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National Committeewoman Vera Ortegon

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January 31, 2019

Dear &lt;&lt;First Name&gt;&gt;,

The Republican National Committee (RNC) held our Winter Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico from January 23 to January 25, 2019. The meeting was focused on electing members to leadership roles, including the Chair, Co-chair and the other leadership positions.

Here is my report of the **Winter Meeting (01/23 to 01/25/2019)**:

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING:

- During the 2018 election cycle, the RNC raised a record breaking \$316 million and outspent the Democratic National Committee (DNC) by \$147 million.
- During the 2018 election cycle, the RNC raised a record breaking \$316 million and closed with \$27 million cash-on-hand. The RNC still maintains **zero debt**.
  - In the same period, the Democratic National Committee (DNC) was outspent by \$147 million and only have \$10 million cash-on-hand. The DNC also currently carries a debt of \$3.0 million.
- A few quick facts about the RNC's fundraising in 2018:
  - We invested \$275 million in our ground game.
  - Online donations raised \$44 million, which constitute 464% more than 2016.
  - There were 175,000 new online donors who donated over \$12 million.
  - We gained over 700,000 new followers over our social media platforms.

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- The above numbers helped us to gain 2 extra seats in the US Senate and minimized our losses in the US House. Even though the GOP lost 40 seats, we need to place that number into context. Not only did 44 members retire at the same time, but more importantly, we were able to slow down a historical trend that most Presidents see in their first mid-term election. For example, during President Obama's first cycle, he lost 6 seats in the Senate and 63 in the House. So, by comparison, we did great!
  - Current count for the US Congress is:
    - Senate: 53 GOP and 47 DEM
    - House: 199 GOP and 235 DEM
- The 2019 budget was set to \$144.5 million dollars.

#### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING:

5 resolutions were approved during this session and were then approved at the General Session.

1. Republican National Committee Resolution Supporting The Presidency Of Donald J. Trump
2. Resolution Honoring The Life Of Fredi Simpson.
3. Resolution Honoring The Life And Memory Of High Chief Utu Abe Malae.
4. Resolution Honoring The Life and Memory Of Former President George H. W. Bush.
5. Resolution Honoring The Life And Memory Of Former Senator John Sidney McCain III.

It is with great sadness that Resolution 2 and 3 concerned losing two current RNC members.

#### RNC OUTREACH UPDATE:

- In 2018, the RNC has contacted over 52 million voters by phone and conducted 27 million door contacts.
- In 2018, 8608 television bookings were done, compared to the 4271 bookings done in 2016.
- The RNC data was utilized in 12 out of 14 Governor races, and 17 out of 18 Senate races.

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high negative media reporting on Pres. Trump, the appointment of Justice Kavanaugh and the government shutdown.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES:

- No rules were changed during this meeting.
- We considered amending Rules 1 to 12 before the Presidential National Convention. As such, an amendment was offered to Rule 10(a)(10) to delete the temporary committee on the Presidential Nominating Process. The amendment did not pass, as this committee's work has been accomplished with a submitted report. So, the amendment was considered unnecessary.

#### GENERAL SESSION:

- Chairperson Ronna McDaniel report was, as usual, very impressive, as it focused on the incredible fundraising that took place during the 2018 cycle.
- She announced the launch of Project GROW: Growing Republican Organizations to Win. This program is designed to help state parties win elections using RNC resources by not only sharing data, but also in fundraising efforts and ground operations.
- She highlighted the strength of the nation's economy and accomplishments.
  - Wages are up 3.2% since the previous year.
  - Unemployment is the lowest for Hispanics and Blacks
  - 4 million new jobs have been created.
  - A new trade deal was finalized with Canada and Mexico.
  - The First Step Act was signed to reform our broken criminal justice system.
  - US withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal.
  - NATO members have paid over \$1 billion extra for defense due to President Trump's insistence on the necessity of other members paying their fair share.
- She mentioned how Speaker Pelosi has shown no concern for the furloughed workers, nor a willingness to negotiate on the need for enhanced border security and an updated immigration system.

#### RNC Leadership Elections:

- Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel was voted unanimously as the Chair for another 2 years.

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- Vickie Drummond from Alabama was voted in as the new secretary, and Ron Kaufman from Massachusetts was voted in as the new Treasurer.

#### GUESTS WHO SPOKE AT THE MEETING:

- John Fund, National Review
- Rachel Campos-Duffy, Television personality
- Kayleigh McEnany, RNC National Spokesperson

Here is my take-home message:

The RNC is in great hands with Ronna McDaniel, her leadership team and the dedicated staff. From the top to the bottom, they are all incredible professionals who are committed to the RNC vision, conservative principles, and President Trump's message. They are all willing to work extremely hard to make this nation the best in the world and away from the disastrous ideas of the DNC. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

I am constantly reminded of how special it is to be a Republican. As a Hispanic/Latina woman who legally immigrated to this great nation of ours, I support President Trump's efforts to gain funding for enhanced border security (and yes, that includes funds for a wall). Law-abiding citizens, including many Hispanics, want an organized immigration system that allows those who will meaningfully contribute to this country and prevent those who will hide in the shadows and siphon off tax-supported resources. Just as my family, along with many others, has a fence in our backyard and a lock on our front-door so we can control who comes in or not, President Trump wants the same for our country.

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 as 1 of the 168 members.

**Respectfully submitted,**



Vera Ortegón

Colorado RNC National Committeewoman-CO

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