



Republican Party of Texas State Republican Executive Committee

Third Quarterly Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2016

Wyndham Garden Woodward Conference Center, 3401 South IH-35, Austin, TX 78741

Chairman Tom Mechler opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The invocation was delivered by Pastor Rex Johnson. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag was led by Toni Anne Dashiell, RNC National Committeewoman and the National Anthem was sung by Jack Barcroft, SD 24. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag was led by Robin Armstrong and Texas Our Texas was sung by Rhonda Lacy.

Chairman Mechler appointed a Proxy Committee chaired by Mark Ramsey SD 7 with Scott Stratton SD 19, Jane Cansino SD 28 and Shelly Pritchard SD 9 as members.

Rena Peden, Secretary, called the roll. Members were present unless otherwise noted in the minutes.

Chair	Tom	Mechler
Vice Chair	Amy	Clark
Secretary	Rena	Peden
Treasurer	Tom	Washington
Asst. Treasurer	Montie	Watkins – absent
Nat. Committeeman	Robin	Armstrong
Nat. Committeewoman	Toni Anne	Dashiell
General Counsel	Patrick	O’Daniel
Asst. Gen. Counsel	Eric	Opiela
Asst. Gen. Counsel	Charlie	Sartain
Parliamentarian	Butch	Davis
Sergeant at Arms	Nelda	Eppes
Historian	Wayne	Thorburn
Chaplain	Rex	Johnson
SD 1	Dennis	Cable
SD 1	Sue	Evenwel
SD 2	Jason	Ross
SD 2	Vicki	Slaton
SD 3	Terry	Holcomb
SD 3	Judy	Parada
SD 4	Will	Robbins
SD 4	Melinda	Fredricks
SD 5	Michael	McCloskey
SD 5	Nita	Davidson

SD 6	Chris	McDonald
SD 6	Tammie	Nielsen
SD 7	Mark	Ramsey
SD 7	Sarah	Singleton
SD 8	Karl	Voigtsberger
SD 8	Candy	Noble
SD 9	Steve	Atwell
SD 9	Shelly	Pritchard
SD 10	Jeremy	Blosser
SD 10	Merri	Easterly
SD 11	JT	Edwards
SD 11	Tanya	Robertson – <i>by proxy – Yolanda Waters</i>
SD 12	David	Halvorson
SD 12	Debbie	Terry
SD 13	Dale	Gibble
SD 13	Melanie	Flowers
SD 14	Fernando	Trevino, Jr.
SD 14	Jan	Duncan – <i>by proxy – T.J. Scott</i>
SD 15	Vergel	Cruz
SD 15	Gail	Stanart
SD 16	Randall	Dunning
SD 16	Virginia	Prodan – <i>by proxy – Randy Dunning</i>
SD 17	Marvin	Clede
SD 17	Tina	Gibson
SD 18	Michael	Cloud
SD 18	Edee	Sinclair
SD 19	Scott	Stratton
SD 19	Terri	DuBose
SD 20	Sam	Dalton
SD 20	Janie	Melendez
SD 21	Mike	Goldman – <i>arrived at 9:25</i>
SD 21	Naomi	Narvaiz
SD 22	Chuck	Wilson
SD 22	Denise	DeLara
SD 23	Stephen	Broden
SD 23	Marian	Phillips
SD 24	Jack	Barcroft
SD 24	Randan	Steinhauser
SD 25	Mark	Dorazio
SD 25	Linda	Kinney
SD 26	Fred	Rangel
SD 26	Marian	Stanko
SD 27	Matthew	Walbeck – <i>proxy to Sharon Batterson at 3:10</i>
SD 27	Sharon	Batterson
SD 28	Drew	Bullard
SD 28	Jane	Cansino
SD 29	Mark	Dunham
SD 29	Lisa	Sprinkle
SD 30	Paul	Braswell
SD 30	Deon	Starnes
SD 31	Tom	Roller – <i>proxy to Rhonda Lacy at 1:00</i>
SD 31	Rhonda	Lacy

Mikenley Heller, *RPT Organization Director* reviewed the SREC meeting Packets to ensure all had the necessary documents.

Proxy Committee Chair Mark Ramsey reported that there were three proxies.

The body approved 2nd Quarterly May 11, Organizational May 14 and Special August 6 as submitted.

