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National Committeewoman Vera Ortegon

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The Republican National Committee (RNC) held our Spring Meeting in Miami, Florida from May 1 to May 5, 2018. The meeting was subdued and without controversy, but at the same time, many interesting issues were dealt with, especially the Resolution Honoring the life and memory of former First Lady Barbara Bush.

Here is my report of the Spring Meeting (05/01/18 to 05/05/18):

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:

- In the first quarter of 2018, the RNC raised a whopping \$39.0 million with \$42.9 million cash on hand.
 - In the same period, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) raised \$12.8 million with only \$9.1 million cash on hand.
- The RNC currently has no debt, but the DNC carries a debt of \$6.6 million, which continues to grow by the day.
- A few quick facts about the RNC's fundraising in 2018:
 - The RNC has raised \$171.6 million in the 2018 election cycle.
 - The RNC devoted \$250 million (e.g., a quarter of a Billion) to the midterm strategy. Our #1 priority is to keep Congress in the hands of the Republicans.
 - Democrats must flip 23 House seats and 2 Senate seats to control these respective chambers.

- 388,850 donors contributed money during the 1st quarter at an average of \$40.34.
 - Our team added over 539 major new donors and 34,682 small donors. Our message with everyday Americans is resonating, despite what you hear in the media!
- The fundraising numbers are great news for the upcoming 2018 and 2020 election cycles, as it allows us to strengthen our party's infrastructure (e.g., data, political outreach, digital communications and boots on the ground).
- The 2018 budget increased by \$9 million to \$132.0 million.
- Our new Finance Director, Todd Ricketts- co-owner of the Chicago Cubs, hit the ground running, and fundraised extremely hard. He is doing a fantastic job and we want to thank him for his dedication to this organization and the conservative values we represent.

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE:

- The Committee announced they have narrowed down the possible sites to conduct our 2020 Presidential National Convention to 7 cities/sites.
- They hope to make an announcement of the final selection soon. Stay tuned for that exciting news!!

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:

6 resolutions were approved during this session. 1 was postponed until the summer meeting.

1. Resolution Honoring The Life And Memory Of Former First Lady Barbara Bush.
2. Resolution Celebrating Israel at 70.
3. Resolution in Support of Trump Administration Trade Policies.
4. Resolution to Protect Federal Taxpayers from Territories', States', Or Municipalities' Defaults.
5. Resolution Condemning Arthur Jones Candidacy for Congress in IL-3rd CD.
6. Resolution to Continue The Original Commission To Assess The Threat To The United States From Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES:

- 2 amendments to Rule 10 were discussed, voted on and sent to the General Session for final approval. They were as follows:
 - Rule 10(a)(5)(i) - The Rules of the Republican Party stated, "After the Winter

Meeting of the RNC in the year before a Presidential election, the Chairman shall appoint the members of the Standing Committee on Arrangements...”

The amendment eliminated the requirement for the Chairman to wait until the Winter Meeting to appoint members to this all-important committee (who plans and arranges the Presidential National Convention). The amendment passed in General Session by 160-0 votes.

- Rule 10(a)(10) - The Rules of the Republican Party stated, “There shall be a Standing Committee on Presidential Primary Debates...” The amendment eliminated this committee to gain better control of our primary candidates’ message in the media next round. If there is a need to reinstate this committee down the road, the RNC has the power to do so. The amendment passed 158-0 votes

GENERAL SESSION:

- Chairperson Ronna McDaniel report was very optimistic as it focused on the formidable fundraising that took place during the 1st quarter of 2018.
- She opened by offering our condolences to the Bush Family on the passing of Barbara Bush and shared a few anecdotes of the late First Lady.
- She expressed excitement and a congratulatory tone of the passage of the Tax Reform Act of 2017 and how it is positively affecting the lives of everyday Americans.
 - The Tax Reform act has delivered:
 - The biggest set of tax cuts in a generation.
 - Over 400 companies—affecting over 4 million workers— were given bonuses, stock options, salary increases and/or other employee benefits.
 - The unemployment rate is at a 17-year low, sitting at 3.9%.
 - 2.7 million new jobs have been created since President Trump took office.
 - Our country’s GDP is at least 3% better.
 - Inflation is below 2%.
- She also expressed how the RNC is gearing up for the 2018 midterms.
 - We already have deployed over 300 on-the-ground staff in 22 states, including Colorado. The goal is to deploy 900 staffers throughout the nation.
 - We have trained over 12,000 fellows to knock on doors, make phone calls and register voters.
 - She reiterated that the RNC’s #1 priority is to keep Congress in the hands of the Republicans. She stated, “we know we face tough challenges. But we’ve faced obstacles before. We know Democrats are energized. But we’re more

passionate than we've ever been. We know they are ready for a fight and are preparing for a battle, but we are preparing to win the war.”

GUESTS WHO SPOKE AT THE MEETING:

- Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL)
- Donald Trump Jr.
- Lara Trump
- Stephen Moore
- Candace Owens
- Charlie Kirk

Here are my take-home messages:

1. The RNC is working extremely hard to counter historical trends of mid-term election loss for the President's party and win a decisive battle in November. The DNC is not properly funded or equipped for the fight, despite what is being reported in the media. Our data is second to none, our staff is focused, we are fiscally in a stronger place than the DNC, and we have the ultimate ace in the hole—TRUMP.
2. The media's "Blue Wave" narrative is not rooted in fact and is over-blown. Republican voters are super motivated and ready to stand up when we hear things like "Impeach Trump" or "Pelosi, the next Speaker of the House." It won't be easy, but if we all do our part... we will be victorious in November.
3. Regardless of what happens during the primaries, we must all stay united and unified; "united we stand, divided we fall." Let's keep Congress in the hands of the Republicans.

Every time I attend these meetings, it reminds me of how special it is to be a citizen, and a republican, of this great country of ours. Our Constitution, our flag, our institutions and, most importantly, our citizens are constant reminders of why we fight for conservative principles and why we fight for freedom of choice and freedom from government intervention. I choose to be a republican, because I believe in the people of this country. Democrats would rather empower government, than you. So, please remember during this upcoming election cycle, Republicans believe in you, the citizen, and the other party does not. It really is that simple.

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 elections in 2018, especially the gubernatorial election here in Colorado! If you are interested in volunteering or helping, please reach out to me and I will get you plugged into

our efforts here in Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,



Vera Ortega

Colorado RNC National Committeewoman-CO

P.S. To review past reports and for more information, please visit www.VeraRNC.com

Paid for by National Committeewoman Vera Ortega
