

A behind the scenes look at what happened at the RNC 2016 Convention!

Party Bosses...

...or so it seems...

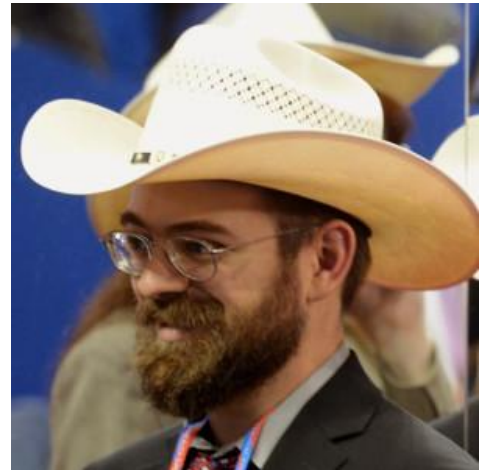
By Brit Macias

Last week, the Republican National Convention met in Cleveland, Ohio to nominate an official candidate and establish Party rules for election cycles.

CRN spoke with several delegates and guests in attendance at the convention for an inside look at the happenings there. Most had much to say about delegates losing their voice in the Republican Party and scenes they'd never imagined happening at a Republican convention.

Jeremy Blosser of Tarrant County, Texas, Senate District 10, SREC, tells CRN "The biggest thing is just the fact that Trump has not followed through with doing anything to break up the establishment. He has basically allowed the RNC establishment to do whatever they want to maintain their hold. His campaign has told the people to just go along with whatever the RNC wants."

Blosser explains that the same grassroots people that have been fighting for decades to decentralize authority in the RNC and make it less of an establishment, are continuing to fight despite being seemingly unheard.



"The Trump people believe that running with the RNC has to do with protecting Trump's nomination, when the two are unrelated."

During Monday's rules report, Blosser recalls, "The grassroots delegates were wanting to see some changes made and Trump and the

RNC people blocked it all. Under the party rules, if a certain number of states' delegates sign a demand that they want to have a roll-call vote rather than having the 'all in favor say aye,' they actually ask each delegation how many support (the item) just like they do the Presidential Nomination."



Blosser explains the events of Monday's roll-call debacle, "A lot of states got together and put in the roll-call demands and the RNC tried to override to make sure they couldn't be delivered. The people that were trying to deliver them to the secretary couldn't find her, there was security in the way, and she was in a room with closed doors. Eventually they were able to find her and deliver some but not all of the petitions. Then they started taking the petitions that were there and calling the delegates and really aggressively harass them to change their votes and remove their name from the petition."

And the roll-call never happened. "When the vote actually came up on the floor, the delegations that wanted a roll-call were at their microphones waving and shaking their signs and everything asking to be recognized and they were ignored, so they started yelling loud enough that the rules chair just walked off the stage."

"We are here representing the 50 states, you cannot ignore the delegates," one Utah delegate shouted over the noise into his muted microphone after the Chair had left the stage.



The Chair eventually came back out and recognized the Utah delegation voicing their desire for a roll-call. According to Blosser, the Chair told the delegation they only handed in 9 petitions and 3 had been withdrawn, leaving six, when the rule calls for 7 state petitions in order to do a roll-call.

Blosser tells CRN the RNC Chair refused to say which states withdrew. He also pointed out, "11 states had demand signs, so them saying they only got 9 is either not true, or it's part of them refusing to be available to get the petitions."

Blosser also explains that since 2012, the main “Rules” fight has been over Rule 12, which allows the RNC to change the rules.

When asked what issues Blosser sees arising for the next election based on the rules decided at the 2016 RNC, he tells CRN, “The biggest (problem) is they keep moving the election cycle so that it’s virtually impossible for the candidates touring by the grassroots—like a Ted Cruz, or Rand Paul, or even a Ben Carson—to have much opportunity to compete. It’s really coming down to where the money is and what they can push through the media in the primaries. They’re doing a lot to basically remove the states’ options to run the elections the way they want to run them.”

Blosser declared, “I would like (Republicans) to know that the voice of the grassroots is absolutely silenced. All the excuses and reasons they’re going to hear about how it was necessary for Trump’s nomination are just misdirection.”

He amplifies the need for people to get involved where they can, “We really need people who don’t like the candidates we end up with, who don’t like the way they see the party operating to be engaged in the convention process. They have to get involved and they have to pay attention to what’s going on in the party and help put people in there who will listen and hold people accountable.”

