



1 **MEETING OF THE FIRST CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

2 **MAY 20, 2019 (MONDAY)**

3 **STAFFORD GOVERNMENT CENTER**

4 **STAFFORD, VIRGINIA**

5
6 Call to Order – Chairman called the meeting to order at 18:52. **(Audio: 2:23)**

7 Invocation – Provided by the Chairman, reciting “A Prayer for the Nation” by Thomas
8 Jefferson. **(Audio: 2:37)**

9 Pledge of Allegiance – Adela Bertoldi **(Audio: 3:40)**

10 Reading of the Republican Creed – Alan Aylor **(Audio: 4:00)**

11 Appointment of a Proxy Committee – Bill Card **(Audio: 4:45)**

12 Two proxies submitted, both valid

- 13 o Carol Dawson appointed William J. Deutsch.

- 14 o Larry Kile appointed Steve Albertson.

15 Chairman comments: **(Audio: 5:20)**

16 Thanks members of the district for showing.

17 States the night’s proceedings are not about one method of nomination over the other
18 or one candidate over the other; however, is charging the committee to keep in mind
19 it’s about the rank and file voters that reside in the 1st Congressional District.

20 Proceedings will be formal.

21 Chairman states only members of the committee and respective representatives will be
22 the only ones permitted to speak; all comments must be addressed to the Chair.

23 First order of business is the establishment of rules for the committee hearing.

24 Chairman passed out sheets with rules outlined for review during roll call; rules to be
25 discussed upon conclusion of roll call.

26 Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Secretary calls role at 18:57 **(Audio: 7:18)**

27 Present:

- 28 o Bob Watson Chairman
- 29 o Heather Stefl State Central, Treasurer
- 30 o Willie Deutsh proxy for Carol Dawson, State Central
- 31 o Mark Daniel State Central
- 32 o Russ Wright State Central
- 33 o Steve Albertson proxy for Larry Kile, State Central
- 34 o Jennifer Wiegel College Republicans
- 35 o Jeff Sili Caroline County
- 36 o Dave Rector Essex County
- 37 o David Willis rep. for Fauquier County

- 38 ○ Pat Dunnington Gloucester County
- 39 ○ Dale Taylor Hanover County
- 40 ○ Chris Henderson Williamsburg/James City County
- 41 ○ John Hubbard King William County
- 42 ○ Mike Schoelwer Lancaster County
- 43 ○ Fulton Wood Mathews County
- 44 ○ Trudy Feigum Middlesex County
- 45 ○ Jerry Benson rep. for New Kent County
- 46 ○ John Huber Northumberland County
- 47 ○ Bill Card Prince William County
- 48 ○ Scott Phelps rep. for Spotsylvania County
- 49 ○ Adela Bertoldi Stafford County
- 50 ○ Alan Aylor Westmoreland County

51 Quorum determination: Quorum is met with 23 present. **(Audio 10:02)**

52 First order of business: **(Audio: 10:35)**

53 The chairman proposed rules for debate of the appeal.

54 Jeff Sili offered an amendment to allow RPV counsel to provide input. **(Audio 11:58)**

55 ○ Chairman mentioned that non-attorney/non-member fact witnesses will need to
56 be sworn before providing testimony.

57 ○ Willie Deutsch asked a question regarding how to handle any other motions
58 which may arise. **(Audio: 15:03)**

59 ✍ Chairman argues it would eat into debate time if needed. Stated we can
60 look at debate time if we have to, but that would likely be “very
61 arbitrary”.

62 ✍ Motion to accept the amendment to have RPV Counsel speak to the
63 Committee, seconded by Adela Bertoldi. **(Audio: 15:25)**

64 ✍ 5 Nays, all rest ayes. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it. **Audio:**
65 **15:43)**

66 ○ Chairman called for vote on adopting the rules as amended by Jeff Sili’s motion,
67 (Audio 16:58) and the ayes have it unanimously.

68 ○ Rules adopted **(Audio: 17:02)**

69 Question to hear the appeal: **(full argument in appended audio, starting at 18:00)**

70 ○ Jeffery Adams – Representing Scott Wyatt and RPV members that attended mass
71 meetings and selected Delegates, argued in favor of hearing appeal; citing key
72 provision Article 10 B3 “each committee such as this one shall determine
73 all...”[see reg].

74 ✍ Thirty-day window does not have to close before appeal will be heard.

75 ✍ 97th LDC has in fact heard the contest and made a definitive ruling.

76 ✍ Roberts Rules of Order – A motion to postpone a matter to a time certain
77 if that time certain is in effect to deny the motion, and is out of order...”

