

Minutes for July 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, July 10, 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. An Executive Committee meeting had been called; however, a quorum of Executive Committeemen was not present. Precinct Presidents were allowed to vote in place of Executive Committeemen who were not present, without written proxy. Chairman Nix stated that the matter of scheduling Precinct Reorganization and the County Convention must take place regardless of the presence of a quorum. Chairman Nix offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman David Nix recognized all elected officials present:

- * Jim Sutherland, Mayor of New Ellenton and
- * Arthur Shealy, North Augusta City Councilman.

Chairman Nix said that Mayor Sutherland had recently attended a meeting about the Modern Pit Facility (MPF) at a meeting in North Augusta. Mayor Sutherland provided some feedback about the meeting, including the fact that about half of the protesters had come from Atlanta. Representative Gresham Barrett had been at the MPF meeting and Senators Graham and Hollings had sent representatives from their offices. All other local officials were there.

Chairman David Nix:

- * Asked if there were comments about the June 2003 meeting minutes. Diane Giddings expressed concern about merging the meetings of the Aiken Republican Club and the Aiken County Republican Party. She said that the problem with merging was that the lines between the two organizations would become fuzzy. Chairman Nix said that there had been no vote taken, but that there had been discussion. He spoke of the party having a meeting format like the Club's. He stated that the intention had been for the two to have a "joint" [rather than "merged"] meeting and instructed Secretary Vicki Simons to correct the minutes to that effect. Chairman Nix asked for a motion to approve the corrected set of minutes. A motion and second were made. Those in the Executive Committee who were present voted unanimously to approve the corrected minutes. Therefore, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.
- * Referred to the Treasurer's Report which showed expenses for the period June 1-30, 2003, and a balance of \$2,467.48. He commented that the [hard copy] newsletter was not being published as frequently as it used to be because it costs about \$400 to print it and about \$300 to mail it. Charlie Sharpe used to print them to free. A question was raised about emailing the newsletter. Chairman Nix asked Secretary Simons how many addresses were subscribed to the email newsletter. She responded about 270-280. Chairman Nix said that he would convert the newsletter into .pdf format and send it to Secretary Simons for posting on the website. He said that email is not effective for sending out a newsletter because of filters. Secretary Simons responded that an alternative is to send out the URL for the newsletter and to let people go read it online at their leisure. Chairman Nix said that cutting 300 names off the mailing list will not save the party much. Diane Giddings said that anything would help. He said that they are mailing out 1200 newsletters, and it wouldn't solve the problem.

Chairman Nix said the business of tonight's meeting is the Precinct Reorganization. The state party recommends that all counties in the state have a September 23 Precinct Reorganization, which will be advantageous from the standpoint of media coverage and a mass mailing. Chairman Nix recapped the results of a mass mailing that had been sent to 50,000 unregistered conservatives. The response was a tremendous 30,000 voter registrations. He talked about the "Perfect Voter List," which looks at the last five General Primaries. People who had voted 4 or 5 times during the last five General Primaries will receive a postcard about Precinct Reorganization. He said that county conventions are set to take place between mid-October to mid-November. There is a schedule of counties who had signed up for specific dates, and the early dates are all taken. For us to be able to attract U.S. Senate candidates, we need to find a night when there is not any competition. Two dates are available: Thursday, November 6 and Saturday, November 8.

Chairman Nix asked if there was any discussion. Diane Giddings said that September 23 is about five weeks after school starts and it may interfere with Parent-Teacher meetings and said that Tuesdays are difficult. Chairman Nix said there is competition on any night and strongly recommended not changing the date of the meeting. Mrs. Giddings also commented on the day when the County Convention will be held. She said Saturday works out well and that when there are long evening meetings, people fidget in their chairs, get up and leave. She said resolutions had not been voted on in 3 conventions. Jim Sutherland commented on people having to travel a long distance to the Convention. Mrs. Giddings said that it might be easier to get the school reserved for a Saturday meeting. Chairman Nix said that they had had to use the lunchroom [at Midland Valley High School] last time because the auditorium had been set up for a play. Being in the lunchroom allowed them to use tables and it was easier to move around. Pam Brammer said that she liked the lunchroom. Deedee Vaughters said she personally prefers a Thursday night because Saturday is time for family and sports. She said there is never going to be a day that everyone likes. Chairman Nix said he prefers a Thursday night meeting. Deedee said it's easier to find a sitter [to care for children] on a Thursday than a Saturday. Pam Brammer said it is tough for working folks to get to a meeting during the week. Diane Giddings commented about SRS folks working 12-hour shifts.

