

## Summary State GOP EC meeting 12.13.2023

There were 41 counties represented with a quorum of 44 voting members.

Lanneau Siegling from Lexington made a motion to add under the Rule Committee on agenda to respond to the splinter group in Lexington (this is a group of party members who have been meeting and fundraising separate from the LCRP while advocating for the removal of the elected chair of the Lexington party) – this got a second by Larry Barnett from York County then discussion was held. The SCGOP Chair, Drew McKissick, had a verbal vote taken and the motion failed (sounded pretty tied honestly). Mr. Siegling asked for a hand vote, but McKissick declined as vote was already taken – (similar to what happened at the state convention). I voted for the item to be added to the agenda.

Mr. Siegling made motion to add that there was a 2nd on his motion to disavow the splinter group in Lexington County under New business of minutes. There were negative comments and discussion regarding this being added to the agenda – it passed 20 to 17. I voted for this.

Chairman McKissick's report – huge focus was on fundraising and how much money had been raised. He discussed how inflation was affecting fundraising also. Raised approximately \$270,000 with another approximately \$170,00 pledged. An increase of membership fees was talked about as the fees have not been raised since 2018 and inflation was 23% now. He said the website inflationfee.com was used to calculate the fee for the candidates for President to register to file to run in SC. Under communications he discussed talking tips, grassroots tips, building social medial presence/email. He talked about how the primary could end here in SC. He also promoted Auxiliary/Clubs. He announced a training that the SCGOP would be promoting across the state to be offered to members at essentially no cost – the training would include activist, fundraising, and candidate apps/campaign aids. Funds for campaigns was discussed - most of the money will go to funding for state candidates as SC does not have any federal races outside the Presidential race. He said the priority will be on the SC House race. The redistricting looks favorable for the GOP. The Senate could go from 30 to 32 Republicans. He said there were 10 districts around the state they would be focusing on but did not name which ones. He announced that legislative wins this past session was the Heartbeat bill & ESA and upcoming focus would be Judicial reform. The other thing he talked about was that there have been 14 th Amendment challenges to Trump being on the ballot. SC has one of these challenges– A man from Texas but he decided to run for President. He had to fill out a form which says must pay with a certified check (\$50,000). He sent a personal check – which bounced – he wrote on memo line – Unconstitutional Filing Fee – he claimed he put a stop payment on the check. He has filed a lawsuit for the unconstitutional fee, and he wants to be on ballot. Hope Walker the Executive Director sent an affidavit – it is in Federal Court currently - asking for temporary restraining order to keep certified candidates to ballot – said he (chairman) hopes this will be wrapped up in week.

The Resolutions Committee presented a resolution calling for a law prohibiting sex transition procedures, therapy, or non-parental supervised transition counseling of minors. This passed unanimously.

The Rules Committee presented a handout regarding the Lexington County Republican Party (LCRP) chairlady, Pamela Godwin. The handout stated the Rules committee recommended that Ms Godwin vacate the position of chair for violation of SCGOP Rule 16a Code of Conduct. There were FB posts from LCRP as well as copies of filings with local magistrate against members (splinter group) of the LCRP.

Lanneau Siegling spoke out against this and attempted to explain what had happened with the splinter group in LCRP. Ms Godwin spoke about the ongoing issues within the party and that she did not bring these charges; but the LCRP Committee of Discipline, chair Lisa Dowdy brought the charges. There were negative comments and discussion occurring regarding this issue. Ms Godwin and Mr Siegling were not allowed to explain the reasoning such measures were taken. Ms Godwin was told that as chair, she is responsible for such actions and comments regarding the committee and the FB posts. Ms Godwin explained that she did not create the committee but the body of LCRP did. There was a vocal vote with Lexington, York, Greenville, Pickens (me), Dorchester, Anderson, and Barnwell voting against the recommendation – the rest of the SCGOP EC voted for the chair to be vacated immediately. Someone asked if that meant all her positions within the party – McKissick stated that Ms. Godwin would no longer have an officer role in her precinct either. The question was asked if she could run for chair again after this recommendation as new elections would have to be held. McKissick stated that she cannot run again for positions until the 2025 reorganization process. It was asked if someone was looking into the splinter group offenses – McKissick was not sure – he said he has never heard of a disciplinary committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Billingsley, acting Proxy for PCR