

Charlotte Co. State Committeeman Report

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"You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. We will preserve for our children this, the last best hope of man on earth, or we will sentence them to take the first step into a thousand years of darkness. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done."
President Ronald Reagan – Oct. 27, 1964

Quotes from the Annual Meeting:

- “It’s not Hope and Change, but Anger and Change”, said Congressman Adam Putnam regarding the feelings rampart across America today as he give the Congressional Report for Florida.
- “It is the party, the party, the party”, said Jim Greer in his speech to the State Republican Committee members at the Rosen Plaza Hotel.
- “The Republican Party of Florida must unite and grow as opportunity is right before us now. We must all be citizen activist”, stated Sharon Day.
- “I felt I was doing what was good for Florida, not what was popular” stated Governor Crist regarding his taking of stimulus funds to preserve jobs here in Florida.

Chairman Greer’s “State of the Party” Report: Chairman Greer presented an overview of his three years on board as Chairman of the RPOF. He spoke of the accomplishments made and thanked everyone for the privilege to lead the party as the greatest opportunity of his life. He was especially grateful to his family and his wife for this opportunity. Mr. Greer announced he would be stepping down on February 20th, 2010. A later motion in the meeting was made from the floor to accept the Chairman’s resignation with regrets and it was accepted by vote.

National Committeeman and Committeewoman Report: It was reported that nationally the Republicans have won 26 of 37 races nationally for state and federal offices. In November of 2009 we won 8 of 11 important national elections. The National Republican Party has budgeted for the 2010 elections about \$60 million dollars, however this year they have collected over \$81 million which is far above the expected estimates for the budget. There are 370,000 new donors averaging \$41 dollars per donation. August through November 2009 were the largest fundraising months for the national party ever. Sharon Day spoke to the fact that the Democrat Party being the gift that keeps on giving. Sen. Reid is going to be removed in November 2010 just like Sen. Thune removed Sen. Daschle two years prior.

Governors Report: Governor Crist stated that opportunities begin with K-12 and higher education. He stated he would propose \$300-700 million additional monies for education

in this years budget. Regarding the stimulus package and his support... the Governor felt we needed our fair share. If he had not supported the stimulus monies then we would face 20% unemployment. He felt he was doing what he felt was good for Florida, not what was popular. If we all pull together we will excel. Jobs are picking up. We as a state must focus on jobs, jobs, jobs. We must stay together, stay unified...Dem's are dropping like flies because of the actions of the Obama White House.

Lt. Governor's Report: The Lt. Governors office is working in 3 areas and they are: Aerospace, Bio-Technology and Alternative Energy as the three new areas of business expansion here in our state which will provide job security. The Governor is working on the property tax question, lower property insurance rates, children safety and predators. Governor made the largest tax cut this past year. These are the toughest economic times with the tax cut helping everyone and along with the fact that the Governor cut spending too.

Congress Report: The report was given by Adam Putnam who spoke to the issues and the actions of each party in Washington. He felt that the President and Congressional leaders have let down Americans when they pledged a more open government and that CSPAN would show all deliberations and that America would view all that is happening so they can make proper decisions for themselves regarding issues being discussed. Obama is raising taxes on business and middle class America. The Republican Party to be successful needs to see the vision of what America is feeling at this time in order to be successful and the feeling is that the American people have fallen out of love with the Democrat Party, but they have not fallen back into love with the Republican Party. The Republican Party must fight healthcare across the board, fight secret union card check voting, cut costs in the operating room, open up insurance across state lines, find manufacturing jobs and get people back to work. The current healthcare bill will tax Floridians forcing our state legislature to balance Nebraska tax burdens in Florida. Our future is troubled as Washington passes bills attacking our innovative and entrepreneurial spirit. Profit gives us innovation.

Cabinet Report: Bill McCollum presented the Cabinet Report and stated the State has a new Financial Services Manager who is Tom Cardwell. The Pension Fund is in a strong position and that we are close to previous funding levels of prior years due to good management and we are definitely better off than California and New York. There is a new Florida Growth Fund specifically set up for Florida investing to support Florida innovations and growth.

The AG Office is still hard at work on the child predator programs and gangs. Consumer Protection is also paramount working hard on fraud, consumer issues, credit card predators, and mortgage fraud. AG McCollum is also focusing on revenue lost to on-line travel companies such as Orbitz and Expedia.com. He also spoke to his consideration with numerous other states of a lawsuit against the HealthCare bill in Congress which will penalize states because of deals and schemes for several states which are being perpetrated upon Floridians causing unfair and increased cost in healthcare due to these deals.

Senate Report: The report was given by Joe Negron. Sen. Negron stated that it is a new day in the Senate. We no longer have the times like in 2005-06 where the Republicans were able to place \$8 million dollars into Reserves for future tough times. We now have to live within our means and we will not take dollars away from the Florida family. This year there will be a focus on Medicaid fraud and scams, our government will be more transparent, and they will support the lawsuit against the federal healthcare bill. Joe reminded us that he and John Thrasher had won two special Senate elections despite negative campaigning by trial bar attorneys and heavy Obama districts. Negron won 75% of the vote in an Obama district.

House Report: Will Weatherford presented the House Report stating that there were plans to continue Jeb Bush's educational reforms by the House, plans to cut regulation and tax burden of small businesses and to balance the state budget. He further stated that there will be 26 open House seats in the 2010 elections. He stated that the House believes still in our party being the party of ideas and of Reagan when the House Democrats and Obama are the party of socialism.

Chairman's Report: Bob Starr gave the Chairman's report. He said the big item they are still working on is the Constitutional Amendment for Florida's independence and Chapter 103 changes. Feedback from Chairmen across the state focused on winning elections, how to elect candidates in these tough times, reach out to and involve Tea Party or independent folks and get them back into the Republican party. Coalitions need forming amongst counties to do battle by congressional district and resources need to be shared. Members were reminded of new rules on voter registration and that we must follow them. Needs of the RPOF were identified such as experienced field staff, an upgraded Voter Vault or a new program, paid cell phones from RPOF, and education for the new Chairmen and for small counties.

State Committeeman/woman Report: Peter Feaman of Palm Beach Co. presided. Peter spoke to Victory 2010 and the Tea Party participants and how we needed to embrace and reach out to them. We should embrace the party five principles and reach out to them. Independents need to know that they have no vote in the Primary and if they wish to elect conservatives they must join our party to participate. Elections can be closed blocking them from voting. We should have a statewide RPOF Tea Part Outreach. Most of them think like us. No more shooting into their tent, let's have them join us and shoot out of our tent.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer Joel Pate stated that there was \$1,599,463 cash on hand.

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Comment or input to the SCM Report may be made to Lindsay by calling him or emailing him at his home office. imdjharr@comcast.net or 941-639-7420 home.