

NEW KENT COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE (NKCRC)

Regular Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Providence Forge Recreation Center

Carriage Road, Providence Forge, VA 23140

February 24, 2026, at 7:00 pm

1. Call to Order and Welcome:

Mr. Christopher Kelm, Unit 1st Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

2. Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and RPV Creed:

a. The Invocation was led by Pastor Wayne Meade

b. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Christopher Kelm

c. The Republican Creed was read by Mr. Christopher Kelm

3. Quorum Declaration:

a. Mr. Christopher Kelm appointed the following individuals to the Proxy Committee:

Beth Trivett, Pat Bell and Debbie Anderson

b. The Proxy Report yielded the following information:

128 approved members: 25% = 32

46 members in attendance

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. J. B. Benson moved to dispense with the reading of 01/13/26 minutes. Mr. Bill Wood seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Dr. George McBeath offered the Treasurer's Report which yielded the following information:

\$7,941.56 - starting balance

\$ 30.00 – deposits

\$1,824.97 – disbursements

\$6,146.59 – ending balance

6. Membership Update/Election of new members:

Mr. Leonard Erquiza offered the following membership update:

225 members

128 voting members

97 associate members

7. Recognition of Elected Officials:

Laura Ecimovic, Commissioner of Revenue

Mark Daniels, Chair of 1st Congressional District

8. New Business:

Virginia Kelm spoke about the testing for voting machines occurring on Friday, February 27, 2026, at the Registrar's Office. If there is any member who can volunteer to observe the testing, please contact Virginia Kelm.

Mark Daniel, Chair 1st Congressional District, spoke about the redistricting referendum.

Virginia Kelm and Wilma English teams calling strategic lists concerning the redistricting.

Isacc Hyde made a motion to allocate \$1,200 (not to exceed \$1,200) for 4 x 8 signs. Luther Hunt seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was then amended by Isacc Hyde to allocate \$1500 for 4 x 8 signs totaling \$2500. Luther Hunt seconded the motion. All in favor.

Sue Cobb, Administrative Assistant to Mark Peake, also spoke concerning the redistricting referendum and Cardinal News as a source of information.

Nick Cianelli offered to connect with Walker Ware for use of his property for signage.

Laura Ecimovic spoke about our upcoming reconstitution and the canvas. Information was passed out to all present explaining the process. All application forms must be completed CORRECTLY AND INCLUDE A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO NKCRC BY MARCH 11, 2026, AT 5:00 PM. Checks may be combined for each household. There is a \$20 fee for membership and a \$10 fee to vote in the canvas for Unit Chairman. John Lockwood made a motion to approve the form as submitted. Beth Trivett seconded the motion. John Lockwood amended the motion to have the form include the drop-off location and date. All in favor.

John Lockwood gave a report concerning the food drive for Proclaiming Grace and offered his thanks for everyone who had brought donations for the new food pantry and gave the locations for drop offs.

Christopher Kelm, Unit 1st Chair, asked if you are planning for running for Unit Chair or any other position on the Executive Committee, please contact the Executive Committee.

Bill Wood made a \$100.00 contribution for signs for the redistricting. Thomas English also made a \$100.00 contribution towards signs.

9. Guest Speakers:

Helen Sharpe, Chairman of West End Republicans

- 10. Christopher Kelm, Unit 1st Chair, addressed the upcoming Reconstitution. Pat Bell, Laura Ecimovic and Ginny Kelm were appointed to the Reconstitution Committee. Pat Bell gave an informative report on the three methods of reconstitution and explained the reconstitution process. The three methods are as follows:**

Mass meeting

Canvass

Convention

Mrs. Carrie Evelyn made a motion to use the Convention method for the reconstitution process. Joni Gant seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Reconstitution Committee will meet and schedule dates for the Convention and the prefiling.

Mrs. Laura Ecimovic, Commissioner of Revenue, spoke about the real estate reassessment. She explained the process her office uses to come to the new assessments, the right of appeal and how to use this process. Mrs. Ecimovic stated that she teaches classes concerning real estate assessments and appeals.

Mrs. Ginny Kelm recognized the 2025 volunteers and presented Pat Bell and Wilma English with pins for their volunteer work. Mrs. Kelm also spoke about the November election and that the New Kent Republicans showed up, voted and were able to secure New Kent votes for all Republicans across the board. Mrs. Kelm requested that we have more volunteers and asked that anyone interested in volunteering sign the volunteer sheet in the lobby. Mrs. Kelm also spoke about the need for sub-committees and asked for volunteers to serve on those

committees. She also requested that members sign Rob Wittman's petition in the lobby to run for office.

11. Adjournment:

John Lockwood moved to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Hall seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned.