



MINUTES

1st Congressional District Republican Committee

Submitted: October 30, 2023

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
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Held at 14235 Midlothian Turnpike Midlothian, VA 23113
At Candela's Pizzeria & Ristorante Italiano, September, 16th, 2023, at 11:00 AM

ATTENDANCE (Y = Present, A = Absent, P = Present by Proxy): 24 PRESENT

Chair (Jeffrey Ryer) [Y] 1st Vice Chair (Michael Schoelwer) [A] 2nd Vice Chair (Julie Coggsdale) [A]
Secretary/CRFV - College Republicans (Joey Funai) [Y] Treasurer (George Clark) [A] Counsel (Chris Woodfin) [A]
Parliamentarian (Lynda Fairman) [Y] State Central C4 (Lauren Keiser) [Y] State Central C4 (Tara Carroll) [Y]
State Central C4 (David Botkins) [Y] State Central R2 (Mark Daniel) [Y] State Central P4 (Joshua Mayes) [Y] YRFV
- Young Republicans (Maria Gurlaccio) [Y] VFRW (Virginia Carlson) [Y] CHESTERFIELD (Leslie Haley) [Y]
ESSEX (Billy Healy) [P] GLOUCESTER (Pat Dunnington) [Y] HANOVER (Bryan Boykin rep) [Y] HENRICO (Bryan
Horn) [Y] JAMES CITY /WILLIAMSBURG (Tye Lageman) [A] KING AND QUEEN (Bill Rilee) [A] KING WILLIAM
(Lindsay Robinson) [Y] LANCASTER (Johanna Carrington) [Y] MATHEWS (Sonny Fauver) [Y] MIDDLESEX (John
Hooper) [Y] NEW KENT (Jake Westbrook) [A] NORTHUMBERLAND (Marion Cockrell) [Y] POQUOSON (Colleen
Holcomb) [Y] RICHMOND (Debbie Harper) [Y] WESTMORELAND (M. Alan Aylor) [Y] YORK (Kitty Staskelunas)
[Y]

APPROVED PROXIES

ESSEX (Billy Healy) proxy to Mike "Sweedle" Hall

GENERAL OPENING

Chairman Ryer called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. David Botkins gave an invocation, Leslie Haley led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Maria Gurlaccio read the Republican Creed.

The Chairman appointed Kitty Staskelunas and Lynda Fairman to form a proxy committee. One proxy was submitted to the Proxy Committee and approved. The secretary called the roll. 24 voting members were present constituting a quorum and a 2/3rd majority.

GUESTS

The Chairman introduced guests. Guests included Sara Mahayni, Theresa Altemus, Jack Blakely, Ken Nunnenkamp, and Congressman Rob Wittman (via telephone). Congressman Wittman gave an update and took questions.

REPORTS

Secretary. Copies of the minutes of the June 24th, 2023, regular meeting were distributed with the Call. Some changes were made to minutes, including spelling of names and wording of reports by John Hooper and Alan Aylor. The minutes were approved with changes. The minutes from July's special meeting will be sent out at the next meeting for approval.

Treasurer. The Treasurer's report was not distributed.

Parliamentarian. The parliamentarian laid out protocol for proper debate.

VFRW. Virginia Carlson reported on several events including one that was attended by Governor Youngkin and Speaker Gilbert. She also reported on the extent that the VFRW has been volunteering with the various campaigns in the 1st district.

CRFV. Joey Funai reported that the College Republicans have been focusing on getting colleges engaged with the campaigns nearest to them. The CRs have also been trying to partner with other conservative groups such as turning point to bolster membership for College Republican chapters.

