Meeting of the State Central Committee

Minutes

January 30, 2016

Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV) John Whitbeck called the meeting of the State Central Committee (SCC) to order at 11:00 am. The meeting was held at RPV headquarters in Richmond.

The invocation was given by Tenth District Member Eve Gleason.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Whitbeck.

A reciting of the Republican Creed was given by General Counsel Chris Marston.

The Chairman appointed a Proxy Committee consisting of College Republicans Wes Fisher, Chandler Crenshaw and Kate Gaziano.

Chairman Whitbeck recognized new members from various districts and asked them to introduce themselves to the committee.

Secretary Diana Banister called the roll.

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| John | Whitbeck |
| Michael | Thomas |
| Morton | Blackwell |
| Diana | Banister |
| Rich | Nilsen |
| Chris | Marston |
| Eric | Herr |
| Curtis | Colgate |
| Jennifer | Lee |
| Jack | Wilson |
| Lynn | Tucker |
| Wendell | Walker |
| Fred | Gruber |
| Mark | Kelly |
| Adam | Tolbert |
| Terry | Wear |
| Dan | Webb |
| Linda | Bartlett |
| Juanita | Balenger |
| Al | Aitken |
| Suzanne | Curran |
| Steve | Albertson |
| Bob | Watson |
| Larry | Kile |
| Carol | Dawson |
| Roger | Miles |
| David | Bartholomew |
| Carol | De Triquet |
| Bill | Coburn |
| Bill | Flanagan |
| Kishore | Thota |
| Janet | Riddick |
| Renee | Maxey |
| Chris | Shores |
| Peyton | Knight |
| Clara | Wheeler |
| Travis | Witt |
| Georgia | Alvis-Long |
| Mickey | Mixon |
| Joseph | Sonsmith |
| Gene | Rose |
| Anne | Fitzgerald |
| Marie | Quinn |
| Kristi | Way |
| Matthew | Burrow |
| Kevin | Corbett |
| Michelle | Jenkins |
| Marcy | Hernick |
| Susan | Edwards |
| Heidi | Stirrup |
| Julie | Williams |
| Andrew | Nicholson |
| Eve | Gleason |
| David | Ray |
| Michael | Wood |
| Elizabeth | Mundy |

Report of the Proxy Committee was that there were 17 proxies in order as follows:

Noah Wall, proxy held by Rob Kengor

Kevin Gentry, proxy held by Matt Ames

Barbara Tabb, proxy held by Eric Philipkosky

Jo Thoburn, proxy held by Spike Williams

Stephen Trent, proxy held by Thomas Turner

Rick Michael, proxy held by Carolyn Bunda

Doug Rogers, proxy held by Donald Williams

Jake Lee, proxy held by Chandler Crenshaw

Cheryl Hargrove, proxy held by Kathryn Oran

Allen Webb, proxy held by Russ Moulton

Kasha Nielsen, proxy held by Kate Gaziano

Steve Corazza, proxy held by Wesley Edwards

Devon Flynn, proxy held by Wes Fisher

Kay Gunter, proxy held by Edward Lesley

Patsy Drain, proxy held by John Martin

Miki Miller, proxy held by Jean Gannon

Kathy Hayden, proxy held by Fay Williamson

Eastern Vice Chairman Juanita Ballenger made a motion to approve the Minutes from the December 8, 2015 SCC meeting that had been sent to each member of the committee. There was a second and the motion carried, the minutes were approved.

Chairman Whitbeck reported that the RPV had paid off its debt as a result of the fundraising efforts over the last year. He said negotiations were underway with the Homestead to reduce the charges for the Advance and a future event there.

Fourth District Member Col. Bill Flanagan reported that Members of State Assembly are in Williamsburg for a commemorative session.

A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session at 11:15 am. The motion carried.

At 12:20 pm. the executive session ended and the meeting was called back to order.

First District Chairman Eric Herr made a motion in regards to the Statement of Party Affiliation that had been approved at the September 2015 meeting stating that, because the Democrats on the State Board of Elections, the Governor and other legislators have denied the Party its constitutional rights of free association, the State Central Committee vote by acclamation to rescind the request to have Republican presidential primary voters complete the Statement of Affiliation form we approved in September and that any votes or ballots that have been returned without that form be counted.

Fourth District Chairman Jack Wilson seconded the motion saying the Party has “a right of free association” and that the State Board has forced the State Central Committee to rescind the Statement of Party Affiliation.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Chairman Whitbeck laid out the plans for the 2016 Budget and the various activities that will be involved in both revenue and expenses. By unanimous consent, the budget was approved.

Party Plan Committee Chair Eve Gleason moved that the Committee approve the Party Plan Amendment recommended by the Committee and included in the Call of the meeting:

Strike out the last clause of Article X, Section E, which reads: “where permitted to do so under Virginia law.”

Mr. Herr moved to postpone the question, explaining that state legislators who were necessarily absent should be present for consideration. The motion to approve the Amendment was postponed indefinitely.

General Counsel Chris Marston moved that the Committee adopt an amendment to the Party Plan which had been included in the Call of the meeting:

In Article IX, in the second paragraph, insert in the first sentence "Congressional District," before "Legislative District" and in the second sentence insert "congressional districts," before "legislative districts."

He explained the reasons for the Amendment that would strengthen the ability to adjust the Republican Party voting strength after Congressional redistricting.

At least three-fourths of the members having voted in the affirmative, the amendment was adopted.

