

Minutes for April 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, April 18, 2002, at the Aiken County Council Chambers. The following officers were present:

- * Chairman, David Nix,
- * Vice Chairman, Rachael Meehan,
- * Treasurer, Jan Carpenter, and
- * Secretary, Vicki Simons.

The invocation was given by and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Nix.

Chairman David Nix:

- * Congratulated Jim Sutherland for being elected Mayor of New Ellenton.
- * Announced that filing closes at noon on Saturday (April 20).
- * Said that the following candidates had already filed for office:
 - * Skipper Perry
 - * Roland Smith
 - * Don Smith
- * Two people for SC House District 86:
 - * Russ Ferrara [who was present] and
 - * Jim Stewart, whom Chairman Nix said regrets not being here.
- * Said that he anticipates no one else to file for office except possibly someone from SC House District 96.
- * Mentioned that the Treasurer's report (only a few copies of which were available) showed a balance ending March 31, 2002, of \$3937.21. Expenses from last month included new envelopes because moisture had destroyed the old ones.
- * Indicated that the next newsletter will tentatively be sent out in mid-May, following finalization of County Council lines in early May.
- * Introduced our guest speaker, Michael Thompson, a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 3 [hereafter abbreviated to CD3].

Michael Thompson said that Aiken County is important to CD3 because it represents 18% of the votes for the district. He referred us to his Internet website at www.electmichaelthompson.net. Mr. Thompson said he is neither a lawyer, nor a politician, but a businessman. He cited his work with large, international companies. He said he is an effective businessman, having handled twice as much money as Charlie Condon and having saved hundreds of thousands of dollars. He said he is a Christian conservative, having come to Christ in 1972, and is not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Thompson said textiles are important to CD3 and to him personally because he has relatives within CD3, among whom are cotton farmers and textile workers who worked "from field to mill." Countries like China, he said, are dumping goods illegally under relabels.

Mr. Thompson cited his educational background, saying that CD3 needs a representative with a technical background in Washington. He said that he has a top secret security clearance and a degree in Organizational Management. He said that he is the only candidate to

- * offer the level of experience and skills he offers,
- * have a technical background and
- * have an MBA.

In closing, Mr. Thompson urged us to "look to the President" to select and vote for a "businessman using business principles." He said a businessman is needed in the U.S. House of Representatives.

An Executive Committee meeting had been called by Chairman Nix. However, a quorum of Executive Committeemen was not present in order to transact party business.

Arthur Andersen was called on to report on the Aiken Republican Club. Mr. Andersen said there had been a "significant measure of success," provided highlights of past meetings and revealed ideas for future meetings:

- * At the March 2002 meeting, there were 107 attendees. [CD3 candidates spoke.]

- * Eighty-three people have signed up to be members.
- * At the April 2002 meeting, there were 75 attendees. Three candidates for Attorney General spoke. He said it was a good meeting with great response.
- * The next meeting is scheduled for May 20 and 40 people have already reserved a place. They will attempt to accommodate 120 people. [Gubernatorial candidates have been invited.]

Mr. Andersen encouraged advance reservations. The ARC Board has penciled in an evening meeting for June (which will take place between the primary and the runoff). He said the [lunch] meetings miss a lot of people who work and an evening meeting will give more time.

Mr. Andersen said that although the club charges \$15 for lunch, they are not making much money on the lunches. The dues handle mailings. He said they are swept along by the excitement of campaigns and that credit for the organization is owed to people not here. They are reaping, he said, where others have sown in the party over the last 20 years.

Chairman Nix said that an evening barbecue will provide the opportunity for tremendous newspaper coverage. Karl Overcash asked about attending the Aiken Republican Club meetings. Secretary Vicki Simons stated that Karl doesn't receive club mailings because he lives in Jackson. Mr. Andersen said that the club has limited mailing to 4 zip codes and that Tom Coones has taken over the responsibility of the club mailing lists. Jim Sutherland suggested that the club send mail to all party Executive Committeemen and Presidents. Diane Giddings said that retirees will come to the meetings. Chairman Nix said he has been hesitant to let people use pre-sort mail code, but it will save \$200 on mailing.

Chairman Nix said that anyone interested in being on the Website Committee should see Secretary Vicki Simons. He said a lot of people are interested in the website and that organizations within the party can have a part of it.

Karl Overcash said that some people, including substitutes, on the delegate list never go to the State Convention and that people who want to go can't. He proposed that the party impose a \$50 per person charge to delegates and those who don't go lose the money. Chairman Nix said that people who are elected in October can't expect to know their schedule for the following May, but he felt charging \$50 was ok. Chairman Nix said anyone who is a registered voter within the state party can be voted to fill empty seats. CD2 has a small number of seats; CD3 has a larger number of seats to fill. Chairman Nix said it would be beneficial to attend the State Convention and that even though new Congressional District lines have been drawn, seats [at this year's convention] will be filled based on the old lines.

Chairman Nix reported that Stuart Bedenbaugh said that no one should call with questions regarding the lines until after May 1. County Council and School Board lines have not been finalized. S.C. House, S.C. Senate and Congressional District lines have all been approved and the primary for those races will be held on June 11. There will be a new style of voter registration cards and a new style of voter books. Voters will sign the book instead of a separate sheet.

Secretary Vicki Simons noted the correction of a typographical error -- changing the reading of "Master's" to "Masters" -- in the March 2002 minutes. There was a motion to accept the corrected minutes, which was seconded. All Executive Committeemen who were present voted unanimously to approve the corrected minutes.

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

Minutes approved by: _____

on: _____

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____