

Saluda County Republican Party  
 Regular Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday, July 10, 2025

**ATTENDEES**

<b>Voting Committeemen &amp; Officers</b>	<b>Non-Voting Officers &amp; Committee Members</b>	<b>Other Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Amy Potts	Greg Sander	Jerry Meyer	Makenzie Kneece
Melinda Kneece	Deb Camp	Michelle Dunbar	
Grey Riley	Jay Dunbar	Judy Mason	
Russ Terrell	Ben Ward	Brenda Bedenbaugh	
Paul Gilbert			
Greg Sanders			
Josh Price (Jim Moore proxy)			
Gail Meyer			
Phyllis Newman			

- 1) Doors were opened at 5:30 and food was ready at 6pm for social time.
- 2) The meeting was called to order at 6:30.
  - a) Invocation was delivered by Melinda Kneece.
  - b) Pledge to the American flag was led by Grey Riley.
  - c) Republican Creed was led by Phyllis Newman.
- 3) Agenda was approved after motion by Josh Price and second by Greg Sanders.
- 4) Minutes of the June meeting were approved after motion by Gail Meyer and second by Josh Price
- 5) Announcements were made by Chairwoman, Amy Potts.
  - a) Concerns about divisions within the SCGOP stemming from the June 7 State Executive Committee Meeting. Amy will be submitting a written report about it and hopes to speak to SCGOP Chairman, Drew McKissick, to explore means of uniting both sides.
  - b) Attention was called to our website. A payment portal will be on it soon.
  - c) Reminder of the upcoming August 12 presentation by Chad Connelly of Faith Wins.
  - d) Amy urged all members to be on the lookout for strong, ethical conservatives to get involved in the GOP and run for elective offices. She said the best way to clean up politics is by enlisting good people.
  - e) Clarification on Robert’s Rules: only voting committee members can make and second motions, however, anyone in attendance is welcome to participate in discussion before the vote.

- f) Sherry Biggs will hold her first “Salute to Liberty” event in Anderson on August 18. This will be in the tradition of Jeff Duncan’s annual “Faith, Family, Freedom” picnic. Information on website and registration is required. Admission around \$30.
- g) Silver Elephant Gala – There are 5 membership levels to support the South Carolina Republican Party.
  - i) Bronze \$15 a month or \$180 per year
  - ii) Silver \$30 a month or \$360 per year
  - iii) Gold \$50 a month or \$600 per year
  - iv) Chairman’s Circle \$90 a month or \$1080 a year
  - v) Platinum Elephant \$120 a month or \$1440 a year
- h) Members need to look out for person to take the position of 5<sup>th</sup> Vice Chairman for Elections.
- 6) Vice Chair and Committee Reports:
  - a) Second Vice-Chair for Voter Education, Jay Dunbar, gave report on several state issues and stated intention to recruit members to help do research in various areas of importance.
    - i) State Bills waiting for 2026 – handout attached
      - (1) Voting Rights Restoration
      - (2) Judicial Election Reform (Constitutional Amendment)
      - (3) Elimination of State Income Tax
      - (4) SC Property Tax Relief for Seniors Act
      - (5) Meeting Transparency Act
      - (6) Critical Infrastructure Contracts
    - ii) SC Supreme Court Hearings
      - (1) Planned Parenthood Vs. SC
      - (2) League of Woman Voters have filed challenge to Redistricting
    - iii) US Supreme Court Hearings in October
      - (1) Transgender Rights in Sports
      - (2) Religious Rights & “Conversion Therapy”
    - iv) Elections
      - (1) Religious groups to be allowed to endorse political candidates without risks of losing tax exempt status
    - v) Gail Meyer who is working with Jay, gave a report on Saluda County
      - (1) Sale of property on 178 not finalized, no date provided
      - (2) Update on Commerce Park
        - (a) Completion date of October 28, 2025
        - (b) First businesses available March 2027
      - (3) Law Enforcement and Fire Department to be commended for rescue on May 12 after a tree fell on a car
    - vi) International Report by Amy Potts
      - (1) Judah: 5 Arab Tribes express support for Abraham Accords.
      - (2) Move on to readdress next US Census: non-citizens not to be counted.
  - b) Events Committee Report by Amy Potts in absence of Committee Chairman, Sherry Kirkland.
    - i) Twenty Saluda Churches to get letters about Chad Connelly presentation.

- ii) Motion to allow Events Committee to make final decision about Connelly venue was approved after motion by Greg Sander and second by Phyllis Newman.
- iii) Tractor Pull to be explored as potential place for Saluda GOP presence.
- c) Hospitality Committee Report
  - i) Commendation and thanks to Jay and Michelle Dunbar for preparing food.
- d) Finance Committee Report by Treasurer, Deb Camp
  - i) Copies of most recent bank statement distributed
  - ii) Proposed Budget approved after motion by Greg Sander and second by Phyllis Newman
  - iii) Approval of raising funds by donation rather than dues after motion by Greg Sander and second by Phyllis Newman
  - iv) Announcement of procedure to have two people sign off on monies collected for food at meetings, and on every bank statement.
  - v) Approval to keep food donations separate from operating expenses after motion by Josh Price and second by Greg Sander.
  - vi) Anyone who is interested may serve on Finance Committee.
- e) Membership Report by Precinct Manager, Melinda Kneece
  - i) As communicated with all Executive Committee members – those that have been absent three meetings without notification – will be sent a letter regarding replacement.
  - ii) The Party's desire is that all are invited to participate but if not showing up, should be replaced by someone who can be available
- f) Website Report by Amy Potts
  - i) Will be expanding with voter information by Jay Dunbar
  - ii) Online Payment Portal to be functional this week
- 7) Election of State Committeeman
  - a) Candidate Brenda Bedenbaugh addressed the committee
  - b) Candidate Gail Meyer addressed the committee
  - c) Gail Meyer was elected with six votes to two
- 8) New Business
  - a) Due to Chad Connelly event on Tuesday, August 12, we will not have a business meeting on our regular date of August 14.
- 9) Motion to adjourn by Greg Sander
- 10) Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda Kneece, Secretary  
July 17, 2025