

**GASTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY  
2014 CONVENTION  
OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**

March 15, 2014

The Gaston County Republican Party Convention was held on March 15, 2014 at the Gaston County Human Services Building, located at 330 North Marietta Street, Gastonia, NC 28053.

Gaston County Republican Party Chairman Don Grant called the convention to order at 10:01 a.m. Commissioner Tracy Philbeck gave the invocation and Senator Kathy Harrington led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chairman Grant welcomed all delegates and guests. Delegates were instructed to sit within their designated precinct section, and guests to sit in their designated area. General announcements were made concerning the location of restroom facilities and all were asked to silence their cell phones. First Vice Chair Madeline Keeter recognized the elected officials present at the convention and thanked them for their service.

**SEATING OF CONVENTION OFFICERS**

The next order of business was to seat the Convention Officers. According to the State Plan of Organization, the Party Chairman appointed: Convention Chairman – Representative Jason Saine; Convention Secretary – Jonathan Fletcher; Convention Parliamentarian – Robert Pope; Sergeant at Arms – Jerry Wilhauck. The meeting was turned over to the Convention Chairman, Rep. Saine.

Chairman Saine gave the floor to 10<sup>th</sup> District Chairman Craig Collins for comments. Chairman Collins thanked everyone for their support and said that he was committed to empowering County Chairs in each County to do their jobs well. He asked everyone to commit to two things in order to support the party in the 2014 Elections: to become a member of the Century Club and to volunteer at headquarters for at least one shift per week. He called for united support of all Republican candidates.

**CANDIDATE SPEECHES**

Chairman Saine opened the floor for congressional and statewide candidate speeches, asking participants to limit their time to one minute each.

- Patti Alexander spoke on behalf of her husband, Ted Alexander, running for U.S. Senate.
- Tracy Philbeck spoke in support of Rep. John Torbett and Mark Harris for U.S. Senate.
- Locke Bell spoke on behalf of Mark Martin, Chief Justice of the NC Supreme Court.
- Dana Bumgardner spoke in support of Thom Tillis, running for U.S. Senate.
- Richard Lynch, candidate for U.S. Congress spoke and asked for support.
- Brenda White spoke on behalf of Mark Harris for U.S. Senate and read a letter from Mark Harris.
- Judge Eric Levinson spoke in support of the entire slate of Republican judicial candidates, including Mark Martin for Chief Justice and Bob Hunter, Eric Levinson, and Mike Robinson for NC Supreme Court Justice.
- Robert Pope spoke in support of Rep. Kelly Hastings.

Chairman Saine gave the floor to Congressman Patrick McHenry to address the Convention concerning issues in the 10<sup>th</sup> District. Congressman McHenry spoke about the fact that the Republican-led House of Representatives continually faced opposition by the democrat-led Senate, and noted the importance of electing a Republican Senator from North Carolina. He pointed out that even an “ok” Conservative is better than democrat Kay Hagan, who has voted with President Obama 95% of the time.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORTS**

Chairman Saine asked for NC legislative reports to be given.

- NC Senator Kathy Harrington reported on issues before the Senate: improving education and teacher pay across the state, tax reform, and implementing voter id requirements in time for the 2016 Presidential Election.
- Representative Dana Bumgardner reported on issues before the House: tax reform, regulatory reform, drug testing for welfare recipients, and lowering the state income tax and corporate tax.

Chairman Saine asked for the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Report.

Brett Keeter deferred to comments made previously by Chairman Collins and Congressman McHenry.

## **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Chairman Saine called for the credentials report (Attachment A) to seat the delegates to the Convention.

Lee Ann MacMillan, Credentials Committee Chair stated that with forty-six precincts reporting, there were fifty-five (55) eligible delegates present. She moved that we seat the delegates by approving the Credentials Report. As there were no objections, the Delegates were seated by unanimous consent. A majority vote of this Convention required twenty-nine (29) votes and a 2/3 vote required thirty-seven (37) votes.

## **CONVENTION RULES**

The Chair then recognized Brett Keeter, Chairman of the Convention Rules Committee. Mr. Keeter presented the Convention Rules (Attachment B) and moved for their adoption. With no objections, the motion was approved by a voice vote.

## **CONVENTION AGENDA**

The next order of business was the adoption of the Convention Agenda (Attachment C), which had been distributed to each person present. The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

## **CONVENTION MINUTES**

Tom Keigher moved to approve the minutes from the 2013 Convention (Attachment D) as presented.

With no opposition, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Don Grant presented the County Chairman's Report. Chairman Grant gave special thanks to the Convention Officers, elected officials, Steve and Sheena Amos, Brett and Madeline Keeter, Edward Dunlap, and Pat Smith. He thanked everyone for their support of Lincoln Day Dinner. He congratulated Barbara Hammerle for winning the Republican of the Year Award and Jack Brown for receiving the Sen. James Forrester Lifetime Achievement Award. Chairman Grant also thanked the host and event sponsors for the event. He called for support of all Republican Primary winners and encouraged everyone to join the Century Club.

Chairman Grant announced that the 10<sup>th</sup> District Convention would be held April 12<sup>th</sup> in Forest City and that the State Convention would be held June 6-8 in Cherokee.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Edward Dunlap presented the following report (Attachment E):

Beginning balance, March 1, 2013	\$ 17,537.62
Total Income	\$12,126.30
Total Expenses	<u>\$3,892.25</u>
Ending Balance, February 28, 2014	\$25,771.67
Building Fund	\$5,000.00

## **AUDIT REPORT**

Jerry Campbell, Finance Chairman, submitted an audit report (Attachment F) to the convention. He audited the Treasurer's books from January 1, 2012 to January 31, 2014. He reported that the Treasurer was diligent in keeping factual and complete financial records and outlined all accounting errors discovered and corrected with the State Board of Elections.

## **PLAN OF ORGANIZATION**

Brett Keeter presented the North Carolina Republican Party Plan of Organization, adopted June 8, 2013. With no opposition, the NCGOP Plan of Organization was adopted. Brett Keeter also presented the Gaston County Republican Party Plan of Organization (Attachment G) which was approved without opposition.

## **ELECTION OF DELEGATES**

Madeline Keeter moved to elect all the delegates present at the convention as delegates at the 10<sup>th</sup> District Convention and the NC GOP Republican Convention. The motion carried with no opposition.

Madeline Keeter also moved to add a list of persons who were absent (Attachment H) for inclusion as Delegates to the 10<sup>th</sup> District and the NCGOP Conventions. The names were read aloud to the convention and the motion was approved, bringing the total number of elected delegates for each convention to 65.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman Saine introduced Steve Amos, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to bring forward any resolutions. No resolutions were presented.

Seeing that all agenda items had been considered, Convention Chairman Saine returned control of the floor to County Chairman Don Grant. Chairman Grant thanked Rep. Saine for his service and opened the floor for announcements.

Upon a motion by Tom Keigher, the convention was adjourned at 12:18pm.

Jonathan L. Fletcher, Convention Secretary  
Don Grant, Jr., Gaston GOP Chairman

### **Attachments:**

- A. 2014 Credentials Report
- B. 2014 Convention Rules
- C. 2014 Convention Agenda
- D. 2013 Convention Minutes
- E. 2014 Treasurer's Report
- F. 2014 Audit Report
- G. 2014 Gaston GOP Plan of Organization
- H. Motion to include list of absent delegates



Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary Initials: \_\_\_\_\_