Melinda Fredricks made a motion to institute the McIver rule. Tina Gibson seconded. Karl Voigtsberger moved to amend the motion to change to four speakers for three minutes each. Randy Dunning seconded and it passed 31 to 26. Jeremy Blosser made a motion to allow the SREC to suspend the rule by a majority vote and Mark Ramsey seconded. Motion passed. Motion as amended passed.

Jeremy Blosser with a second by Randy Dunning made a motion to commit the standing rule on recording and picture taking in SREC meetings to the Rules Committee and handle at the December meeting. Passed.

Consideration and Confirmation of 2016-2018 SREC Committee Appointments. Jane Cansino with a second by Mark Dunham moved to approve all committees with the exception of CRC (which was confirmed at the Organizational meeting). Motion passed.

The Chair called a recess for thirty minutes to allow newly approved committees to meet.

Confirmation of County Chairs. Terri DeBose with a second by Mark Dunham moved to approve Don Laffere as chair of Uvalde County Chair. Passed.

Certification of plank-by-plank voting on 2016 RPT Platform. Amy Clark moved to confirm the results of the Convention vote with a second by David Halverson. Motion passed.

Confirmation of State Party Officer Appointments. Chairman Mechler indicated he appointed Richard Hayes as Parliamentarian, Nelda Eppes Sgt. At Arms, Wayne Thorburn as Historian, Rex Johnson as Chaplain and they did not need confirmation. Jeremy Blosser asked that each of the other officers presented be voted on separately. All were confirmed as listed below:

Treasurer- *Tom Washington*

Asst. Treasurer- *Montie Watkins*

General Counsel- *Patrick O'Daniel*

Asst. Gen. Counsel- *Eric Opiela passed on a 36 to 24 vote.*

Asst. Gen. Counsel- *Charlie Sartain*

Asst. Gen. Counsel- *Art Martinez de Vara*

RPT Chairman Tom Mechler indicated that party building activities were ongoing. The state will be majority minority in 2018 and we must emphasize Republican values in the minority community as they hold our values. The Party must unite as Republicans and as an SREC in order to win. The Chair thanked Russell Hagar and Linda Kinney for their efforts in fund raising. Linda was responsible for a \$100,000 donation and is contacting other potential donors.

2018 Site Selection Committee Report: Chair Linda Kinney discussed the work done by the Site Selection committee and indicated they were down to two sites, San Antonio and Houston and San Antonio is the first choice if some issues can be resolved. Presentations were made by San Antonio and Houston. Linda indicated that there is a plan to use a combination of hotel and convention center rooms for meetings to avoid noise issues that result when curtains are used as a barrier.

Randan Steinhauser, SD 24 introduced Stacy Hock, Board Chairman of Texans for Education Opportunity which is a 501(c)(4) Corporation. Ms. Hock explained her group is focused on education in Texas and promoting school choice and allowing private schools to participate.

Josh Jones and Eric Mahroum provided an update on the Trump campaign. They indicated that Trump was up in the polls and that there will be a number of fundraisers around the state featuring Donald Trump and his children. Also they stated they needed volunteers. The campaign has started "Trump Talk" which allows you to make calls from your home. Rick Figaroa talked about his trip to New York City as part of a Hispanic group to meet with Trump. He mentioned that to make inroads with Hispanics you must remember relationships are important.

There was additional discussion about the pros and cons of having the next convention in Houston or San Antonio. Linda Kinney moved by direction of the committee to select San Antonio for the next RPT Convention to be held June 14 – 17, 2018 contingent on the staff working out the details of the contract. Passed.

Vice Chairman, Amy Clark reminded everyone that "RPT Serves" is our mission and we need to Focus on the November election and help where possible – especially Texans for Trump and Re-elect Will Hurd efforts. She discussed the Strike Force and reminded all that if people can't travel they can work from home. She thanked Toni Anne Dashiell for her effort to send thousands of cards to Louisiana disaster victims.

General Counsel, Patrick O'Daniel indicated that it had been a quite election season and the Party not been sued lately. He indicated that he and Eric Opiela are working on Voter ID Legislation and Eric is spearheading the effort.

Asst. General Counsel, Eric Opiela indicated that he and Patrick O'Daniel had met with the Secretary of State's office who explained how to implement the decision made by the District Court on the voter ID litigation. The Justice Department made a decision to compel Texas to put the word reasonable in the wording of voter ID legislation but that ruling was not upheld.

Asst. General Counsel, Charlie Sartain, asked for more names of lawyers to be available for General Election voting.

