

Republican Party Of Navarro County  
Executive Committee Meeting  
June 30, 2018

Officers Present:

Eric R. Meyers – 103  
John Curtis – 205  
Steve Jessup – 300  
Kim Cobb – 109  
Ed Monk – 103  
Bill Carson --308

Precinct Chairs Present:

Arlen Swarzenruber – 101  
James Sinclair – 104  
Larry Bailey – 107  
Hunter Thedford – 108  
Ralph Gonzalez – 200  
Betty Partain – 203  
Charles Raines – 303  
Keith Burres – 304  
Liz Smith – 305  
Barbara Wilson – 307  
Denna Green – 400  
Linda Gober – 401  
Patrick Patterson – 402  
Carol Doucet – 404  
Jennifer Burleson – 406

Precinct Chairs Absent:

Don Parks – 103  
Dale Blankenship – 106  
Wilson Prater – 109  
James G. Roberts, Jr. – 403  
Bobby Wade – 405

Committee Chairs Present:

Christina Sanders – 103  
Frank Steed – 203

Public Office Holders Present

James Lagomarsino – 402  
H.M. Davenport – 402  
Greta Jordan – 103  
Joshua B. Tackett – 103  
David Foreman – 203  
Elmer Tanner – 306  
R. Lowell Thompson – 402  
Tom Gray – Chief Justice, Tenth Court of Appeals  
Susan Wright – SREC10  
Sam “Tripp” Bryant – SREC22  
Ashley Sellers – SREC22  
Janet Jackson – Bosque County Chair / TRCCA

Election Judges Present

none

Guests Present:

Mark Archibald – 103  
Gayle Henson – 103  
Angela Meyers – 103  
Eric Meyers – 103  
Jean Meyers – 103  
Rhonda Sinclair – 104  
Janie Goodman – 203  
Kelley Palma – 203  
Mark Palma – 203  
Nicky Bryant – 206  
Dan Teed  
Chris Baldwin – 300  
Chris Woolsey – 300  
Ruthie Pfueller – 301  
Thomas Pfueller – 301  
Margarita Patterson – 305  
Fred Biltz – 400  
Jeff Smith – 400  
Ralston Gober – 401  
Thomas McNutt – 401

Candidates Present:

Cody Harris – HD8  
Ron Wright – CD6

Guests Present:

Carol Bouldin  
John Burk  
Laura Burk  
Michael Evans  
Joe Palmer  
H.R. White

The Organizational Meeting of the County Executive Committee for the Republican Party Of Navarro County was held at the Republican Headquarters, 111-B West Third Avenue in downtown Corsicana, Texas on June 30, 2018.

**Call To Order:**

Eric R. Meyers, County Chair of the Republican Party Of Navarro County, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, for the purpose of swearing in Precinct Chairs and County Chair for the next two year term, provide Precinct Chair training, adopting local party Bylaws, enlisting Volunteer Deputy Registrars, and unifying the local party after a highly contested primary election. Nominations would be taken for appointing additional Precinct Chairs to fill vacancies.

The meeting was called in accordance to the Rules of the Republican Party Of Texas and the directives of the Texas Election Code, with parliamentary authority guided by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*.

**Establishment of Quorum:**

With 19 of 24 Precinct Chairs present, County Chair Eric R. Meyers determined a quorum was established.

**Invocation:**

Father Ed Monk offered the invocation

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Vice Chair John Curtis led the pledge to the United States and Texas flags.

Vice Chair John Curtis expressed the Republican Party of Navarro County is taking steps towards unity to keep Navarro County 'red' and keep Texas 'red.' Although there are a diversity of conservatives in the crowd, Vice Chair John Curtis said the most liberal conservative is better than the socialist left. "We must respect one another's opinions, and re-unite to keep Navarro County 'red'," he said.

**Presentation of the Minutes:**

Secretary Steve Jessup mailed a copy of the January 15, March 5, and May 7, 2018 regularly scheduled meeting minutes to each Executive Committee member to review for corrections. The minutes required no corrections, additions, nor deletions. Larry Bailey motioned to accept the minutes. Ralph Gonzalez seconded the motion. The Executive Committee accepted the minutes unanimously.

