



**April 11, 2026 District 13 Republican Party Convention**  
**Minutes**

10:00 – Invocation - Senator Jim Burgin

10:05- Pledge - Chairman Farina introduced our keynote speaker and Marine Kevin Hermining and both he and LTC Sherry Lynn Womack (Ret) led the Pledge

10:08 – Welcome Message - Roger P. Farina - District 13 Chair

10:12 –State Treasurer **Brad Briner** spoke on liberty and safety and freedom of choice. There are many new people in our state and he encouraged us to welcome and educate them on our values.

10:20 – NC District 13 Congressional Representative, **Brad Knott** -started with saying what position politics should have in our country and it is not first, as government is not our salvation. Restoring the order of God being first and keeping the conservative model is the only way he believes our republic will remain for the next 250 years.

There are some very hostile forces he encounters daily and they are ready to take out all things good; they are gunning for THIS election cycle.

Illegal immigration is his “pet project”. He is working on a bill to further criminalize illegals convicted of crimes as well as quicker and more efficient sentencing. (HB1147) . He also hates the administrative state, such as EPA and agencies similar that have a stronghold over the courts. Being on the Judicial Committee, he is trying to transfer the power back to the people.

Brad took questions from the body regarding the Save America Act, dark money coming into our state and the removal of Pam Bondi.

10:52-Chairman Farina introduced our Keynote Speaker, **Kevin Hermining**. Kevin spoke on Liberty and Leadership, Service before Self. He gave a very moving recount of what happened during his days in captivity in Iran in 1979 and spoke passionately about his heroes and friends, those that survived and those that did not.

11:40- Convention Chair Michael Magnanti called the convention to order.

Chairman Farina Appointed the Convention Officers:

Convention Chair – Michael Magnanti



## North Carolina Republican Party 13th Congressional District

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Credentials Committee Chair – Mindy Sportsman

Sergeant at Arms – Max Dolan

Convention Secretary - D-13 Secretary Jean Casanave

Convention Parliamentarian – Mike Phillips

Official Timekeeper - David Smoak

Speakers to follow:

**Michael Byrne** - Running for Court of Appeals; asked for help in getting name recognition for judges on the ballot as many voters skip that part of the ballot for lack of knowledge.

NC GOP **Vice Chair Dillard** - There was a 20% primary election voter turnout statewide. Need judges and poll workers and also to talk up the candidates to get the voter turnout.

NC GOP Executive Director – **Zach Almond** - Introduced himself to the members. Stated that the biggest impact on our state long term would be to make sure the Republican judges get elected. (In particular Sarah Stevens).

**George Bell**-Superior Court Judge, promoted HB307, No bonds for violent criminals.

### **Reports**

11:55 **Credentials** Committee Report - Mindy Sportsman

Members in Attendance: 70 (Quorum met with 36)

Franklin County 10      Lee County 15    Harnett County 22    Wake County 4  
Johnston County 4    Person County 5    Caswell County 1    Granville County 9

Report Adopted

Michael Magnanti introduced the **Convention Rules** and procedures.

Rules Adopted.

**Chairman Farina** offered his report on a resolution closing primaries, promoting precincts and voter engagement.

D13 Secretary reported **Convention Minutes** from 2025 have been posted on the website for 12 months.

Minutes Adopted.



## North Carolina Republican Party 13th Congressional District

**State Plan of Organization Report** Michael Magnanti-Michael said they have continued to work on the plan since the end of the last convention; it is vital that it passes this year in June. The goal was the dispersal of authority, to have a “county centric” and bottom up document.

There were two upcoming Zoom meetings regarding explanation of the plan, one at 4PM today and the last one on April 21st at 7pm.

Jim Womack, Lee County, requested to have a summary report of the plan with thoughts of good and bad to distribute to those attending the convention.

**D-13 Treasurer** Kyle Burns; the district is in good fiscal health. State fund has \$6,853.81 and federal account has \$289.28.

**D-13 Audit Committee** Chair Teri K. Sparrow-Reported that the District is financially and operationally in good health and is in compliance for the year 2025.

**D-13 Platform Committee-** Chair Laura Pichardo; reported they are reviewing the written platform and advocating for a policy in support of Israel; expansion of opportunity scholarships and revising article 7 regarding the protection of parental rights.

Jim Womack, Lee County (POI)-inquired on whether there was any AI input to the platform. At this time, no but will be considered at the next meeting April 19th, 5pm.

**D-13 Resolutions Committee-** Chair Tara Niebaum; this year there are four resolutions, two regarding closing the primary elections in NC, one banning persons with felony sex offenses and similar crimes from serving in any leadership capacity and one removing Larry Shaheen from his role. All the resolutions are posted on the website and are being considered as a package.

Jim Womack, Lee County explained the differences between the two resolutions addressing closing the primaries. One is asking that NCGA reverse SB747 and the other is asking the NCGOP to close the primary elections.

Resolution package passed.

**D-13 Plan of Organization Committee-**Michael Magnanti; adoption of the 2026 District 13 Plan of Organization –is the same as last year.

Plan is Adopted.



## North Carolina Republican Party 13th Congressional District

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Closing Remarks - Chairman Roger Farina

NC GOP Convention June 11-14, 2026 Greensboro NC

2027 District 13 Convention on Saturday, April 17, 2027, 10:00 am

Venue TBD

Announced that two committee chairs are stepping down, Mindy Sportsman and Tara Niebaum. Those positions will need to be filled.

Announced the need for a convention organization committee chair to begin the search for a venue for next year.

Announced the next District Executive Committee Meeting will be on April 21st at 7:30pm via Zoom with the intent of electing a 1st VC for the District.

Roger expressed complete gratitude and was greatly moved by Kevin's story today; the members were also grateful.

Senator Burgin closed in Prayer

Mike Butler, Granville made a motion to adjourn.

Bill McNutt, Harnett, seconded.

Convention Adjourned at 12:35pm