



Republican Party of Virginia
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State Central Committee Meeting
August 27, 2016

The regular meeting of the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia was held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond VA, on August 27, 2016. In the absence of the Chairman, Mike Thomas, First Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:02am. Secretary Jill Cook was present.

The invocation was given by Tenth District Rep Eve Gleason.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ninth District Chair Adam Tolbert.

The Republican Creed was led by Chip Muir.

The Proxy Committee was appointed the Chairman. Members were Adam Tolbert, Kishore Thota and Brian Rabbitt. The Committee reported that 13 proxies were in order.

The following members attended in person:

Mike Thomas	Dan Webb	Pete Burkheimer
Morton Blackwell	Ellen Nau	Carey Allen
Cynthia Dunbar	Jackson Miller	Kishore Thota
Jill Cook	John Cosgrove	Janet Riddick
John Selph	Diana Banister	Renee Maxey
Chris Marston	Wendell Walker	Ed Yensho
Jerry Kilgore	Nancy Dye	Joanne Holden
Eric Herr	Steve Albertson	Clara Belle Wheeler
Dennis Free	Bob Watson	Nate Boyer
Jennifer Lee	Larry Kile	Steve Troxel
Lynn Tucker	Allen Webb	Gene Rose
Scott Sayre	Carol Dawson	Anne Fitzgerald
Ben Slone	Jeff Ryer	Nancy Smith
Adam Tolbert	Ashley McLeod	Ron Hedlund
Jo Thoburn	Steve Trent	Susan Lascolette
Paul Prados	Carole de Triquet	Dewey McDonnell
Ben Dessart	Bill Coburn	Mark Hile

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Brian Rabbitt
Sandy Liddy Bourne
David Foster
Marcy Hernick
Corey Scott
Susan Edwards
Heidi Stirrup

Mark Sell
Puneet Ahluwalia
Eve Gleason
Kyle McDaniel
Fredy Burgos
Ryan Rauner
Nadia Elgandy

Jack Koltisko
Michael Wood
Miki Miller
Jenny Mundy
Jimmie Massie
Siobhan Dunnavant
John Hager

The following members attended by proxy:

John Whitbeck - proxy held by Chris Marston
Jack Wilson - proxy held by Emily Brewer
Mark Kelly - proxy held by Matthew Hurtt
Kevin Gentry - proxy held by Chip Muir
Carolyn Weems - proxy held by Cindy Free
Barbara Tabb - proxy held by Samantha Sedivy
Travis Witt - proxy held by Chris Shores
Joseph Sonsmith - proxy held by Karen Kwiatkowski
Kevin Corbett - proxy held by Kenneth Adam Kidd
K. Michelle Jenkins - proxy held by Tyler Lester
Julia Williams - proxy held by Andrew Nicholson
Jeff Wernsing - proxy held by C. Jordan Labiosa

Cynthia Dunbar left the meeting early and was then in attendance via proxy Diana Shores.

The proxy report was accepted.

Cards were passed around for members to sign, to send well wishes to Chairman Whitbeck and his family, whose daughter is ill.

June 2016 minutes:

Dave Foster moved to amend the June minutes, to clarify the answer to a Point of Inquiry made by Paul Prados. Mr. Prados made the inquiry after a motion was made to enter executive session. The motion is to strike *“Discussion commenced with the Chairman explaining the reasons for discussing certain issues in Executive Session. The motion seconded and the Executive Session began.”* and replace it with *“Discussion commenced with the Chairman explaining that the reason for the Executive Session was to discuss Party finances. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote, and the Executive Session began.”*

The Foster motion was approved by voice vote and the June minutes, as corrected, were approved.

Sheriff Mike Wade, the Republican nominee in the Fourth Congressional District, addressed the Committee.

Governor Mike Pence, Republican nominee for Vice-President, made an unscheduled, but very welcome, appearance and addressed the Committee for approximately 13 minutes.

