

**The S.C. REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FIRST QUARTER MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2016  
THE HALL AT SENATE'S END  
COLUMBIA, SC**

State Chairman Matt Moore called the First Quarter State Executive Committee Meeting to order on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Nse Ekpo, State 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman from Greenville County, gave the invocation. Mrs. Susan Aiken, Chairman of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and Executive Committeewoman from Anderson County, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Cindy Risher, Executive Committeewoman from Clarendon County, led the Republican Creed.

**Recognition of Dignitaries and Guests**

Chairman Moore recognized the newly elected Executive Committeewoman from Aiken County, Miss Stephanie Biddle.

**Roll Call**

Reading Secretary Cindy Risher reported that the body had achieved a quorum with 38 counties and 42 voting members present.

**Approval of Agenda and Prior Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. K.T Ruthven, Chairman of Aiken County, and seconded by Mr. Moye Graham, Chairman of Clarendon County, the meeting agenda was approved without objection. On a motion by Mr. Terry Hardesty, Executive Committeeman from Berkeley County, and seconded by Mr. Eric Frye, Chairman of Marion County, the December 9, 2015 minutes were approved as distributed, without objection.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Matt Moore recognized and pinned two recently-elected members of the State Executive Committee: Miss Stephanie Biddle, Executive Committeewoman from Aiken County, and Mr. Mike Rose, Executive Committeeman from Dorchester County.

Chairman Moore then appointed, upon unanimous confirmation by the State Executive Committee, Miss Hope Walker as Executive Director. He said no one in the state is more qualified than Miss Walker to serve as State Party Executive Director.

Chairman Moore explained the dual role that he had been serving in for almost two years, and that with two separate people working as Chairman and Executive Director, it would allow him to focus more on fundraising, political strategy, and serving as the public spokesman of the S.C. Republican Party.

Chairman Moore continued with his report and thanked the State Executive Committee for its help with the recent, record-setting presidential primary. He mentioned that in the 2012 Republican presidential preference primary, approximately 604,000 Republicans voted and that in 2016, approximately 740,000 Republicans voted.

Chairman Moore continued his report by stating that he, Glenn McCall, and Cindy Costa would fight nationally to make sure that South Carolina retains the First-in-the-South Republican presidential primary. He said that whoever the Republican nominee is, the South Carolina Republican Party would support that candidate.

Chairman Moore emphasized that it had been an unpredictable election cycle and there are plenty of local elections that need the State Party's attention. He continued by saying that this election cycle has taught us to expect the unexpected. Mr. Phillip Bowers, Chairman of Pickens County, asked Chairman Moore if there was any merit to rumors of South Carolina losing its First-in-the-South primary status.

Chairman Moore said the Republican National Committee examines the primary process following each presidential election cycle and that it would undoubtedly review the 2016 cycle. He again stressed the work that he, Mr. McCall, and Mrs. Costa are doing to retain the First-in-the-South presidential primary.

Mr. Jim Dickson, Executive Committeeman from Beaufort County, was recognized and stated that he liked the venue that the State Executive Committee was meeting in and he would like to see more meetings at 300 Senate Street.

Mr. Bob Skipp, Chairman of Oconee County, was recognized and asked a question about the possibility of a "brokered" national convention in July. Chairman Moore responded by saying the correct term is contested convention and that a nominee has not yet been chosen, but once a person reaches the majority of the delegates, then they will become the nominee.

Mr. Buck Griffin, Chairman of Greenwood County, asked about a majority verses plurality of national convention delegates. Chairman Moore responded by stating that only a majority wins, not a plurality.

Mr. Terry Hardesty, Executive Committeeman from Berkeley County, was recognized and asked if delegates are bound on the first national convention ballot. Chairman Moore responded stating that all states are different, but South Carolina delegates will, in fact, be bound on the first ballot.

Mr. Duane Naquin, Executive Committeeman from Lexington County, asked if the state party's delegate selection plan could be amended or changed. Chairman Moore responded that the delegate selection plan cannot be changed and that delegates are bound on the first ballot.

