

11-17-2018

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers, reporting to you from the House Republican Caucus of the 65th Legislature, which was held in Casper on November 17. After each general election the House and Senate Republicans and Democrats meet in their respective caucuses to choose their leadership for the next two years. The House Republicans met and chose Steve Harshman of Casper as their Speaker of the House candidate. Representative Harshman served as Speaker of the House last term as well; this is the first time in over 100 years that a Speaker has served for more than one term. Speaker Harshman has an exceptional grasp of Wyoming's budget, and I believe he was the right person for the job.

Eric Barlow from Campbell County was selected as the Majority Floor Leader, which puts him in charge of managing the flow of bills through the House. I am the Republican nominee for Speaker Pro Tem; I will stand in for the Speaker when he is off of the floor, as well as help develop communications for the House. Speaker Pro Tem is the third highest level of leadership in the House. Tyler Lindholm of Sundance was chosen as the House Majority Whip, which is the position I held this last term.

Speaker and Speaker Pro Tem are Constitutional offices that are chosen by the entire House, which means that on the first day of session, Representative Harshman and myself will be voted on by both Republicans and Democrats. House Majority Floor Leader and Majority Whip are strictly Republican House offices that had a final vote today. After the recent election there are 50 Republicans, 9 Democrats, and 1 Independent in the House, which means that Representative Harshman and I will likely be elected.

Senator Dan Dockstader of Afton represents the northern portion of Sublette County, and was chosen as Majority Floor Leader of the Senate. This means Sublette County will have representation in the leadership of both the House and Senate. Congrats Dan!