The Chair recognized National Committeewoman Cynthia Dunbar, out of order, to give her report. After making her report, Dunbar departed and was represented by proxy Diana Shores.

At 10:44am, a motion was made to go into executive session; motion approved by voice vote.

At 11:25am, the committee voted without objection to close executive session.

Paul Prados made a motion requesting that the portion of the Chairman's Report given during Executive Session be made public. The motion failed by voice vote.

State Chairman's Report: John Findlay, Executive Director, continued the Chairman's report in the absence of Chairman Whitbeck; the report began while the Committee was in executive session.

- Virginia had a diverse delegation to the Republican National Convention, including the youngest delegate and the first Indian-American delegate to respond to the roll call of the States.
- Chairman Whitbeck has appointed a working group to propose reforms to the appeals process in the Party Plan; they will meet after the election. Members are Eve Gleason, Mark Hile, Anne Fitzgerald, Allen Webb, Joanne Holden, Brian Rabbitt, Mike Thomas, Wendell Walker, Dennis Free and Michelle Jenkins.
- RPV is committed to holding Gov. McAuliffe accountable for his unconstitutional attempt to restore voting rights of felons.
- Heather Cordasco was nominated for the special election in the House of Delegates 93rd District.
- Third-District Chair Jennifer Lee was commended for her extremely good efforts at the District level to open field offices to support the Republican nominees.

New Business

The Chairman entertained motions to limit debate on upcoming orders of business.

For Primary/Convention item:

It was proposed that for consideration of a call for a convention, debate be limited to one hour and each speaker be limited to one minute.

Morton Blackwell moved that debate be limited to one hour and each speaker be limited to two minutes.

Eric Herr moved to amend the Blackwell motion by striking “one hour” and inserting in its place “ninety minutes”. After discussion, the amendment failed by voice vote.

The Blackwell motion passed by voice vote.

For Powhatan appeal

It was proposed that that for consideration of the appeal of the Powhatan County Contest, debate be limited so that the appellant be allowed fifteen minutes, the appellee be allowed 15 minutes, and that subsequent debate be limited to 30 minutes and each speaker be limited to one minute.

Motion was made to accept the proposal; the motion carried by voice vote.

For the two Tenth District appeals

It was proposed that for consideration of the appeals of the matters regarding the Frederick County Republican Committee, debate be limited so that the appellant be allowed 10 minutes, the appellee be allowed 10 minutes, and that subsequent debate be limited to 20 minutes and each speaker be limited to one minute.

Motion was made to accept the proposal; the motion carried by voice vote.

For the two General Counsel appeals:

It was proposed that for consideration of appeals to determinations of the General Counsel, debate be limited so that appellant be allowed 5 minutes, that the General Counsel be allowed 5 minutes, and that subsequent debate be limited to 5 minutes and each speaker be limited to one minute. Motion was made to accept the proposal; the motion carried by voice vote.

John Findlay, Executive Director, presented the details of the Convention Call and the tentative arrangements made for a Convention.

Steve Albertson made the following motion: *“Mr. Chairman, I move to adhere to the understanding this body reached in June 2015, and we choose a Convention, and adopt the call as circulated, for the 2017 nomination for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.”*

Dennis Free made the following substitute motion: *“The Republican Party of Virginia shall nominate its candidates for statewide office to be on the ballot in 2017 by primary.”*

At 1:31pm, all time for debate under the order to limit debate having expired, a roll call vote was taken on the substitute motion. The Free substitute motion passed 41-40.