How exactly can people get involved? “Every state has a convention process,” Blosser states, “They need to talk to their local, county, or state party to find out how that whole process works. Parties are not just there on Election Day, they’re there year-round.” Blosser reiterates that citizens can and should get involved. Even if the party isn’t looking for new people, he encourages citizens to push to be involved.

Timothy Schlum’s father, Jay Schlum from Arizona, attended the convention as an alternate delegate, gaining him official guest access on floor. He spoke with CRN about what he witnessed first-hand, mirroring a lot of what Blosser mentioned.

“What I’ve noticed so far in this convention is the party has been ruling on their own without addressing the delegates much. The perfect example would be Tuesday when they officially nominated Trump. They looked to the delegates to read off their votes and there were four states—Alaska, D.C., Iowa and Oklahoma—



Timothy Schlum (AZ), Jay Schlum (AZ)

that voted for Cruz, but 117 of those delegates went to Trump. So, it's interesting. It seems like the party is running on its own and a lot of people are questioning why the delegates are even there...It's clearly the party trying to make the rules and then expecting the delegates to just follow suit and that's frustrating for the delegate people," Schlum explains.

Schlum also clarifies a misrepresentation of a group attending the RNC.

"One thing the media has not picked up on, or at least misreported, is that they were talking about the Anti-Trump supporters, the 'Never Trump' supporters trying to get Cruz the nominee. To be honest, about 98% of the movement has been more about rules and procedures and getting those proper, rather than switching a nominee. The media is spinning it as an anti-Trump 'Never Trump' movement but really it's a proper rules and procedures movement."

Skepticism and misrepresentation didn't stop there. Schlum tells CRN, "There were probably five things on day one that were really skeptical and it started with the Mitch McConnell vote."

His notes from Day One of the Convention are as follows:

- 1) Chair Preibus asks for a yay/nay vote on nominating Sen. McConnell as the Convention Chair, but abruptly disregarded the delegation decision and crowned McConnell. "It sounded like the nays had it. They did not want Mitch McConnell as the chair."
- 2) RNC Secretary of Convention, Susie Hudson: Hiding behind armed guards, avoiding the signature sheet calling for a roll-call vote on the rules.
- 3) RNC Rules Chairwoman, Enid Mickelsen didn't allow a simple roll call vote to pass the rules and she instead decided to pass the rules without many from the delegation even knowing what's in the rules. Multiple states' delegations walk off the floor after rules and platforms we're jammed down their throats.
- 4) U.S. Senator from WY John Barrasso (52% on CR) is Chair of the RNC Platform meaning a RINO, establishment character wrote what the Republicans stand for, not a conservative like Mike Lee or Ted Cruz.
- 5) Finally, to conclude the evening, Melania Trump got on the stage and gave a speech that had 2 full paragraphs completely plagiarized from Michelle Obama's convention speech in 2008.

His favorite speaker of the event turned out to be Mayor Giuliani. “He was extremely passionate and he focused a big portion of that speech on the Police Lives Matter movement.”

As far as concern for the next election cycle based on rule changes, Schlum tells CRN, “One of the rulings, I believe, dictated how many states you have to win in order to be considered a nominee and it was clearly favoring the Trump-base because Trump won so many states this election, so it kind of disregarded Cruz being considered the nominee because it once again came back to the RNC trying to slide some things under the mat in order to expedite some processes.”

“Also,” Schlum adds, “the open primaries and the closed primaries. I think many people wanted to make a lot of the primaries closed and it didn’t look like there is much of a rules change there.”

Schlum’s final words to the Republican Party as a whole, were, “I would say it’s important to emphasize that many of the delegates here are a little bit discouraged because they paid thousands of dollars to come out here... many are questioning why they’re out here and what their purpose is because they haven’t been asked what they want to see from their party. It’s been more about “party bosses” behind the scenes. I think many delegates are disappointed in that sense.”

Grace Germany, from Austin, explained her view of the same events.

“I would say that the delegates pretty much stayed in line, or maybe I would say they got whipped into line by Preibus (head of the Republican National Committee) ... There’s been a little frustration with a group that wanted to unbind the delegation and vote their conscience. It’s impossible to do that because of the rules. The rules are such that you vote for the citizens as they voted for in your state, percentage-wise.”



