

A Meeting of the Republican Party of Virginia

State Central Committee

January 24, 2015

The meeting of the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV) State Central Committee (SCC) was called to order by Chairman Pat Mullins at 3:33 pm. The meeting was held at the Fairview Marriott in Falls Church, VA.

The invocation was given by 6th District Chairman Wendall Walker. Fourth District Member Colonel Bill Flanagan led the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked Pat Mullins for his years of service to this body and the Commonwealth. Tenth District Member Eve Gleason recited the Republican creed.

The Chairman appointed a proxy committee that included Eleventh District Member Keith Damon as Chair, Daniel Bradshaw and First District Member Carol Dawson. They reported that seventeen proxies were in order, one other was submitted but not in order.

The Secretary called the roll as follows:

Pat	Mullins	Larry	Kile	Anne	LeHuray
Michael	Thomas	Allen	Webb	Matthew	Burrow
Morton	Blackwell	Carol	Dawson	Kevin	Corbett
Rich	Nilsen	Carl	Anderson	Michelle	Jenkins
Diana	Banister	Cheryl	Hargrove	Susan	Edwards
Pat	McSweeney	Barbara	Tabb	Mark	Berg
Eric	Herr	Stephen	Thomas	Kay	Gunter
Curtis	Colgate	Chip	Muir	Eve	Gleason
Chris	Stearns	Steve	Trent	Keith	Damon
Jack	Wilson	Bill	Flanagan	Patsy	Drain
Jon	Berkley	Carol	deTriquet	David	Ray
Wendell	Walker	Bob	Wheeler	Kasha	Nielsen
Fred	Gruber	Renee	Maxey	Heather	Homan
Mark	Kelly	Chris	Shores	Jeff	Wernsing
Adam	Tolbert	Peyton	Knight	Elizabeth	Mundy
John	Whitbeck	Clara	Wheeler		
Terry	Wear	Mickey	Mixon		
Elizabeth	Minneman	Georgia	Alvis-Long		
Linda	Bartlett	Joseph	Sonsmith		
Jackson	Miller	Gene	Rose		
Juanita	Balenger	Anne	Fitzgerald		
Al	Aitken	Marie	Quinn		
Suzanne	Curran	Kristi	Way		
Steve	Albertson	Noah	Wall		

Members in attendance via proxy were as follows:

John Cosgrove, proxy held by J. Randall Minchew
Joseph Degreenia, proxy held by Devon Flynn
David Fuller, proxy held by Lynn Hamilton
Jo Thoburn, proxy held by Cathy McNickle
Jeanine Lawson, proxy held by William Card
Kathy Hayden, proxy held by Julia Williams
Kevin Gentry, proxy held by Michael Williams
Roger Miles, proxy held by David Bartholomew
John Scott, proxy held by Mike Lord
Heidi Stirrup, proxy held by Wayne Ernst
John Salm, proxy held by Eric Wray
Del. James P. Massie, proxy held by Del. David Ramadan
Jane Ladd, proxy held by Linwood Cobb
Travis Witt, proxy held by Don Maxey
Jerry Lester, proxy held by Ross Jenkins
Rick Michael, proxy held by Wayne Cunningham
Doug Rogers, proxy held by Don Williams

Chairman Mullins started with remarks about his time as Chairman of the Party over the last five years and reminisced about the “fun I’ve had around the Commonwealth.” He particularly thanked the RPV staff for all of their hard work over the years. He said he has been pleased to lead the Party and will be still involved even in retirement.

Chairman Mullins opened nominations for the position of Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia.

Second District Chairman Curtis Colgate nominated Aaron Wheeler for RPV Chairman. The motion was seconded by proxy member David Bartholomew.

First District Member Steve Albertson nominated Tenth District Chairman John Whitbeck to become Chairman of the RPV. The motion was seconded by First District Chairman Eric Herr.

Mr. Albertson made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bartholomew and passed.

