

# GASTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

July 14, 2014

First Vice Chairman Madeline Keeter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Tracy Philbeck gave the invocation and Jeff Bryson led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## OFFICERS REPORTS

**Secretary:** The Minutes from the June meeting were emailed to the Executive Committee and were available at the meeting. The Minutes were approved after one correction was made.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Edward Dunlap reported the opening balance of the General Operating Fund on June 1, 2014 of \$16,521.86. There was income of \$575.00 and bank service charges of \$3.00, plus a transfer to savings of \$16,000.00. The balance on June 30<sup>th</sup> was \$1,093.86. With interest income of \$1.10 and a transfer in of \$16,000.00, there is \$31,002.81 in the Money Market Savings Fund. The total of operating cash is \$32,096.67. There is \$5,000.00 in the Building Fund.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Madeline noted that Chairman Grant was out of town for a funeral but that he had sent notes to be read concerning the Chairman's report. Madeline congratulated Congressman Patrick McHenry on his appointment as Chief Deputy Whip in the House of Representatives. She expressed thanks to all of the new Century Club members and gave special thanks to Rebecca Schwindeman who joined at the Gold Level. Madeline stressed the importance of Republican support in the upcoming election, especially for candidates such as Thom Tillis and Jeff Bryson.

Madeline announced that the 2015 NCGOP Convention will be held June 4-7 in Raleigh. The 2016 Convention will be pushed back to May 4-7 and be in Greensboro. Madeline noted that State Executive Committee Members will only be allowed to miss 3 meetings before they will be considered to have resigned from their position. She also noted that a new NCGOP Hispanic Coordinator, Earl Phillips, had just been named.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Tracy Philbeck announced that a county budget had been approved without tax increases. He noted that the Commission had run into some issues with the School Board but that they have been meeting to resolve the differences and will work on improving communication between the two groups in the future.

## TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPORT:

Brett Keeter announced that Congressman McHenry would be hosting his annual town hall meetings within one week, during the first week of August. The Gaston town hall will be held August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Gaston College campus in Belmont. Brett noted that Congressman McHenry's appointment as the Chief Deputy Whip of the Republican Conference gives him the fourth highest leadership position in the GOP. Brett also noted that he was honored to have been named the District Director for Congressman McHenry's office.

10<sup>th</sup> District Chairman Craig Collins congratulated Brett on his new position and noted the benefits to Gaston County for Brett's new role. Craig mentioned that there would be no runoff elections in Gaston County but that there would be others throughout the District, including Catawba County. He also noted that there would be no NCGOP Victory office in Gaston County this year, requiring more commitment from volunteers to staff the headquarters. Craig announced that the NCGOP Executive Committee would meet on August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Greensboro.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Edward Dunlap made a motion to postpone discussion for a permanent Gaston GOP Headquarters until January 2015. After brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Edward Dunlap made a motion to approve funding of up to \$1,000.00 for a prize to be given to the winner of the raffle fundraiser. The motion carried unanimously.

Edward Dunlap made a motion to approve funding of \$900.00 to be used as 3 month of rent to open the Gaston GOP's 2014 Headquarters at 155 S. York St., Gastonia, in the office used during the previous election cycle. The motion carried unanimously.

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## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Steve Amos made a motion regarding the Gaston GOP 2014 voter guide to include all Republican candidates running in a partisan race, all statewide, non-partisan candidates endorsed by the NCGOP, and all local, non-partisan candidates that are approved by the Executive Committee. After some discussion, the motion carried with no objections.

**Announcements:** Jeff Bryson thanked everyone for their support and announced that his campaign was hosting an event on August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2-6pm at the park on Linwood Rd. There will be barbeque plates available for \$7.00 and a six-drawing raffle, which will take place at 4pm. Tickets for the raffle will require a \$20 donation.

Dot Cherry announced that she was running for the Board of Education At-Large seat. She mentioned that she was running to fight for what is best for children.

Catherine Bailey Roberts announced that she was running for the Board of Education Dallas Township seat. She intends to focus on the Board's relationship with the County Commissioners, the education budget, and communication.

Rebecca Schwindeman announced that she was running for the Board of Education At-Large seat. She noted that she had previous experience being involved with the school board as well as corporate experience, and that she would work toward transparency and smarter use of taxpayer resources.

Nick Huffman announced that he was running for the Board of Education At-Large seat. He mentioned that he had run as a Republican in 2012 and thanked everyone for their support.

Daniel Ware announced that he was running for the Board of Education Gastonia Township seat with a focus on transparency of the Board of Education.

Tracy Philbeck announced his endorsement for Catherine Bailey Roberts as a candidate that he knows he can communicate with.

John Bailey announced that the annual "Taste of the 10<sup>th</sup>" event would be held October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

**Next meeting: August 11, 2014 at Hillbilly's BBQ, 930 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia. 6:00 - Dinner, 7:00 - Meeting**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan L. Fletcher, Secretary

## Attendance:

Steve Amos\*  
John Bailey\*  
Jeff Bryson  
Neil Chastain  
Craig Collins\*  
Edward Dunlap\*  
Jonathan Fletcher\*  
Mary Frances Forrester\*  
Mary Grace Fraley  
Charmaine Gallagher

Jim Gallagher  
Barbara Hammerle\*  
Dennis Hammerle\*  
Nick Huffman\*  
Ina Jones  
Brett Keeter\*  
Madeline Keeter\*  
Susan Lockridge\*  
Neil Moore\*  
Rebecca Philbeck\*

Tracy Philbeck\*  
Robert Pope\*  
Rebecca Schwindeman  
Julie Stroupe\*  
Gary Thrower  
Pennie Thrower\*  
Daniel Ware  
Jerry Willhauck  
Christine Willhauck

\*Executive Committee Members