VFRW. Maria Gurlaccio is the new 1st district representative for the YRs. The YRs have a deployment planned for

Danny Diggs in October. Mari will try to visit and develop new YR groups in the counties across the 1st district.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Campaign Contributions. The Chairman introduced the idea of possibly donating to targeted state races. AC Cordoza, Amanda Batten, David Owen, and Riley Shaia were all considered targeted House of Delegate races. Danny Diggs and Siobhan Dunnivant races are considered targeted Senate races. According to the Treasurer's report from the previous meeting we had roughly \$8,500 on hand. Bryan Horn asked the question of what the minimum amount maintained should be. Chairman Ryer stated a minimum of \$3,000 should be maintained for running the 2024 convention. A question was asked on sources for money. The Chairman informed the committee that we will have a fundraiser in March. There will also be fees collected at the 2024 convention. Tara Carroll suggested \$1,500 to each of the targeted races. Josh Mayes made this a formal motion which was seconded by Mike Hall. Joey Funai brought up a point of discussion to instead of donating \$1,500 to each race, instead donate more money to the Senate races and slightly less to the Delegate races due to the Senate races being more expensive races. Joey Funai offered an amendment to Josh Mayes' motion to give \$2,000 to each of the Senate races and \$1,250 to each of the House races. Josh Mayes accepted Joey Funai's amendment as a friendly amendment. Lauren Keiser made a point of inquiry as to whether she should abstain due to working for Amanda Batten's campaign. Lynda Fairman stated that Lauren does have the ability to vote for it or she could also abstain for just Amanda Batten's donation. Josh Mayes' motion passed by voice vote. Treasurer George Clark will be writing checks for the campaigns in the coming week.

2024 Organizing Convention. The Chairman gave an update on the last SCC meeting. The 1st District will no longer be elected delegates to the National Convention at the District Convention. The Convention will include the election of a Chairman, the three SCC members for the 1st district, and the position of Elector. The 2024 State Convention will be held from May 31- June 1 at the Hampton Coliseum. The 1st District Convention must be held between March 1 and May 26 with a call issued no later than February 1. A call will be approved for the District Convention at the November meeting. The deadline to nominate State Convention delegates is April 15. County mass meetings will be needed to be held sometime in the month of March or the first week of April. RPV asks to not hold any mass meetings on April 12-14.

Committee on Arrangements. Chairman Ryer called for the formation of a Committee on Arrangements. The Committee on Arrangements will report back to the 1st District Committee in November on possible dates, locations, and prices for the 1st District Convention. The Chairman called for any volunteers for the Committee on Arrangements. Tara Carroll, Lindsay Robinson, and Jack Blakely volunteered for the Committee on Arrangements. Josh Mayes asked Chairman Ryer if he will be running for re-election. Chairman Ryer announced that he is running again which was met with thunderous applause.

YR Deployment Contribution. Kitty Staskelunas made a motion to contribute \$500 to the Greater Peninsula Young Republicans to offset the cost of their deployment. John Hooper seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote. Josh Mayes, Maria Gurlaccio, and Laruen Keiser abstained.

UNIT REPORTS

Chesterfield- Leslie Haley reported that Amanda Chase is not running a write-in campaign for Senate. The committee will be having a Rally for Glen Sturtevant and Carrie Coyner with the Governor. The Chesterfield Committee also has 5 endorsed candidates for each magisterial district. The Chesterfield committee had a very successful Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner with Miyares.

Essex- Mike Hall reported on an event the committee held for Senator Richard Stuart at Bella's Pizza. Essex also has two incumbent supervisors and the Commonwealth's Attorney that are running as Republicans that used to run as independents.

Gloucester- Pat Dunnington reported on Gloucester's endorsements for their 5 School Board Candidates. Pat wanted to thank Theresa Altemus for leading the endorsement committee in Gloucester. Gloucester is also preparing to have a booth and a parade entry at the Guinea Jubilee with Delegate Hodges and Senator McDougle.

Hanover- Bryan Boykin gave a report on the elected school board referendum on the ballot. The Hanover County Committee is backing a campaign to keep the school board appointed.

Henrico- Bryan Horn reported on several events that have been going on for Siobhan Dunnivant, David Owen, and Riley Shaia with the governor attending several of them. The Henrico Committee has a partnership with AVV to try and help turn out Veteran voters. The Three Chopt school board candidate Elaina Espy was endorsed by the Committee.

