

Minutes for January 2002 Meeting
of the Aiken County Republican Party
by Vicki L. Simons

The regular monthly meeting of the Aiken County Republican Party was held on Thursday, January 10, 2002, at the Aiken County Council Chambers. The Chairman, David Nix, Vice Chairman, Rachael Meehan, Treasurer, Jan Carpenter, and Secretary, Vicki Simons, were present. The invocation was given by Pam Brammer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Nix. Joel Williams made a motion to approve the December 2001 meeting minutes, which had been mailed to Executive Committeemen. Since the motion was seconded and the Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

Chairman David Nix:

- * Stated that since a fundraiser for one Congressional District 3 candidate was simultaneously being held, attendance at our meeting was down. He mentioned that one gubernatorial candidate had held a fundraiser on the 2nd Thursday of last month.
- * Provided an overview of our speakers for the evening.
- * Reported that the Treasurer's report shows a balance ending December 31, 2001, of \$2,981.33.
- * Stated that the January 2002 newsletter would be going out in 2 weeks.

Three guests spoke:

* Mark Hammond, candidate for South Carolina Secretary of State [SOS], spoke about what the SOS office does, his qualifications for the position, and his goals upon election. Mark said that he was the first Republican ever elected (1996 and again in 2000) to the Clerk of Court in Spartanburg and that he manages the 4th largest Clerk of Court office in S.C. He said he has saved the taxpayers money by instituting a juror call-in system, has collected \$70,000 in unpaid fines and fees and he knows how to prosecute cases. He said he is the only candidate in the SOS race with a law enforcement background. He wants to continue the "Scrooge" list publication on charities and plans to go all over South Carolina conducting seminars for notaries. Since all new business has to register in the SOS, he wants to be a point of contact to make it easy to bring new business (and, therefore, good paying jobs) to S.C. He asked for our support, vote and prayers.

* Tommy Windsor, candidate for Chairman of the S.C. Republican Party (State Party Chair), spoke about his background, the reason why he is running, and what he wants to accomplish upon being elected. Stating that we have a very difficult election coming up (trying to beat Jim Hodges [incumbent Democrat]), he said "Politics is about people," and that campaigns are won by candidates who have the most people. Grassroots effort must be done. His slogan is: "He's One of Us." As chairman of one of the largest county parties in the state (Lexington County), he says he understands our struggles. He made a series of commitments to us, including his assurance of running his campaign like a gentleman (to set an example that he won't tear down others for his own agenda), that he won't let us down and that he will further the Republican cause. He said he has invested too much in the party to let it go, wants enthusiasm and will come looking for us.

* Cyndi Mosteller, State Party Vice Chairman, is also a candidate for the State Party Chair. Her slogan is: "United We Win." Her background includes being placed upon the DHEC board by David Beasley and that 24 feminists opposed her nomination. She said she stands for right to life. Stating statistics of who voted for whom in the last presidential election, she said one of her goals is to broaden the base of the party to include more women and minorities, and to think in and out of the box. She said she attends a Baptist church, has been Vice Chairman of the Charleston party from 1993-2001 and worked on the Republican Party Platform two times. She stated that we lost a lot when we lost the gubernatorial race last time and that Jim Hodges came to town with only one card -- the lottery card -- and it has been played. The state budget, she said, is now out of control.

Chairman Nix said that the religion of Republicans is Christianity (church) and the religion of Democrats is politics. He said he's glad we can talk about faith within the Republican Party.

In response to a comment from Cyndi Mosteller about zoning issues, Jane Vaughters, Aiken City Council member, asked both State Party Chair candidates about personal property rights. Both responded. Mike Anaclerio, former Aiken City Council member, commented on what the law currently says a property owner can do. Chairman Nix said that one of the tenets of Republican thought is that personal property rights must be balanced with growth.

Old business: Arthur Andersen said he had not started soliciting people [for the ad hoc committee to discuss formation of the Aiken Republican Club] because first he wanted to have "an entity." He has "drafted a certificate of incorporation and set of by-laws," which he will go over with Chairman Nix after the meeting tonight. He and Chairman Nix are looking to form a "First Tuesday Club." Arthur hopes that by the next monthly meeting he will have been able to file the certificate and then start soliciting people. The club will be a once-a-month luncheon club during which a speaker will address attendees. Chairman Nix said that Senators and Congressmen come to the lunches, get to meet party activists and bring people into the party fold. Chairman Nix said that the Club is separate from the party but its goal is to support the party. There are numerous other Republican Clubs around the state, including Lexington, Charleston, Beaufort, Spartanburg and Greenville.

Chairman Nix asked for a motion to adjourn, which was provided, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by: _____

on: _____

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____