

CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2026

Call to Order

Andrew Zeller, Chair called the meeting of the Custer County Republican Central Committee to order at 6:10 P.M. at the Ranchers' Roost Meeting Room in the Bowling Center, Westcliffe, Colorado.

Prayer

Pledge

Determination of Quorum (New Bylaws Art VI, Sec 3, A - 10 Members make a quorum)
15 Members present – A Quorum is present

Roll Call

Attendance record was passed for roll call. The following were present:

Members:

Andrew Zeller, Ann Barthrop, Joanie Wilcox, Nancy Drummond, Lisa Kidwell, Linda Pollack, Gordon Greer, Mark Graner, Nikita Phillips, JD Henrich, Brad Baltzly, Rich Smith, Bill Canda Paul Vogelsong and Lucas Epp.

Guests: Tom James, Jennifer James, Brenda Smith, Ruth Mitchell, Mario Currado, Heather Currado, and Stephen Wilcox.

Agenda

Motion to accept Agenda made by Rich Smith and Seconded by Bill Canda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 13, 2025, Meeting by Lisa Kidwell and Seconded by JD Henrich. Motion passed. Motion to approve the Minutes for the Special Called Bylaws Meeting on December 17, 2025, and the Bylaws by Mark Graner and Seconded by Lisa Kidwell. Motion passed.

Reports from Officers

Introduction of Guests:

I would like to introduce to you our Guests who have joined us this evening (Chair then introduced Guests attending our meeting).

Chairman Andrew Zeller:

Announcement that JD Heinrich is running for County Assessor and Virginia Trujillo is running for County Treasurer.

On the back of the Agenda is Chapter Eight of the Republican Party Platform with 9 Common Sense ideas for bringing common sense to Government and renewing the pillars of American Civilization.

Operation Absolute Resolve (January 3, 2026, capture of Venezuela's Maduro). Discussion

PCP Caucus Training: CCRCC, Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 3:00 PM at Mark Graner's Barn. Instructions on how to get there and exact address will be sent to everyone.

Caucus Training: Leadership Institute, Arlington, VA, for Colorado Caucuses on Jan. 15, 2026 5:30-7:30 PM MST; and also Feb. 12, 2026 5:00-7:00 PM MST. Register ahead of time.

We have to have Signs out on ALL Three Caucus Locations by February 23, 2026.

Vice Chair Ann Barthrop

Publishing/Promoting Caucus:

1. A Mailer would cost approximately \$1,000.00 (One Thousand Dollars)
2. To put out an Ad on Social Media Platforms of Facebook, Instagram and Google for 3 Months that would go out to 2,500 Households in Custer County would cost \$701.00 (Seven Hundred One Dollars).

There are Pros and Cons to each of these methods. Once your 3 Months are up on the Social Media Platforms you can do another 3 Month Campaign for \$439.00 (Four Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars).

3. Also it was suggested to put up Posters all over the Town and County to reach people who are not on Social Media or the Internet.

Motion for Ann Barthrop to move forward with a Technological Ad Campaign for no more than \$800.00 (Eight Hundred Dollars) by Rich Smith. Seconded by Lisa Kidwell. Motion passed.

Motion by Lisa Kidwell that we move forward to form a Committee to create a Policy Manual for the CCRCC. Rich Smith Seconded. Volunteers to be on this Committee were Lisa Kidwell, Ann Barthrop, Mark Graner, and Heather Currado. Motion passed.

Secretary Joanie Wilcox

Nothing at this time.

Treasurer Nancy Drummond, and Finance Committee

Reviewed the Treasurer's Report that was emailed to the entire CCRCC.

Checkbook Balance as of 1/8/2026 is \$3,741.75 (Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-one Dollars and Seventy-five Cents).

Nikita Phillips made a Motion to remove Dawn Ramsdell as a Signatory on our Checking Account and replace her with Linda Pollack. Seconded by Bill Canda. Motion passed.

Nancy Drummond then passed the hat to accept donations for the Caucus Ad Campaign Publishing.

Reports from Elected County Officials

Rich Smith, Sheriff

He wanted to clear up a couple of dangerous rumors that are out in the County. There was an allegation made that Bill Canda had cheated the Sales Tax System when he was purchasing things. I am waiting any day now for a letter saying there was no crime committed. As soon as I receive this letter I will be putting it on Facebook to clear his name.

