

Minutes for December 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, December 11, 2003, at the Aiken County Council Chambers. The following officers were present:

- * Chairman, David Nix,
- * Executive Committeeman, Andrew Marine,
- * Treasurer, Jan Carpenter, and
- * Secretary, Vicki Simons.

Chairman David Nix had called an Executive Committee meeting to elect the County Party Secretary and Treasurer for the next two years. The meeting started at about 7:20 p.m. to give time for a quorum of precinct Executive Committeemen or their proxy representatives to arrive. Forty-three precincts of 72 in Aiken County were organized in 2003; a quorum of 43 Executive Committeemen is 22.

Chairman Nix called the meeting to order, offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that all elected officials were at a meeting of the Lower Savannah Council on Governments. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the September 2003 meeting, October 2003 meeting and November 2003 convention, all of which had been mailed to precinct Executive Committeemen and Presidents. Those in the Executive Committee who were present voted unanimously to approve all three sets of minutes. Therefore, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

The Treasurer's report for the period October 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003 showed a balance of \$1,586.37. Chairman Nix said that the call for dues would be going out in the January newsletter, which will probably be sent out in February.

Chairman David Nix said that he had been talking with a former chairman about filing fees for city council elections. There is a formula for calculating the filing fee for county council, but there is no legal definition of what the filing fee is for city council. Two years ago, the party ended up cutting into its own funds to run a city council primary and runoff. Chairman Nix reported that Skipper Perry had said that when he was chairman he just charged what was needed to hold the election. This year, the party charged \$500, rather than \$250, per candidate. Elected officials with whom Chairman Nix spoke told him that, historically, when there was no opposition in city council elections, the party has returned the funds to the candidate. Since [Aiken Mayor] Fred Cavanaugh had no opposition in the recent race, Chairman Nix brought a motion before the party to return the \$500 fund to him. There was no discussion. The motion was seconded and passed. Two other candidates had opposition. Chairman Nix said that we have enough funds to keep the party going. Had there been Democratic opposition, the party would have had to run an ad in the newspaper.

Our new Executive Committeeman, Andrew Marine, presented an Executive Committee report about the goings on in Columbia. A state Executive Committee meeting had been held the previous Saturday.

* The guest speaker was Congressman Gresham Barrett. He spoke about what it is like to be a freshman Congressman, his enthusiasm about being in office and his readiness to change the world. He also spoke about his trip to Iraq and things not being told in the media.

* An Executive session was held. The state party had been fined \$60,000 by the FEC [Federal Election Commission] for campaign violations that had occurred in 1997-1998. There had been reporting problems with the FEC. The state party was concerned that the fine would be \$500,000. Chairman Nix interjected that the campaign violations had occurred on the watch of the former SCGOP Chairman, who is now our state Attorney General.

* Mr. Marine said that Katon Dawson [Chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party] is very professional.

* A contested election for the office of Executive Committeeman occurred at the convention in Horry County, which lasted until about 2:00 a.m. Lawsuits were filed back and forth.

* Dates for upcoming events include:

* January 24, 2004: 3rd Congressional District Convention in Greenwood. Officers are to be elected. There is a movement that Mr. Marine supports to nominate Congressman by caucus instead of by primary.

* March 27, 2004: The SCGOP State Convention will be held in Columbia, possibly at the Carolina Coliseum.

* March 26, 2004: Silver Elephant Banquet. By running the banquet and the convention back-to-back, the state party is planning to make it a big weekend.

* August 28-September 2, 2004: The National Republican Convention will take place in New York City.

* If we have anything that we want to pass on to the State Party Executive Committee, let Mr. Marine know. Robert Gossett asked about the frequency of state Executive Committee meetings, to which Mr. Marine stated that they are scheduled to take place quarterly.

By 7:32 p.m., a quorum of Executive Committeemen or their proxies was not present to conduct official business. Chairman David Nix said that we would put off the election of the County Party Secretary and Treasurer until January because he doesn't want to be sued. We will meet on the second Thursday in January.

Chairman Nix adjourned the meeting, allowing attendees to enjoy the refreshments that had been provided by Gladys Miller.

Minutes approved by: _____

on: _____

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____