

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 11, 2014

Chairman Don Grant called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Second Vice Chair Steve Amos gave the invocation and Jeff Bryson led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary: The Minutes (Attachment A) from the July meeting were emailed to the Executive Committee and were available at the meeting. The Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer: Treasurer Edward Dunlap submitted copies of his report (Attachment B) to the Chairman and Secretary which reported the opening balance of the General Operating Fund on July 1, 2014 of \$1,093.86. There was income of \$500.00, a transfer in from savings in the amount of \$500.00, expenses of \$1,968.99, credit card fees of \$22.50, and bank service charges of \$3.00. The balance on July 31st was \$99.37. With interest income of \$1.131 and a transfer out of \$500.00, there is \$30,504.12 in the Money Market Savings Fund. The total of operating cash is \$30,603.49. There is \$5,000.00 in the Building Fund.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Grant thanked new and current members of the Century Club and encouraged Executive Committee members who were not already CC members to join at the meeting. He also announced that the Fall 2014 Headquarters had been secured at 155 S. York St. in the York Professional building. He called for volunteers who were willing to help get the Headquarters up and running, and for volunteers to serve throughout the week. The Headquarters will be open Monday through Saturday from 10:00am until 8:00pm.

Chairman Grant noted that the raffle tickets would soon be printed and available for a \$20 donation per ticket, or three tickets for a \$50 donation. There will be 300 total tickets printed.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Joe Carpenter addressed the committee concerning the relationship of the County Commission and the School Board. He stressed the need of well-educated workers to help get the economy back on track. He also commended State Legislators for raising teachers' pay statewide.

TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPORT:

Brett Keeter thanked everyone for their support during the town hall meetings and noted that Congressman McHenry had held six meetings within three days. He also noted that the Congressman and other Republican House members had passed a Border Security Bill that would help with security procedures and funding to deal with the border crisis. Brett noted that while the bill contained many good changes to the law, the liberal Senate would likely not even consider it.

Brett announced that Congressman McHenry's Gastonia office was seeking high school or college aged interns for the fall. Anyone interested in working in the office should contact Joe Bost for more information.

10th District Chairman Craig Collins encouraged members of the Committee to sign up as volunteers for the Gaston GOP Headquarters. He noted that each member should be willing to volunteer for at least one three-hour shift per week. He noted the importance of getting Gaston County's Conservative voters out to the polls in November.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nonpartisan Candidates- In accordance with the resolution made by Steve Amos and approved by the Executive Committee at the business meeting on 7/14/14, a vote was taken to decide which local, nonpartisan candidates would be included on the fall 2014 Gaston GOP voter guide. Each candidate present was given the opportunity to speak for one minute. Each candidate on the ballot was notified about the meeting 5 days prior and each requested to be included on the voter guide. Each Executive Committee member present was given a pre-printed ballot and asked to vote "yes" or "no" for each candidate included on the ballot. There were 28 members present; therefore candidates needed at least 15 "yes" votes in order to be included on the guide. The candidates that received the necessary votes were: Mike Lands, Dot Cherry, Rebecca Schwindeman, Catherine Bailey Roberts, Mark Stephens, Kevin Collier, and Chris Howell. A copy of the complete vote totals is included as an attachment to the minutes (Attachment C). Following his one-minute speech, Nick Huffman submitted a clarification statement for members of the committee, which is also included as an attachment to the minutes (Attachment D).

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Keigher made a motion to appoint Conrad Pogorzelski as the Precinct Chairman for Precinct # 11 (Armstrong). The motion was seconded by Tracy Philbeck and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Announcements: Don Grant announced that he had appointed a nominating committee for 2015 that included Tracy Philbeck (Chair), Jason Williams, and John Torbett.

Jeff Bryson reminded everyone of his campaign's raffle that would be held on August 23rd.

Pat Smith invited members of the Committee to the GCRW's "High Tea at High Noon" event that would be held on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd featuring recipes included in the new GCRW cookbook. The special guest for the event would be Susan Tillis. Pat also announced that cookbooks would be available to purchase for \$20.00.

