

From the Chairman

Gilmer County GOP...November's Meeting Report

The Gilmer County GOP met last night (November 3) at Harrison Hall with over thirty conservatives in attendance. Normal meeting procedures were observed with a quick reading and acceptance of the minutes of October's meeting, treasurers report (we are still in good shape) and recognition of our special guests. We also had on display our raffle gift for Decembers Christmas Party, a Remington, 20 gauge, 870 Wingmaster Pump Shotgun.

Our primary guest speaker was Stephen Northington, a self-employed insurance businessman from Cobb County who is a conservative candidate for State Insurance Commissioner, that position being vacated by the incumbent, John Oxendine, in his quest to be Governor.

Mr. Northington made an immediate good impression with, not only his knowledge of and enthusiasm for the subject, but the constitutional duties of the position which include, quite beyond insurance issues, the running of the State's moribund Fire Marshal program. The candidate reminded the audience that the office of the Insurance Commissioner's is an administrative position not a policy making vehicle, with its directions coming from the state legislature. He addressed several problems about health insurance and how they could be corrected, short of the Federal Government's scheme. On the question of competition, by allowing Georgian's to buy across borders, he pointed out the logical fallacy that subsequent lawsuits, if necessary, would have to occur in the state from which the insurance was purchased. Imagine the problems there.

Mr. Northington is also a proponent of Georgia adopting a mandate-free option in Georgia and lowering the premium tax in order to make Georgia a more favorable environment for Georgian's to purchase their insurance. He see's the need for creating a high risk pool, consumer complaint tracking and a consumer choice plan and lower insurance premium taxes. For more information on this candidate, visit his web site at: www.StephenNorthington.com. A great question and answer session followed.

Our own State Senator, Chip Pearson, was in attendance to speak on the States new beginning on its moribund DOT transportation plan. Recent introduction of Senate Bill 200 represents the largest change in the States transportation policy in the past thirty years and will, hopefully, start addressing the problems we now all experience.

Senator Pearson also spoke to the States coming water problems, especially in light of a Florida judges ruling that basically said Georgia was not entitled to any water for domestic use from its own sources (Lake Lanier) in favor of some little clams and fishes in Florida.

Sen. Pearson pointed out the states spending difficulties because Georgia law, like 31 other states, requires a balanced budget. Addressing the spending issues requires a combined strategy of agency budget reduction and using short-term funding sources. Federal mandates intrude on the process in such instances as requiring a 25% match with FEMA for flood relief and finding funds for such programs as combatting the H1N1 flu virus, mental health and growth in colleges. A spirited question and answer greeted Senator Pearson's comments.

Former State Senator Bill Stephens, candidate for Nathan Deal's Congressional seat was present just to say "hello" and meet and greet. A representative for State Sen Lee Hawkins also made a short pitch as a representative for Nathan Deal.

Jack Smith, of the Gilmer County TEA Protesters, spoke a few minutes about the rapid growth of his organization which was energized by the march on Washington a few months ago and still growing. More rally's are now planned or in the planning stage and the anti-tax message will be delivered to Washington whether they want to hear it or not.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:20 and the socializing continued another thirty minutes. It was a great meeting.

Decembers open dish dinner and Christmas Party meeting site will not be at Harrison Hall. We are seeking another suitable site and that information will be disseminated in plenty of time for you to schedule your time to be with us, especially if you bought a raffle ticket. Additional, we will have other door prizes, to give away and our guest speaker will be Tom Graves, State Representative from Gordon county and candidate for Congress. Y'all come!

George McClellan, Chairman,
Gilmer County GOP