

THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

Bulletin #23

August 2014

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Member,

The political season is anything but calm this year, as we gear up for a set of victories this Fall. The Republicans have not given folks much of a reason to vote for them, but we cannot be complacent. We are undergoing our own challenges, but must emerge as a stronger, better organized Democratic Party that is united, responsive and forward-moving.

We hope our relationship with a newly organized State Committee will prove most helpful in achieving our common goals. Happily, we can expect some financial help. Send your request to John Sullivan johns@nydems.org. Also remember that the Voter Access Network (VAN) is free of charge to counties across NYS. Contact Rich Horner richh@nydems.org.

We are happy that the DRC can offer some modest assistance as well to our counties and to our State Senate candidates with DRC counties in their districts.

As always, we are willing to speak at your events and provide technical assistance to the best of our abilities.

With appreciation for your hard work,

Irene



SAVE THE DATE

2015 DRC CONFERENCE

April 17th and 18th

Holiday Inn

Syracuse NY



441 Electronics Pkwy

Liverpool, NY 13088

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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO.....

Executive Committee Meeting 7/19/14 in the North Country

An Executive Committee Meeting was held on July 19th at the Econo Lodge in Lake Placid. Guests included Executive Committee Chairperson and DRC member, Sheila Comar and newly appointed Upstate Director of the Coordinated Campaign and Consultant to the State Democratic Committee, John Sullivan. John was brought on board to focus on Upstate for the upcoming Primary and General election. All communications should go to John, including requests for funding. His contact is: johns@nydems.com Good News from the State Committee – all counties now have access to the Voter Access Network. Please email Rich Horner if you would like to procure VAN at richh@nydems.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit -Finance - Cindy Emmer

Treasurer's Report - Cindy reported a balance of \$20,330.34 in checking and \$19,537.43 in Savings for a total of \$39,867.77.

Audit Committee - Cindy Emmer, Ted Young and Bob Reynolds met to review the financial procedures and the checking account. No issues were found.

DRC Grant Funding -It was approved that each member county committee, which has paid its dues, will receive a \$450 grant from the DRC. It was also voted and approved to offer a grant of \$1000 to each State Senate candidate who is running in a DRC county.

Reminder - Your County Committee will not receive the \$450 grant check until all dues are paid. Dues are \$10 for the year. DRC membership includes the County Chair and all State Committee members in a county. Please send your check **c/o Cindy Emmer, 858 Davis St., Elmira, NY 14901.**

Issues Committee – Judith Hunter

Judith Hunter discussed how well received the Congressional Session was at the DRC Conference in April.

- **Educational Funding Formula** – This issue continues to be the top priority for the Issues Committee, as indicated by the membership. The Ad Hoc Committee on School Funding met in June for a discussion with Dr. Bruce Fraser, Executive Director of the Rural School Association. The next action for the Ad Hoc Committee is to meet with the Board of Regents sometime in the near future.

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- **Facebook Outreach** - Judith gave a report on her own GLOW Facebook Page, which covers local, state and national issues of importance to Democrats. Judith will be working with Don Ackerman and the Communication Committee with the premise to expand the GLOW Facebook Issues Page to cover all 47 DRC counties. Search GLOW Democrats on Facebook.

Youth Recruitment and Retainment Committee – Jason Clark

Jason Clark reported that the Job Fair at the Conference was highly successful for a first effort. Seven campaign committees participated with eleven job applicants. It was agreed by the Board that this outreach should continue with the possibility of expanding to include a workshop emphasizing interview skills and offering some private sector job opportunities.

Communications - Don Ackerman

Don Ackerman is happy to report that the DRC website is updated and continuously updated as needed going forward. The Committee is now working on reviewing and revising the DRC brochure. 'Like' the DRC Facebook page by searching Democratic Rural Conference of New York.

Conference Committee – Jane Dodds

Jane Dodds led a discussion regarding potential themes for next year's Conference in Syracuse, focusing on local elections, campaign training, financial reporting to the NYS Board of Elections, the 2016 election and a session with our friends in Labor. Much was shared and considerations for Conference planning will continue. Stay tuned.

New Business

There was a discussion about whether we need to limit the number of board members from one county to increase regional diversity. This issue has been referred to the By-Laws Committee for a recommendation.

A tour of the Lake Placid Conference Center garnered a discussion about Lake Placid as a future conference location.

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Best Practices

Get Out the Vote Plan

Tompkins County is carrying out a plan to increase voter turnout. If we do what we have always done in an off year election cycle we will surely see the same results. Irene Stein is willing to work with your county to help carry out a plan for better results and victory in November. Contact Irene for more information ASAP, as the summer is flying by and the primary date of September 9th and general election on November 4th are right around the corner -- iws2iws2@gmail.com

Farm to Table Event

County Committee Fund Raiser ideas – ‘Walking like we Talk’. A fund raiser can also reflect our better values. Genesee County puts on an annual ‘Farm to Table’ fund raiser that promotes ‘localism’, using the 100 mile diet. The food from the caterer is raised and grown in Genesee County, the beer comes from a local distributor, cheese from a local cheese producer and wine from next door neighbor, Livingston County. Local businesses are highlighted in a program book and finally a local Democrat is honored for his/her service to the committee and their community.

Let us know your ‘Best Practices’ so it can be shared in our next bulletin. Email lorie.longhany@gmail.com

CONTACT INFORMATION AND MEMBER SERVICES

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DRC Services:

Speakers Bureau

The following DRC members are available as speakers at DRC County Events

Irene Stein, Cindy Emmer, Bill Wood and Phil Jones.

Mentoring Services

The DRC Executive Committee has many experienced County Chairs. We are available to mentor and provide support to new County Chairs.

PREPARED AND FORMATTED BY: Lorie Longhany

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