

From the Chairman, Gilmer Co. GOP June 2010 Meeting, June 1, 2010

The June meeting of the Gilmer Co. GOP met at Harrison Hall, Ellijay, on Tuesday evening, June 1st, with forty folks in attendance and a full slate of speakers. Opening with the pledge of allegiance followed by the blessing given by Sarge Bramlett, and introductions of visitors, the meeting proceeded quickly getting the tawdry business of reading and approving the minutes and the treasures reports out of the way. That done, the first schedule speaker was Candidate for Georgia State Insurance Commissioner, Marie Sheffield. Her remarks, including her experience gained in the insurance business from the regulatory side, plus her education, with two Master Degrees, her grassroots work in her county (Wilkinson) as well as state GOP organizations, marked her as a definite contender and certainly knowledgeable in the field in which she is seeking office. Marie is a Reagan conservative with a strong belief in limited government, tort reform, less taxes, strong supporter of the 2nd and 10th amendments and a definite opponent of Obamacare (may peace be upon him). She answered in depth the challenge of hard questions from the listeners including the one most asked about being able to purchase insurance across state lines. In detail she outlined the fallacies of that program especially when a Georgian citizen does not get the service he/she paid for and had to sue. It was an excellent presentation.

Miss Hannah Johnson, from Blue Ridge, spoke on behalf of Tim Ecoles, candidate for the Public Service Commission seat recently vacated by Bobby Baker. Miss Johnson's enthusiasm was infective for her friend and candidates position. Time and circumstances prevented Mr. Echols himself from attending.

Third speaker was State Senator Ralph Hudgens whose political career began during the first Bush Administration when he was appointed as Executive Director of the administrative arm of the US Dept. of Agriculture administering the farm subsidy program. He claimed experience as his 'leg up' on the other candidates. As a State senator he was Chairman of the Insurance and Labor Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Banking and Finance Institutions. He also served as a Georgia General Assemblyman between 1996 and 2002.

Joey Brush, former State Senator from Augusta, appeared and was given some time to explain his candidacy for Public Service Commission.

Mr. Kevin Harris, one time Chairman of the 9th District GOP, member of Nathan Deals team and now, Political Director of the Georgia State GOP Organization, gave his outstanding on grass roots organizing for the Republican Party. During the few minutes Mr. Harris was passing out his handouts, those candidates for County Office present were introduced. They included Jack Smith and JC Sanford for Commission Chairman and Don Murray, Joe Waldrop, Randy Bell for Post 2 on the Board of Commissioners.

Former State Assemblyman Tom Graves, attended for the sole purpose of thanking Gilmer citizens for their support of him in the special election held this past May.

Announcements:

8 June, special runoff election between Tom Graves and Lee Hawkins. Registered voters can vote early at the Gilmer Voter Registration office between now and June 8th.

29 June, the Gilmer Co. GOP will host a meet and greet session followed by a Forum where the public will have an opportunity to question the candidates for our two open offices who want to spend our tax dollars.

3 July: Ellijay 4th of July Parade. We have a fire engine to decorate. volunteers are needed.

20 July: Georgia's Primary election. It's what this is all about! Go get 'em!

George McClellan, Chairman
Gilmer Co. GOP