

Minutes for June 2003 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, June 12, 2003, at the Aiken County Council Chambers. The following officers were present:

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

Chairman David Nix called the meeting to order, offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman David Nix:

- * Recognized all elected officials present:
 - * Eddie Butler, Aiken County Councilman,
 - * Jane Vaughters, Aiken City Councilwoman, and
 - * Jim Sutherland, Mayor of New Ellenton.
- * Said that the guest speaker for tonight's meeting fell through.
- * Asked if there were comments about the May 2003 meeting minutes and hearing none, asked for a motion and second to approve the set which had been mailed to Executive Committeemen. Both were made. Those in the Executive Committee who were present voted unanimously to approve the minutes. Therefore, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
- * Said that expenses for the period May 1-31, 2003 were typical. The Treasurer's Report for that period showed a balance of \$3,061.62. He said that dues are rolling in.
- * Stated that a newsletter had been written and sent to the printer, and should have already been mailed. Because the printer could not open the file on the disk, it is being redone.

Chairman Nix said that the business of the May State Executive Committee meeting concerned the setting of the dates for Precinct Reorganization and the County Conventions. Precinct Reorganization will take place in September, but he was not sure of the date. The County Convention will be held toward the end of October. He said that the State party had asked the counties to work together with them so that the candidates who are running for office next year can speak at the various conventions. Last time, candidates had tried to hit as many conventions as possible. It is possible that Aiken, Edgefield and Barnwell Counties will have their conventions on the same date [to minimize candidates' travel between them]. We can send our preferences. There won't be as many candidates this year. Chairman Nix asked which type of convention we liked best: a Saturday or an evening convention. Pam Brammer said she prefers a Saturday convention. Jane Vaughters said that waiting on candidates when we have an evening convention is miserable. Two declared candidates for U.S. Senate are Jim DeMint and Charlie Condon. By this fall, announcements will be made [for the seat currently occupied by Senator Hollings].

Chairman Nix said that there is no Presidential Primary for Republicans in 2004 because we have a sitting Republican President. At the last primary, Democrats sued to get all the precincts open. Chairman Nix said that some precincts were combined, but about 95% of them were open. Democrats wanted us to have a primary so that they could use our poll workers and share the load. He said that we may help the Democrats [in 2004] by going to vote. A rumor he had heard is that the Republicans will now file a lawsuit to force the Democrats to get all of the precincts open. The difference between the way Republicans and Democrats work polls is that Republicans work with volunteers

whereas Democrats have to pay their people to work. In 2000, the Republicans ran the election for basically the printing expenses, costing about \$200,000 - \$300,000. In 2004, it is estimated that the cost of Democrats running the Presidential Primary will be between \$3,000,000 and \$6,000,000. The Democrats now have to convince their people to volunteer. Once video poker was killed, they lost their biggest contributor.

The State Convention will follow next Spring.

Chairman Nix called upon Bauer Vaughters, who announced the next meeting of the Aiken Republican Club, which is to be held on Monday, June 16 at noon. The guest speaker is Katon Dawson, State Party Chairman. Bauer said that he'd read the minutes from the last meeting and said Deedee is sorry she couldn't be here. She would be glad to address any concerns about the cost [of the Aiken Republican Club meetings]. He commented about mail, meals and dues, saying that the club is on a very tight budget. The meals cost almost as much as the meetings per person. Jane Vaughters stated that if a person didn't want to eat, he or she could come for free. Mailings are for members.

Chairman Nix said that Katon is the best, most energetic Chairman we've ever had. Pam Brammer asked why Katon hasn't come to talk to us [at the party meeting]. Chairman Nix said that he had been here. Pam said that he hadn't been here in a while. Chairman Nix said that when he received the card [from the Aiken Republican Club] he wasn't going to step on their toes [about inviting Katon to come back to one of our party meetings]. He commented that Katon would be at our county convention in the fall and would likely be our keynote speaker. He had not heard any rumors of people who will be running against Katon for the State Chairman office. He encouraged people to attend the club lunch on Monday. Pam commented that she would love to hear him, but having a job in Augusta, it is hard to attend such a meeting in the middle of the day. Chairman Nix commented that that's the problem with any lunchtime meeting. Pam replied that the club has had some evening meetings, especially for someone big. Chairman Nix said the club plans to have nighttime meetings. ~~He asked about the possibility of merging the club and party meetings.~~ **The chairman asked about the possibility of a joint meeting. DN 7-10-03** Pam commented that it could be any evening except Wednesday night. Chairman Nix said that it would be on the regular second Thursday night of the month. He added that there are not many places in Aiken that can accommodate a crowd. Newberry Hall is about the only place that can handle it. He said that having a covered dish dinner is not a pleasing thought for folks who have to work. There were comments from the audience about getting take out food for such a meal, like Wife Saver's.

Chairman Nix commented about a car race on a dirt track for certain elected officials and that Lt. Governor Andre Bauer had not won the race. A reference was made to the ticket that Lt. Gov. Bauer had received for speeding in Columbia earlier in the year and that he needs to be careful with his foot.

With no other business to address, Chairman Nix adjourned the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Minutes approved by: _____

on: _____

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____

Brown text is correction.