

Minutes for November 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, November 14, 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.

Chairman David Nix opened the meeting, offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman David Nix:

\* Asked for a motion to approve the October 2002 meeting minutes, which had been mailed to Executive Committeemen. A motion was made and seconded. Those in the Executive Committee who were present voted unanimously to approve the minutes. Therefore, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

\* Reported that the Treasurer's report showed a balance ending October 31, 2002, of \$1513.35. He said the party is looking for money to cover the cost of the election ads that were published in the Aiken Standard and Augusta Chronicle. He said that if the party has to cover the cost of the ads, the amount of money in the party checking account would be cut in half.

\* Stated that Executive Committeeman Ginny Allen would be emailing information to Secretary Vicki Simons about a trip to Washington, D.C., for people to see Congressman-elect Gresham Barrett sworn into office [as U.S. House member serving CD3]. He said Secretary Simons would then send that info to the folks on the email distribution list. He provided dates, cost and phone numbers that people could call for details. In response to a question raised from the audience, Vice Chairman Rachael Meehan said that the idea of the trip had been swept together quickly.

\* Said that Peggy Wertz, of Aiken County First Steps, was "hot under the collar" about Governor Jim Hodges' refusal to resolve the budget [which he is leaving for Governor-elect Mark Sanford to fix].

\* Congratulated Charles Sharpe, the first statewide office holder from Aiken County, on his win as South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture. Charles Duke asked about Charles' official election numbers. Chairman Nix said that one website published incorrect election results for a period of time.

\* Provided statistical data about the voter turnout in Aiken County and around the state. He said there was a 57.66% turnout in Aiken County, with some precincts turning out up to 85% of registered voters. He said the Democrats turned out 50% and blacks turned out 40%. He said that Rick Beltram, the Chairman in Spartanburg County, reported that Aiken County was the top performing Republican county in South Carolina, and that Aiken, Lexington, and Spartanburg counties were the top three performing counties. More statistics on individual candidates were given. Chairman Nix said he was happy with the results and provided a plug for the Aiken GOP website.

Gary Bunker commented that part of the success of Republicans in the election was due to George W. Bush. He said that the organization can't rest on its laurels. We need to "keep our powder dry and our arms stacked." Chairman Nix said that we won the war of letters to the editor and we owe thanks to Gary for letters he had written, which appeared in newspapers across the state.

Chairman Nix said that the Democrats put \$3.5 million in direct mail in the last month but under performed. In the past, they had always walked the Democrat neighborhoods and paid deacons to get out the vote, but they didn't do it this time or nationally. The number of absentee votes was very high during this election, 3188 of which were cast in Aiken County. He contrasted Victory 2000 with Victory 2002. Much was invested in Lindsey Graham, Gresham Barrett, and Mark Sanford. He added that Rene Ann Tewkesbury had taken leave from Lindsey's local office to work [on SC Victory 2002] in Greenville. Many people worked hard to bring Republicans to victory. He said he appreciated everybody's hard work. He said there would be no more elections until the municipal election in Spring 2003.

Chairman Nix adjourned the meeting by stating that the December meeting of the Aiken County Republican Party has been canceled and the Aiken Republican Club will have a Christmas party in December, info about which is on the website.

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

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

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

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