

Minutes for 2003 Aiken County Republican Convention
by Vicki L. Simons

The Aiken County Republican Convention was held on Thursday, November 6, 2003 at Midland Valley High School. The attachment shows the convention agenda and the ten resolutions that were brought before the convention delegates. Registration of delegates to the convention was held from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., David Nix, Chairman of the Aiken County Republican Party, called the convention to order in the school's auditorium. There was a moment of silence and remembrance. Representative Roland Smith offered the invocation and John Cannon led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Ronnie Young, Chairman of the Aiken County Council, read the Republican Creed.

Guest speakers who addressed delegates included:

- * Mark Hammond, South Carolina Secretary of State,
- * Scott Hammond, Policy Advisor for Governor Mark Sanford and
- * Buddy Witherspoon, National Committeeman from the South Carolina Republican Party.

An announcement about the Aiken Republican Club's upcoming meeting was made. Well wishes were extended from Senator Lindsey Graham and Lt. Governor Andre Bauer. An announcement from Ed Foulke, who is contesting the National Committeeman's seat during the next SCGOP state convention, was read.

Lynn Brown was appointed Parliamentarian of the Convention. Gary Bunker was elected as Temporary President of the Convention. Vicki Simons was elected as Temporary Secretary of the Convention.

All Republican candidates running for the U.S. Senate seat to be vacated by Senator Ernest "Fritz" Hollings were given the opportunity to speak. Mark McBride, mayor of Myrtle Beach, and Thomas Ravenel, a Charleston businessman, both addressed the delegates. June Cannon read a letter from Sheriff Mike Hunt, supporting Representative Jim DeMint. No surrogate for Charlie Condon or any other Republican candidate was present.

The Committee on Credentials consisted of Kevin Bumpus (Chairman), Tom Colleran and Rene Ann Tewkesbury. Kevin Bumpus presented his report from the committee, which was amended to reflect the following representation from precincts in Aiken County:

- * Precinct 1 - 9 delegates
- * Precinct 2 - 3 delegates
- * Precinct 3 - 1 delegate
- * Precinct 6 - 10 delegates
- * Precinct 11 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 13 - 3 delegates
- * Precinct 14 - 1 delegate
- * Precinct 16 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 17 - 6 delegates
- * Precinct 18 - 1 delegate
- * Precinct 20 - 14 delegates
- * Precinct 21 - 3 delegates
- * Precinct 22 - 13 delegates
- * Precinct 23 - 1 delegate
- * Precinct 25 - 4 delegates
- * Precinct 26 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 27 - 2 delegates

- * Precinct 28 - 4 delegates
- * Precinct 31 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 34 - 1 delegates
- * Precinct 35 - 7 delegates
- * Precinct 36 - 4 delegates
- * Precinct 37 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 39 - 3 delegates
- * Precinct 41 - 5 delegates
- * Precinct 45 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 47 - 7 delegates
- * Precinct 50 - 1 delegate
- * Precinct 51 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 52 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 53 - 7 delegates
- * Precinct 55 - 1 delegate
- * Precinct 56 - 2 delegates
- * Precinct 60 - 8 delegates
- * Precinct 64 - 3 delegates
- * Precinct 69 - 5 delegates
- * Precinct 70 - 4 delegates
- * Precinct 71 - 1 delegate
- * Precinct 72 - 2 delegates

Precinct 47 originally had 6 delegates. Fred Christensen requested to amend the report to add Delores Hamrick, which brought the total for Precinct 47 up to 7 delegates. Larry Murphy from Precinct 49 asked to be added but was declined. A spokesman from Precinct 21 requested to amend the report to add 3 delegates. David Nix cited Rule 4 from the state party rules, saying that candidates may not be added within 5 days of the convention. A motion presented by Rachael Meehan was seconded and passed. A spokesman from Precinct 22 wanted to add delegates but was told he could not. There was a call for questions, bringing the total of delegates eligible to vote at the convention to 152. Packets containing ballots were distributed to delegates approved in the Credentials Committee report. Delegates were instructed to tear their names off the bottom of the state convention delegate ballot so that they could be cast in secret.

Gary Bunker was elected as Permanent Convention President. Vicki Simons was elected as Permanent Convention Secretary. Jan Carpenter was elected as Permanent Convention Treasurer. Permanent Convention President Gary Bunker made remarks and introduced Katon Dawson, Chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, who gave the Keynote Address.

The floor was opened for nominations for Aiken County Republican Party Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Committeeman for the two-year term running 2003-2005. Skipper Perry nominated David Nix for Chairman. Mark Humphreville nominated Susan Swanson for Chairman. No other nominations for Chairman were made. Scott Singer nominated Tim Sutherland for Vice Chairman. No other nominations for Vice Chairman were made. Rick Osbon nominated Andrew Marine for Executive Committeeman. No other nominations for Executive Committeeman were made.

Candidates for each office were given the opportunity to address the delegates, in order of the offices presented, but in reverse order of nominations. Susan Swanson spoke first, followed by David Nix, for the office of Chairman. Tim Sutherland spoke for the office of Vice Chairman. Andrew Marine spoke for the office of Executive Committeeman. Votes were cast only

for the contested office of Chairman because a motion was made and passed to elect the only candidates for other offices by acclamation. There were 113 votes for David Nix and 35 votes for Susan Swanson.

There was a motion to send 52 (1/2-vote) delegates to the state convention:

* 42 delegates and 42 alternates from Congressional District 3 and

* 10 delegates and 10 alternates from Congressional District 2.

There were no nominations to add anyone to either list from the floor.

The Resolutions Committee consisted of David Toole, Chairman, and Jason Whinghter. Permanent Convention President Gary Bunker said that in the past, there had been problems with amendments to resolutions raised from the floor. Therefore resolutions would be voted on as presented. There was a motion to waive the reading of the first 3 resolutions and to vote on them as a block. The motion was passed. The first three resolutions were passed:

1. A Resolution Honoring Elected Officials

2. A Resolution Regarding Commissioner of Agriculture Charles Sharpe

3. A Resolution Regarding Senator Greg Ryberg

Resolution Committee Chairman David Toole yielded the floor to Jason

Whinghter, who read each remaining resolution and presented it for a vote.

Scott Singer raised a Point of Order about a quorum. Fifty percent of the 152 delegates eligible to vote is 76 delegates. David Nix stated that he had counted 77 delegates remaining. Therefore a quorum was declared to be present.

Delegates made comments where they felt they were needed. The resolutions presented were titled as follows:

4. A Resolution Regarding A Partisan School Board

5. A Resolution Regarding Fiscal Autonomy of the Aiken County School Board

6. A Resolution Regarding the Rights of Grandparents to Homeschool Their Grandchildren

7. A Resolution Regarding Creation Education

8. A Resolution Regarding the Sanctity of Human Life

9. A Resolution Regarding Heterosexual Marriage

10. A Resolution Regarding The Freedom Of Religion

All resolutions presented were passed.

With no other business to bring before convention delegates, Permanent Convention President Gary Bunker called the convention to recess.

A straw poll--which does not constitute an endorsement of the Aiken County Republican Party--was conducted on the U.S. Senate candidates. The results of the straw poll, which were not finalized until after the convention ended, were as follows (candidates listed in order listed on poll):

* Charlie Condon: 12 votes

* Jim DeMint: 42 votes

* Mark McBride: 14 votes

* Thomas Ravenel: 24 votes

* Other: Beasley: 6 votes

* Other: [no name listed]: 2 votes