

# GASTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 14, 2014

Chairman Don Grant called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Jonathan Fletcher gave the invocation and Robert Pope led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SPEAKER:** As a courtesy to our guest speaker, Chairman Grant allowed him to speak first.

Adam Ragan is the Director of Elections for the Gaston County Board of Elections. Mr. Ragan spoke on the changes in voting laws that will be in effect for the 2014 elections. He cautioned candidates and campaign workers about signage and electioneering requirements and guidelines and encouraged all to review the law to avoid receiving citations. He noted that early voting would begin on April 24<sup>th</sup> but that the period had been shortened by about a week. Information about dates and times for early voting can be found on the [Board of Elections website](#). Other changes noted include the requirement of a standardized form for requesting absentee ballots, asking for photo ID, and the ability of any voter in the county to issue a voter challenge.

After speaking, Mr. Ragan excused himself from the meeting.

## OFFICERS REPORTS

**Secretary:** The Minutes from the February 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 had been a great success and thanked Chairman Grant and the other officers that had helped. He also noted that under the current budget, despite the increase in profit, we are still looking at a potential shortfall of \$100 (if all spending accounted for in the budget is made). Edward reported a balance on February 1, 2014 of \$23,157.42. We had an income of \$3,450.00 and disbursements of \$832.75, plus bank service charges of \$3.00. The balance on February 28<sup>th</sup> was \$25,771.67. Edward also noted that he had opened money market savings account so that we would be able to earn interest on some of our reserve cash. The balance on March 1, 2014 was \$25,771.67. We had an income of \$11,521.16 and disbursements of \$5,664.44, plus bank service charges of \$3.00 and EFT fees of \$4.50. There was also a transfer of funds in the amount of \$15,000 to the new money market savings fund. The balance on March 31<sup>st</sup> was \$16,620.89. With the transfer of \$15,000.00 and interest of \$0.45, there is \$15,000.45 in the Money Market Savings Fund. The total of operating cash is \$31,621.34. There is \$5,000.00 in the Building Fund.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Grant thanked the owners of Munchies for their previous support of the party. He also thanked the owners and staff at Hillbilly's for allowing us to begin meeting there. Chairman Grant noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> District Convention had gone well and that Gaston County was well represented and had the largest delegation present. He also cautioned everyone to make their reservations for the state convention as soon as possible as rooms were going fast. The NCGOP convention will be held June 6-8<sup>th</sup>. He also noted that the primary would be held May 6<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to go out to support their favorite candidates, but to also be sure and support whoever the nominee for each race turns out to be.

## CLUB REPORTS

**GCRW:** Juanita Wagner thanked everyone for helping to make the candidate forum a success. She announced that the GCRW were currently working on a cookbook project and that the project would be finalized for printing by May 14<sup>th</sup>. The books should be available for sale in September in time for the Christmas season. The selling price will be \$20.00 per book. The next meeting would be held Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> at Jackson's Cafeteria at 12:00pm and would feature guest speaker Adam Ragan.

**Young Republicans:**

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Mickey Price announced that budget talks had begun with department heads and that the budget would likely be slim this year ahead of next year's transition to a priority-based budget. He also announced that there would be a public hearing on April 22<sup>nd</sup> on the discussion of issuing school bonds. He said that the County Commission would be meeting with the School Board to find out exactly how and where funds would be used before approving the spending. He also mentioned that the County is looking into a place for a new animal shelter to replace the current shelter that needs repair and refurbishment.

## TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT REPORT:

Brett Keeter thanked everyone who attended the 10<sup>th</sup> District Convention and mentioned that Chairman Collins was at the Executive Committee meeting in Cleveland County and had sent his apologies for his absence.

# GASTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**CANDIDATES:** Chairman Grant allowed any candidates present to speak on behalf of their campaigns. Mickey Price said that he was running for NC House on the issues surrounding Medicaid reform. Volunteers who are interested in the campaign can visit [PriceforNCHouse.com](http://PriceforNCHouse.com). Jeff Clark thanked the Republican Women for hosting their candidate forum. He also reminded everyone of the “vote smart challenge” that he had issues, encouraging everyone to get the facts about all of the candidates before making a decision, and to – most importantly – support the winning Republican nominee in each race. Jeff Baker announced that he had withdrawn his name from the race for Sheriff and that he would be supporting Jeff Clark, but that his name would still appear on the ballot. Tracy Philbeck announced that he had no opponent but asked for everyone continued support and called for unified support of all Republican candidates in the November election.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Grant announced that he had been approached about an offer for a building on Garrison Blvd. that could be used as a permanent headquarters for the Gaston GOP. After he and several members of the Executive Committee (and all officers) had looked at the building, he felt that it would be a suitable building and location to fit all of our needs as a headquarters and monthly meeting location. He said that the current asking price was \$150,000.00 and that there had already been \$25,000.000 made in commitments to the project. He said that he wanted to get feedback from the Committee concerning whether or not he should pursue the idea of raising the funds and working out the details of a possible purchase. After discussion, the general consensus was that members were interested in the deal but cautious about the yearly operating costs of a permanent HQ and whether or not the party could sustain the cost. Chairman Grant will be working with the other officers and Mary Frances Forrester to form a committee that will investigate the costs as well as the terms of a deal and present the findings to the Executive Committee.

Jonathan Fletcher announced that there were several vacancies on the Executive Committee and that people interested in filling one of the roles should contact one of the officers for more information.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

**Next meeting: May 12, 2014 at Hillbilly's BBQ, 930 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia. 6:00 - Dinner, 7:00 - Meeting**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan L. Fletcher, Secretary

## Attendance:

Sheena Amos	Dennis Hammerle*	Karamarie Morton
Caroline Bost	John Howren	Neil Moore*
Joe Bost	Ina Jones	Tracy Philbeck*
Neil Chastain	Brett Keeter*	Rebecca Philbeck*
Jeff Clark	Madeline Keeter*	Robert Pope*
Martha Deaver	Tom Keigher*	Mickey Price*
Edward Dunlap*	Michael Lands*	Jim Stewart*
Jonathan Fletcher*	Lee Ann MacMillan	Gary Thrower
Don Grant*	Monte Monteleone*	Pennie Thrower*
Barbara Hammerle	David Morton	Juanita Wagner*

\*Executive Committee Members