

From the Chairman: Report of April's 2010 Meeting.

Thought for the day: "You will never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you've made up your mind that you just aren't doing anything productive for the rest of the day".

The April meeting of the Gilmer County GOP was held Tuesday the 6th at Harrison Hall starting at 7:00 pm. A good, spirited crowd of 32 folks attended to hear candidates for Georgia State School Superintendent, Mr. Roger Hinds, and candidate for Georgia State Attorney General, Mr. Sam Olens. A quick business meeting passed minutes of previous meetings without dissent. The Treasurer's report, given by the chairman, reflected the financial status remains unchanged from the previous report. We are in good financial status as the campaign season approaches.

Public announcements:

April: 17th : Combined 6th and 9th Districts Picnic at Fox Farms in Gordon County.

26th: Starts candidate qualifying. On Monday, 26th, from 9 - 12, Qualifying will be held in the Conference Room of the Ellijay City Hall. Thereafter, in the office of the Probate Judge in the County Courthouse.

May 1st: Public Forum for candidates for 9th District House Seat, at Gilmer Co. Courthouse Jury Assembly room.

June 12th: TEA Party will hold a day long seminar sponsored by the National Center for Constitutional Studies to be held at the North Ga. Christian Academy. For Law Enforcement personnel who attend, POST Credit will apply.

Guest Speaker, Roger Hines:

Before his introduction to speak, Mr. Hines, candidate for State School Superintendent, was challenged to speak to the issues of Federal interference in local and state education, how to control the negative aspects of such educationally involved but socialist oriented organizations such as the **National Council for Social Studies** and the two **National Teachers Unions**; to address his thoughts on dissolving Jimmy Carter's Dept. of Education and his position on Obama's recent increase of taxpayer funds to support his "Race to the Top" give away program.

Mr. Hines immediately established his qualifications as an educator for 42 years in Mississippi and Georgia. That he is a conservative was left without doubt. Why, he asked, does Georgia lag at 46th of 50 states in educational achievement? Education consumes over one half of the State's budget, much of which is wasted on the "frills of education" i.e.: unused advanced technology programs (computer systems). Children need to go to school for academics, Hinds said, not social training. Georgia has a single track for high school graduation: college prep., which explains why, he added, that the dropout rate for high school graduation (1/3) is so high. The dropout rate equals a pathway to prison. Georgia education, Hinds said, needs to reevaluate its product, educated children (or not) and re think the educational systems now employed. For example, many students are disengaged from any interest in their schools. Many cannot name, much less care, who their class officers are. Many do not engage in, or are even interested in, usual school activities including sports and other clubs. The answer, he said, is to recognize that not all students are college material. Therefore consider creating evening classes, without the frills; on-line classes for high school juniors and seniors and more "open Campus's for non-traditional high schools, and sensible curriculums. Mr. Hines has taught at an open campus school and saw the positive benefits to be had there.

While Obama's Race For The Top program is commendable, with it however, comes federal mandates and dictates that results in a loss of local sovereignty over curriculum and local desires for education, effectively, another loss of our rights. As an example, if Georgia qualified for the program, the State would actually get only \$280 per student, hardly worth giving up to the Federal Government what is taught in the classroom. Another example of an ineffective federal program is George Bush's "No Child Left Behind"

program which is nothing more than a continued program of testing children to death which has turned out to be an expensive disaster for local education.

A spirited question and Answer session followed and Mr. Hines easily demonstrated his acumen on the subject of Georgia's education and the need for his leadership. For more information, visit his site at: www.VoteRogerHines.com.

Guest Speaker, Sam Olens:

Mr. Sam Olens, recent Commissioner of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners, Attorney and candidate for State Attorney General was next up. Olens said he has been on the Cobb Co. Board of Commissioners four times, once as District Commissioner and three as Chairman. His greatest success, he said, was keeping the Cobb Co. Budget balanced without resorting to reducing services. Cobb county, Olens reported, followed the simple formula of not spending more than they took in. Also, Olens serves as chairman of the Georgia Board of Community Affairs. and Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Primarily, Olens commented on the ethics problems of Georgia's politicians and the need to aggressively "raise the bar" on reform. The impetus for reform can only come from the Attorney General's office by a strengthening the Ethics in Government Act to include even the appearance of impropriety by public officials. Olens identified Georgia's largest litigation problem coming, that will require aggressive attention, is the fight for Georgia's water. Olens also pledged to defend the coming 2011 challenges coming over redistricting after the census is counted.

Olens said he, unlike the incumbent, a Democrat, would join the suit against the Obama Health Care bill on the basis of the 10th Amendment. The incumbent's argument against joining the suit is the expense. However, Olens pointed out that joining with fifteen other states, logically divides the expense by fifteen.

Olens said he is a strong supporter of Law Enforcement and the professionals who are engaged in it. Likewise, he pledged to ensure Georgia's citizens and protected from fraudulent business practices, identity theft and Medicare fraud.

Another spirited and engaged question and answer session followed. For more on Sam Olens, visit his web site at: www.olensforAG.com. Also, visit Gilmer County's great website at: www.gilmergagop.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm. By: George McClellan, Chairman, Chairman
Gilmer Co. GOP (07 April 10)