

Somerset County Republican Committee - minutes of January 28, 2010 meeting

Cong. Dist. 2 candidate Jason Levesque held a Meet and Greet prior to our meeting and spoke to us before our meeting started.

Our meeting was held in Skowhegan at the Renaissance Center. The meeting was opened by Chairman Kathy Watson. Dena Worster was introduced and she presented Cong. Dist. 2 candidate Jason Levesque with a check for \$586 from a fundraiser she and some friends had for him in Palmyra.

Minutes were accepted as printed. The Treasurer was not present but the Secretary reported there is \$827.67 in the checkbook and the Skowhegan Town Committee has been paid back.

Gubernatorial candidate Senator Peter Mills spoke to us about the current legislative session. The state is again facing a large budget deficit. The two biggest budget items are education and Department of Human Services and they will get the biggest hits in budget cuts.

Rep. Phil Curtis said there are 95 democrats and 55 republicans in the house so the dems have full control. He said there is a \$450 million dollar deficit this year and next year's will be worse. He is a member of the Budget Bulldogs which is a group of 6 representatives looking for better places to cut the budget.

Candidates introduced themselves: Larry Dunphy, District 88; John Picchiotti, District 84; and Brian Hale, District 85. Chris Perkins said Jason Gayne has also announced his candidacy for District 85.

Kathy introduced John Youney who will be the "Parliamentarian" at our meetings to ensure our meetings are run properly.

Chuck Mahaleris, representing Senator Collins, said she is opposed to the public option in the health care bills. He said he is also the Secretary for the Maine Republican party and that Cynthia Izon is doing a great job as the District 2 Representative for the Maine Republican Party. He said Senator Collins is willing to help our candidates and they should contact him at her Maine office at 622-8414. He said to contact him on any issue. Senator Collins is happy the finally the load limit on Route 95 has been raised. She is very concerned about raising the national debt limit from 12.4 trillion to 14.3 trillion. And she is holding hearings on the December 25th bomber and the Fort Hood shooting.

Kathy reviewed the caucus process and the contents of the caucus kits. The town caucus packages were passed out. Elaine asked everyone to make sure to make 2 copies of all the completed caucus paperwork. Send the original to the state party, send one copy to Elaine and keep a copy. Also Elaine is to notified of all the caucus dates and meeting locations so she can post it on the web site and email it out. It is important all the towns caucus. Kathy said the State Convention is going to be May 7 & 8 in Portland.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Elaine Aloes, Secretary

MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2010 MEETING

Our meeting was held in Skowhegan at the Renaissance Center. The meeting was opened by Chairman Kathy Watson. Minutes were accepted as printed. The Treasurer reported there is \$1,236.97 in the checkbook and all bills have been paid. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Kathy Watson said we had a good turnout for our caucuses. She said the town committees need to be more active and to help the candidates with their campaigns. They need local people to introduce them around the towns.

Rep. Phil Curtis, Minority House Whip, said the legislature is near the end of the session. If the legislature votes on the budget by April 2 no Republican votes are needed to pass it. The budget hurts the schools and municipalities. There will be bond issues on the ballot in June. There is an expected \$1.5 billion short fall in the next budget session that will have to be dealt with by the new Governor and legislature. The Republicans have 150 candidates for the 151 House seats and candidates for all the 35 Senate seats. We need our candidates to win so we can get majority control in the House and Senate.

Rep. Doug Thomas said we need to have a plan and offer an alternative to give the voters a reason to vote Republican. He said the bonds are not needed to get the matching funds. We can use available funds and still get the Federal match. He said the budget is too big and has too many gimmicks. He is on the Transportation Committee and did vote for the Transportation budget in committee. He said he kept the Democrats from imposing a 5 cent gas tax increase and was able to get the paving plan back on schedule. Republican principals held the DOT budget with no tax increase.

Candidates introduced themselves: Larry Dunphy, District 88; John Picchiotti, District 84; Jason Gayne, District 85; Rep. Phil Curtis, District 86; and Sen. Peter Mills, gubernatorial candidate. Rep. Doug Thomas is running for the Senate seat for his district this time.

Elaine Aloes said the proposed Somerset County Charter has been submitted to the Commissioners and has been sent out to the towns for public comments. Public comments will be accepted until May 2. A legislative change in how the County Budget Committee works was presented to the legislature by the County Administrator.