Deedee Vaughters made a motion for the County Convention to be held on Thursday, November 6 at 7 p.m. with the site of preference given to Midland Valley High School. The motion was seconded. Eight people voted in favor. Eight people voted to oppose. Chairman Nix said that he cannot vote twice, once as proxy for his precinct and once to cast the tie-breaking vote as Chairman. Merrill Keller said that holding the convention would be subject to the availability of the building. Arthur Shealy made a motion to hold the Convention on Saturday, November 8. The motion was seconded. Eight people voted in favor and eight people voted to oppose. Lynn Brown, representing Precinct 60, walked in and was recognized for being the person to cast the tie-breaking vote. For Lynn's benefit, Chairman Nix recapped the discussion that had taken place and asked for another motion. Arthur Shealy made a motion for the County Convention to take place on November 8 with November 6 as the alternate date. Eight people voted in favor, nine people voted to oppose. Chairman Nix asked for another motion. Deedee Vaughters made a motion to have the convention on Thursday, November 6, with the site preference at Midland Valley. Arthur Shealy asked to amend the motion such that November 8 is the alternate date. Jim Sutherland asked to amend the motion such that the starting time is 7:30 instead of 7:00. Deedee accepted both amendments, saying that we could change to the time to 7:30 if we limit the number of speakers. There was discussion about the extra 30 minutes and Chairman Nix said an extra 30 minutes would not help those working at SRS. Gary Bunker asked how many potential people are working the 7-7 shift at SRS. Chairman Nix said he had no data to prove the number but it wouldn't impact the number of people showing up at the convention. There are conflicts no matter what date is chosen. Jim Sutherland said he didn't have a problem with the original 7:00 time slot. Chairman Nix said that they could keep the registration table open for a period of time to allow folks time to get there, and that they can speed the validation of folks who register. He recapped the motion on the floor: to have the County Convention on Thursday, November 6 at 7 p.m. with an alternate date of Saturday, November 8 at 9 a.m., with preference given to Midland Valley High School. There was a second. A majority voted in favor of the motion.

Joel Williams made a motion to hold Precinct Reorganization on September 23, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. There was a second and no discussion. A clear majority voted in favor of the motion.

Arthur Shealy made a motion that the list of delegates to the County Convention be made public at least 10 days before the convention, otherwise the date of the convention gets moved back. At first, Chairman Nix said that was not possible. He said the lists are public at the Clerk of Court's office. State law says that they must be on file 10 days after Precinct Reorganization. Diane Giddings said that the lists should be made available to all candidates and said that one year the lists had not been made available. Chairman Nix said that he had followed in the pattern that had been set for him. Chairman Nix asked Mr. Shealy to withdraw that part of his motion about changing the date of the convention. After not withdrawing it, there was a second. Ed Moore asked about the intention of the motion. Secretary Simons asked if Precinct Reorganization is held on September 23 and the County Convention isn't held until November, what the problem is with making the lists public to the candidates. Chairman Nix said he did not have a problem with making the lists available; he said the problem was with moving the date of the convention and finding a new place within a week's window. Joel Williams added a comment and Jim Sutherland asked about using Midland Valley. Chairman Nix asked Arthur Shealy to withdraw the second part of his motion. Mr. Shealy would not withdraw the second part of the motion. Chairman Nix said that Mr.

Shealy was trying to make trouble. Chairman Nix called the question and put the motion to a vote. Five people voted in favor of the motion, and the opposed carried.

Charles Duke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Eight people voted in favor, nine opposed.

Diane Giddings made a motion about making records available. Secretary Simons asked for a date. There was some discussion. Chairman Nix asked Mrs. Giddings to withdraw the motion and make a new motion. She did. She immediately made a new motion that the that P1, P2, C1 and C2 forms be available with a complete list of delegates at the Clerk of Court's office, as the law stipulates, within 10 days after Precinct Reorganization. That was made with the understanding that the Precinct Reorganization Make-up Meeting forms do not fall under the same guidelines. The Chairman restated the motion. The motion was seconded, Chairman Nix called for questions and the motion carried.

Arthur Shealy asked what voter list would be used. Chairman Nix said the Presidential primary list, but that the State Executive Committee chooses, and will probably do so at the August meeting. Diane Giddings asked about the printed lists from which to do Precinct Reorganization. Chairman Nix said that we would never have green and white lists again. He has access to the Voter Vault in electronic format. He has gotten those pulled, will sort them and query them against a recent move. He said he would provide the lists by email or on disk. Secretary Simons asked what happens in the event that Precinct Executive Committeemen or Presidents do not have computers or the capability of reading the electronic list. Chairman Nix said it would be their responsibility.

Deedee Vaughters made a motion to limit the speakers only to U.S. Senate candidates. Jim Sutherland added that if Inez Tenenbaum runs for U.S. Senate in place of Fritz Hollings, there may be a candidate for Superintendent of Education running. Chairman Nix said that the filing for Senate happens next Spring. Chairman Nix ran through a list of Republican candidates who have declared their intention to file: Thomas Ravenel, Charlie Condon, Jim DeMint and Mark McBride. Jim Sutherland pointed out that at the Convention, we need to get the party business over with first, before speakers speak. Chairman Nix said that we will have speakers speaking while we're waiting for the [credentials] report. The motion about limiting speakers was seconded and passed.

Diane Giddings made a motion about taking care of resolutions first. Chairman Nix said that we have to do officer elections first. Jim Sutherland said that we need to have the resolutions on the list, and pass them out simultaneously. Chairman Nix said that that does not allow for discussion or amendments. Chairman Nix said that he would check on the order of the vote. Diane Giddings said that once people vote for officers, most people leave. Chairman Nix said that the same thing often happens at the State Convention. Jim Sutherland said he wants to see a Resolution Committee formed to filter out redundant resolutions, and asked that there be no resolutions endorsing candidates.

Deedee Vaughters announced that Jim DeMint would be the speaker at the Aiken Republican Club lunch on August 11. She said there is no requirement to purchase a meal ticket and that it has always been that way.

Diane Giddings asked who is running [for County Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Committeeman]. Chairman Nix said that he is running for Chairman again. He also said that he knows who is running for Vice Chairman and Executive Committeeman, but cannot release that information. Jim Sutherland said that people can nominate officers from the floor. Chairman Nix said there is no filing period for county party officers.

With no other business to address, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried. Chairman Nix thanked the group assembled.

Minutes approved by: _____

on: _____

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____