Mr. Colgate read a letter from Aaron Wheeler to the Committee endorsing and supporting John Whitbeck for Chairman.

Mr. Bartholomew made a motion with a second to vote for Chairman by acclamation. John Whitbeck was elected by the body to serve as the new Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia.

Chairman Whitbeck took the podium, thanked Mr. Wheeler and thanked Pat Mullins for his many years of service to the Party. He spoke of his work in the 10th District and how he looks forward to working with all members. He reiterated the principles in the Creed and said it is time to shed the labels. “It is time for GOP to give you a reason to put Republicans first.”

Mr. Whitbeck announced that the Party Plan Amendments on the agenda would be tabled until later in the meeting.

Fifth District Member Chris Shores asked the Committee to assess the situation as determined in a motion at the December 5, 2014 meeting. He made a motion to declare Fifth District Committee dysfunctional and the Chairman unable to govern. Eleventh District Member Keith Damon seconded the motion.

First Vice Chairman Mike Thomas raised a Point of Order that the motion violates the RPV Articles of Incorporation that a District Committee and a Chairman cannot be removed by this body.

General Counsel Pat McSweeney said he does not see the conflicts but needed time to review.

Mr. Herr made an inquiry about if the motion were modified to remove all language except as indicated in the legal charter.

There was a motion that the motion by Mr. Shores be tabled until the next meeting. This motion was seconded by Fourth District Chairman Jack Wilson. The motion failed.

First District Member Carl Anderson reminded the body that the Party Plan takes precedence over Roberts Rules of Order.

Fifth District Chairman Jon Berkeley explained his position that he was duly elected and has been fulfilling his duties as Chairman.

Chairman Whitbeck laid out the parameters around the debate for this motion.

Fifth District Member Peyton Knight made a motion to take the vote by secret ballot. The motion was seconded and the question called.

A standing vote was taken on the motion for the secret ballot. With 44 in favor, 30 opposed, the motion passed.

There was motion made to limit debate to two minutes, seconded by Suzanne Curran. The motion passed.

Fifth District Member Peyton Knight spoke in favor of the motion.

Former Seventh District Chairman Linwood Cobb discussed the Party Plan, Article IV, Section D on the duties of the District Chairman. He spoke in opposition to the motion.

Sixth District Member Mickey Mixon said he has received many emails in the last few weeks with very serious charges and they have not been adequately refuted. He spoke in favor of the motion.

Colonel Flanagan, Fourth District Member, encouraged people to vote their conscience. Spoke in opposition to the motion.

First District Member Larry Kile discussed a similar issue in King George's county. He said it is important to make sure Party leaders are following the Party Plan. He spoke in favor of the motion.

National Committeeman Morton Blackwell asked to hear from the General Counsel on whether Chairman Berkley violated the Party Plan, the rulings of the General Counsel and the State Central Committee.

Fifth District Member Clara Wheeler said the issue is whether the 5th District followed the Party Plan. She said the laws and rules have not been broken and that due process and legal elections were taken there. She spoke in opposition to the motion.

Mr. McSweeney addressed the questions by Mr. Blackwell. The rulings of the General Counsel (GC), which were binding were ignored by Mr. Berkley. Ignoring that ruling makes it impossible for the committee to function. This body ruled on an appeal and upheld the GC ruling.

First District Chairman Eric Herr spoke of how some committees are run. He spoke in favor of the motion.

Mr. Berkeley addressed some of the charges.

Mr. Albertson said that the Party cannot tolerate violations of the Party Plan, the rulings of the General Counsel and of this body. "If we make a ruling it must be binding." He spoke in favor of this motion.

First District Member Allen Webb asked for clarification of the motion from the General Counsel on the consequences of declaring the Fifth District dysfunctional and unable to govern.

Mr. McSweeney confirmed that according to the Party Plan, the State Chairman will appoint an interim Chairman to perform the duties in that District until a new one is elected by the District Committee.

