



The Kansas Coalition for Life

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News Release

For immediate Release

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Conservatives in Sedgwick Co. Win GOP by Larger Margin than Expected

The newly elected “Conservative” (*think ProLife*) Sedgwick Co. Republican Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen held control of the Sedgwick County Republican Party at the reorganizational meeting Thursday evening, as they have for the past twelve years. The only surprise of the evening was the lopsided size of the victory. It was the largest win for ProLife Conservatives in Sedgwick County since 1992.

ProLife **Nancey Harrington** was elected Chair over “Moderate” (*think ProAbortion Choice*) Jerry Hoggatt, by 240 votes to 149 with 3 abstaining. Similar vote numbers put **Rick Macias** in as Vice-Chair, **David Harris** in as Secretary, and **Bud Hentzen** back in as Treasurer. In addition, Conservatives won 100% of the 60 Delegate positions and 100% of the 62 Alternate positions. In fact, the Moderates did not field any candidates for either Delegate or Alternate positions.

Following the August 3rd Primary, it was expected that the Conservatives would win the vote for Sedgwick County Chair by a 30 to 40 vote margin, as estimated by a count of the winning Precinct Committeeperson candidates. The giant 90-vote margin, however, was more a result of the Moderate’s self-destruction than it was due to Conservative efforts.

The Moderates were particularly irritated by the Kansas Coalition for Life, (KCFL) web-site, which identified some of the members of the ProAbortion Choice GOP Club as RiNOs (*Republicans in Name Only*). Traffic to the KCFL web-site was boosted by an ad in The Wichita Eagle which directed Primary Election voters to the web-site.

Anger over the KCFL web-site caused the officers of the GOP Club to go completely off balance, and into a self-destructive mode.

Instead of working to make the best of what they had, the Moderates launched an all-out personal attack on Mark S. Gietzen, the President of the Kansas Coalition for Life in two separate mailings. (*Attachment-1*) This personal attack backfired on the GOP Club and they lost by a margin three times as large as was expected.

Both winning and losing Precinct Candidates, who were identified as RiNOs on the KCFL web-site, were directed to call Mark Gietzen to complain, and a second mailing personally attacking Mark Gietzen was mailed out just prior to the reorganizational meeting on August 18th. (*See Attachment-1, 2 and 3*).

So many of the Moderates, identified as RiNOs on the KCFL web-site, called to complain to Mark Gietzen, in response to the first mailing, that he had to take three days off work just to respond to the angry callers.

One-by-one, Mark explained to each angry caller why it was not in the best interests of the Republican Party that they vote with the Moderates who were running against the Conservatives for control of the Sedgwick County Republican Party. Mark encouraged those callers who would listen, to discontinue their association with the ProAbortion Choice GOP Club, and to vote for the Conservative ballot. Apparently more than a few did just that!

The most contentious point of the evening came when Jack Ranson stood up to give a nominating speech for Jerry Hoggatt, who was the Moderate's candidate for Sedgwick County Chair. Instead of telling the few undecided Committeemen and women why they should vote for Jerry, Jack Ranson spent all his allotted time at the podium hurling insults directly at Mark Gietzen and The Kansas Coalition for Life.

In reality the success of the evening was the result of two years of work and planning by several conservative groups in Sedgwick County, particularly the KRA (Kansas Republican Assembly) the 2nd Amendment Society, KCFL, and others new to the process who are most interested in the issue of Marriage definition.

Due to its size, control of Sedgwick County assures ProLife Republicans control of the entire 4th District Republican Party, which will re-organize later this year.

It is expected that ProLife Conservatives in other parts of Kansas will win in at least two of Kansas' other three districts. If that occurs, the entire Kansas Republican Party will be back in ProLife hands prior to Kansas Day 2005.

- Attachments:
- (1) G.O.P. Club mailing, Wichita Eagle Article 1988-Nov-05, and
Wichita Eagle Article 2003-Jul-24
 - (2) Statement from Lisa Doty, (*Mark's ex-wife*) 1990-Feb-19
 - (3) Statement to Kansas SRS, 2003-Jul-24

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