

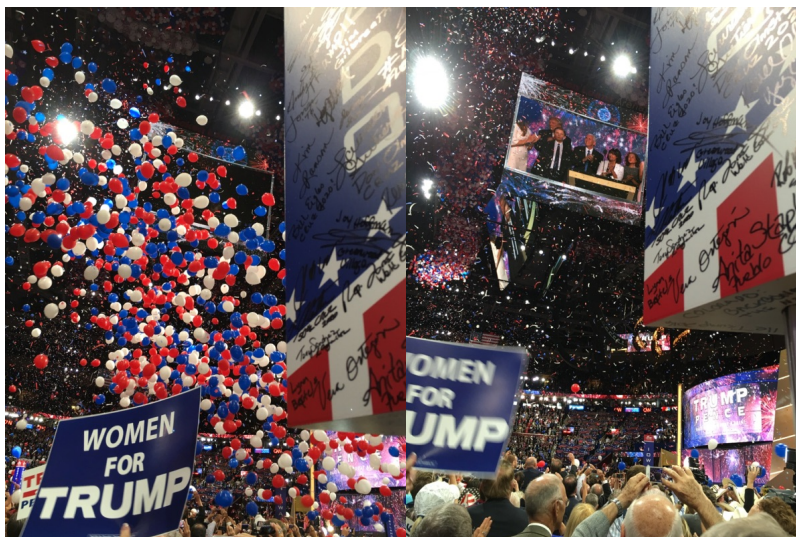
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National Committeewoman Vera Ortegon

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Friends,

The last two weeks were an incredible time for the Republican Party. Not only have we officially nominated Donald J. Trump as our party's presidential candidate—and future President of the U.S.A.—but we also held a series of incredibly productive meetings culminating in the Republican National Convention. From 7/12/16 to 7/15/16, the Republican National Committee (RNC) held their Summer Meeting, and from 7/17/16 to 7/21/16, the Republican National Convention was held; both in Cleveland, OH.



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Convention.

## **SUMMER MEETING (7/12/16-7/15/16)**

### BUDGET COMMITTEE:

- The projected revenue for the entire year of 2016 is set at \$155.9M dollars.
- The RNC is solvent and debt free. Fundraising is ahead of schedule.
- So far in 2016, \$22.3M was spent on political efforts.
  - In 2012, \$6.2M was spent on it.
- So far in 2016, \$32.0M was spent on data acquisition and dissemination.
  - In 2012, \$8.9M was spent on it.
- So far in 2016, RNC staff and volunteers have knocked on 646,000 doors.
  - In 2012, we reached 77,000 doors.
- RNC is investing heavily in field staff and local organizational support, especially in the 10 target states; of which Colorado is included.

### COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS (COA):

- As this committee organized a large portion of the Republican National Convention, the committee held a brief meeting and a reception honoring the COA members' hard work getting us ready for a successful convention.
- The resounding message was the RNC, Cleveland and local law enforcement agencies were prepared to hold a safe convention. Over 350+ buses, over 1000+ volunteers and over 1000+ law enforcements officers were coordinated to ensure the safety of the delegates, dignitaries and the general public.

### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

- The committee approved the only resolution considered; named "Resolution Calling Attention to the Coming Flood of Federal Regulations."

### CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE:

- This committee is comprised of national delegates-- 2 delegates from each state, 2 delegates from each territory and 2 delegates from the District of Columbia.
- Colorado's two delegates were 1) Kendal Unruh and 2) Guy Short.

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- Rule 40 reverted back to pre-2012 language. Now, a presidential candidate needs a plurality of delegates in 5 states in order to become an official candidate to be placed for nomination.
- Rule 12 did not change. As such, RNC members can amend Rules 1-11 and 13-25 by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the entire membership.
- Rule 16 did not change. As such, delegates are not allowed to vote their “conscience” on the first round of balloting during the convention; thereby requiring them to vote in accordance with previously-made pledges from the state and congressional district assemblies.
- The committee also voted to create a commission by 2018 that will propose changes to the presidential nominating process.

#### PLATFORM COMMITTEE MEETING:

- This committee is comprised of national delegates-- 2 delegates from each state, 2 delegates from each territory and 2 delegates from the District of Columbia.
- Colorado’s two delegates were 1) Rep. Justin Everett and 2) Robin Coran
- Conservative values prevailed in this committee. Issues discussed were limiting immigration from the Middle East, same-sex marriage, pornography, slowdown of multinational trade deals, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

#### CONTESTS COMMITTEE:

- This committee considered 5 separate appeals; one from Colorado, one from Illinois, one from District of Columbia, and two from the Virgin Islands.
- With regards to the appeal from Colorado, the Colorado State Party won.
  - The issue dealt with the at-large delegates and the manner in which they were chosen at the State Assembly.
  - The Contests Committee decided the at-large delegates were properly chosen despite some irregularities with the ballots.

#### **REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION (7/17/16 to 7/21/16)**

Here are some basic facts about the convention:

- Over 50,000 attendees were present.

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represented Colorado.

- The Colorado Delegation earned the reputation of being “troublemakers.” On the first day, the majority of the delegation walked off the floor after party leadership allowed a simple voice vote—as opposed to a state by state roll call vote—on the convention rules. Without amendment, the convention rules prevented the delegates from voting their conscience on the first round of balloting and required them to vote in accordance with previously-made pledges from the state and congressional district assemblies. Effectively, this ended the “Never Trump” movement.
- Due to the unprecedented nature of the walk-off, the Smithsonian asked our State Chair, Steve House, if Colorado would donate the Floor Sign to the Smithsonian. He graciously accepted and donated it to the venerable museum and the entire Colorado delegation, and VIP guests, signed it.
- The 2016 RNC was one of the safest convention in recent memory, as only 33 arrests were made. And it was mainly because a group tried to burn our flag!
- Trump/Pence is officially the Republican ticket for President of the U.S.A.

As you can see, it was a busy few weeks, but extremely informative. Here are my take-home messages:

1. We remain a truly conservative and unified party with great conservative values.
2. Our delegation represented Colorado admirably and worked hard to implement our state’s values into the national dialogue.
3. Cleveland, OH was a great place to hold the convention. The people were friendly, gracious and very helpful. They welcomed Republicans well.
4. The men and women of law enforcement kept us safe and secure. We—as a society—owe them our respect and a debt of gratitude; which was made more apparent to those who attended a high-visibility event such as the RNC.
5. A sincere “thank you” to you—Colorado Republicans—for making me your National Committeewoman. I was officially sworn in on July 22, 2016. And as I have committed to you, I will work hard to ensure Colorado’s voice is heard loud and clear in these national discussions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vera Ortegon

Pueblo City Council 2007-2011

Pueblo City Council President 2009-2010

Board of Water Works; Pueblo, Colorado: 01/95 – 02/07

Southeastern Colorado Conservancy District Board: 04/04 – Present

Office of Economic Development and International Trade: 01/99 – 03/04

Small Business Owner and Concerned Citizen

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