Chairman Whitbeck confirmed that the motion is under that Article III, Section D. 1. f. of the Party Plan that stipulates that he will appoint someone to fill the position of Chairman of the Fifth District until the Committee meets to elect a new Chairman.

Mr. Thomas said the rulings have conflicted and are difficult to follow. He referred to the Corporate Charter, protections of the Commonwealth of Virginia under which "we assume certain obligations." Removal of a District Chairman is a problem. He spoke in opposition to the motion.

Chairman Whitbeck asked for further clarification on the ruling of the GC that this is under the Party Plan, just a declaration of the dysfunction of the committee, not the removal of the Chairman.

A motion was made and seconded to call the question. The motion passed.

Mr. Blackwell asked that the motion be clearly stated.

Mr. Shores' revised motion read as follows:

For the blatant, intentional and repeated violations of the Republican Party of Virginia Party Plan, Republican Party of Virginia General Legal Counsel Rulings, State Central Committee elections and Fifth District bylaws and in order to preserve the rule of law and uphold our Party Plan, we do hereby declare the Fifth District Republican Committee to be dysfunctional and unable to govern.

Furthermore, we instruct the Fifth District Committee to hold legal and valid elections for officers of the Fifth District Committee to include a district Secretary, district Treasurer, one district Vice Chair and the Congressional State Central Committee seat.

Mr. Bartholomew made a motion to call the question, which was seconded and the question was called.

Ballots were passed out and collected as the Secretary called the roll. Eve Gleason, Renee Maxee, Don Williams, Mrs. Curran and Mr. Damon witnessed the counting of the ballots by RPV staff.

College Republican Liz Minneman announced that her term with the College Republican Federated of Virginia is up and this would be her last SCC meeting. She encouraged less time in hotel rooms at meeting and more reaching out especially to get young people involved.

Sandy Liddy Bourne spoke of the Jennifer Byler Institute that is looking for women of all ages for professional and campaign training.

The vote on Mr. Shores' motion was 46 in favor, 29 opposed. The motion passed.

Third District Chairman Chris Stearns raised a Point of Order about the section of the Party Plan.

Eastern Vice Chair Juanita Ballenger made a motion to table the rest of the agenda to the March meeting. The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. The motion failed.

The March meeting date is to be determined.

Mr. Herr made three successive motions as follows; 1) to postpone hearing the appeal filed by Cameron Jones of Fauquier County until the next SCC meeting; 2) to postpone consideration of a declarative finding that the Fauquier County Republican Committee is dysfunctional until the next SCC meeting; 3) that upon favorable resolution of the current litigation filed against the First District Committee and the Republican Party of Virginia, the State Chairman appoint a committee to issue a call and conduct a canvass in Fauquier County to elect all members of the Republican Committee and a Chairman. If judgment is made upholding the plaintiff's complaint, no action will be taken and delayed to next meeting of the State Central Committee.

The motions were seconded and passed.

Mr. Webb spoke of Col. Dwight L. Taylor, age 92, regarding his service to the country and to the Republican Party.

Suzanne Curran made a motion to have a certificate made and presented to Mr. Taylor from the Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herr and passed.

Fourth District Chairman Jack Wilson announced new member from the district Carol de Triquet.

Eighth District Chairman Mark Kelly reported new member Noah Wall had been elected from the district to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Nilsen's election as Treasurer.

Mr. Colgate introduced new member from the Second District, Cheryl Hargrove.

Mr. Herr suggested that a resolution for Mr. Taylor be written today and given to him. Mr. Thomas offered to help draft and approve.

The Chairman announced a special RPV Gala on Feb. 24 in Richmond with former Texas Governor Rick Perry and encouraged everyone to attend.

The Chairman thanked Mr. McSweeney for his service to the body. This is his last meeting as General Counsel.

Chairman Whitbeck thanked all who attended from the Fifth District and all those who spent time working on the issues there.

Mr. Colgate made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bartholomew. The meeting adjourned at 5:24 pm.