

Southern Mecklenburg Republican Club

July 2008 Meeting

Minutes

THE MEETING WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2008, AT GOLDEN CORRAL, CHARLOTTE, NC, AT 6:30 P.M.

I. **Welcome**

Ken Nelson opened the meeting, welcoming our members and guests. He announced that the Golden Corral will be our new regular meeting location, thanks to its private room and low overhead.

II. **Club Business**

Ken announced that Steve Firestone, Club President, had recently announced his resignation to the Executive Committee due to increasing travel demands connected to his job. Per Club bylaws, Ken Nelson steps up from his role as Vice President to President. Ken noted that Steve has been invaluable in getting our Club off the ground and organizing our first few meetings. A round of applause was had for Steve. Judge Tom Moore, who was in attendance, joined as an official member of the Club.

III. **Discussion**

The topic of the evening was the proper role of government in the economy. With the recent bailouts of Bear Stearns, as well as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the issue was fresh on our members' minds. At least a couple of our members strongly felt that Fannie and Freddie should be allowed to fail, if they could not be saved without massive infusions of taxpayer money. One member pointed out that, given how intertwined the federal government and our banking system is through agencies like the FDIC, allowing such a failure might prove too serious a blow to the economy. Club President Ken Nelson made the point that saving them by inflating the currency (i.e. infusions of cash from the Federal Reserve) only delays the inevitable, making the next crisis even worse. Another member elaborated by saying that, at the root, crises like these can be traced back to our fractional-reserve banking system, in which no bank keeps enough cash on hand to be able to honor a massive withdrawal by its' deposit holders. Judge Moore weighed in, agreeing that ideally, the government's role in economic intervention is little to none, reminding everyone of the role Congress played in pushing unsound banking practices as part of the Great Society legislation during the Johnson administration. He then went on to state that the best contribution a club like ours can make to solving these problems is backing candidates for local, state, and federal offices with strong conservative credentials.

IV. Closing

Ken, agreeing with Judge Moore's suggestion, announced that he will be hosting a fundraiser/wine-tasting for Susan Walker, candidate for County Commission At-Large. It will be held Friday, September 12, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Nelson, located at 620 Regency Drive, Charlotte, NC 28211. Cost is \$10 for tasting, \$25 for sponsorship, and \$50 for recognition as a host. Sponsors and hosts will be recognized during the event. RSVP at (704) 364-4657.

After the announcement, Executive Committee member Pat Armstrong made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by a handful of members. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Love
Secretary
Southern Mecklenburg Republican Club