**Introductions of Officeholders, Candidates, and Special Guests:**

County Chair Eric R. Meyers recognized the following elected officials, candidates, and special guests present:

- David Foreman                      Constable Precinct #2
- Tom Gray                              Chief Justice, 10<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals
- H.M. Davenport                      County Judge
- Elmer Tanner                         Navarro County Sheriff

- Ron Wright candidate for U.S. Representative District #6
- R. Lowell Thompson District Attorney
- Cody Harris candidate for State Representative District #8
- James Lagomarsino District #13 Judge
- Janet Jackson Bosque County Chair / TRCCA Trainer
- Jeff Smith Corsicana City Councilman Precinct #4
- Sam “Tripp” Bryant SREC22 Committeeman
- Ashley Sellers SREC22 Committeewoman
- Susan Wright SREC10 Committeewoman
- Joshua B. Tackett District Clerk
- Greta Jordan Justice of the Peace Precinct #1

Chairman Meyers allowed the elected officials and candidates to speak for three minutes each:

Sheriff Elmer Tanner re-stated his campaign slogan when he was first elected six years ago “Meeting Your Needs, Exceeding Your Expectations.” He believes he has fulfilled it and hopes to serve Navarro County as Sheriff for years to come.

Ron Wright, candidate for U.S. Representative District #6, needs Navarro County to stay 'red,' so that Congressional District 6 can stay 'red,' because he knows the Democrats are coming after us. His Democrat opponent is well-funded with California money. However, she is being sued by her Democrat Primary opponent for voter fraud, which is “manna from heaven.” Wright emphasized what is at stake in this election. The President will choose another U.S. Supreme Court Justice, needing Senate confirmation. If Trump picks a pro-life justice like Neil Gorsuch, it would be the first conservative Supreme Court since the 1930's, providing for a different future for our grandchildren. Navarro County is the key in the next election – small but overwhelming Republican.

Cody Harris, candidate for State Representative District #8, recognized his former Republican Primary opponent Thomas McNutt. Cody Harris promised to carry the pro-life issues. His opponent is a staunch Democrat from New York, so Navarro County must be kept 'red.' Harris is for freedom and individual rights. Harris thanked the Precinct Chairs and County Chair, and will look forward to working with the RPNC in the fall campaign.

SREC22 Sam “Tripp” Bryant thanked his wife Nicky for her support. He noted the lack of participation from the previous SREC22 members, and has already visited McLennan County twice and Hill County once, since being elected two weeks ago at the State Convention. Texas House District #101 in Tarrant County (within SD22) has not had a Republican elected. He introduced John Burk of Plano TX, who is an internet specialist: set-up live-streaming and target marketing. Millennials are the swing votes.

SREC10 Susan Wright will support “Tripp” Bryant and Ashley Sellers.

### **Oath of Office of County and Precinct Chairs:**

Tom Gray, Chief Justice, Tenth Court of Appeals, based in Waco TX, stated the county, state, and federal judicial systems must “stay in their lanes.”

Justice Gray recognized three people present whom worked in his first election in 1998 to the Tenth Court of Appeals: Carol Bouldin, Larry Bailey, and Steve Jessup. The RPNC met in a gas station on the corner of Seventh Avenue and 15<sup>th</sup> Street (current

CVS pharmacy location). County Chair Kathy Carter was doing her best to keep the RPNC growing.

He shared a story of an RPNC fundraiser event with Texas Supreme Court Justice Greg Abbott, whom was running for re-election in 1998, where Steve Jessup wrote a newspaper article to the Corsicana Daily Sun. The article was true what they said, but it appeared Gray and Abbott were endorsing each other, which judicial candidates are not allowed to do by law, so they both detracted the article.

In his first election in 1998, for the contested open seat on the Tenth Court of Appeals, consisting of 16 counties, Tom Gray's margin of victory was four votes per precinct. "A Republican vote in Navarro County will offset a Democrat vote in Travis County, Justice Gray said. "What you do matters." U.S. Senator Ted Cruz is up for election. The Democrats will try to take back the U.S. Senate and delay Trump's justice appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Chief Justice, Tenth Court of Appeals, Tom Gray sworn-in the Precinct Chairs first, then the County Chair, with the Republican Oath Of Office, for the next two-year term.

### **Election of Secretary:**

County Chair Eric R. Meyers called for nominations from the floor for Secretary. Bill Carson nominated Steve Jessup as Secretary. Larry Bailey seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to re-elect Steve Jessup as Secretary for the next term of office.