Grace Germany with Jesse Watters

Germany may have not agreed with how the delegates were being treated, but she didn’t agree with making a scene, either. “They really tried to make a scene on the national stage when they were calling the delegate counts. (Those on the stage) made sure that whoever was trying to do that didn’t have a microphone. They really tried to control it, which is probably a good thing because you really

don't want to make a big scene nationally. You do it behind closed doors or in your 'home territory,' and not in public."

"The people who wanted to speak out probably felt like they were bullied. Everyone has a different impression and my impression is that you don't want to fracture the Republican Party and make a scene on national television and that's what a lot of them were trying to do. It's one thing to do it within your own rules committee."

As far as speculation that Trump people began the booing after Ted Cruz spoke, Germany had a vantage point allowing her to debunk that speculation. I was in the stands and most of the people around me started booing when Cruz's speech was coming to a close and he didn't endorse Trump. It began all over the arena and not in any particular area. I can surely vouch for that. The Cruz people, which I am one, but now supporting our nominee, want to think it's Trump people or New York delegates, it could have been but it was overwhelmingly started, perhaps simultaneously, in the upper levels above the delegates."

Germany saw moments of unity, too. "Our Texas delegation, former Governor Rick Perry, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Texas Senator John Cornyn all got on board to support Trump and encouraged the delegates, alternates, and the Texas community here to support Trump. They really got on board to try and unify the Party."

On another bright note, Germany states Donald Trump, Jr. gave a speech to be proud of, "I would say he really impressed a lot of people that may not have been for Trump, or lukewarm. Many people say he gave one of the best speeches. I heard some say he needs to run for office, he's so good."

Texas delegate from San Antonio, Gale Sayers, spoke to CRN as well about her views concerning the bullying of delegates into silence.

"I believe in due process and I believe in following the rules. I don't think it should be looked at as 'Never Trump' people or Cruz people... I think we just wanted an opportunity to do a roll call and we don't feel like we were properly served."

Sayers expressed concern for the grassroots delegates who made thousands of phone calls during the campaign. She tells CRN that when these people want to be heard, they should be listened to as long as they are following the rules set in place.

"When they're making the rules, they need to be sure that the rules serve the regular man better than they serve the man at the top," Sayers states. "We don't

want all the power to be with the RNC chair. We want the power—if you can call it that—to be with the individual members of the delegation... we want to be part of our office. We want to be a part of the process.”

Sayers’ guest on the floor, Shelia Pradia, wanted the Republican Party across America to know that there are delegates who truly care. “The delegates are people who are really committed to our country. People spent a lot of money to come here because it’s worth it to them to see that our country has good leaders.” Pradia tells CRN she wants to encourage her San Antonio community by letting them know there are strong leaders with strong family values representing them.



Toby Marie Walker, a Texas delegate and active volunteer in the Cruz campaign spoke with CRN during her time at the RNC convention just after Cruz was booed off stage.

“People lost their minds,” she states. “Trump had attacked (Cruz’) father for months on the campaign trail, attacked his wife, and I don’t think they understood that’s why Ted was not about support... they expected Ted to

just get over it. It broke my heart to see all of that.”

Rumors have swirled that major players in the Trump party started the booing when Cruz failed to formally endorse Trump, due to the fact Trump had read and approved the speech beforehand. Those rumors also suggest Trump had planned the debacle to discredit Cruz. Walker was unsure of who started the booing or the motives behind it, but she did confirm that Trump’s people had read the speech before it was delivered. “This was like someone mixed up a Democrat and a Republican convention,” she explains. “I have never seen anybody act like this at a Republican convention.”

Walker also felt on the first day of the convention that the delegates’ voices weren’t being heard, claiming it was as if things were all decided beforehand and “they already decided how they want things to go and we (the delegates) are just here for a show, we’re not actually here for a convention. If that’s the way it is, why are there delegates anymore?”

“I would say there are some really fabulous, nice people and it’s interesting to watch how this goes and the process, but I’m just amazed how many conservative Republicans go along to just get along.”

With all that has gone on in recent weeks, Walker brought up law enforcement at the RNC stating how wonderful they had been the entire time.

She tells CRN that she wants Republicans at home to know that the process works but people need to get involved and lobby during the process, not just during “the show.” She encourages citizens to find a candidate they believe in and get behind them to help them.

Until Next Time...

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