Mr. Mike Rose, Executive Committeeman from Dorchester County, was recognized and stated that he was concerned with the negative language being used by Republicans against Republicans. Chairman Moore agreed with him. Mr. Reese Boyd, Executive Committeeman from Horry County, was recognized and stated that he agreed with Mr. Rose and Chairman Moore that candidates should be treated with respect. Chairman Moore suggested that Mr. Boyd offer a resolution regarding Republicans unifying and supporting the Republican Party's nominee.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Miss Hope Walker began her report by thanking the State Executive Committee for their support and stated how excited she was to work with the committee. Miss Walker continued her report by updating the committee on upcoming District Conventions, State Convention, and the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Silver Elephant Dinner. Miss Walker announced that there would be a training and information session immediately following the current meeting for additional details. Miss Walker concluded her report by giving details regarding candidate filing in March and the guidelines for certifying candidates by April 5.

## **Vice Chairman's Report**

State Senator Katrina Shealy, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman from Lexington County, was recognized to give her report. She stated that she has been working hard in the State Senate and that Republicans must win in November.

## **National Committeewoman's Report**

Mrs. Cindy Costa, National Committeewoman from Charleston County, was recognized to give her report. Mrs. Costa said that county party leaders need to set an example for positive campaigning. Mrs. Costa also said that she is looking forward to District Conventions and State Convention. Mrs. Costa concluded her report by announcing that she is seeking re-election as National Committeewoman.

## **National Committeeman's Report**

Mr. Glenn McCall, National Committeeman from York County, was recognized to give his report. Mr. McCall began his report by thanking the committee for all that they did during the presidential primary to "make South Carolina shine." Mr. McCall announced to the committee that he is serving as Vice Chairman of the National Convention Committee on Arrangements and that he is serving on the Committee on Contests for the South region. Mr. McCall continued his report by assuring the committee that business will be conducted smoothly and appropriately at National Convention and that South Carolina will be receiving information soon on the delegation's hotel assignment. Mr. McCall concluded his report by announcing that he is seeking re-election as National Committeeman.

## **Treasurer's/Finance Committee's Report**

Mr. Glenn McCall, National Committeeman from York County, was recognized and made a motion that the committee enter executive session to discuss and approve the 2016 S.C. Republican Party budget. State Senator Katrina Shealy, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman from Lexington County, seconded the motion. The motion passed and the committee entered into executive session.

The committee exited executive session. Mr. Moyer Graham, Chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and Clarendon County, made a motion to approve the 2016 S.C. Republican Party budget. Mrs. Cindy Costa, National Committeewoman from Charleston, seconded the motion. The 2016 S.C. Republican Party budget was approved without objection.

## **Resolutions Committee**

Mr. Terry Hardesty, Executive Committeeman from Berkeley County and Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was recognized to give his committee's report. Mr. Hardesty reported that one resolution had been duly submitted "In Opposition to the Closing of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility." Mr. Hardesty stated the Resolutions Committee had recently passed the resolution and he moved that the State Executive Committee pass the Resolution. The resolution was passed without objection.

Mr. Reese Boyd, Executive Committeeman from Horry County, was recognized to present a resolution regarding the committee supporting the eventual Republican presidential nominee. Mr. Hunter Pendarvis, Executive Committeeman from Edgefield County, called for discussion. Mr. Terry Hardesty, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, was recognized and stated that the resolution had not been previously submitted to the Resolutions Committee. Mr. Phillip Bowers, Chairman of Pickens County, was recognized and made a motion to suspend State Party Rules to allow the resolution to be considered.

Mr. Mike Rose, Executive Committeeman from Dorchester County, seconded the motion to suspend the Rules. The motion failed by voice vote. Chairman Moore suggested that the resolution be properly submitted to the Resolutions Committee for consideration.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business pending with the committee.

### **New Business**

Mr. Randy Hollister, Chairman of Georgetown County, was recognized and stated that there were insufficient voting machines and poll workers in his county during the recent presidential primary. Chairman Moore asked Mr. Hollister to consider expanding on his remarks during the announcements.

### **Announcements**

Mrs. Susan Aiken, Chairman of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and Executive Committeewoman from Anderson County, was recognized and asked why there were different 2016 presidential primary days for Republicans and Democrats. Chairman Moore responded by stating that while it is preferable to hold the primaries on the same day, it just simply did not work this year given national party preferences. Mr. Moyer Graham, Chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and Clarendon County, was recognized and stated that each county's leadership should address discrepancies in precinct consolidation.

Mr. K.T. Ruthven, Chairman of Aiken County, made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Craig Caldwell, Chairman of Lexington County, seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Trawick, Recording Secretary  
South Carolina Republican Party

*Approved by the South Carolina Republican Party State Executive Committee – June 11, 2016*