Steve Jessup thanked the attendees for their vote of confidence. Jessup's political career started in 1990 as Precinct Chair, Election Judge, and RPNC Publicity Chair. Then, he was grateful to be elected Delegate to the National Convention, Presidential Elector, and selected as Volunteer Of The Year, which he credits many people in the room attending for making it possible. Jessup has been participating in the RPNC for 28 consecutive years.

### **Oath of Office for Local Party Officers:**

County Chair Eric R. Meyers appointed the following local party officers:

- John Curtis                      County Vice Chair
- Steve Jessup                      Secretary
- Kim Cobb                          Treasurer
- R. Lowell Thompson          Legal Counsel
- Father Ed Monk                  Parliamentarian and Chaplin
- Bill Carson                          Elections Administrator
- David Foreman                  Sergeant-at-Arms

County Chair Eric R. Meyers called for a motion to ratify the new local party officers. Keith Burres motioned to ratify the new officers as presented. James Sinclair seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to ratify the new local party officers unanimously.

Chief Justice, Tenth Court of Appeals, Tom Gray sworn-in the local party officers, with the Republican Oath Of Office, for the next two-year term. Chief Justice Gray's career started in Navarro County. The American Revolution started with a small number whom greatly affected history. He thanked those in attendance, being part of this event.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Kim Cobb presented the Operating Budget for fiscal year October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 (page 1). She reported the building and utilities require \$16,940 annually to fund. The Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2018 (page 2) shows the current assets: Operating Account = \$5,979.55, NAVPAC Account = \$10,016.00, and Primary Election Account = \$9,975.00, for a total assets of \$25,970.55. The Profit & Loss By Class Statement from October 2017 to June 2018 (page 3) showed no income to the NAVPAC Account, no expenses to the Primary Election Account, and the Operating Account was break-even. Liz Smith motioned to accept the Treasurer's report John Curtis seconded the motion. The Executive Committee accepted it unanimously.

NAVPAC Coordinator Frank Steed re-stated the local party has \$17,000 expenses and \$10,000 income. The party cannot elect people without spending money. He introduced the new Chairman's Circle Revitalization Program:

- \$100 = Roosevelt Sponsor: Member Pin, Name on Annual Display Board
- \$1000 = Lincoln Sponsor: Large Member Pin, Name on Annual Display Board, Recognition at All Events, and Special Seating at Events.
- \$5000 = Reagan Sponsor: Large Gold Member Pin, Name on Annual Display Board and Displayed Prominently at RPNC Headquarters, Recognition at All Events and Displays, Special VIP Table / Seating at All Events, and Cast Iron Republican Party Statue.

Frank Steed presented the first Reagan pin to County Chair Eric R. Meyers. Christina Sanders presented her \$5000 check as the second Reagan Sponsor. Chairman Meyers explained the nameplates will be magnetic for the display board. Also, for those who give their volunteer time and effort, the Display Board has a Patriot Recognition

### **Chairman's Report:**

**Standing Committees:** County Chair Eric R. Meyers announced his Standing Committee Chair appointments.

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| • Outreach, Education, and Training        | Steve Jessup, Denna Green    |
| • Election Admin and Volunteer Services    | Bill Carson, Liz Smith       |
| • Rules and Resolutions                    | Steve Jessup, James Sinclair |
| • Fundraising                              | Christina Sanders, Don Parks |
| • Precinct Chair and Volunteer Recruitment | Larry Bailey, Wilson Prater  |
| • NAVPAC Coordinator                       | Frank Steed                  |

**Precinct Chairs:** County Chair Eric R. Meyers introduced the new Precinct Chairs:

- Arlen Swartzentruber – 101
- James Sinclair – 104
- Larry Bailey – 107
- Ralph Gonzalez – 200
- John Curtis – 205
- Carol Doucet – 404
- Patrick Patterson – 402
- Linda Gober – 401
- Denna Green – 400

- Barbara Wilson – 307
- Liz Smith – 305
- Keith Burres – 304
- Charles Raines – 303
- Sam “Tripp” Bryant – 206
- Jennifer Burleson – 406
- Bill Carson – 308
- Steve Jessup – 300

Chairman Meyers pledged to work with the Precinct Chairs, even though there are slight differences of opinion. The RPNC must unite because the left is organizing and putting their candidates forward.

