

2018 Caucus, BPOU/CD Convention, and State Convention After-Action Report

This condensed report is the result of internal MNGOP staff discussions, informal feedback from BPOU and CD leaders, and two formal after-action roundtables that were held with activists via webinar. This attempts to highlight the main positives and negatives for the 2018 caucus/convention season and propose corrective action for 2020. If you wish to provide any further feedback, that may be emailed to caucus@mngop.com

2018 Caucuses

Positives:

1. Message for caucus date and time were out early (October). Message emphasized locating and reserving spaces as well as obtaining insurance certificates as needed.
2. Training on process was extensive. Training was held in person at December State central, in person around the state by request, and via webinar. Additionally, 10 caucus Question and Answer calls were held throughout the month of January for any outlying issues.
3. Most forms were out in December allowing lead time to print and prepare caucus packets.
4. Reporting during the night of caucus was some of the best yet, with most counties reporting in before the deadline to appear on the 10pm news. Multiple avenues of reporting (phone and email) allowed this to run smoothly.

Negatives:

1. Not all forms were out by the end of December which meant people couldn't print everything at once. All forms should be out by the December state central meeting.
2. Some forms were poor copies of older materials. Should have been reprinted/updated.
3. Communication did not reach all layers of the party in every district/county. Additional efforts with the help of CD organizations to contact/support outlying BPOUs should be made. Also, BPOU chairs who delegate caucus preparations to another volunteer should remain engaged to make sure messages get passed back and forth.
4. Previous attendee lists were not adequately organized or accurate to the level expected. 2018 lists must be verified and the state party should send these out by the December state central meeting at the absolute latest so accuracy can be verified.

2018 BPOU/CD Conventions

Positives:

1. Trainings were useful, should include some specifically for new delegates so they can understand what is happening. A complete checklist of BPOU/CD convention logistics, processes, and expectations should be put out.
2. Communications on expectations were generally good. Outline the timelines and requirements of data getting back to MNGOP (delegate name and full contact information including email and phone).

Negatives:

1. Action Agenda/Platform trainings were ultimately confusing and counter-productive, did not have uniform results across BPOUs and CDs.

2. Incomplete/Incorrect lists generated after conventions. In some cases this was due to handwritten information being illegible. In other cases some counties and districts provided names with no contact or other information to the state party. A great deal of effort was expended to correct these lists of state convention delegates in order for convention calls to go out.

2018 State Convention

Positives:

1. Staff was generally helpful.
2. Started on time and convention chairs did a good job managing the two days of events.

Negatives:

1. Electronic balloting was a big problem, should have had a tech on site to deal with any issues.
2. Convention shouldn't have been in the same location in 2016 and 2018. While it's recognized that this was due to a cost issue, the 2020 convention should be in another district. Another note on location: having the alternates sitting on the upper levels made it difficult to seat alternates throughout the day. Next location should have an easier way to move alternates to the voting floor.
3. The platform committee report should have been distributed earlier in the convention in order to give people more time to read it. The discussion/voting on platform items should have been handled piecemeal during lulls in the convention.
4. Food concession area should have more staff to handle rushes at breaks. Also there should be "quick grab" food options like pre-made sandwiches.
5. Registration should remain open.
6. Constitution changes should be printed in the call or otherwise readily available in print at the convention.