



**Draft Minutes of the Young Republican Federation of Virginia**

*Fourth Quarterly Meeting 2019*

**DATE/TIME:**

November 16, 2019; 2:30pm

**LOCATION:**

2965 Colonnade Drive, Suite 220

Roanoke, Virginia 24018

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

*PRESENT:* T. Turner, Grover (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman), Keiser (by proxy), Dyer, Rapelje (National Committeewoman), Hazekamp (National Committeeman) (by proxy), D. Johnson, Cruey, Knight, Dixon, Holman, Zemanek, Hazekamp (Prince William Chairman)

*ABSENT:* D. Turner, Trower, Blakely, Dessart, Bayliss, Crosby, K. Johnson, Schroth, Harding, Elgandy, Draim, Spiker, Lund, Hirschfield, Flynn, Groves, Wood, Stewart, Maiorana, Woodard, Grover (New River Valley), Corsi, Hagen, Law, Rapelje (Western Tidewater), and Thota.

*DESIGNATED PROXIES:* Matt Colt Hall (Keiser) and Alex Pisciarino (Hazekamp)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Young Republican Federation of Virginia's Executive Board was held in Roanoke at 2965 Colonnade Drive, Suite 220, Roanoke, Virginia 24018 on November 16, 2019. The meeting convened at 2:43pm with Chairman Thomas Turner presiding and Jessi Rapelje recording the minutes.

**II. INVOCATION**

Thomas Turner led the invocation.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Erika Dyer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **IV. READING OF THE REPUBLICAN CREED**

Isaiah Knight read the Virginia Republican Creed.

#### **V. APPOINTMENT OF PROXY COMMITTEE**

Chairman Turner appointed Jessi Rapelje, Nishant Grover, and Ben Dixon to the Proxy Committee, with Jessi Rapelje as Chairman.

#### **VI. ROLL CALL**

Jessi Rapelje called roll with a quorum of members present (13 members).

#### **VII. REPORT OF THE PROXY COMMITTEE**

Proxy Committee Chairman Jessi Rapelje reported that all proxies were in order.

#### **VIII. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved by acclamation.

#### **IX. STATE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Thomas Turner gave the State Chairman's Report, including:

- Discussing the difficulty and victories of the 2019.
- Noting how YRs helped lead the state by contacting more than 50,000 voters during the election cycle.
- Setting forth a vision for 2020 in which we need to move forward together as a party that allows everyone to have a seat at the table, so that all are encouraged to work hard towards victory in Virginia.
- Noting that Virginia was recognized at the November YRNF board meeting in Nashville. In particular, Stephanie Zemanek, Chris Godby, and Thomas Turner from received awards for outstanding efforts in 2019.
- Highlighting YR victories across the Commonwealth, including Isaiah Knight & Michael Berlucci, who were both elected to local office.
- Laying out 2020 strategy in which the Federation will be focused on outreach, promoting the message of the Republican Creed, and deploying to support candidates.
- Noting that YRFV gained considerable recognition across the state this year and that the organization is on a pathway to leadership as more people take notice of our effective efforts.
- Thanking members for their continued work and Lindsey Holman for securing YR rates at the RPV Advance.

#### **X. STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

Erika Dyer gave a report of the State Central Committee, including:

- Discussing that SCC will be voting on several amendments at the upcoming meeting in December, and asking that any federation members with questions or concerns on these amendments contact her to discuss them further or share opinions.

- Noting that SCC will hear an additional appeal on the 97th District at the upcoming meeting.
- The Chairman noted that SCC Representative Cole Trower was not at the board meeting.

## **XI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Dan Johnson moved to send the Board to executive session to discuss the Treasurer's Report, Stephanie Zemanek seconded, and the motion was approved by acclamation. Executive session ended, and minutes of were approved in session and destroyed per Robert's Rules.