**Adoption of Bylaws:** County Chair Eric R. Meyers had mailed an Organizational Meeting packet with a copy of the 2018-2020 proposed Bylaws of the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Navarro County to all Precinct Chairs on June 12, 2018. Due to action taken at the Republican State Convention on June 16, Chairman Meyers updated and highlighted the necessary Bylaw changes via E-mail dated June 25:

Article VI “Meetings” Section 6: “A quorum for the conduct of business shall be twenty-five (25%) of the total members.” Changed from 50%. [RPT Rule 9a].

Also, revised was:

Article XII “Parliamentary Authority:” “The rules contained in the Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as specified by the State, will (changed from shall) guide the Executive Committee and Officers in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.” [RPT Rule 5]

County Chair Eric R. Meyers called for a motion to adopt the 2018-2020 proposed Bylaws. Ralph Gonzalez motioned to adopt the 2018-2020 proposed Bylaws. Bill Carson seconded the motion, Discussion followed.

Patrick Patterson wanted to clarify Article XIII “Amendments” that voting members are the total members present, a quorum having been established.

Liz Smith wanted to clarify Article VI “Meetings” Section 7 that anyone is allowed to speak, but only the Executive Committee can vote.

Bill Carson questioned the Article VI “Meetings” Section 6 revision from 50% to 25%, citing that in a small county 4-5 people could make all the rules, and 25% should only pertain to larger counties. Parliamentarian Ed Monk referenced RPT Rule 9 specifying 25%. Chairman Meyers simplified Section 6 that a quorum is required for non-statutory business only. Therefore, it is important for Precinct Chairs to attend all the meetings. Meeting dates are published.

Ralph Gonzalez motioned to amend Article V “Endorsements” Section 1 “Candidate Endorsements.” to include all Executive Committee members shall not publicly endorse any candidate for public office in contested Republican primary elections. Liz Smith seconded the amendment. However, opposition from the other Precinct Chairs present, whom candidates and constituents rely upon, resulted in the amending motion being withdrawn.

R. Lowell Thompson correctly understood Article V “Endorsements” Section 2 “Candidate Endorsement Exemption” that he can endorse himself.

Joe Palmer of Johnson County asked if Article V “Endorsements” Section 1 “Candidate Endorsements” pertains to state-wide races, or county / local races only. Chairman Myers stated that the recommendation of the RPT for local party officers, the section is written to include endorsements for county, state, and federal races.

Sam “Tripp” Bryant questioned Article V “Endorsements” Section 3 “Controversial Issues.” Ashley Sellers of Johnson County wanted to define “controversial issues.” Chairman Meyers defined it as issues having a major impact upon the community, that may or may not be in the best interest of the local party. The Executive Committee will discuss and vote at a properly called meeting. The Committee can differentiate local party business versus the community business, and concur the likelihood of great public disagreement or negative perception upon the party.

Joe Palmer stated the Johnson County Republican Party paralyzed people from the political process due to controversial issues. The Republican Party was founded upon the abolition of slavery. Chairman Meyers said he openly encourages discussion, which includes E-mail and group chat. The RPNC must be able to come to a consensus.

Sam “Tripp” Bryant motioned to amend Article V “Endorsements” by striking-out Section 3 “Controversial Issues” because it is 'overkill.' Arlen Swartzentruber seconded the amendment, stating he is for free speech, smaller government, and less bureaucracy. Navarro County can come together in freedom. Chuck Raines spoke in favor of the amendment that Republican must take a stand.

James Sinclair spoke in opposition to the amendment, that the proponents are overthinking Section 3, which states “controversial issues in the name of the organization.” David Foreman agreed the phrase “organization and its members,” not wanting only a few individuals representing his Republican views.

Sam “Tripp” Bryant furthered his point citing “its members shall not issue statements” which makes it personalized. Arlen Swartzentruber motioned to call the question. Ralph Gonzalez seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to call the question by acclamation.

The Executive Committee voted 12 in favor of the amendment to strike-out Article V “Endorsements” Section 3 “Controversial Issues”, with 6 voting against. Keith Burres called for an exact vote count (Division of the House), which confirmed the 2/3 majority vote to pass the amendment, per Bylaws Article XIII “Amendments”.

Larry Bailey motioned to adopt the Bylaws, as amended. Ralph Gonzalez seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to adopt the Bylaws, as amended, with 16 in favor and 2 against, obtaining 2/3 majority vote.

