Republican Party of Arkansas

2023 Summer State Committee Meeting

Rockefeller Republican Center

Little Rock, Arkansas

December 2nd, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

RPA Chairman Joseph Wood called the State Committee Meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Sebastian County Chairman Larry Bishop offered the invocation. Bradley County Chairman Len Blaylock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Julie Harris gave the Credentials Report. There were 198 members and proxies present. Washington County Chairman Brian Lester made a motion to dispense with roll call and approve the Credentials Report and declare a quorum. The motion was seconded and passed.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the Winter 2022 State Committee Meeting were presented. Lester made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Second District Representative Jacque Martin pointed out that she was incorrectly listed as being from the First District in the minutes. She requested that the correction be made to reflect her in the Second District.

Benton County State Committeeman Leon Caster made a motion to accept Martin's correction. The motion was seconded and passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Treasurer Nelda Speaks presented a Treasurer’s Report. County Chairman’s Association President Brandt Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

1st Vice Chairman John Parke presented a Budget Report. Benton County Chairman Barbara Tillman made a motion to approve the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded.

Chairman Wood open the floor for discussion.

2nd District Rep. to the State Committee Scott Gray from Saline County stated that the budget is out of compliance with RPA rule - Article I Section 3, B 2 and 3.

He made a motion to amend the budget to include the following three items to bring the proposed budget into compliance with the rules:

1. All revenue and expenditures including the last line on the Treasurer's Report - Special Projects account.
2. Proposed expenditures to be subdivided into appropriate categories including the proposed amount to be allocated for candidates.
3. Expenditures by time period.

There was discussion on the amendment.

Lester moved the previous question. The motion passed.

A vote was taken on the amendment. The amendment failed.

A vote was taken on the main motion to pass the budget. The motion passed.

**BUSINESS**

Proposed Rules Changes

Chairman Lux presented proposed rule changes, which had previously been emailed to the state committee members.

Proposed Rule Change #1: The addition of another voice on the State Executive Committee.

Under

ARTICLE V - STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, Section 2 - Membership:

The Executive Committee shall be composed of:

Add

25. The Republican Party Designee to the State Board of Election Commissioners.

Chairman Lux moved approval of rule change #1.

There was discussion. A vote was then taken on the motion to pass the proposed rule change. The requirement for passing was a two-thirds majority in the affirmative. The motion failed.

Proposed Rule Change #2:

Chairman Lux reported that this rule had to do with the public notice deadline for the announced filing period and had been withdrawn. Chairman Wood will appoint a study committee to work with the Legislature on state law.

Chairman Lux reported that rule changes #3 and #4 would strike the language authorizing the state chairman to appoint the members and a chairman to both the Rules and the Platform and Resolution Committee. Instead, it would give the District Committees the authority to elect three members each to both committees. The Rules Committee voted to table these two rule changes and recommend to the state committee to table both changes.

Lester made a motion to deny the two rule changes. The motion was seconded. After discussion the vote was taken. The motion to deny the rule changes passed.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chairman Wood provided an update on recent Republican events across the state. He shared about his attendance at the National Federation of Republican Women Convention in Oklahoma City.

Chairman Wood reported on the recent candidate filing - 100 state house candidates, 18 state senate candidates, five congressional candidates, and nine presidential candidates filed for office. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and appreciating the progress made by the Republican Party. He encouraged everyone to remember how far the RPA had come and to remain motivated and determined as a united party.

In conclusion he reviewed upcoming dates and deadlines.

**REPORTS**

The following reports were given:

RNC Report

Young Republicans Report

Arkansas Federation of Republican Women Report

African American Coalition Report

College Republicans Report

Teenage Republicans Report

1st Congressional District Report

2nd Congressional District Report

3rd Congressional District Report

4th Congressional District Report

County Chairman’s Association Report

Jane Caster from Benton County moved to adjourned the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Julie Harris

RPA Secretary