

Minutes for 2006 Reconvened Aiken County Republican Convention
by Vicki L. Simons

The Aiken County Republican Party reconvened its convention on Thursday, February 9, 2006 at Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken. The attachment shows the convention agenda. Registration of delegates to the convention was held from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Aiken County Councilman Gary Bunker, serving as Convention President, called the convention to order in the Community Room. S.C. State Representative James Roland Smith offered the invocation and Aiken County Council Chairman Ronnie Young led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. Diane Giddings, a former Chairman of the Aiken County Republican Party, read the Republican Creed.

Mr. Bunker recognized the elected officials in attendance in this order:

- * Buddy Witherspoon, South Carolina National Committeeman,
- * Ronnie Young, Chairman of Aiken County Council,
- * Jim Sutherland, Mayor of New Ellenton,
- * Katon Dawson, Chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party,
- * Rick Beltram, Chairman of the Spartanburg County Republican Party,
- * Mike Hunt, Aiken County Sheriff,
- * a representative for U.S. Senator Jim DeMint,
- * Tim Carlton, Aiken County Coroner,
- * Kathryn Wade and Tina Hold, representing U.S. Rep. J. Gresham Barrett,
- * Roland Smith, S.C. House of Representatives member,
- * Don Smith, S.C. House of Representatives member,
- * Don Wells, Aiken City Councilman,
- * Lark Jones, Mayor of North Augusta and
- * Dick Smith, Aiken City Councilman.

Mr. Bunker introduced people with him on the platform:

- * Vicki Simons, Convention Secretary,
- * Tom Colleran, David Nix and Kevin Bumpus, Credentials Committee, and
- * Andrew Marine, Parliamentarian.

Mr. Bunker gave brief remarks which included the fact that although there was no precinct reorganization leading up to tonight's convention, the event was being held to fulfill state law. This is the continuation of the 2003 convention and the delegates to that convention are the delegates now. He cited S.C. Code of Law 7-9-70 regarding county conventions. A precinct reorganization will be held in the Spring of 2007 and a Convention will be held in 2008 to elect national delegates. He said that Jan Carpenter, Aiken County Republican Party Treasurer, would be available to take party dues. A straw poll for the statewide offices would be conducted and he encouraged everyone to listen to speakers, who were given 5 minutes each to speak.

Convention speakers who spoke before the Credentials Report was presented were:

- * Katon Dawson, Chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party,
- * Mark Sanford, Governor of South Carolina and
- * Oscar Lovelace, candidate for Governor.

Kevin Bumpus provided the Credentials Report. About 300 people were present. The number of delegates required to make a quorum is 166 and 60 were present. Without a quorum, no official business could be conducted and no resolutions could be passed.

Convention speakers who spoke after the Credentials Report was presented were:

- * Andre Bauer, Lt. Governor of South Carolina,
- * Don Smith, a representative for Mike Campbell, candidate for Lt. Governor,
- * Mark Hammond, S.C. Secretary of State,
- * L.W. Flynn, candidate for S.C. Secretary of State,
- * Henry McMaster, S.C. Attorney General,

- * Hugh Weathers, S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture,
- * William Bell, candidate for S.C. Commissioner of Agriculture,
- * Jeff Willis, candidate for S.C. State Treasurer,
- * Rick Quinn, candidate for S.C. State Treasurer,
- * Greg Ryberg, candidate for S.C. State Treasurer,
- * Richard Eckstrom, S.C. Comptroller General,
- * Bob Staton, candidate for S.C. Superintendent of Education,
- * June Bond, representing Karen Floyd, candidate for S.C. Superintendent of Education,
- * Elizabeth Moffly, candidate for S.C. Superintendent of Education,
- * Skipper Perry, S.C. House of Representatives member, District 81,
- * Walter Lamb, candidate for S.C. House of Representatives member, District 81, and
- * Eddie Butler, Aiken County Councilman, District 5.

No speakers were present to speak for Kerry Wood or Mike Ryan, candidates for S.C. Superintendent of Education. No speakers were present to speak for Scott Singer or Charles Barton, Aiken County Councilmen. The position for S.C. Adjutant General is unopposed.

Andrew Marine, Executive Committeeman of the Aiken County Republican Party, presented the Executive Committeeman's report by providing the following dates for party events:

- * April 7: Silver Elephant Banquet and
- * April 8: South Carolina Republican Party convention.

Ginny Allen, Chairman of the Aiken County Republican Party:

- * thanked everyone for coming,
- * said that information on filing would become available shortly and
- * stated that the party office would be open two days a week starting this month.

With no objection, 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 statewide candidates. The results of the straw poll, which were not finalized until after the convention ended, were as follows:

- * Governor:
 - * Sanford - 62
 - * Lovelace - 8
- * Lt. Governor:
 - * Bauer - 39
 - * Campbell - 27
- * Secretary of State:
 - * Hammond - 58
 - * Flynn - 8
- * State Treasurer:
 - * Quinn - 5
 - * Ryberg - 60
 - * Willis - 3
- * Superintendent of Education:
 - * Floyd - 43
 - * Moffly - 1
 - * Ryan - 2
 - * Staton - 14
 - * Wood - 3

* Commissioner of Agriculture

* Weathers - 38

* Bell - 25