
BEAUFORT COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

May 25, 2023
2Q Meeting Minutes
American Vets # 7 Port Royal SC

Attendance 56 executive committee members attended the meeting, 22EC members are required for a quorum, a quorum was met.

Chairman Hennelly called the meeting to order at 5:47 PM.

Cherrie Cahoon presented the invocation.

Sherrie Mikrut led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ann Ubelis led the Republican Creed.

The Chairman asked the Recording Secretary for a Quorum, Sherrie Mikrut Recording Secretary announced a quorum of 56 voting members, 22 members are required. Agendas and Letters were distributed to all attendees prior to the meeting and were presented on screen.

The Chairman made a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting and the minutes from the following meetings:

- 19 Jan 23 EC meeting
- Zoom 17 March EC meeting,
- 1 April 23 County Convention

There is one change that Elizabeth Ivie Szalai called that day to make a change regarding her comment from the 19 Jan 23 meeting, it was made after the minutes were sent out. Her comment was that she talked about the inappropriate books in public schools. The Chairman will make that change to the minutes.

Helga Crandall seconded the motion carried by voice vote.

Introduction of Special Guest

- Maria Walls Beaufort County Treasurer
- David Bartholomew Beaufort County Council District 2
- Karen Wyld, the Chair of the Jasper County Republican Party
- Eddie Rodgers, retired SC Representative
- Abigail Snyder, (not able to attend in person due to classes) Recipient of the Hillsdale College Scholarships. It goes to Beaufort County students who attend Hillsdale College. Her link is currently not working, the Chairman will send out in a future message. Jim Dixon from the men's federation spearheads this program. Eddie Rodgers asked if individuals could make donations that would be linked to the Beaufort County Scholarship, Jim Dixon said yes. Information will be posted on the web.

Maria Walls talked about paying your tax bill on your phone. To go to Beaufort County and set up to pay on phone/online, it is more secure. She talked about the article in the Packet regarding the budget. It has to do with the

unelected administrator who wants to prepare the budget vs the elected officers. Elected officials should be able to prepare their budget, we voted 71% to keep officers independent.

Chairmans Remarks: (See attached Report)

Precinct Reorg – Participation increased by 250%, 575 voters participated in our precincts reorg. 75 out of 95 precincts were organized. We will work to continue increasing our precincts in numbers and strength. We elected 375 county delegates to attend our County Convention; out of those 296 delegates went to the BCRP Convention with 40 alternates. The make-up meeting was very successful. At the County Convention we updated our Rules, they are up on the website, elected a chair vice chair for the meeting and elected 33 delegates and 33 alternates to the State GOP Convention

Precinct Programs –

We learned how to organize our precincts by good practice, and worked with leaders on where they were, as each precinct was at a different starting point.

How we are going to grow our precincts.

- Goals
 - Contact every Swing and Republican voter in each precinct.
 - Grow existing precinct to target 25+ active members.
 - Recruit minimum of 2 poll workers for every precinct, our goal is to have no poll watchers but all poll workers. Information will be on the website. Encourage friends and neighbors to be poll workers.
 - There will be three training classes for poll workers, one in June, one in July and one in August. Please check the website for information and sign-up instructions.
 - Growing precincts is not a grow BCRP membership Drive. We want people to get involved!
 - NDA Forms deals with the data you receive on voters. The data must remain confidential, not to be used for any other purpose.
 - Precinct call list keeps improving, there were 631,000 names of inactive voters have been removed from the voters list in recent months.
 - Scripts will be written, depending on where you are in the program, as new vs established precincts.
 - Identify future leaders, we need to build a bench. We need conservative candidates for Party Leaders and Local and State Candidates. If you are unsure on how to contact a person to become a leader, just refer their name to BCRP and we will contact them. Filing date is in Aug.

2024 Presidential Primary – We have been contacted by the top 3. DeSantis will be in Beaufort County next Friday June 2nd. Our policy is that we do not endorse candidates in the primary which has been sent to all campaigns. We will promote but not lead campaign events. Beaufort County is becoming relevant by our high voter turnout, Beaufort County votes 23% while the state votes 17%. Our goal for voter turnout is 30% this will establish our Relevance in Beaufort County

Executive Committee Meetings – We would like to change the Executive Committee meetings in 2024 to the fourth Monday of the month vs the fourth Thursday to enable our Representative/Delegation to attend our meetings. We will check to ensure it does not conflict with other meetings. All our meetings will be posted on our website.

