

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020**

**INTERLAKES HIGH SCHOOL, MEREDITH, NH**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairman Stephen Stepanek. Rep. Deanna Jurius was recognized to offer an Invocation. Pam Tucker, NHGOP Vice Chair, was recognized to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Stepanek introduced Governor Chris Sununu who delivered opening remarks. Chairman Stepanek then introduced Senate Republican Leader Chuck Morse who delivered opening remarks. Finally, Chairman Stepanek also introduced House Minority Leader Dick Hinch who also delivered opening remarks.

Chairman Stepanek invited County Chairs to the stage and Norris Cotton Awards were presented for each county and for Concord and Manchester. Chairman Stepanek also presented the Mel Thomson Award to Strafford County Republican Committee Chair Phyllis Woods.

**CREDENTIALS REPORT:** Mark Vincent, Chair of the Credentials Committee, which consisted of himself, Secretary Jane Lane, John Spottiswood from Hillsborough County and NHGOP Executive Director Elliot Gault, declared a quorum present with 368 members out of 477 in attendance. It was moved and seconded to accept the Credential Report. Motion carries.

**RULES REPORT:** Wayne MacDonald, Chair of the Rules Committee, which consisted of himself, Belknap County Republican Committee Chair Alan Glassman and Area Vice Chair Ray Chadwick, presented the Rules Report for this annual meeting. It was moved and seconded to accept the Rules Report. Motion carries unanimously.

#### **NHGOP OFFICER REPORTS:**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Secretary Jane Lane presented the minutes of the last annual meeting held on 1/26/2019 at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, New Hampshire. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. Motion carries.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Rob Kasper presented the treasurer's report. He stated that the 2018 audit has been completed and the 2019 audit is in process. He promoted the Grassroots Givers program which has expanded since last year. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. Motion carries.

**NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN'S REPORT:** NCW Juliana Bergeron presented her report. It was moved and seconded to accept her report. Motion carries.

**NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN'S REPORT:** NCM Steve Duprey presented his report. It was moved and seconded to accept his report. Motion carries.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Vice Chairman Pam Tucker presented her report. She stated that there would be a town committee training conducted today at 1 p.m. by Kate Day. Presently there are 60 town committees with 160 towns involved with them. Candidate recruitment for the 2020 election is underway. In comparison, by May of 2018, there were 170 candidates declared for State Representative for the 2018 election. With recruitment started in March of 2019, now there are 240 declared candidates. It was moved and seconded to accept her report. Motion carries.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairman Steve Stepanek presented his report covering the year since he was elected on 1/26/2019. Successes have been fundraising, winning a special election in Epping with one coming up in Hooksett, continuing to celebrate a Republican President, mayors elected in Portsmouth and Keene who are Republicans, doubling the number of Republican Aldermen in Manchester, and 57 vetoes of bad legislation so far with 55 sustained. Goals for 2020 are to take back the House, Senate and Executive Council, re-elect Governor Sununu, win 4 electoral votes for President Trump and retire Sen. Shaheen and Congressmen Kuster and Pappas. It was moved and seconded to accept his report. Motion carries.

At 12 noon, the Chairman called for a 15 minute recess.

The Chairman called the meeting back to order at 12:15 p.m. He appointed Bryan Gould as Parliamentarian and he appointed Ken Georgevits and Andrew Georgevits as Sergeants at Arms.

OFFICER ELECTIONS:

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN:

Brian Murphy from Rockingham County nominated Juliana Bergeron for the position of National Committeewoman. Sen. Ruth Ward seconded the nomination. It was moved and seconded to close nominations and direct the Secretary to cast one ballot for Juliana Bergeron as National Committeewoman. Motion carries.

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN:

1. Chris Maidment nominated Chris Ager for the position of National Committeeman. Rep. Fred Doucette seconded the nomination.
2. Wayne MacDonald nominated Steve Duprey for the position of National Committeeman. Kevin Avard seconded the nomination.