Treasurer, Tom Washington indicated the Party is doing well and has over \$1,000,000 in cash in the bank as of September 7. Fundraising continues to improve and we have generated more in income than has been expended. Income from the Convention was \$47,143 with sponsorships and facility fees generating the most revenue.

National Committeewoman, Toni Anne Dashiell gave an “RNC by the Numbers” report. She stated there are 1000 paid staff across the U.S., 5000 trained organizers, millions of volunteers, 4.4 million doors knocked and 724,488 new voters registered. She indicated Republicans are currently out registering democrats. Also, almost 290,000 calls have been made in Texas over the summer and 21,218 doors knocked. She will lead a strike force to New Hampshire November 2-5.

National Committeeman, Robin Armstrong indicated Donald Trump is engaging minorities on issues that are important to them – such as crime and education. He is fighting against political corruption and for those who need help – championing the oppressed. The RNC has put a lot of money providing a ground game to help Trump. Trump is able to get free media which will play a big role in helping him get elected.

Motion by Paul Braswell to end the SREC at 4:45 pm and Mark Dunham made the second. Passed.

Officials Committee Election – Nominees were Mark Ramsey, JT Edwards, Candy Noble, Jane Cansino, Melinda Fredricks, Tina Gibson, Scott Stratton, Randall Dunning and Jeremy Blosser. The top five receiving the most votes were: 1) Mark Ramsey, 2) Jane Cansino, 3) Candy Noble, 4) Tina Gibson and 5) Jeremy Blosser. Chairman Mechler appointed Will Robbins and Melinda Fredricks.

Rhonda Lacy gave a report on the activities of the Strike Force Teams and indicated they still need more volunteers to join teams all over the state and in battleground states. She is heading teams to New Mexico and Pennsylvania and could use more members. These efforts help in future campaigns.

Rules Chairman, Melinda Fredricks stated that by direction of the committee she moved to postpone the vote on the two bylaw changes that were on the call until the December meeting and place them on the December call. Motion passed. Chairman Mechler also indicated that the call would contain an item dealing with a requirement for County Chair candidates to obtain signatures by petition to file for office. The authority for this change comes from 172.021.f of the election code.

Resolutions Committee Chair Candy Noble indicated they will have a new form on which to submit resolutions. They should be submitted one week prior to the meeting to Candy Noble and Mikenley Heller. The submission deadline is forty-eight hours before the committee meeting.

Legislative Committee Chair, Amy Clark, reminded everyone that five priorities had been recommended by the grassroots at the Convention. They included constitutional carry, abolition of abortion, securing the border, convention of states and replacing the property tax and the committee will break up into working groups to cover each topic. The committee will also work to create an advocacy force to help lobby the legislature. The Committee will make “friendly” recommendations to Resolutions. Two items that were close on the grassroots list were school choice and civil asset forfeiture and could be considered.

Party Organization Chairman, Will Robbins indicated they plan to work closely with the TRCCA and the Abbott campaign to avoid duplications of effort. They have created four

sub-committees which will focus on ballot integrity, handbook updates, standardization and changes made by the elections committee. They also plan to begin a quarterly newsletter.

Grassroots Club Chairman, David Halvorson spoke about the history of the Grassroots Club and that state Parties across the U.S. have used it as a model to create their own fundraising "clubs." The Committee will be working on ways to incentivize folks to increase membership.

Candidate Resource Committee Chairman, Steve Atwell, reported that the committee had distributed \$98,750 to sixty-one candidates on the first round, \$40,000 to forty-seven candidates on the second and they anticipate a third round.

Auxiliaries & Coalitions Chairman, Tina Gibson reported that they had voted to invite back the twelve current auxiliaries and will ask for confirmation at the December meeting. Soon, they will begin planning the Auxiliaries Legislative Day and hope to start publishing a quarterly newsletter in 2017.

Volunteerism Chairman, Jane Cansino, stated that they will begin work on the Volunteer of the Year awards banquet to be held in September. SREC needs to start identifying their VOY Award recipients. There will be a dinner for the honorees, a visit to the Capitol and hopefully a reception at the Governor's Mansion.

New Leaders on the Rise Chairman, Toni Anne Dashiell, indicated they were involved in several counties and are currently focused on El Paso, Beaumont, Uvalde and Falls. They have a couple of new projects that they will report on in the future. Sam Dalton reported on the opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley and Terri DuBose explained the difference it makes when the Party leadership shows up to support local events.

Motion to adjourn by Paul Braswell with a second by Mark Dunham. Passed and meeting was adjourned at 4:08.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rena Peden
SREC Secretary