James City County/ Williamsburg- Josh Mayes reported that there are 3 endorsed school board candidates.

There was also an endorsement for the Soil and Water Board.

King William- Lindsay Robinson announced endorsements for a school board candidate and 3 supervisors, Jessica McLane, Mary Sue Baincroft, Benjamin Edwards, and Lindsay Robinson. The committee will also be having a candidate roundup coming up and will also be having a booth at the West Point Crab Carnival. Lindsay also brought a cake for Marion's Birthday, Happy birthday Marion!!!

Lancaster- Johanna Carrington reported that the committee has several members running for school board. The committee will also be having an event for Hillary Pugh Kent and Senator Richard Stuart with all you can eat fried chicken.

Mathews- Sonny Fauver reported on the 4 endorsed candidates. 3 candidates for School Board and 1 Candidate for Sheriff. The Mathews County Committee has been putting up signs for candidates and also participated in the Mathews Market Days. Mathews has been focused on building community relations and being a positive force at market days, giving out free food and several attractions. The Mathews Committee members have been shelling out money to pay for advertisements. Mathews will also be planning a public roundtable with Gloucester and Middlesex with Congressman Wittman and Jason Miyares.

Middlesex- John Hooper reported that they have 2 endorsed school board candidates, Jim Evans and Randy Crittenden. The Middlesex Committee had some community members that were disgruntled with the endorsement and nomination process were invited to the Middlesex Committee meeting to speak. Things were settled amicably. There will be 3 candidate forums in Middlesex. The Committee will also be having an event with Senator Richard Stuart and Delegate Keith Hodges in October.

New Kent- Mark Daniel reported on 4 School Board endorsees, Helena Cunya, Ron Vaught, Greg Reimer, and Heather Mae Donbronsky. The committee also endorsed Scott Rennick for Commonwealth Attorney and Clerk of Court Amy Crump. New Kent also endorsed Phil Thompson for the Soil and Water Board. The New Kent Lincoln-Reagan Day Dinner will be on October 21 with Winsome Sears and Jeff Katz.

Northumberland- Marion Cockrell reported that they have endorsed 1 independent candidate for the Board of Supervisors. Northumberland will also be having their Oyster Roast on October 7.

Poquoson- Colleen Holcomb reported on Danny Diggs race which has been going very well. There is an event with the Governor coming up for Danny Diggs. The committee will be participating in the Poquoson Seafood Festival on October 22.

Richmond- Debbie Harper reported that they had a very good presence at the Richmond County Fair. The committee also will be having a booth at Warsawfest in October. They have one Republican running for Board of Supervisor and an appointed School Board. Debbie also touched on the Candidate training in Richmond County.

Westmoreland- Alan Aylor reported that Westmoreland has no endorsed candidates that everyone running is a Republican. There is a school board seat that has nobody running. A Republican in committee is running a write-in race for this empty seat. Alan also reported on their all you can eat seafood feast with Rob Wittman, Winsome Sears, Hillary Pugh Kent, and Richard Stuart with well over 250 people in attendance. The Republican Party of Virginia will be having a booth at the State Fair again, Alan is looking for volunteers to man the tent.

York- Kitty Staskelunas reported that there is a Republican running for every seat with 7 female candidates running. They have endorsed David Westcott for Soil and water and Sarah Webb for Commissioner of Revenue. They also have 3 School Board candidates, Zoren Paivich, Kim Goodwin, and Lynda Fairman. The Republican Candidates also had a fantastic showing at a candidate forum.

Chairman's Report- Chairman Ryer told everyone to get a piece of cake. Chairman Ryer also reported on the ranked choice voting resolution that was brought before the State Central Committee. The Chairman also announced that he would be sharing a list of Republican endorsees in the 1st district.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Hooper announced the Wings, Wheels, and Keels event coming up September 30th that will have a very good turnout.

ADJOURNMENT

Josh Mayes made a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Joey Funai, Secretary