

GASTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 10, 2013

Chairman Don Grant called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Rep. John Torbett gave the invocation and Neil Moore led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPEAKERS: As a courtesy to our guest speakers, Chairman Grant allowed them to speak first.

Susan Tillis came to speak on behalf of her husband, Speaker of the NC House, Thom Tillis who is running for U.S. Senate. She spoke about Speaker Tillis' many accomplishments as Speaker, including VETO overrides, tax reform, and working toward and with a Republican majority in the General Assembly. Representatives Dana Bumgardner and John Torbett both rose to speak on his behalf as well. Mrs. Tillis reminded everyone how important the Senate race was and that the path to Republican majority would be coming right through our state. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak.

Jeff Bryson spoke about his campaign for Sheriff. He noted that straight-party ticket voting will no longer be an option in NC but stressed the importance of electing all of the Republicans on the ballot. He stated his plans for changing the Sheriff department if elected, especially in reducing wasteful spending, ending duplicate services, and stressing the need to deal with repeat offenders. He also announced that his campaign would be holding a Pancake dinner fundraiser on Thursday, March 6th at Munchies.

Jeff Clark spoke about his campaign for Sheriff as well. He described his personal background in law enforcement, which includes several years in the Gastonia Police Department, being one of the first members of the SWAT Team, and receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He noted that one of his major ideas if elected Sheriff will be to allow reserve officers to use their mandatory service hours to work in Elementary schools as security for free. He encouraged everyone to visit all of the candidates' fundraisers to get as much information as possible before making a decision on whom to support.

OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary: The Minutes from the January meeting were emailed to the Executive Committee and were available at the meeting. The Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer: Treasurer Edward Dunlap noted that Lincoln Day Dinner was fast approaching on Mar 8th and thanked the sponsors who were already on board. He also noted that the County Convention would be held on Mar. 15th and that registration was available online where delegates could register and pay with their credit cards. Credit cards will also be accepted at the door the day of the convention. Edward reported a balance on January 1, 2014 of \$23,218.08. We had an income of \$200.00 and disbursements of \$254.01, plus bank service charges of \$3.00 and EFT fees of \$3.65. The balance on January 31st was \$23,157.42. There is \$5,000.00 in the Building Fund.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Grant thanked the Century Club members and encouraged them to rejoin for the next year. He noted that the speaker at this year's Lincoln Day Dinner would be Lt. Governor Dan Forest. He also noted that breakfast would be available to buy at the County Convention provided by the String Bean. The NCGOP convention will be the first week of June in Cherokee, NC. Candidate filings for the 2014 elections opened Feb. 10th at noon. He also announced that, due to the many events going on in the month of March, the March Executive Committee meeting would be cancelled.

CLUB REPORTS

GCRW: Juanita Wagner announced that the GCRW would be holding a cake sale and a jewelry sale at the Lincoln Day Dinner. They are announcing a candidate forum on April 8th with more details coming soon. The GCRW are working on a cookbook project for the year and the books should be ready to purchase sometime in the late fall toward Christmastime. Their next meeting will be on Feb. 20th with guest speaker Jeffrey Booker, the Superintendent of Schools. The meeting will be at Jackson's Cafeteria at 12pm.

Young Republicans:

Belmont Abbey College Republicans:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Tom Keigher said that the Commissioners would be holding a planning retreat in the coming week to look at formulating a priority-based budget. He noted that there was a lot of interest in the Commissioners' relationship with Caromont and that he felt the relationship was beginning to take a more positive trend.

TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPORT:

Brett Keeter announced that Congressman McHenry would be filing for reelection in the coming week. So far the only other candidate to file has been Tate MacQueen, a Democrat from Asheville who can be described as a "community activist." Brett announced that a issue-based survey was going out to many constituents in the district and he encouraged everyone who receives one to fill it out and

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return it so that the Congressman can get a better sense of how his constituents feel on the issues.

Craig Collins said that he was working around the district to help coordinate Lincoln/Reagan Day Dinners and County Conventions. He said that Cleveland County's chair had resigned to run for U.S. Senate. He noted that the Central Committee was working to replace former Vice-Chair Joyce Krawiec who had resigned after being nominated to replace Sen. Brunsetter in the NC Senate. The 10th District Convention will be held April 12th, in the west end of the district (probably Buncombe County). He noted that this is the same day as Buncombe's Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner and he encouraged everyone to attend both events.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Grant noted that Awards nominations would close Saturday, February 15th. There was no other old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dale Burkett and Jim Gallagher each announced that they were running for Gaston County Commissioner from the Gastonia Township. Tom Keigher also announced that he was running for reelection to the seat. Representative Torbett announced that he was running for reelection in District 108. Representative Bumgardner also announced that he was running for reelection in 109 and said that he was looking forward to running an aggressive, issue-oriented campaign. Mickey Price announced that he was running for N.C. House in Dist. 109 as well and that he was focused on Medicaid reform. Senator Kathy Harrington, Commissioner Tracy Philbeck, Judge Mike Lands, Clerk of Court Larry Brown, and District Attorney Locke Bell each announced that they were seeking reelection for their respective offices.

Chairman Grant expressed thanks to Munchies for allowing the use of their facilities and providing dinner services. He also announced that the NCGOP was holding a treasurer training on Feb. 22nd at 2:00pm for those involved in campaigns around the state. He would provide more information for anyone interested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Next meeting: April 14, 2013 at Hillbilly's BBQ, 930 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia. 6:00 - Dinner, 7:00 - Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan L. Fletcher, Secretary

Attendance:

Jean Alexander
Steve Amos*
Bethanie Ballard
Locke Bell*
Caroline Bost
Joe Bost
Larry Brown*
Jeff Bryson
Dana Bumgardner*
Dale Burkett
Roberta Burkett
Jeff Clark
Kyle Clark
Craig Collins*
Martha Deaver
Edward Dunlap*

Greg Farris
Jonathan Fletcher*
Charmaine Gallagher
Jim Gallagher
Don Grant*
Barbara Hammerle*
Dennis Hammerle*
Kathy Harrington*
Michael Harrington*
Ina Jones
Brett Keeter*
Madeline Keeter*
Tom Keigher*
Michael Lands*
Lee Ann MacMillan
David Morton

Karamarie Morton
Neil Moore*
Tracy Philbeck*
Robert Pope*
Mickey Price*
Lauren Standfield
Julie Stroupe*
John Torbett*
Viddia Torbett*
Juanita Wagner*
Christine Willhauck
Jerry Willhauck
Jim Workman
Jan Wright

*Executive Committee Members