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National Committeewoman Vera Ortegon

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<<First Name>>,

The Republican National Committee (RNC) held our Winter Meeting in Washington, DC from January 31 to February 3, 2018. It was a unique meeting, as the 2018 State of the Union Address was delivered the night before. As a consequence, our meetings reflected the upbeat mood of the nation. Moreover, we focused on how important our fundraising efforts and continued enhancements to our data analytics is to the dissemination of the Republican and conservative principles to the American people.

Here is my report of the **Winter Meeting (01/31/18 to 02/03/18)**:

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:

- One of the key messages was how well our fundraising efforts CONTINUE to be!
- In 2017, the RNC raised \$132.5 million with \$38.8 million cash on hand. Incredible work, Team...yet again!
 - In the same period, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) raised \$65.9 million with \$423K cash on hand.
- The RNC currently has no debt; but the DNC carries a debt of \$6.1 million, which continues to grow by the day.
- A few quick facts about the RNC's fundraising in 2017:
 - The RNC broke records in 9 of the 12 months. It was the best off-cycle year we have ever experienced!
 - Added over 400,000 new donors, mainly smaller ones.
 - Raised \$1.5 million during the State of the Union address.
- The above numbers are great news for 2018 and 2020, as it will allow us to further strengthen our data base, political outreach, digital communications and support

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- Chairperson McDaniel announced our new Finance Director is Todd Ricketts, the co-owner of the Chicago Cubs.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:

5 resolutions were approved during this session. 2 were withdrawn, and 2 postponed until the spring meeting.

1. Resolution Supporting President Trump's Decision Recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel.
2. Resolution Supporting President Trump's Right to Restore Sound Policies on Transgender Personnel in the Military.
3. Resolution in Support of President Trump's National Security Strategy (NSS).
4. Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 14 and the Elimination of Continuing Resolutions.
5. Resolution Honoring the Life and Memory of Evelyn Axdahl.

Resolution #4 was of great importance to me, since it specifically states "The U.S. Congress effectively forfeit pay for all members if a concurrent fiscal budget is not passed and presented to the President for signature by October 1 of each year until a budget is signed into law as proposed under S.14, No Budget, No Pay Act, of the 115th Congress (2017-2018)."

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES:

- This meeting was constituted as informational and no decisions were taken on any Rules.
- The Chair reminded the committee that the last chance to make any amendments to Rules 1-11 is at the spring meeting.

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING PROCESS COMMITTEE (Temporary):

- This committee will review the rules governing the states' processes of choosing delegates and the nomination of the Republican Party's presidential nominee for 2020.
- The members will receive a full report at the spring meeting.
- This committee will cease to exist after a report of the rules has been submitted to the RNC.

GENERAL SESSION:

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- She opened the session by congratulating President Trump on the passage of the Tax Reform Act of 2017 and on his excellent State of the Union Address. She emphasized how the President is “Making America Great Again.”
- The Tax Reform act delivered:
 - The biggest set of tax cuts in a generation.
 - Over 250 companies—affecting over 3 million workers— were given bonuses, stock options, salary increases and other employee benefits.
 - The unemployment rate is at a 17-year low.
 - 2.4 million jobs have been created since President Trump took office.
 - Job-killing regulations have been, and continue to be, cut.
 - Our military is strong. And only getting stronger.
 - Veterans are starting to get the care they deserve.
- According to her report, the RNC is gearing up for the 2018 midterms.
 - The RNC has deployed on-the-ground staff in 22 states, including Colorado, who have already knocked on 4 million doors, made over 8 million phone calls and held more than 700 Republican Leadership Initiative trainings for over 7,000 fellows.

GUESTS WHO SPOKE AT THE MEETING:

- President Donald J. Trump
- Vice President Mike Pence
- Kellyanne Conway, Counselor to the President
- Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
- Emmett McGroarty, Senior Fellow, American Principles Foundation
- Dr. James Carafano, VP of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute
- Dr. Nile Gardiner, Director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom
- Frank Cannon, President American Principles Foundation
- Bridgett Wagner, VP Policy Promotion at the Heritage Foundation

Here are my take-home messages:

1. Chairperson McDaniel is not only relentless when it comes to fundraising, but also when it comes to defending the RNC and the Administration in the media. We are lucky to have her as our leader.
2. The RNC’s fundraising efforts continue to significantly outperform the DNC’s efforts, which will pay dividends during the 2018 midterms. Due to our number #1 fundraiser, President Trump, we continue to attract new (smaller) donors to our platform.

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- a sitting president's first mid-term election, however we are looking to "defy history" and retain our control in Congress and Governors' mansions across the nation.
4. We continue to express our dedication and support for our veterans, military, the Constitution and THE AMERICAN FLAG.

It was another great week at the RNC! We greatly appreciated President Trump and Vice President Pence for spending time with us and letting us know about their priorities. Every RNC member felt a tremendous sense of pride for the organization and the party as a whole. Once again, I want to thank each of you for allowing me to represent you at the RNC. It is a great honor and privilege to represent Colorado at this body. We need to work hard to win all the elections in 2018, especially the gubernatorial election here in Colorado!

Respectfully submitted,



Vera Ortegon

Colorado RNC National Committeewoman-CO

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