



CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

GOP voters told to avoid illegal, fraudulent gathering

For more information, contact:
John Canegata, 340/277-6149

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(May 26, 2016)—Unsuspecting voters are warned against participating in an illegal gathering scheduled for Saturday on St. Thomas.

“This illegitimate, unlawful gathering has no basis under either territorial law or party rules,” state Republican chairman John Canegata said. “The organizers are illegally using the name of the Republican Party to defraud unsuspecting voters and undermine the Republican National Committee-recognized state party of the Virgin Islands. This is a gathering of the Schoenbaum party—not the Republican Party.”

The organizers of the illegal gathering—Warren Bruce Cole, Leigh Goldman, Holland Redfield, Fred Violet Jr. and James Oliver—were removed with immediate effect Thursday as members of the Republican Party, pursuant to the *Rules, Principles and Policies of the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands*.¹ Under party rules, a member must be recognized as being in “good standing” with the state chairman.

Herb Schoenbaum, who issued the fraudulent call to the illegal gathering, was removed when the Territorial Committee unanimously amended its rules on May 6 to prohibit convicted felons from holding either membership or party office. Schoenbaum is a felon convicted of fraud.

The Republican National Committee informed Supervisor of Elections Caroline Fawkes that Canegata is the recognized chairman and that the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands is the RNC-recognized state party of the Virgin Islands.

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¹ Article II, section 1 states: “Membership in the Party shall be open to those persons in good standing with the Republican Party of the United States Virgin Islands, are registered Republicans on the electoral rolls of the United States Virgin Islands, and who are recognized by the state chairman.”