

OCONEE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

General Membership Meeting;
Gignilliat Community Center;
621 N. Townville St. Seneca, SC.

MINUTES OF THE OCRP MEETING

September 9, 2013 6 PM

AGENDA

1. **Invocation:** Frank Kuhn
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** John Murray
3. **Republican Creed:** Brenda Skipp
4. **Introduction of Elected Officials:** Reg Dexter/ District V County Council
Special Introduction: Dick Manghum from WGOG.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Phil Soper:
 - The "\$650 is elephant off our back". "Treasury looking healthier and could operate for a year or so". Phil provided a "thank you" for donations to OCRP.
6. **Membership Report:**
 - Questioned if everyone at meeting received meeting notice in email.
 - 450 email addresses on list, with 50 coming back due to being incorrect email addresses
 - 90-95 paid members---the remainders have not paid dues.
 - "Every good organization needs money.
 - Anderson membership is high in numbers; they bring food.
 - Brenda Skipp had list for "Cookie" sign-up. Requested a coordinator.
 - **Jeff Duncan:** At Keowee Key, September 26, 2013; 4:30 – 6:30 PM
7. **Oktoberfest Update: Walhalla**
 - 17, 18, & 19; 3rd Weekend of Oct. Tents rented, Sertoma Field on Main Street, activities to stimulate membership.
 - OCRP needs 25 good volunteers to man the tents, and distribute information.
 - Volunteers needed to do 1 or 2 shifts.
 - At each location have a sign delineating the times/schedule of important people who will be there e.g., Reg Dexter, Mike Crenshaw, etc.
 - Have some youth/young republicans to man the tent and speak with younger people.

8. Young Republicans:

- Polly Nicolay introduced and welcomed Josh Leonard.
- Josh verbalized his support of Republicans in that they support Christian views, fight for our country and he would like to see more youth become involved.
- Polly's role is to enhance the youth involvement and is involved in the following; Clemson student voter registration, meeting with the home schooled groups, and interviewing young people regarding their interests.
- Polly has met with home school group (30-40 in group).
- Is working with Frank Kuhn in Oconee and Pickens area and to meet with Dr, David Woodard this month or next.
- A table will be present at Oktoberfest for Young republicans.

9. September Fund Raiser:

- Seneca Family Restaurant; 8-10 AM; \$7 per person.
- Menu not yet determined.
- Plan is to possibly have one breakfast every quarter.
- Try to include Mike Crenshaw, J. Duncan, Tim Scot and other officials for a meet & greet concept.
- Brenda Skipp request that all attendees take 4-5 tickets to sell.

10: Introduction of Speakers:

- Senator Thomas Alexander, and State Representative Bill Whitmire

Thomas Alexander: (Summary)

- **Election Process:** Developed a system in which filing to run for office is now 2 separate items, due date of 3/30 a financial disclosure and is separate from filing for election.
- One cannot be removed from ballot if did not complete the economic interest form.
- Filing for office is now coordinated through local election office.

- **Roads and bridges;** have begun to dedicate funding from general fund. First of 2 years for funds from sales tax of cars; recurring state dollars will provide a 1 billion \$ over 10 years. Bonding agencies have to be recurring and last long enough to outlive bonds being issued.

- **Budget=** surplus this year with conservative budgeting;
- Dedicated funds of health and human services appropriating additional funds—did not vote to extend Medicaid in SC.
- Have tried to take steps to improve access to care with existing programs.
- Dedicated funds to centers such as Tribble center for adults and schools involved with mental health with issues by being on the front line with preventive opportunities .

Bill Whitmire: District Two, Resident of Walhalla (Summary)

- %. We are still in recession, yet they are trying to be fair with all agencies.
 - Tax relief for citizens, approaching 1 billion dollars; including less for seniors; less with homeowners taxes and, taxes off groceries.
 - Budget for 2013/14 –functioning with 1/3 less money (3-4% decrease),
 - Education fund k-12, each student receives \$2, 101.00 it does not meet what the formula is supposed to be. State funding of schools is less than before recession.
 - Troopers funding has decreased. . Criminal justice= funding 30 new state troopers.
 - 75-80 new school busses are needed./imperative.
 - School choice/ SGO Scholarship Granting Organizations, will give up to \$10.000 for a special needs child. Provided every teacher \$ 275 for supplies. Tax credit for each private school teacher.
 - \$25 million into protecting the Data security breach. ▪ Maximum security prison in Colombia= governors support to build guard towers and security cameras and extra \$\$ for guards. Difficult to find guards; bump in salary should help.
 - Small business investment—Angel investor =tax credit to help those that put up the money for small businesses.
 - Hand gun background check for those with mental health issues—passed. Mentally incompetent information is entered into a database.
 - Charitable organizations can legally raise money/e.g. raffles.
 - Education; private schools want to convert to public charter schools (less red tape) than public schools. You can immediately petition to become a charter school.
 - Virtual learning= online courses; 3 courses per year on line; so successful that all courses can be taken on line. Bullying, illness, kids kicked out of school, pregnant girl etc. are some rationales for taking virtual online courses.
 - Pending legislation: meeting in Greenville ; legislation discussed—mopeds on highways at night, crafting a bill to make it safe; distractive driving, what type of penalty 11 counties have passed a bill for distracted driving; a uniform bill must be across the state.
- Cost of higher education for state students went up 2 ½ % this year. Pricing young SC adults out of these schools and not letting enough of these young collegians into our schools. Scholarships do help off-set.
- Anti-abortion bill not after 20 weeks. Rep. Whitmire is is pro-life
 - Electronic data privacy act; to be addressed for state level.

11: Q&A--- discussions:

- Clarified tax issues for sales tax with cars over 2 years will be transferred over to roads and bridges; 40-50 million this year.
- School choice initiatives; and audience member request to eliminate the “Common Core curriculum” in SC.

- Possibility of gas tax for roads & bridges; will most likely not occur.
- County Council; counties are not receiving funding back from state and seems to impact us locally—is this the case? Response: had to reduce local government fund and all state agencies have been reduced. We are working on getting back to 100% formula funding. Priorities are being set. 80-85% of funding comes from sales tax and income tax. Nothing is being fully funded for anyone group/organization.
- Suggestion of putting forth a resolution for increase in car taxes etc. by the republican Party.
- Questioned second homes and the cost of taxes—it is a detriment and stops folks from buying a second home in SC.

12. AOB: Bob Skipp reviewed the 8/29 meeting in Colombia

- National level monies = RNC level has \$12.3M and the DNC has \$18.5M in the negative with no director at this time.
- Community and technology is improving at national and state level. The Republican National Committee is funding a new position in SCGOP for a Chief Technology Officer and Andy Barkett, from Facebook, has been recently hired to fill this role.
- Hope Walker is on SCGOP staff & has been promoted to be state political director for outreach and the RNC is also funding this position. Eight states are being targeted states to test the RNC new approach to campaign strategy. SC is one of those states because we have two senators up for election.
- The issue regarding Hillary documentary on CNN and the mini-series on NBC were discussed in regards to boycott presidential debates sponsored by those stations in the 2016 elections.

Closing Comments by Susan Aiken:

- Susan Aiken, works in behalf of Senator Tim Scott and chairperson for 3rd district of republican party. Campaign side –for next year— Senator Tim Scott must run next year, (2014) because he was appointed and again in 2016 if he wins. Go to: timscott.com; and view his website. Susan can also help with official Tim. Scott business.

13: NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 1, 2013 SPEAKER: NSE EKPO

- His mission is to pull together the black ministers in this state

Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM.

Minutes prepared by:
Jeanne Weiland
Secretary OCRP