## **XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business was reported.

## **XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Bylaws Committee Chair Vacancy
  - *Motion to Approve Thomas Turner as Bylaws Chair:* Jessi Rapelje
  - *Second:* Stephanie Zemanek
  - *Vote:* Unanimous by Acclamation
- 3<sup>rd</sup> District YR Representative
  - *Note:* No Action Taken
- 5<sup>th</sup> District YR Representative
  - *Motion to Approve Alex Pisciarino as 5<sup>th</sup> District YR Representative:* Isaiah Knight
  - *Second:* Ben Hazekamp
  - *Vote:* Unanimous by Acclamation
- 8<sup>th</sup> District YR Representative
  - *Note:* No action taken, but Erika Dyer suggested the Chairman consider nominating Jack Blakely at the next meeting.
- Deputy Political Director
  - *Discussion:* Former Deputy Political Director resigned after not attending the statewide deployment.
  - *Motion to Appoint Ben Dixon as Deputy Political Director:* Jessi Rapelje
  - *Second:* Stephanie Zemanek
  - *Vote:* Unanimous by Acclamation
- Campaign Committee
  - *Discussion:* Several members of the committee were deemed resigned from the committee after not attending the statewide deployment. The Chairman noted that he will be looking to fill the vacancies going forward and asked any federation members interested in serving on the committee to contact him for further information. Additionally, the Chairman will send out a follow up email to make this information available to all federation members.
- Tri-City Young Republicans

- *Discussion:* Carolyn Pruett submitted the necessary paperwork to charter the Tri-City Young Republicans and discussed her plans to build the club.
- *Motion to Approve the Charter of the Tri-City YRs:* Matt Colt Hall
- *Second:* Ben Hazekamp
- Greater Peninsula Young Republicans
  - *Discussion:* Chairman Turner gave an update on the Greater Peninsula YRs. Though they had not yet reached their membership requirements, they are on track to be ready at the next board meeting.
- Concerns on Other Clubs
  - *Discussion:*
    - Chairman Turner addressed that several groups without a YRFV charter have begun using the Young Republicans in an attempt to gain members. The Chairman has reached out to these groups and made them aware that they are not eligible to use the Young Republicans trademark before beginning the chartering process. The Chairman also noted that YRFV will not tolerate uncharted groups using the YR trademarked name if they have no intention of seeking a charter, since using the YRs name would give the impression to others that these groups are speaking on behalf of YRFV, which they are not.
    - Erika Dyer noted that the Culpeper Young Republicans Facebook page is one such group.
    - Jessi Rapelje noted that the Gloucester Young Republicans are also a group that have begun using the name without authorization or seeking to charter.
    - The Chairman discussed the necessary legal process with YRNF if these or other groups continue to present a challenge.
- 5<sup>th</sup> District Question
  - *Discussion:* Isaiah Knight asked if the Board would consider endorsing the letter signed by many board members earlier in the year condemning the homophobic comments of 5th District Chairman Melvin Adams. Erika Dyer suggested tabling the discussion until the next board meeting so that members who were not present would have time to consider the motion and read the document again.
  - *Motion to Table Discussion:* Erika Dyer
  - *Second:* Stephanie Zemanek
  - *Vote:* Unanimous by Acclamation
- Annual Event/Convention
  - *Motion to Hold an Annual Event for 2020:* Erika Dyer
  - *Second:* Stephanie Zemanek
  - *Vote:* Unanimous by Acclamation

**XIV. REPORTS FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

National Committeeman: Ben Hazekamp recapped the YRNF Board meeting: 10 Virginians attended and 105 YRs participated at the meeting representing 35 states. The national board laid out a plan for 2020 as well as several goals, including: 25% club growth from all states, 1 million YRs educated throughout the US, and 10 million YR voter contacts (500,000 from Virginia). Young Republicans Leadership Conference will be March 20th-25th in Washington, DC.

National Committeewoman: Jessi Rapelje added that Virginia had been chosen as a Priority 1 state by YRNF, which will allow YRFV to host four nationally supported deployments in 2020 and apply for grant funding from YRNF.

YRFV Chairman: Thomas Turner noted that Erika Dyer was appointed to the Women’s Mentorship Committee, Thomas Turner was appointed to the Leadership and Outreach Committee, DJ Spiker was appointed Resolutions Chairman, and Chris Godby was appointed as Executive Director of YRNF.

**XV. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES**

6<sup>th</sup> District: Dan Johnson noted that the 6th District held all seats in the November election and increased margins in many precincts. YRs were very active during the election cycle and instrumental in the results.

**XVI. COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Matt Colt Hall thanked the Roanoke Times Reporter present at the meeting to report on YR activities during the 2019 election cycle.

Ben Hazekamp thanked Chairman Turner for his leadership at the YRNF Board meeting.

**XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

Thomas Turner adjourned the meeting at 3:31pm.

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Thomas Turner  
YRFV Chairman

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Jessi Rapelje  
Acting Secretary