It was moved and seconded to close nominations. Motion carries. Chris Ager and Steve Duprey both offered remarks and accepted their nominations. The voting process was explained and proceeded. While ballots were being cast and counted, the Chairman recognized several candidates for office to speak: Matt Matern, a Presidential candidate; Gen. Don Bolduc, Corky Messner and Bill O'Brien, all candidates for the U.S. Senate; and Matt Mayberry and Matt Mowers, candidates for CD1. When the election results were complete, Steve Duprey requested time to speak and moved to make the vote unanimous for Chris Ager and that Steve would step down from the position and Chris would be elected to fill Steve's unexpired term. This would allow Chris to attend the May 2020 RNC meeting and the

Republican National Convention as NCM, thus getting to know the position and people to improve the chances of preserving our First in the Nation status. The motion was seconded and motion carries.

The time being 1:35 p.m., the Chairman excused all who wished to attend the town committee training. He also recognized the candidates for CD2 for an opportunity to speak: Lynne Blankenbeker, Eli Clement and Steve Negron.

#### BYLAWS DISCUSSION:

Chairman Stepanek recognized Bryan Gould, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, to lead the discussion about proposed bylaw changes. There was a question about a quorum and it was determined that 184 people were needed (51% of those in attendance) and after a count, there were 220 people present. A 2/3 vote is required to pass an amendment.

#### PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS:

Amendment #1: Proposed by Diane Bitter and modified with her approval by the Bylaws Committee relative to voting members of the Executive Committee. Not recommended by the Bylaws Committee and the Executive Committee concurred with that recommendation. Mrs. Bitter spoke to her amendment and there were speakers both in favor and opposed. A standing vote was requested and the vote was 76 supporting the amendment and 135 against. Amendment fails.

Amendments #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6: Five proposals made by Jim McConnell relative to party officers and National Committeeman or National Committeewoman opposing or denigrating the party platform. Not recommended by the Bylaws Committee. The Executive Committee chose to handle all 5 proposals in one vote and concurred with the Bylaws Committee's recommendation. Rep. Al Baldasaro moved to table proposals 2-6. His motion was seconded and motion to table carries.

Amendment #7: Proposed by Norm Silber relative to closed primary. Not recommended by Bylaws Committee and the Executive Committee concurred with that recommendation. There were speakers for and against the amendment. A voice vote was inconclusive and division was called for. 94 in favor of the amendment and 96 opposed. Amendment fails.

Amendment #8: Proposed by Glenn Gray relative to candidate's eligibility to participate in debates. The Bylaws Committee amended this proposal and recommended the version in Amendment #12 which was further amended by the Executive Committee. No action on Amendment #8 other than defer to Amendment #12.

Amendment #9: WITHDRAWN

Amendment #10: Proposed by Scott Maltzie relative to filling a vacancy in the position of Regional Vice Chairman. Recommended by the Bylaws Committee and the Executive Committee concurred with that recommendation. On a voice vote, the amendment was adopted.

Amendment #11: Proposed by Scott Maltzie relative to the timing of the Convention. Recommended by Bylaws Committee but Mr. Maltzie withdrew his proposal at the Executive Committee meeting so this was not acted upon at this annual meeting. See Amendment #13 following.

Amendment #12: Proposal by the Bylaws Committee as deferred from #8 relative to debates. There were speakers for and against the amendment. A voice vote was inconclusive. Division requested and the vote was 99 in favor and 71 opposed. Amendment fails.

Amendment #13: In a re-write of Amendment #11 which was previously withdrawn, Chairman Stepanek proposed an amendment which would change the timing of the Convention to April of an election year. After discussion, Chris Buda moved to table this amendment. His motion was seconded. A voice vote was inconclusive. Upon division, the vote to table was 71 for and 90 opposed. Motion to table fails. Division vote on the amendment was 119 for with 35 opposed. Amendment was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane P. Lane

Secretary