- 78 ▪ 97th LDC postponed the matter until June 5th.
- 79 ▪ Using procedure to push the matter beyond June 1st, is effectively killing
- 80 the motion.
- 81 ○ Chair stops counsel at three minutes. **(Audio 21:09)**
- 82 ○ Mike Wade (non-attorney), representing the Peace Campaign sworn in **(Audio:**
- 83 **21:49 – Full argument in appended audio)**
- 84 ▪ Argues no appeal can be made until a decision is rendered; arguing since
- 85 no decision has been rendered, this appeal is not right...citing Roberts
- 86 Rules of Order.
- 87 ○ Chris Marston (RPV counsel): **(Audio: 24:09)**
- 88 ▪ Article 10, Sections B 4 and 5 – Timing of appeals.
- 89 ▪ Did the 97th’s action constitute a rendering of a decision or not? If so,
- 90 appealable, if not, not appealable.
- 91 ○ Bill Card made a motion to hear the appeal; seconded. **(Audio: 25:23)**
- 92 ○ Speaking against the motion: Jeff Sili – “The LDC has a set of rules we need to
- 93 follow. Meeting today circumvents any legislative district that’s been seated.
- 94 **(Audio: 26:19)**
- 95 ○ Speaking for the motion: Mark Daniel **(Audio: 26:57)**– multiple motions have
- 96 already been heard; mistakes have been made, the appeal should be heard since
- 97 postponement would effectively take longer to hear than the contest in
- 98 question.
- 99 ○ Speaking against the motion: John Hubbard – 97th Legislative District has not put
- 100 the motion aside, voted up or down. This appeal is out of order. **(Audio: 27:34)**
- 101 ○ Speaking for the appeal: Steve Albertson – Citing Page. 184 of the Roberts Rules
- 102 of Order argued that the 97th LDCs action was designed to kill the motion..
- 103 **(Audio: 28:12)**
- 104 Chair called for vote on hearing the appeal. **(Audio: 29:00)**
- 105 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The motion to hear the appeal is passed.
- 106 **(Audio: 29:07)**
- 107 Steve Albertson made a motion to find that the motion at the 97th LDC to change the
- 108 method of nomination after all delegates were elected and after all the mass meetings
- 109 were held, and three days prior to the convention was out of order, and thus we should
- 110 vote to sustain the appeal; seconded. **(Audio: 29:16)**
- 111 Presentations:
- 112 ○ Jeffery Adams representing Mr. Wyatt **(Audio: 30:13 – Full argument in**
- 113 **appended audio)**
- 114 ✍ Cites method of nomination has already been chosen by the 97th LDC.
- 115 Freely, pursuant to the Constitutional rights of the committee.
- 116 ✍ Argues changing the method of nomination after already choosing one is
- 117 tantamount to “changing the rules of the game in the middle of the
- 118 game.”
- 119 ✍ “Moral indignation is not enough in its context”. Discussing the “heart of
- 120 the matter” for changing the method of nomination is against Roberts
- 121 Rules of order. A motion to rescind is out of order to the extent it seeks

- 122 to rescind or undo something which cannot be undone (Section 35, P.
123 308 of most recent version).
- 124 ■ The LDC is not the convention; the delegates are the convention. Once
125 delegates are selected and certified; the final power over that convention
126 is passed from the LDC to the delegates.
 - 127 ■ RRO Section H1A: “Delegates and alternates to a convention, shall be
128 certified to that convention...”
 - 129 ● The certification does not go to the chairman of the LDC; the
130 delegates are certified to the convention.
 - 131 ● The chairman is acting in a provisional and organization role, but
132 the chairman and the LDC has no authority over the convention
133 itself.
 - 134 ■ Question: Do we unseat delegates that have already been selected and
135 certified? It can’t be done; it’s an “outrageous overstep of the LDC and
136 its authority.” Argues the party’s shared root principle is
137 Constitutionalism. If we get in the habit of breaking the rules, we will no
138 longer exist as a party. Cited Party Plan Article VII section 9.
 - 139 ■ Representation for Mr. Wyatt ends at 19:35. **(Audio: 45:07)**
 - 140 ○ Mike Wade representing opposition of appeal (Peace): **(Audio: 46:43 – Full**
141 **argument in appended audio)**
 - 142 ■ Chairman of the 97th LDC vacated the table while members were asking
143 key questions.
 - 144 ■ Point of order brought up by Willie Deutsch. Comments must be directed
145 to the chair and not members. **(Audio: 50:00)** – Chair reminds speaker
146 of the rules.
 - 147 ■ Argues Mr. Adams’ representation only argues in favor of “blindness”
148 when it benefits his client; however, he cannot pick and choose where it
149 applies.
 - 150 ■ Question: When did we vote to move the convention to a new location?
151 Stated no one voted on the new location. (Atlee High School).
 - 152 ■ Convention was called and the convention did not open; the convention
153 was thereby cancelled before May 4th.
 - 154 ■ Argues the convention could be cancelled because it was never gaveled
155 in and was not done; therefore, forfeited.
 - 156 ■ Closing: It is clear LDC had the power to make arrangements in
157 contractual agreements. There was never a vote to move the
158 convention. What is done cannot be undone; what is not done can be
159 undone.
 - 160 ■ Representation opines on what method of nomination should be;
161 members comment out of order. Chairman calls room to order.
 - 162 ■ Opposing representation ends argument. **(Audio: 57:03)**
 - 163 Chair opens questions period: **(Audio: 57:45 - Full questions period in appended audio)**
 - 164 ○ Adela Bertoldi: Is there a process that allows for a contingency location for a
165 convention if the original location for any reason does not come to fruition?

