

Southern Mecklenburg Republican Club

September 2008 Meeting

Minutes

THE MEETING WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008, AT GOLDEN CORRAL, CHARLOTTE, NC, AT 6:30 P.M.

I. **Welcome**

Ken Nelson opened the meeting, welcoming our members and guests. Carson Daves gave the invocation. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Club Business**

Ken allowed Republican candidates for local office who were in attendance time to speak. Several candidates were in attendance.

Judge Ben Thallheimer, candidate for 26th District Court Judge, asked members to educate themselves about the qualifications of the position, spoke of the importance of experience, and encouraged members to also vote for Judges Mercer, Moore, and Owens.

Victoria Smith spoke on behalf of Bill Belk, Judge Thallheimer's opponent. She emphasized the need to follow established laws and promote family-friendly courts.

Carson Daves spoke on behalf of Pat McCrory, candidate for NC Governor. He addressed the culture of corruption infesting Raleigh politics, and made the point that having a Republican governor would shift control of local Boards of Election to our favor. He told us that Mayor McCrory is in favor of immediate offshore oil drilling, and is opposed to funding for embryonic stem-cell research.

Club Secretary Adam Love spoke on behalf of Susan Walker, candidate for Mecklenburg County Commissioner at-large. She is concerned about rising crime rates, wants to hold the line on property taxes in our county, and bring accountability to the funds disbursed to the School Board.

Carson passed out a list of conservative candidates for judgeships, to ensure that the non-partisan nature of those races doesn't confuse Republican voters.

III. **Discussion**

Our speaker for the evening was City Councilman Warren Cooksey. Warren spoke briefly about the recent vote to set aside additional money for expansion of the NASCAR Hall of Fame. He pointed out that a good chunk of the expansion was set aside for a ballroom connected to the Convention Center. The Convention Center had to be expanded before 2010 in order for the City of Charlotte to keep all the

funds acquired through the Food & Beverage Tax. Otherwise, these monies would return to the outlying townships in which they had been collected. Warren also addressed a recent vote regarding whether or not to privatize the East Zone of Charlotte's solid waste collection services. This vote failed, in large part because of preferential treatment of Solid Waste Services (the city's in-house "company") by Council Democrats and a lobbying effort by city employees to keep the zone under public administration.

At the conclusion of Warren's talk, Ken Nelson read an account of Davy Crockett entitled, "Not Yours To Give", which has as its moral the message that public monies are a sacred trust, and not to be spent frivolously, even for causes which appear morally justifiable on the surface.

IV. Closing

At the conclusion of Ken's story, a motion was made to adjourn for the evening, and then seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Love
Secretary
Southern Mecklenburg Republican Club