The same person who made this allegation also made an allegation about a Payroll Check and that one I sent to the District Attorney Linda Stanley who wrote a letter that cleared Bill Canda but it was never publicized and we should have done that cause we really need to be assertive about these rumors especially when they come from the same person.

Our Under Sheriff Susan Barnes has stepped away from her duties as Under Sheriff and begin Medical Leave. The rumor is that she got fired and she did not get fired.

Also, Susan Barnes helped to get our new computer system up and running along with John Mapes who was hired by the Commissioners and JD Heinrich.

If you see Susan Barnes out in our Community, please thank her for her service in our County. Also, I would like to thank Lucas Epp and the County Commissioners for our help with our computer system so we can run our County more efficiently.

JD Heinrich, Assessor

I am running again and barring something unforeseen this will be the last time I will run most likely. But unfortunately I will not be at Caucus because I will be out of the Country. We made plans over a year ago to do a Cruise of the Panama Canal. I will be at the County Assembly. I am looking forward to running for one more time.

County Commissioners

Paul Vogelsong, Commissioner P-2

I would like to help with putting out the signs on the roads and other places to help advertising for Caucuses. Also I will be going around Precinct 2 helping to talk to citizens and campaign for our Candidates running for offices in our County.

Bill Canda, Commissioner P-1

It is an Election year but I won't be running because this is my last year so I want to thank everyone for all your support. We will have a fun year this year cause we have a good Team and we finish our meetings in record time. Also at the end of last year we applied for a Grant for the Court House. We got a Grant for \$25,000.00 (Twenty-five Thousand Dollars) and we need to raise some other money to cover all the costs of materials. We would like to use the current Court House for other things. We are going to need help to help people understand the need for this new Court House.

We also need to purchase equipment to keep up our roads. We are going to get a big Tanker Truck which will also help us to fight fires. I also want to point out that our Airport is not just a rich man's toy. Any community that's prosperous has an Airport. We have saved lives with the fuel we could provide at our Airport. Our Airport is self-funded. It pays for itself so this is a good thing to promote.

And finally regarding Pornography we are meeting with the engineers to help put the safeguards in our school, cell phones and the clinic.

Brad Baltzly, Coroner

I will give you a year end summary since we finished the year. We had two deaths in December which were both natural deaths. We had 23 deaths total in the County that I attended and investigated. So we were down a couple from 2024 down two. The big number difference was suicides this year. We had one suicide in 2025 and in 2024 we had seven. Budget wise the Coroner's Office is allotted \$146,070.40 (One Hundred Forty-six Thousand Seventy Dollars and Forty Cents) and I used 79.45% of that so I had a surplus of \$30,020.44 (Thirty Thousand Twenty Dollars and Forty-four Cents) so we came in way under budget and we did the Morgue Facility this year too. We knocked \$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) off my Autopsy Budget for this year.

My Coroner's Ball raised \$20,675.00 (Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-five Dollars) for our Scholarship Fund to award Scholarships to students this Spring.

Also I am implementing that all my people that carry a gun on scene have to be Certified by a Master Arms Instructor. We will offer a class for Certification. This will lower County liability for anyone carrying a gun on scene.

Reports from Standing Committees

Fundraising Committee: Lisa Kidwell; Christmas Dinner Party Report;
A great success on attendance and everything else. This was not a Fundraiser it was dollar for dollar that what we took in is what went out.

The 250th Anniversary of our Country and possibly combining that with Lincoln Day this year. We are going to wait to address this after Caucuses are completed.

Website and Social Media Committee: Lisa Kidwell

Nothing is changed. I have called in the big guns and have Andrew working on it because I have been unsuccessful so hopefully we make some progress and if not we need to figure out our next steps.

Special Committees

Bylaws Committee: Lucas Epp

New Bylaws passed on December 17, 2025.

Lisa Kidwell made a Motion to disband the Bylaws Committee. Motion Seconded. Motion passed.

Precinct Growth Committee: Bill Canda, Mark Graner and Gordon Greer are on the Committee.

New Business: None

Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 P.M. Next Meeting Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. at Ranchers' Roost Meeting Room in the Bowling Center, Westcliffe, Colorado.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanie Wilcox, Secretary