- 166 ▪ Mr. Adams: The call was read incompletely. In regard to location the
167 convention call did include “or alternate” Mr. Adams read the call.
- 168 ○ Follow-up question: Does there need to be notice for alternate location?
169 ▪ Mr. Wade: The convention had no authority to make a contract with a
170 different location; that is LDC business.
- 171 ○ Heather Stefl: Do you have a copy of the minutes from the election of the
172 temporary chairman?
173 ▪ Mr. Wade: The minutes were not taken by the secretary; the videos are
174 being transcribed and to be later certified as legal.
- 175 ○ Willie Deutsch: Was there any clause in this convention call for it to be canceled,
176 repealed, etc.?
177 ▪ Mr. Adams: No such provision in the call or the plan relating to
178 cancellation; sticking to RRO.
179 ▪ Mr. Wade: Cancellation would require another call. The delegates that
180 were elected would be deemed elected. There is no postponement of a
181 convention. IF you cancel, you have cancelled the meeting; not
182 postponement.
- 183 ○ Steve Albertson: Given your extensive experience in this area of law, how do
184 you think a court challenge would unfold?
185 ▪ Mr. Adams: The Party has rights to determine its own rules. To a large
186 degree, the Courts will accept that. Citing the Chichester case; where a
187 Democratic committee, at the eleventh hour, changed the method of
188 nomination after voters and members were reliant on the already chosen
189 method.
- 190 ○ Jeff Sili: Were signatures sent in with the appeal?
191 ▪ Mr. Wade: No, there was no decision.
192 ▪ Mr. Adams: The signatures have been submitted to the Chairman.
- 193 ○ Is the convention not being gavelled in irrelevant?
194 ▪ Mr. Wade: The convention opens, it’s a convention; the delegates have
195 no voice up to the time of the convention being gavelled in.
- 196 ○ Russ Wright: Mr. Wade, can you describe your association with the Peace
197 campaign?
198 ▪ Mr. Wade – I’m not an attorney, but I have the freedom to work for
199 them...
- 200 ○ Chris Henderson: What was the genesis of the 97th LDC Chair leaving the
201 committee (adjourning the committee)?
- 202 ○ Chairman of the 97th LDC is sworn in: **(Audio: 1:11:19)**
203 ▪ Meeting that was held at the library was adjourned. The room was over
204 capacity as per Fire Marshall.
205 ▪ People were out of order, members overruled, Chairman overruled them.
206 ▪ Extremely strong words exchanged between members.
207 ▪ Didn’t want to be responsible for the safety of the room.

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Chair opens debate period (20 minutes): **(Audio: 1:13:00- Full debate available in appended audio)**

- Steve Albertson – If this was about a flaw in the convention, they would have delayed the convention. The loser changed the rules at the last second.
- John Hubbard – We did consider postponing the convention. Would have pushed us beyond certification date.
- Willie Deutsch – For the motion; dealing with a capricious and arbitrary process. Imagine a general election watching the ballots come in and changing them mid-polls.
- Jeff Sili – Noticing the numbers delegates...no one knew where the convention was going to be held.
- Adela Bertoldi – There is a difference between gathering and setting. Cites RRO “Voting membership at a convention is established in different ways.”
- Mark Daniel – The people’s perception of a fair process; over 1500 people participating. No longer contest between individuals; now a contest between process.
- Heather Stefl – I have a real problem with the fact a process was started, the horse is out of the barn; bad optics for outsiders. This does not look good when we are changing our mind at Noon on election day.
- Steve Albertson made a motion for roll call vote; seconded: **(Audio: 1:20:50)** All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Chairman calls for Vote on the main motion: To find that bringing a motion to change the method of nomination after the delegates had already been elected was out of order, therefore the appeal should be sustained. **(Audio: 1:22:35)**

- Vote of aye is upholding the appeal, vote of nay denies:

-  Heather Stefl: Aye
-  Willie Deutsch: Aye
-  Mark Daniel: Aye
-  Steve Albertson: Aye
-  Jennifer Weigel: Nay
-  Jeff Sili: Nay
-  Dave Rector: Aye
-  David Willis: Aye
-  Pat Dunnington: Aye
-  Dale Taylor: Nay
-  Chris Henderson: Aye
-  John Hubbard: Nay
-  Mike Schoelwer: Aye
-  Fulton Wood: Aye
-  Trudy Feigum: Aye
-  Jerry Benson: Aye

