

March 18, 2010

From the Chairman, Gilmer County Republican Party

Report on our March meeting:

Normally, Gilmer Co. GOP holds its meetings on the first Tuesday of each month and we schedule at least two, sometimes three, guest speakers, usually candidates for public office. March was no different except that one hell of a snow storm blew in (certainly not by mid-west standards) but bad enough to have to postpone the meeting until the following Wednesday, the 10th. A quick regrouping and we still retained our original two speakers, Harold Logsdon, Candidate for State Insurance Commissioner and Dr. Christopher Cates, MD, Candidate for 9th District US House of Representatives.

Twenty-nine folks were in attendance and following the normal business of quickly conducting business, we got under way with Mr. Harold Logsdon taking the floor to explain why he would be better at the job than the other guys. First, Mr. Logsdon laid out his impressive qualifications, all laid out in his handout materials, and advocated the urgent need for Georgia to increase its Fire Marshals cadre of arson investigators from its current overworked five or six. Understanding the State's financial problems, the problem could be alleviated, he said by contracting with retired investigators or using a pool from local city and county resources available in many areas. Too, fraud investigations are conducted by four men when thirty are needed.

Health Insurance, he said, should be available across state borders and would be made functional through reciprocity agreements with surrounding states. He identified Senate Bill 407 as a vehicle that would accommodate his concerns. Logsdon also said that a "high risk pool" must be funded by creation of a 2% to 3% high risk pool.

What sets him apart, he said, was that he was also mayor of Peachtree City for four years and combined with his thirty years in the Army National Guard, retiring as a Brigade Commander (colonel) he has the experience to organize and bring a new perspective to the office of the State Insurance Commissioner.

Next up was Dr. Christopher Cates, MD of Blairsville, Ga., candidate for the soon to be vacant 9th District House seat of Nathan Deal. Cates, whose long medical career as an interventional cardiologist involved him in the national debate on health policy long ago. Actively involved for over twenty years in several national medical associations particular to his field, Cates has taken on the disastrous Obama health Care plan as the single, but certainly not the only, most important issue facing Americans today.

Both candidates impressively fielded many questions from the folks assembled and acquitted themselves as very knowledgeable in their fields and complimentary to the needs of all taxpayers. The sad thing is we have so many excellent conservative candidates for these few offices that it's often difficult to make a choice. Get involved!

George McClellan, Chairman, Gilmer Co. GOP  
Visit our web site at: [www.gilmergagop.org](http://www.gilmergagop.org).