

OCONEE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

102 West North 1st Street

Seneca, SC 29679

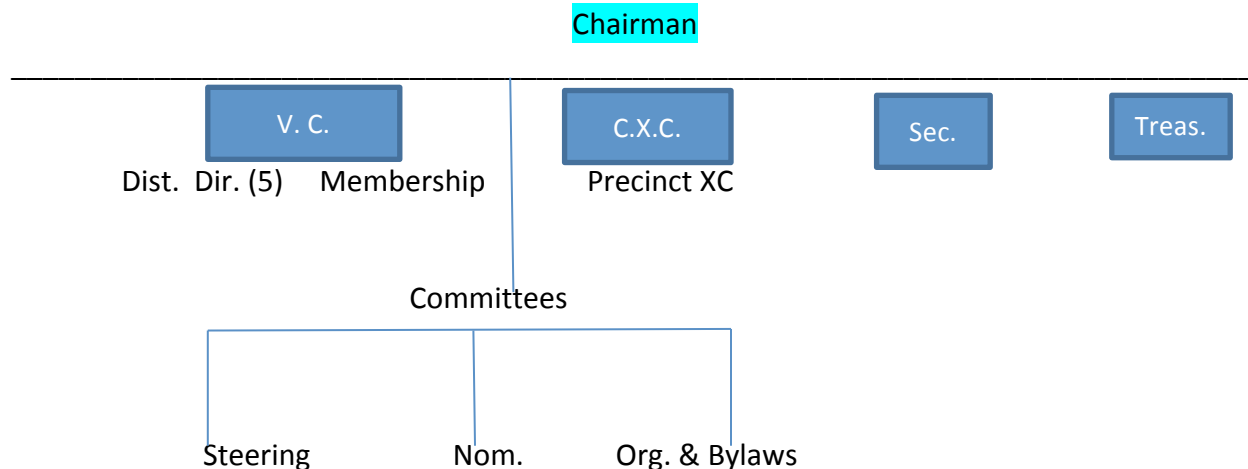
MINUTES OF THE OCRP MEETING

Monday, May 13 2013

- 1. **Opening Prayer:** Steve Taylor
- 2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Steve Taylor. In addition Steve explained comma placement within the phrase “one nation under God”
- 3. **Republican Creed:** Read by Brenda Skipp. In addition Bill Jerome advised that the Republican Creed was authored by Thomas Payne. It is on the OCRP website and it was suggested that it be put on face book. Bob suggested as a future project that we “take it apart” and have people comment on their analysis of lines in the creed.

Following this Bob explained rationale for meetings includes becoming more involved in state legislation, increasing membership, and having an increase in attendees at meetings.

- 4. **Introduction of elected officials:** Bob Skipp: Oconee County Chairman;
Bill Jerome: Oconee County Vice Chairman
Phil Soper: State Executive Committeeman and Oconee County Treasurer.
Bob presented organization chart.



- 5. **Introduction of OCRP Secretary:** Bob Skipp introduced Jeanne Weiland.

6. **Financial Report: Phil Soper/treasurer.** Financially OCRP has enough money in the bank to sustain the OCRP for another 4-5 months. We will need to do fund raising.
7. **Report on State Convention: A summary:** 1,000people attended. There was a full delegation from Oconee County. Some alternates attended.
 - *Senator Lindsey Graham was a speaker and some in attendance, from other counties (Greenville and Spartanburg) protested against Senator Graham. Lindsey handled the hecklers by saying we may not agree all the time, but we can find things that we do agree on and that's what we should come together to work on.
 - *Someone indicated that they have heard that Richard Cash, former candidate for the House of Representatives will be a future opponent of Senator Graham.
 - Election at Convention: Chad Connelly up for reelection as State Chairman won overwhelmingly over Sam Harms and Steven Brown. The following were the winners of the other positions up for election:
 - 1st VC Ms. Lynn Bennett elected—close race w/ opponent
 - 2nd VC Mr. Nse Ekpo; This position works to increase minority participation in the Party.
 - 3rd VC Mr. Allan Lollis; This position's focus is young republicans.

- Resolutions: Phil reported that it was confusing exactly how many Resolutions were to be considered ,8, 12 or 16. The three Resolutions (Primary election, Israel support & Obama Care Nullification) approved at our County Convention, were included in the package for consideration.
- All resolutions were not read. There was no vote taken on resolutions as the meeting was adjourned.
- Bill Jerome suggested that resolutions be distributed well before the convention, at least two weeks. Bob S. had sent a request for resolutions ahead of time.
- The subject of Resolutions will be addressed at the Executive Committee meeting, on June 8.
- Bill and Bob discussed commitment of delegates and if elected as a Delegate to the State Convention they should be committed to stay at the meeting until the end. Brenda raised the point that it was her perception that the attempt to pass the Resolutions as a block was planned.
- Frank Kuhn suggested that convention can be improved with electronics.
- Question posed regarding ability to provide feedback regarding the convention.