John Torbett announced that he had information available on teacher pay raises in NC that would be helpful in fighting many of the mistruths that have been published about the subject. For more information, contact John or Viddia Torbett.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm

Next meeting: September 8, 2014 at Hillbilly's BBQ, 930 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia. 6:00 - Dinner, 7:00 - Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan L. Fletcher, Secretary

Attachments:

Attachment A: Meeting Minutes 07/14/14 (as approved)
Attachment B: Treasurer's Report
Attachment C: Voter Guide Inclusion Vote Totals Document
Attachment D: Nick Huffman Clarification Statement

Attendance:

Steve Amos*	Kathy Harrington*	Luciano Pogorzelski*
Locke Bell*	Michael Harrington*	Robert Pope*
Joe Bost	Chris Howell*	Mickey Price*
Larry Brown *	Nick Huffman*	Rebecca Schwindeman
Cory Bryson*	Ina Jones	Pat Smith*
Jeff Bryson	Brett Keeter*	Mark Stephens*
Dana Bumgardner*	Madeline Keeter*	Lauren Stanfield
Joe Carpenter*	Tom Keigher*	Gary Thrower
Neil Chastain	Walter Kimble	Pennie Thrower*
Craig Collins*	Michael Lands*	John Torbett*
J.A. Dalpiaz	Donnie Loftis*	Viddia Torbett*
John Dixon	Lee Ann MacMillan	Daniel Ware
Edward Dunlap*	Neil Moore*	Jerry Willhauck
Jonathan Fletcher*	Tracy Philbeck*	Christine Willhauck
Don Grant*	Conrad Pogorzelski	

*Executive Committee Members

Gaston GOP Executive Committee
Voter Guide Inclusion Vote 8/11/14

Total members of the Executive Committee: 68

Total number of ballots printed: 68

Counted & verified by: Jonathan Fletcher, Steve Amos, Edward Dunlap

Total members of the Executive Committee present: **29**

Total number of ballots dispersed: **28**

Number needed for simple majority: **15**

Total number of ballots remaining to be destroyed: **40**

Counted & verified by: Jonathan Fletcher, Edward Dunlap

Total number of ballots cast: **27**

Number of votes by candidate:

Mike Lands – District Court Judge: **27 ***

Jerry Bostic – Board of Education, At-Large: **10**

Dot Cherry – Board of Education, At-Large: **22***

Nick Huffman – Board of Education, At-Large: **8**

Rebecca Schwindeman – Board of Education, At-Large: **20***

Catherine Bailey Roberts – Board of Education, Dallas: **25***

Mark Stephens – Board of Education, Gastonia: **25***

Daniel Ware – Board of Education, Gastonia: **8**

Kevin Collier – Board of Education, Riverbend: **22***

Chris Howell – Board of Education, Southpoint: **23***

Wil Neumann – Board of Education, Southpoint: **13**

* denotes enough votes to be included on the guide

Counted & verified by: Jonathan Fletcher, Steve Amos, Rep. John Torbett

Clarification Statement by Candidate Nick Huffman

The school board race is not a partisan race. It is nonpartisan. One is not trying to pick the best Republican or Democrat for the seats. The object is to place the best people on the board who will strive to improve the educational experiences for our students, to hire the best faculties and administrative staffs, to recognize the need to involve parents in all issues as much as possible, and to manage realistically the financial matters of the school system.

I am running for the at large seat on the Gaston County School Board. I am not running against my opponents but I am running for the seat on the board because I am qualified and I wish to serve. I know that in partisan politics one tries to find fault with their opponents to use as a leverage against them. I believe one should sell himself or herself and the views they hold true and not base the campaign on tearing down someone. I do realize that incumbents have to defend what they have or have not done.

One of my opponents has tried to imply something by referencing to the fact that before I filed to run for a school board seat in 2012 I had changed my registration from Democrat to Republican. That was done at two different meetings and on the Facebook page of that candidate. I thought about just ignoring this but there is too much at stake. This person did not come to ask me for an explanation, an act that shows a lack of concern to know the full story or the perceived story.

When I first voted in Gaston County, I had to be twenty-one years old. At that time, Gaston was part of the solid South. Eighty to eighty-five percent of the people were Democrats and most were true conservatives. Therefore, I registered as a Democrat. My parents raised me to vote for the best candidate, not party. I always voted a split ticket. In other words, I voted for good people in both parties. For several years now, the conservative Democrat has become extinct and that party has become extreme and liberal. So I have been voting Republican but not changing my registration.

When I decided to run, I felt as if I needed to do what I should have done years ago, change my registration. I did not make the change to win any votes because the school board races are supposed to be nonpartisan. I felt I needed to give this clarification on this matter.