Note: During roll call, as agreed by the Committee, members responded by saying “primary” or “convention”

Michael	Thomas	P
Morton	Blackwell	C
Cynthia	Dunbar	C
Jill	Cook	P
John	Selph	P
Jerry	Kilgore	P
Eric	Herr	C
Dennis	Free	P
Jennifer	Lee	P
Jack	Wilson	P
Lynn	Tucker	C
Scott	Sayre	C
Ben	Slone	C
Mark	Kelly	C
Adam	Tolbert	P
Jo	Thoburn	C
Paul	Prados	C
Benjamin	Dessart	P
Dan	Webb	C
Ellen	Nau	P
Jackson	Miller	C
John	Cosgrove	P
Kevin	Gentry	C
Diana	Banister	C
Wendell	Walker	P
Nancy	Dye	P
Steve	Albertson	C
Bob	Watson	C
Larry	Kile	C
Allen	Webb	C
Carol	Dawson	C
Jeff	Ryer	P
Carolyn	Weems	P
Ashley	McLeod	P
Steve	Trent	P
Carole	de Triquet	P
Bill	Coburn	P
Barbara	Tabb	P
Pete	Burkhimer	C
Carey	Allen	P
Kishore	Thota	P
Janet	Riddick	P
Renee	Maxey	C
Ed	Yensho	C
Joanne	Holden	C
Clara	Wheeler	P
Travis	Witt	C

Nate	Boyer	C
Steve	Troxel	C
Joseph	Sonsmith	C
Gene	Rose	C
Anne	Fitzgerald	C
Nancy	Smith	C
Ron	Hedlund	P
Susan	Lascolette	C
Dewey	McDonnell	C
Mark	Hile	C
Brian	Rabbitt	P
Sandy Liddy	Bourne	P
David	Foster	P
Kevin	Corbett	P
Michelle	Jenkins	P
Marcy	Hernick	P
Corey	Scott	P
Susan	Edwards	C
Heidi	Stirrup	C
Julie	Williams	C
Mark	Sell	C
Puneet	Ahluwalia	P
Eve	Gleason	C
Kyle	McDaniel	P
Fredy	Burgos	C
Ryan	Rauner	P
Nadia	Elgendy	P
Jack	Koltisko	P
Michael	Wood	C
Jeff	Wernsing	C
Miki	Miller	P
Elizabeth	Mundy	P
Jimmie	Massie	P
Siobhan	Dunnavant	P

The Committee recessed briefly; the Chairman called the Committee back to order at 2:01pm.

Powhatan Appeal

The Chairman appointed Wendell Walker chairman pro tem during consideration of this appeal by unanimous consent.

Mike Thomas moved to overturn the decision of the Seventh District Committee, which had invalidated the Powhatan Mass Meeting and reinstated the prior term of the Powhatan Committee.

Pursuant to the order to limit debate, Thomas spoke in support of the motion to overturn on behalf of Jean Gannon. Patrick McSweeney, appellant to the District Committee, spoke in opposition to the motion to overturn.

Discussion began. After the first three speakers, Eric Herr moved to postpone consideration definitely until the next regular meeting of the Committee, which is the RPV Advance.

Morton Blackwell made a motion to close debate; motion passed by affirmative voice vote. The Herr motion was called; motion failed by counted rising vote, 32-45.

All time for debate under the order limiting debate having expired, the Thomas motion to overturn the decision of the Seventh District Committee passed by roll call vote, 45-34.

Michael	Thomas	Y
Morton	Blackwell	N
Cynthia	Dunbar	N
Jill	Cook	Y
John	Selph	N
Jerry	Kilgore	Y
Eric	Herr	N
Dennis	Free	Y
Jennifer	Lee	Y
Jack	Wilson	Y
Lynn	Tucker	Y
Scott	Sayre	N
Ben	Slone	N
Mark	Kelly	N
Adam	Tolbert	Y
Jo	Thoburn	N
Paul	Prados	Y
Benjamin	Dessart	Y
Dan	Webb	Y
Ellen	Nau	Y
Jackson	Miller	Y
John	Cosgrove	Y
Diana	Banister	N
Wendell	Walker	Y
Nancy	Dye	Y
Steve	Albertson	N
Bob	Watson	N
Larry	Kile	N
Allen	Webb	N
Carol	Dawson	N
Jeff	Ryer	Y
Carolyn	Weems	Y
Ashley	McLeod	Y

