Host Committee. A digital consultant has been hired to work in Cleveland to work on the National Convention. A few guest passes will be available if someone wants to attend the convention if they were not elected as a delegate. There will be opportunities for young people to volunteer at the convention. Mr. McCall then thanked the State Party and the county party leaders for the role they play in getting Republican candidates elected.

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

Chairman Moore then recognized Cindy Costa, National Committeewoman from Charleston County. Mrs. Costa encouraged State Executive Committee members to see the Presidential candidates as many times as possible given South Carolina's "First in the South" Presidential Primary.

Chairman Moore then thanked Mrs. Costa and Mr. McCall for their leadership. Chairman Moore then stated that Mrs. Costa is now in the top ten of seniority level at the RNC. Chairman Moore then stated that the average tenure for a State Party chairman is one and a half years and there are seventeen new State Chairmen who have been elected within the last two months. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to get the new Chairmen trained for the 2016 elections.

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

Chairman Moore then recognized State Senator Katrina Shealy, First Vice Chairman from Lexington County. Senator Shealy stated that she has an SCGOP First Vice Chairman's Facebook page that she tries to keep updated with political events in the Midlands area. Senator Shealy said she would post events when candidates are visiting other parts of the state if members will provide her with the information. Senator Shealy then discussed the upcoming legislative session dealing with the Confederate battle flag on South Carolina's Statehouse grounds.

### **Resolutions Committee Report**

All resolutions scheduled for the Second Quarter meeting will be heard at the Third Quarter meeting.

### **Announcements**

Phillip Bowers, Chairman of Pickens County, asked if the hotels in Cleveland would be located a large distance from the Convention, as they were in Florida in 2012. Mr. McCall then stated that they are still in

the process of making hotel assignments for each state and he hopes that South Carolina will be assigned a conveniently located hotel.

Mr. Bowers then asked if the old Rules Committee would handle the Pickens County convention protest since that committee did some investigation. Chairman Moore said yes, since new committees will not be announced until the Third Quarter State Executive Committee meeting.

K.T. Ruthven, Chairman of Aiken County, announced that next Tuesday, July 7th, Governor Mike Huckabee would be in Aiken. If members want to attend, go the Aiken GOP website to register.

Chairman Moore then shared that Dr. Ben Carson will be in Anderson tomorrow night at the Anderson County Republican Party meeting. Governor Huckabee will be in Anderson Monday night for Senator Tim Scott's Town Hall meeting beginning at 6 P.M. On Thursday, Governor John Kasich will be in Sun City.

Susan Aiken, Third District Chairman, reminded members if they had any questions regarding Senator Tim Scott's Town Hall meeting in Anderson to please contact her.

Jim Ulmer, Chairman of Orangeburg County, asked if resolutions would be taken up at the Third Quarter State Executive Committee meeting. Chairman Moore said the plan is to have the State Executive Committee vote on the ten resolutions that were not considered at the State Convention so the State Party can give an official endorsement. Also, the National Convention delegate resolution will be considered at the Third Quarter meeting. Chairman Moore said any other resolutions can be considered as well; please send them to the State Party.

On a motion by Mr. Bowers and seconded by Mr. Hardesty, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 P.M. without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bryan, Recording Secretary  
South Carolina Republican Party

*Approved by the South Carolina Republican Party State Executive Committee – August 22, 2015*