Mr. Marston moved that the Committee adopt a second amendment to the Party Plan which had also been included in the Call of the meeting:

Insert the following paragraph at the end of Article IX:

"In the event that the boundaries of a congressional district change after March 15 in the year of a Quadrennial District Convention, calls for such conventions issued prior to March 15 shall remain valid for *the purpose of electing delegates and alternate delegates to the Republican National Convention without regard to the date of the convention.* Delegates and alternates elected at such conventions shall be the district delegates and alternate delegates to the Republican National Convention, the new boundaries of the congressional districts notwithstanding."

Mr. Thomas moved to amend the motion as follows:

 Strike out “the purpose of electing delegates and alternate delegates to the Republican National Convention without regard to the date of the convention.” And insert in its place “all purposes except the nomination of a candidate of the House of Representatives.”

After further debate, the Committee ordered the previous question and the motion to amend was adopted.

After further debate on the motion as amended, the Committee ordered the previous question and, at least three-fourths of the members having voted in the affirmative, the Party Plan amendment, as amended, was adopted:

Insert the following paragraph at the end of Article IX:

"In the event that the boundaries of a congressional district change after March 15 in the year of a Quadrennial District Convention, calls for such conventions issued prior to March 15 shall remain valid for all purposes except the nomination of a candidate for the House of Representatives. Delegates and alternates elected at such conventions shall be the district delegates and alternate delegates to the Republican National Convention, the new boundaries of the congressional districts notwithstanding."

By unanimous consent, the Chairman recessed the meeting.

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 12:48 pm and announced the next order of business as the appeal of the General Counsel’s November 11, 2015, ruling.

The appellant, Delegate Mark Berg, presented the appeal citing his concern over the lack of due process.

The Chair recognized the General Counsel, Chris Marston, to explain the ruling.

Young Republican Federation of Virginia (YRFV) member Jeff Wernsing moved that debate be limited to 10 minutes on each side of the question. The Committee adopted limitations on debate by unanimous consent.

Eleventh District Member David Ray moved to grant the appeal and overturn the General Counsel’s ruling. Proxy Member Russ Moulton seconded the motion.

Mr. Wilson made an inquiry as to what will happen if the motion is adopted.

The Chairman clarified that adopting Mr. Ray’s motion to overturn the ruling would be to reinstate Mr. Berg as a member of the State Central Committee.

First Vice Chairman Mike Thomas, 2nd District Chairman Curtis Colgate spoke against Mr. Ray’s motion saying overturning the ruling would set a precedent.

Mr. Berg and Mr. Marston responded to inquiries regarding their respective positions.

The Committee ordered the previous question.

Chairman Whitbeck reiterated that “if you are an elected member of the State Central Committee, you are to support the Republican candidate.” There was not a good remedy to this situation and he called on the Party Plan to come up with a solution.

With 26 in the affirmative and 44 in the negative, the motion failed and the General Counsel’s ruling was sustained.

Fifth District Member Clara Belle Wheeler, also a member of the State Board of Elections, reported the State Board will have an emergency meeting next week to take action on the Committee’s request to rescind the Statement of Affiliation.

The Committee took up Debbie Berg’s appeal of the 10th District Committee’s affirmation of the Frederick County Republican Committee’s determination of a contest sustaining her removal from the Committee pursuant to Article VII, Sec. C.

Mark Berg presented the appeal on behalf of Debbie Berg.

Mrs. Gleason explained the proceedings at the 10th District Committee and its decision.

The Committee adopted a motion by Mr. Herr to postpone the question indefinitely.

National Committeeman Morton Blackwell gave a report regarding the recent Republican National Committee meeting in Charleston and the ongoing debate in the Standing Committee on Rules. At its most recent meeting, he offered a motion to amend the rules that was initially adopted by the Committee, but later rejected after a motion to reconsider.

Young Republican Federation of Virginia President Daniel Webb reported on two deployments made by the YR’s and were helpful in keeping a Republican majority in the Senate of Virginia. Two active Young Republicans have been elected to the state senate David Suetterlein and Glen Sturtevant. Other local YR candidates were successful.

Ms. Gaziano reported on the College Republican Federation of Virginia’s Richmond Gala and the work of its members to help elect Republicans in the 2015 General Election.

Virginia Federation of Republican Women President Linda Bartlett reported on their legislative day last week in the Capitol in which they divided in teams to meet with Republican members. The VFRW Convention is April 22-24 with North Carolina Tom Tillis as key note speaker.

Mrs. Bartlett announced it would be her last meeting as President of the organization as new VFRW officers will be elected in April. Mrs. Bartlett said it has been a wonderful experience and thanked everyone. “Women determine elections,” she said.

Fifth District Chairman Lynn Tucker reported on the resolution of the State Central Committee’s orders regarding the Fauquier County Republican Committee.

Mrs. Wheeler again encouraged units to appoint people to the electoral board. General registrars are Democrats, she said. We need to work in the registrars’ offices.

Chairman Whitbeck announced the Convention coming up in April and that he will be appointing people to each of the various committees for the convention. He also announced the Commonwealth Dinner on Feb. 24 in Richmond with special guest speaker Bill Kristol.

The Chairman encouraged everyone to continue working together.

Western Vice Chair Suzanne Curran announced her Rally in the Valley Thursday night and Friday morning before the convention and invited everyone to attend.

The Committee adjourned at 2:36 pm.