Steve	Trent	Y
Carole	de Triquet	Y
Bill	Coburn	Y
Barbara	Tabb	Y
Pete	Burkhimer	Y
Carey	Allen	Y
Kishore	Thota	Y
Janet	Riddick	Y
Renee	Maxey	N
Ed	Yensho	N
Joanne	Holden	N
Clara	Wheeler	Y
Travis	Witt	N
Nate	Boyer	N
Steve	Troxel	N
Gene	Rose	N
Anne	Fitzgerald	N
Nancy	Smith	N
Ron	Hedlund	N
Susan	Lascolette	N
Dewey	McDonnell	N
Mark	Hile	N
Brian	Rabbitt	Y
Sandy Liddy	Bourne	Y
David	Foster	Y
Kevin	Corbett	Y
Michelle	Jenkins	Y
Marcy	Hernick	Y
Corey	Scott	Y
Susan	Edwards	N
Heidi	Stirrup	N
Julie	Williams	N
Mark	Sell	N
Puneet	Ahluwalia	Y
Eve	Gleason	Y
Kyle	McDaniel	Y
Fredy	Burgos	N
Ryan	Rauner	Y
Nadia	Elgendy	Y
Jack	Koltisko	Y
Michael	Wood	N
Jeff	Wernsing	N
Miki	Miller	Y
Elizabeth	Mundy	Y
Jimmie	Massie	Y
Siobhan	Dunnavant	Y

Mike Thomas resumed the Chair.

The Chairman recognized Pat McSweeney, out of order, to introduce the following resolution on behalf of Chairman Whitbeck:

“John H. Hager has served the Commonwealth of Virginia, the City of Richmond and the Republican Party faithfully and with accomplishment for decades.

Mr. Hager graduated from Purdue University with a degree in engineering and from Harvard University with a master’s degree in business administration. He served in the U.S. Army and the Army Reserves, rising to the rank of captain.

Mr. Hager was employed by The American Tobacco Company for many years, starting at the bottom of the career ladder and retiring as senior vice-president. He accomplished this career achievement despite the fact that he was stricken with polio as an adult.

In 1997, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. Later, he was appointed Director of Homeland Security by Governor Jim Gilmore. Governor Mark Warner appointed Mr. Hager to serve as Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness.

President George W. Bush nominated Mr. Hager to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. He was confirmed by the United States Senate in 2004 and served in the U.S. Department of Education until 2007.

Mr. Hager was elected Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia in July 2007 and served in that capacity until June 2008. He has been active at all levels of the Republican Party for many years and has been a delegate to numerous national conventions. He has been a leader in electoral reform in Virginia, served as Chairman of the Electoral Board of the city of Richmond, President of the Virginia Electoral Boards Association and currently serves as Co-Chairman of the State Board of Elections General Registrar-Electoral Board Working Group.

Mr. Hager will celebrate the 80th anniversary of his birth on August 28, 2016.

Therefore, it is resolved by the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia that John H. Hager is commended for his years of dedicated and selfless service to his community, his State, his City, his Country and his Party, and that the Committee extends its warm regard and best wishes to Mr. Hager on his 80th birthday and its best wishes for the future.”

The Committee adopted the resolution by unanimous consent.

Appeal of General Counsel Ruling of June 10, 2016

Chris Marston announced that he had reconsidered his ruling and planned to reissue it. The appellant, Mark Berg, withdrew the contest by unanimous consent.

Appeal of General Counsel Ruling of July 1, 2016

Mark Berg spoke in support of his appeal.

Chris Marston announced his intent to replace the term “election cycle” with “ensuing election” and to reissue the ruling on August 28, 2016.

The Committee overturned the General Counsel ruling by voice vote.