### **Appointment of Precinct Chairs:**

County Chair Eric R. Meyers opened the floor for nominations to fill Precinct Chair vacancies. No nominations were made.

Each Precinct Chair received a USB jump drive, containing voter information from the GOP Data Center for all Navarro County precincts, for the past four elections. Also, included are electronic copies of the proposed RPNC Bylaws, RPT Platform, RPT Rules, guide to campaigning & blockwalking, RPNC contact list, Precinct Chair handbook, and Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training. Betty Partain desired to know her precinct boundaries. County Elections Administrator Daniel Teed has maps.

The RPNC had purchased and issued RPT Precinct Chairs Handbook binders to all Precinct Chairs, containing new training material. If there is a point of contention regarding precinct boundaries, Daniel Teed strongly encouraged the Precinct Chairs to go to the Commissioners Court for the original legal verbal description. The List Of Registered Voters is based upon this and should be correct.

Col. Keith Burres chose this opportunity to announce his resignation as RPNC Vice Chair and Precinct #304 effective July 1. He is selling his house and moving to San Antonio to be closer to family. He thanked the RPNC for being Precinct Chair, which was an honor. He thanked everyone for all their support.

### **Other Business:**

**Committee Reports:** no reports

**Election Information and Volunteer Deputy Registrars:** County Chair Eric R. Meyers encouraged the Precinct Chairs to direct election questions to RPNC Elections Administrator Bill Carson.

Navarro County Elections Administrator Daniel Teed stated he cannot endorse candidates. He is carefully prescribed by law what he can and cannot do, what he can and cannot say. He can provide procedural information. He considers it is a great honor to serve in this position. Teed is also a pastor, and looks forward to working with Father Ed Monk. He quoted from the Bible: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:32)

Daniel Teed cannot appoint election pollworkers, rather they come from the local parties. County Chairs is responsible for developing election pollworker lists. They may not get paid much, but it is a wonderful responsibility. They must know the Election Code, follow proper procedures, and serve the public. The training for Presiding Judges and Poll Workers is at <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/pollworker-training/index.asp>

Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training is on-line, Eric R. Meyers had four people complete the exam today. The test is at <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/deputy/shtml>. Daniel Teed requested the completed exams be brought to the Elections Office. He can conduct training outside the Elections Office, but the training exams must be performed at the office.

Teed re-stated that he desires to serve all people, every individual, without an agenda. Elections are an important part of our country. The Elections Administrator ensures there is no vote tampering. He has seen voter fraud, but not in Navarro County, because of the diligence of the pollworkers and public scrutiny here. The new voting machines arrived with security measures (logs, locks, and counts).

**New RPNC Website:** Webmaster Thomas Pfueller has updated the [www.navgop.com](http://www.navgop.com) website to WordPress format, which has plug-ins, photo galleries, and direct media feeds. Users can register on-line to receive E-mails communications at no charge, whereas Constant Contact cost \$60 per month. Social media has been updated for Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. New Facebook regulations require a three-step verification for political party postings and event advertisements, so we are still awaiting approval. The Executive Committee chat group has been closed.

**RPNC Headquarters:** AT&T had disconnected the RPNC phone number 903-872-6287, due to non-payment, and Northland Cable had issued a new phone number



903-257-3076 We will receive the former phone number back again in a few weeks, and Chairman Meyers has re-invested in a basic business internet package, concurrent with the existing Northland telephone contract. He has donated a computer, monitor, and purchased a new HP laser copier / printer for those who want to work here.

In closing, County Chair Eric R. Myers thanked his wife Angela, for allowing him to undertake this new role. He thanked his family and others for cleaning the Republican Headquarters. He thanked Frank Steed, John Curtis, and Keith Burres as mentors. He thanked former County Chair Chris Baldwin for his services and will create a plaque to honor all previous County Chairs. He looks forward to working with the local party, on-call 24 hours a day.

The Navarro County Democrats will hold a fundraiser next Saturday, and promised some local candidates for the next election in 2020. Therefore, we must support all County candidates to keep Navarro 'red.'

**Adjournment:**

County Chair Eric R. Meyers called for a motion to adjourn. Ralph Gonzalez motioned to adjourn. Larry Bailey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 am. Precinct Chair training will be held immediately afterwards with Texas Republican County Chair Association (TRCCA) trainer and former president Janet Jackson. The next regular meeting will be the quarterly County Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 4, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven L. Jessup  
Secretary