8. **Discussion of the following**

- Building & meeting location status:*** Bob explained the building lease is up this month. Rent is \$450/month plus utility bills are about \$150/ month.
Investment in the present building is the HVAC system, heating strips and lights, as well as roof repairs. Permanent fixtures like the HVAC system, IAW the Lease Agreement, become part of the building.

* Move to another affordable building. Ideally it would be nice to have the presence of a person manning the space, and a space with storage.

*Suggestions for spaces to consider: Oconee Alliance building; Jeff Duncan's office located at Eagle nest. Share the office which is paid for by political funds. Tea Party is holding meetings at hospital. Gignilliat building is cost free. Building next to United Way but may not be large enough. Banks that have meeting rooms.

*Will the present owner re-negotiate our space? Make a low ball offer.

● **Meeting Start Time:** Discussion regarding start time change to attract more members' attendance. Following open discussion the decision was to try with the next meeting to begin at 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be held at Gignilliat Center in Seneca, Monday June 10, 2013. A room is booked; there is no cost and room holds 50 – 60 people. Members will be advised. Jeanne will send meeting announcement to the Journal, but needs to know when to send it. Bob explained that a person needs to resume responsibility for sending the monthly reminders to all members. The usual email reminder is in a transition phase.

*Membership is about 250 with about half being paid members.

*Suggestion was made to bring a friend to the meetings.

● **OCRP Organization IAW County By-Laws: See flow Chart under #4.**

Positions:

*Chairman: Bob Skipp

*Vice Chairman: Bill Jerome

*Executive Committeeman: Phil Soper

*Steering committee is all officers and Directors

*Nomination committee

*District 5 Directors: We have currently only 3 – Gary Littlefield, Frank Kuhn and Steve Lefevre

*Organization and By-laws Committee;

*Responsibilities: keep and maintain OCRP records of: county organization, precinct organizations, dues paying membership, official county by-laws, and registered voters in county. In addition they are to produce an annual organizational directory; current organization and membership list, and provide copy of by- laws to authorized people. Many of these functions are now being performed by one person – Phil Soper!

● **Possible New Positions:**

Bob explained need for volunteers to assist with events, fundraisers, requirements to support October fest, in October. Bob distributed a list for members attending to sign-up. List was provided to Bob at the closure of the meeting.

● **Suggestions for Speakers and Topics:**

*Economics professor from Clemson.

*What is happening in state and locally? Having representatives listen to us.

*Supporting portability of professional licenses' for military spouses.

*Educated discussion on gas taxes. Oconee may not receive tax monies.

Minutes OCRP Meeting, cont.

Suggestions for Speakers and Topics: cont.

- *Define the Republican Party.
- *Climate change; republican views.
- *Department of Education. Curriculum concerns and ongoing requests for money
- *Roads
- *Gasoline tax and who benefits from the tax.
- *Abortion biologist; when does life begin.
- *A Democrat Leader discussing with us why we are wrong.
- *A face-to-face and taking positions with County Council.
- *Focus on the foundation of what the Republican Party stands for. Start with the Republican Creed.
- *We need to know what our voting population is. Are we 50 and above? What will happen as we age? Speak with Representatives' providing their stance on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act/Obamacare.
- *Dialoguing with black members of a church.
- *Rand Paul.
- *What are the 10 things we believe in---The Foundation Platform.
- *Steve Taylor—rhetorical question--If this group never met last year and did not meet this year; would anybody care?
- *State Representative Bill Sandifer's opposition candidate.

9. Young Republicans

- *Polly Nicolay volunteered to reach out to young republicans as chair.
- *Nate Leupp is Chair of Young Republicans in Greenville & may help with ideas. 864-275-9965.
- *Congressman Jeff Duncan and the Heritage foundation had program at Wren High School whereby students were given budgets and had them work with assigned budgets for various government departments. Not a single group wanted to raise taxes.
- * Programs could be done with all 4 H's in Oconee County.

10. AOB (any other business) Nothing to report.

Motion to Adjourn 7:30 PM. First motion by Gary Littlefield; Betty Taylor seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Weiland
OCRP Secretary

Thank you to Mary Jo Gallagher for assistance with minutes during the meeting.