October 20th Robert Smalls Leadership Awards Dinner, with Senator Marsha Blackburn at Downtown Deli. Information will be posted on our website.

Projected meeting dates for 2024

- 1Q January 22 Bluffton
- 2Q April 29 Beaufort
- 3Q September 23 Bluffton
- 4Q October 28 Beaufort

Dates and Locations will be published in Advance.

Membership – Currently we have 1230 members, we will be having a large membership drive shortly. See attached report.

State Executive Committeeman Xiaodan Li

She thanked the group for electing her to be our Executive Committeeman for the State

SC GOP Convention – There were 936 delegates from 46 Counties in addition to alternates and guest. Where we elected four GCGOP Officers and voted on 5 Resolutions.

Officers Elected

- Chairman: Drew McKissick at 51.8% of the vote
- 1st Vice Chair: Cindy Risher on the first ballot
- 2nd Vice Chair Minority Outreach: Kizzie Smalls on the first ballot
- 3rd Vice Chair Youth Outreach: Leighton Gray Smith, from HHI on the second ballot

Resolutions Passed by Unanimous Vote

- Prohibit adversaries from investing in US
- Condemn August 8 FBI Raid
- Return energy independence to America
- Eliminate ESG in SC
- Defunding and Withdraw from WHO

There are many divisions within our Party to include the Jeff Davis camp, the Zoe Warren Camp, small counties vs large counties, and the House Republican Caucus vs the Freedom Caucus which is 18 members. There are a lot of delay procedures by the challengers who challenge the procedure rule.

She discussed the election reform bill and that we must learn from the 2020 election: (See attached Report)

Role the Republican Party Play in Elections: (See attached Report)

- Precinct participation is vital.
- We must unite, a House Divide Cannot Stand.

Resolutions:

Prepared by St Helena 1C – Dataw Precinct, presented to Issues and Resolutions committee, Judicial Reform and the committee approved the resolution. The resolution was read to the Executive Committee, (see attached.) Motion was made to approve the Resolution by Willie Turrall and seconded by Larry Ross. There was no discussion on the motion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed, there were no votes against the motion.

Treasurer's Report: (see attached)

The Chairman presented the report to the group and reviewed line items. Report was presented to the group on the screen. As of April 30th, we at 71% of our membership, and 28% of sponsorship.

New Business:

The were officer vacancies for the BCRP that needed to be filled. By our Rules, the Chairman appoints a Slate of Officers, and the Executive Committee Members approve the slate. The slate the Chairman presented was the following:

- 2nd Vice Chairman Madelyne "Maddie" Mansell
- Treasurer Edward "Ed" Stevenson
- Recording Secretary Sherrie Mikrut
- Regional Director, North Scott Anderson
- Regional Director, Central Linda Cannon
- Regional Director South Lynn Fontaine

Motion was made by Conway Ivy to approve the slate, seconded by Randy Boehme, a voice vote was taken, motion passed, there were no votes against motion.

Next meeting tentative at Pine Ridge September 25, as soon as it is confirmed a notice will be sent to all members.

The Chairman recognized Helga Crandall

She expressed thanks to Chairman Hennelly for his Precinct Program outline that he presented. It will be much needed North of the Broad. She held up a document that she had received from Ms. Edie Rodgers during our turnover. The document is titled Map of Beaufort County Precinct Level Results for the 2020 Presidential Election. She had taken the data for all the NOB precincts and put them in an excel spreadsheet and she was sad to report that NOB voted 50.8% for Biden, 47.6% for Trump, and 1.6% for other. NOB voting heavily democrat was news to her and very disconcerting. NOB needs some attention. We need getting republicans out to vote. She asked what kind of resources were available to us, what kinds of events can we have, and wanting to get NOB precincts together to brainstorm ideas. She mentioned that if we had an event at Southside Park in Mossy Oaks, is there a tent or microphone and amp that we can use.

Chairman Hennelly asked for the information to be sent to him electronically.