This change would have reduced the authority of the budget committee and would have allowed just two commissioners to have final approval of the county budget. This change was finally amended to retain the budget process we currently use with the clarification that the Budget Committee's final approval vote must be by a majority vote of the full committee and not just of members present.

Kathy said the State Convention is May 7 & 8 in Portland and the county caucuses are on Friday afternoon. We can have a fund raising table there for \$50. It was voted to spend \$50 to have a table at the convention and Dawn Walters will be in charge of it. Dawn also offered to be in charge of arranging refreshments for our meetings.

We discussed the various fairs for this summer. It was voted to do the rifle raffle again and Phil Roy will contact Sheriff Barry Delong about obtaining one for us. It was voted to pay for the booth and insurance for the Skowhegan Fair. There was a discussion on whether or not to pay for the volunteers' admission to the fair. It costs about \$200. It was suggested to pay an entrance fee only if the volunteer requests reimbursement. No decision was made.

The next meeting is April 29 and will be a pot luck dinner and Gubernatorial Candidate Forum. The location is still to be decided. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Elaine Aloes, Secretary

MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2010 MEETING

The meeting was held in Skowhegan at Steeve's Strawberry Hill Sugar Shack. We were welcomed there by John Steeves. It was preceded by an excellent chicken barbecue put on by the Skowhegan Republican Committee. We also had a fund raising Auction with Bud Jones as the Auctioneer. The meeting was opened by Chairman Kathy Watson.

She thanked the Steeves for hosting our meeting. Minutes were accepted. Treasurer's report was accepted. Phil Roy said we have now raised enough money that we need to file a finance report.

Phil Roy says we were successful in getting a shotgun for our raffle. It is a Stoeger Coach Gun. It is a side by side Blue/Walnut finish 20 gauge shotgun worth about \$750 and we got it for \$370. Kay Laney said that Mary Ellen Carpenter has donated \$100 worth of beauty products to us to raffle at the fairs. She also suggested raffling off Lakewood Theater 2011 season tickets for two. They will cost up to \$250. It was moved, seconded and approved to purchase the tickets for the raffle.

State Chairman Charlie Webster thanked all the candidates for running for office. He did a special acknowledgement of Senator Peter Mills for all his hard work and many years of service. Charlie said we have more candidates than the Democrats do. We have 185 good candidates for 186 seats. He said the Democrats will out spend us. Stephen King has already donated \$100,000 to the democrats. We will have to campaign hard and will win this by door-to-door campaigning. Chuck Mahaleris, from Sen. Susan Collin's office, said that more republicans voted in the primaries than democrats.

He said Kennebec County has donated \$750 to Paul Lepage's campaign and challenged us to do so also. He said Paul needs donations and we should all dig in and dig deep to help get him elected. Kathy said we also need to help Jason Levesque with money and feet on the ground. Doug Thomas said the National Party has told Jason they will not help him if the State isn't helping him. He is a great candidate and can beat Mike Michaud. He needs donations also. Doug also congratulated Charlie Webster on his "Yes on 1" campaign win.

Our State Committee members were recognized: Dena Worster, Michael Bolduc & Joel Stetkis. We have candidates for all our seats. Those in attendance were: Doug Thomas, Stacey Fitts, Dean Cray, Tony Couture, John Picchiotti, Rodney Whitemore, Brian Hale, and Larry Dunphy. Allen & Kay Laney are doing candidate round tables again this year to help our candidates.

Chris Perkins said he will not be running the Skowhegan Fair this year. It is time for new people to take it over. He is willing show them how to do it. The entry fee for exhibitors is \$6 a day this year. It was voted to pay the fee for those who request it.

Hadley Smith did a presentation on the fact that for 31 years under Democrat control state revenues have risen faster than Maine's personal income. He said we need a Republican Governor and legislature willing to reduce spending growth and stop revenues from rising faster than personal income.

Thank you to the Skowhegan Republican Committee for another great Chicken Barbecue and to the Steeves for being gracious hosts.

The election of Officers was held. For Chairman Dena Worster was nominated & seconded. Kathy Watson was nominated but declined the nomination. Dena Worster was elected Chairman. Kevin Brooks was nominated, seconded and elected Vice Chairman. Elaine Aloes was nominated, seconded and elected Secretary. For Treasurer Philip Roy and Shane Reitze were nominated and seconded. Shane was elected Treasurer by a vote of 41-40. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully, Elaine Aloes, Secretary