Tenth District Appeal 1: To overturn the ruling of the Tenth District Committee, in which they voted to remove members Debbie Berg, Mark Berg, Deloris Stottlemeyer, Michael Stottlemeyer and Joshua Stottlemeyer for violations of Article 1.

Clifford Thies spoke in support of the appeal, as did four others, during the presentation. Jo Thoburn, Tenth District Chair, spoke against the appeal, as did three others.

Discussion began. All time under the order limiting debate having expired, a voice vote was taken and the Tenth District Committee's decision was upheld.

Tenth District Appeal 2: To overturn Mark Berg's removal from Frederick County Republican Committee.

Mark Berg spoke in support of his appeal.

Jo Thoburn spoke in support of the Tenth District Committee decision.

Discussion commenced. Eric Herr made a motion to postpone consideration of the appeal to the next regular meeting of the Committee in December; motion was defeated by voice vote.

The Committee denied the appeal by a counted rising vote of 21-51. The Tenth District Committee's decision was upheld.

Kyle McDaniel Proposal

McDaniel proposed that the Committee create a Transparency, Accountability and Communication Task Force to develop a best practices manual for transparency and communication within the SCC; report to be delivered at the Advance. Composition of the group is as follows:

- 1) A member appointed by each of the 11 District Chairs.
- 2) A member appointed by the College Republican Federation of Virginia.
- 3) A member appointed by the Young Republican Federation of Virginia.
- 4) A member appointed by the Virginia Federation of Republican Women.
- 5) A member appointed by the House Republican Caucus.
- 6) A member appointed by the Senate Republican Caucus.
- 7) The Secretary of the Republican Party of Virginia.
- 8) The Legal Counsel of the Republican Party of Virginia.
- 9) A member appointed by the Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia who represents local unit committees in rural jurisdictions.
- 10) A member appointed by the Chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia who represents local unit committees in urban jurisdictions.

A motion to approve was made and seconded.

During discussion, it was proposed that the name of the group should be the Communications Best Practices Task Force. This amendment was approved by unanimous consent.

A motion to amend was made to have the committee report back at the first quarter SCC meeting instead of at the Advance. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

The McDaniel motion, as amended, passed by voice vote.

Sandy Liddy Bourne Proposal

Sandy Bourne moved that the following amendment to the Party Plan be committed to the Party Plan Committee with instructions to report its recommendation at the next regular Committee meeting:

To amend Article VIII, Section L. of the party plan, which addresses procedures concerning Conventions at which delegates and alternates to National Conventions are elected. The proposal is to strike the current language in Section L and replace it with the following:

“(a) Procedures concerning Conventions at which delegates and alternates to National Conventions are elected shall comply with the applicable Rules of the National Republican Party. (b)(i) All individuals who qualify as candidates to run for delegate and alternate to a National Convention shall be on one ballot, whether in electronic or paper form, with no recommendation or screening of candidates other than ensuring their proper qualifications. Delegate candidates shall be ranked in descending order of their vote totals, and the top number of delegates matching the number of delegate positions shall be declared the winners of those delegate positions. The next ranking delegate candidates of the same number shall be declared the winners of the alternate delegate positions. (b)(2) In the event there is a tie for delegate, there should be a runoff between the candidates who have tied with the loser receiving the status of first alternate delegate. If there is a tie for the last position of alternate delegate, that position should be determined by a coin toss.”

The Bourne motion was adopted by voice vote.

VFRW President Ellen Nau submitted a written report, which is attached.

The Chair received unanimous consent to dispense with the remaining reports on the agenda.

Delegate Jimmie Massie announced that he would buy a round of drinks for all Committee members at the Marriott Hotel following the meeting, to accompany the appetizers purchased by Chairman Whitbeck at the same location.

Wendell Walker announced that Reverend Franklin Graham will speak on October 12, 2016 at noon, on the Capitol grounds in Richmond, as part of the Decision America Tour 2016.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.