Call for Public Comment:

Cherie Cahoon – Thanked the group for voting for her as a delegate to the SC Convention. Kevin did a great job keeping us organized and what to expect. For the alternates, please make sure you remain available as you may be needed. We did have 33 delegates stay until the end; our last vote had all 33 votes.

Lynn Fontaine – Thanks all for grass roots participation they have been action packed, thanked Chairman Hennelly for his leadership. All of South Carolina is watching us!

Scott Anderson – Thanked the members for the vote of confidence in his re-election as RD to serve NOB area, he thanked two people in their precinct reorganization process. We need to continue this enthusiasm. The two members who stood out are Mike Swiecicki and Jerry Hampton. There were many who did outstanding work, but these two stood out. He then recognized all Executive Committee Members from NOB

Kevin Hennelly - talked about that it was just over a year ago that we started precinct reorganization, and the team did an excellent job, especially Sherri Zedd, who led the team. At our convention we were 2 hours from gavel to gavel, other Counties were not as organized. We need to remain proud of what we do and continue to learn where we did not do as well as others.

Matt Sweeney – He informed the members he was sworn in as one of five new members of Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration. This Board makeup is now more representative of the makeup of the electorate of Beaufort County. The Democrat Primary Presidential Preference will be February 3rd and the Republican Primary Presidential Preference will be February either the 24th or 27th the date has not been decided yet. The Statewide primary on June 11th and the General Election will be November 5th. In addition, H 4217 which increased the number of precincts in Beaufort County from 95 to 126, we will need as many poll workers as possible. Congratulations to all the newly elected BCRP Officers and to all the volunteers who helped up with our mission to grow and win and need continued unity to win in 2024.

Kevin announced the new Republicans who were sworn in as new members to the Beaufort County Board of Elections; we now have 5 Republicans and 3 Democrats on the Beaufort County Board of Voter Registration.

Lynn Greenly – According to C PAC of all the Republican States, South Carolina has the most liberal legislators in the Country. South Carolina is second from the bottom in conservative electorates, and bottom on many issues as we are the worst in education tied with Mississippi, and South Carolina has the highest Tax rate in the SE; and this is what we should be talking about. The voting machines are cheating the ballot, and she doesn't trust any voting all the way down to the local levels, including the Precincts.

Debbie Barton – She had her and her parents voting records/voting history and is shocked that they are so incorrect. If the Board of Elections can't get this information correct, then how can you trust your vote is cast the way you want. Look at the fraud that the canvassing group found. She accused Xiaodan Li of interrupting her at least 4 times while she was talking to individuals about this at the convention, wanting to know why she is so afraid of her stopping her 1st amendment rights. We need to get rid of the electronic voting machines.

Ivie Szalai – She is working with parents to get inappropriate books out of our public schools. We need to get more people involved; this should not be a partisan issue. She read a short passage from a book, "The Push" by Ramona Lofton, better known by her pen name Sapphire, she then asked the audience to please become involved.

Conway Ivy – We do have a lot of Democrats in the Town of Beaufort; he plans on working with them as there may be many hidden Republicans out there. He then thanked our Chairman as we had a well-run process in the state convention. A comment made to him, while at the State Convention, a lot of other counties were in disarray, Our Chairman had ours down to the last detail, this was by one of our delegates' brother. a delegate that was across from us, from Richland, and said it was very noticeable.

Maddie Mansell – She thanked all for the election and is excited to be part of the team representing young Beaufort County people. She brought four young people to attend this meeting. She wants to see more young people attend here in Beaufort County. She recognized all veterans in the meeting, the younger generation sees you as heroes and want to be next to you, to take the baton to fight for America. We need to unite, not to be divided. She came from Ethiopia and is now a Citizen of the United States of American and a proud American. She wants to leave this country better for our children than we found it. We need to know what we are fighting for.

Announcements:

The Chairman reported that next year we have two Democratic seats on the Beaufort County Council NOB and we need to flip those seats. We need to push the entire ticket. We need to continue to vote straight ticket voting.

Congratulations to the newly elected EC members in attendance and thank you for attending the meeting.

The DeSantis event is next Friday at 9 AM, the Chairman will send out information when it becomes available with the date and details.

Have a happy and safe Memorial Day.

Motion to close the meeting by the Chairman and seconded by Helga Crandall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM. by the Chairman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrie Mikrut Recording Secretary

25 May, 2023