

Minutes for September 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, September 12, 2002, at the Aiken County Council Chambers. The following officers were present:

- \* Chairman, David Nix,
- \* Vice Chairman, Rachael Meehan,
- \* Executive Committeeman, Ginny Allen,
- \* Treasurer, Jan Carpenter, and
- \* Secretary, Vicki Simons.

Chairman David Nix asked those assembled to observe a moment of silence in observance of September 11, 2001, and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced Jim Stewart, candidate for S.C. House District 86, who had to go to another event.

Mr. Stewart said that he is not new to hard work and public service, that he has deep convictions and beliefs. He is going to take his business experience to Columbia. He believes education is important and wants to squeeze more out of tax dollars. He will be very accessible and wants input, comments and thoughts from his constituents. He wants to help people in the community to live and believes constituent services are very important. He will work hard to win. Chairman Nix added that if people present were in Charlie Sharpe's district, to vote for Jim.

Chairman David Nix:

- \* Reported that the Treasurer's report showed a balance ending August 31, 2002, of \$2954.74 and that monies expended had gone to pay for postage, rent, the Western Carolina State Fair, phone and to get the county party website up and running;
- \* Asked for a motion to approve the June 2002 and August 2002 meeting minutes, which had been mailed to Executive Committeemen. A motion was made and seconded for each set of minutes. Those in the Executive Committee who were present voted unanimously to approve each set of minutes. Therefore, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
- \* Called on Secretary Vicki Simons to provide an update on the county party website.

Mrs. Simons said that several months ago, there was overwhelming enthusiasm from everyone who attended [the ACRP meeting] regarding the establishment of an Aiken County Republican Party website. Yet, a quorum of Executive Committeemen was never present [at called Executive Committee meetings] to vote to authorize funds for the website. Chairman Nix made an executive decision to authorize the purchase of appropriate domain names and web hosting. Those have been ordered, but the website is not yet ready to be viewed. An announcement will be made when it is ready.

Secretary Simons

- \* said that the website is for us,
- \* requested feedback about the website -- whether good or bad -- and
- \* wants the website to benefit the whole party.

Chairman Nix added that Secretary Simons is the site's webmaster.

In answer to a question about the privacy of users' email addresses through the website:

- \* Secretary Simons said contact information for officers would be made public, but other info -- such as users' email addresses added to the email subscription list -- would be kept completely private, and
- \* Chairman Nix said that the party considers it a privilege to communicate with members by email, so email addresses will be kept in utmost privacy.

Arthur Andersen gave a report on the Aiken Republican Club. Next Monday (September 16), the club will have a lunch meeting at 12 noon at Newberry Hall, featuring Katon Dawson [Chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party], Ed Matricardi (who is new at SCGOP), and Charlie Sharpe [candidate for South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture]. Payment at the door is ok, and he encouraged us to come and bring friends.

Mr. Andersen gave an overview of what is planned for meetings for the rest of the year. On October 21, a noon meeting at Newberry Hall will feature hometown speakers, Greg Ryberg and Skipper Perry, although all statewide candidates will be invited. There will be no meeting in November. The meeting date in December has been moved to the second Monday [instead of the third], to December 9. The December meeting will be primarily social, with a cocktail reception from 6-9 p.m., and will be a victory celebration. He added that a Board meeting is scheduled to take place on October 3rd at 9 a.m. to get ready for the October 21 meeting, and would take place at the Gresham Barrett headquarters. He said he appreciates everything people have done to pump up the club and get it going. Chairman Nix added that he thinks the Aiken Republican Club is a bright spot with its success in bringing new people to the party.

Chairman Nix stated that Vice Chairman Rachel Meehan had volunteered to coordinate volunteers [to man the Aiken County Republican Party booth] for the Western Carolina State Fair and that we're coordinating with Victory 2002. The booth needs to have 3 volunteers at a time and that there are 6 badges [vendor passes] available. We need to rotate 3 people on and 3 people off.

Tom Coones [Event Coordinator for Aiken County Victory 2002] said that sign-up sheets to cover events -- such as football games and the Sassafras Festival -- were on a table in the back.

Deedee Vaughters [Grassroots Coordinator for Aiken County Victory 2002] distributed sign-up sheets to cover some of the needs within the organization. She thanked Arthur and Debby Andersen and Dick and Donna Smith for their help.

Chairman Nix said that an important part of the campaign is letter writing and that if anyone was willing to put his or her name on a letter, to see him.

June Cannon said that Victory 2002 is designed to sweep this year's election. She said that she had a limited number of Sanford buttons and stickers. Jim Madory has a button-making machine and can make 2 kinds of buttons, Sanford and Graham. She said that targeted telephoning would start taking place to identify swing voters, and that the info was coming from RNC [Republican National Committee]. She named several women who have committed to reaching out to their churches. She identified Marilyn Sellers as the Telephone [Phone Bank] Coordinator and Bill Waltz as the Door-to-Door Coordinator. She said that one bumper sticker was equivalent to a \$500 contribution. Rene Ann Tewkesbury added that they would also take the \$500. Lynn Brown, Door-to-Door Coordinator, has called the Aiken Standard and Augusta Chronicle to see about advertising prices. Gary Bunker will work with them because of his writing ability. A summary advertisement, based on one from years ago, has been planned and money needs to be raised to publish it.

Mrs. Cannon thanked Rene Ann Tewkesbury, our Field Coordinator, and said she is proud of her. She identified Vicki Simons as email Communication Coordinator, to help with events, press releases and candidate visits. She stated that Mac McClearn, she and David Nix are all working with 6 coordinators, including Ed Hammond, Veterans Coordinator and Robert Gossett, Signs Coordinator. We need Lindsey in the Senate and to get rid of Hodges. We have 54 days to get this done and we all can give a little bit.

Mrs. Cannon instructed us to call the people we know the best. We can do better than the 23-25% [voter turnout that we've had in the past]. She reminded us of a statistic that Richard Perry stated at the August meeting, that elections are lost in the last 3 days. She said a Cumberland Village coordinator has promised 100 votes from there and someone from Kalmia Landing has promised turnout. She said we need new people to be involved. The more people are asked, the more likely they are to get involved.

Other comments were made about the GA GOP Road to Majority conference and a fundraiser for Gresham Barrett. Rene Ann Tewkesbury stated that Aiken County is one of the top 10 targeted counties in South Carolina. She said we need a 12,000 vote margin in Aiken County to overturn the Democrats in other counties. Deedee pleaded with us to please get forms to her.

Chairman Nix adjourned the meeting.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

on: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_