



THE NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE



SPECIAL SPRING CONFERENCE 2012 EDITION

RURAL DEMOCRATS SHAPING THE FUTURE

April 27 – 28, 2012, Radisson Hotel Corning

REGISTRATION FORM

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Title _____

Address: _____

City State Zip _____

County _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Cell phone _____

Your position (please check ALL that apply to you):

County Chair _____ State Committee Member _____

County Committee Member _____ DRC Associate Member _____

Elected official: office _____

Candidate for : _____

other _____

MEMBER DUES – if you have not paid 2012 dues, check category:

Convention attendance requires payment of dues for all attendees.

DRC VOTING MEMBER DUES (County Chair, State Committee) \$10

DRC ASSOCIATE MEMBER DUES \$10

FULL CONVENTION REGISTRATION Includes All Events \$99

- Friday Training: Social Media in Political Campaigns
- Friday Opening Reception
- Friday Banquet with New York’s Elected Democrats
- Friday Dessert Reception
- Saturday Breakfast & DRC Board Elections
- Saturday Panel Discussion: Democrats are In the House
- Saturday Networking by Congressional and State Legislative Districts
- Saturday Lunch & Closing

“FRIDAY ONLY” REGISTRATION includes: \$59

- Friday Training: Social Media in Political Campaigns
- Friday Opening Reception and Dinner with New York’s Democrats
- Friday Dessert Reception

“SATURDAY ONLY” REGISTRATION includes \$59

- Saturday Breakfast & Board Elections
- Saturday Panel Discussion: Democrats are In the House
- Saturday Networking by Congressional and State Legislative Districts
- Saturday Lunch & Closing

Dinner Choice: () Roasted Salmon with Orange Ginger Glaze
 () Prime Rib of Beef with Garlic Potatoes
 () Artichoke and Roasted Pepper Turnover with Asiago & Spinach Sauce

YOUR TOTAL FEES: \$ _____



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DRC Spring Conference 2012 Registration Information

EACH Attendee must complete a separate Registration Form.

If you are bringing a guest, you must complete a separate form for each person, so that we can prepare name tags, registration packets and meals.

No one will be seated at meals or workshops without a name tag.

Registration Deadline is Friday, April 6. Friday dinner seating is limited to 300 guests. Priority will be given to those who register for the full Convention.

YOUR REGISTRATION is not complete until you have paid DRC Dues and your Registration Fees.

Print this form and Mail with your check to:

Cindy Emmer, DRC Treasurer, 858 Davis Street, Elmira NY 14901

OR

You may REGISTER and MAKE PAYMENT on line at www.NYSDRC.org

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Attendees should make their own reservations at the

Radisson Hotel Corning

(607) 962-5000.

125 Denison Parkway East

Corning, NY 14830.

www.radisson.com/corningny

To take advantage of the reduced rate, reservations must be made by April 6, 2012.

Tell the Reservation Clerk that you are attending the Democratic Rural Conference, and use promotional code NYSDRC.

The Convention Rate (\$119. single or double, \$129 triple, \$134 Premier double) expires on April 6. Reservations made after April 6 will be at regular hotel rates,

This is an opportunity to network with fellow rural Democrats, meet and talk with elected officials, learn critical skills for campaigning, learn about issues affecting rural New York and to have some **fun**.

Go to the end of this bulletin for images from last year's DRC Spring Conference at Proctors in Schenectady.



THE NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE



Meeting of the Board January, 28, 2012

The meeting was very well attended, with members from Labor as well as a number of DRC members who planned to attend and remain for the afternoon Forum on Hydro-Fracking.

Cindy Lockrow presented the resolution below which, after considerable discussion and an amendment to the list of sendees, was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING RESOLUTION

Whereas, our state leaders have committed to a four percent increase in school aid as part of the 2012-13 NYS budget,

and,

Whereas, the funding cuts enacted as part of the 2012 NYS budget disproportionately hurt low-wealth, high poverty school districts and rural counties,

and,

Whereas, the cap on local school budgets will increase the inequities between school districts and combined with cuts in state aid will undermine the quality of our schools

and,

Whereas, many of these low-wealth and high poverty school districts serve rural children,

and,

Whereas, the Democratic Rural Conference advocates for its rural constituents to the extent of its ability,

Now, therefore, be it hereby resolved

That the Executive Board of the DRC supports the New York State Board of Regents in their call for reform of the school funding formula so that 73% of the 2012-13 school aid increases prioritize low-wealth and high poverty school districts, and

be it further resolved

That the Executive Board of the DRC Conference urges Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and Senate Minority Leader John Sampson, Senator David Valesky to support and work to change the funding formula so that 73% of the 2012 school district budget increase goes to low-wealth and high poverty districts.



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Meeting of the Board January, 28, 2012

Jane Dodds and Irene Stein discussed the upcoming Conference. Hurry to get the DRC rate for your hotel room! We expect our usual exciting events with our galaxy of New York State Elected Officials, networking, enjoying receptions and a karaoke session on Friday night.

Saturday morning will focus on Congress and we will have DRC Board elections for 5 seats and the position of Parliamentarian on the Board.

We were privileged to be joined by Senator Valesky who discussed hot topics such as redistricting and primary dates.

The Board then discussed and unanimously passed guidelines for campaign funding that the DRC may wish to provide in the fall 2012 elections. The guidelines were forwarded to the Funding Campaigns committee to be vetted through a legal review to insure we are compliant with relatively new Campaign Finance law.

During lunch, Mark Bellardini reported for the ad hoc Committee on Labor. He stressed that great progress had been made in strengthening the DRCs relationship with public and private unions as witnessed by their attendance at the meeting. He also indicated that we will continue to work closely with the unions on issues of common interest.

Sheila Comar, Chair of the NYSDC Executive Committee briefly addressed the group. She discussed her new role and the direction that the State committee is taking.

Chair Stein reported on the State Committee's Fall meeting for the benefit of those who had not attended.

The Board then reviewed the policy for tabling at the Convention which had been deferred to the end of the meeting. Some revisions were made, and the revised policy was sent to the Program Committee for finalizing.

Under New Business, Jane Dodds suggested we contact the Obama campaign re participation in the Conference and for materials especially signs. We need to insure their availability in DRC counties.



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THE HYDRO-FRACKING FORUM January 28, 2012

About fifty DRC members and associates attended this very informative event. Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton reviewed health, safety and environmental concerns for about 15 minutes. Adam Schultz, Esq. from the Speakers Bureau of the independent Gas and Oil Association presented a point of view that stressed the strictness of the regulations that are emerging, and his opinion that Hydro-fracking can be a benefit rather than a hazard for New York State. Over an hour of questions and answers then followed. It was a very spirited discussion, as you can imagine.

The Board will consider organizing another such Forum should the membership suggest another burning topic – but not for a while!

REQUEST FOR INPUT

This year's DRC Conference will feature a panel discussion of Congressional candidates that will address the issues that are important to upstate Democrats. In preparation for the panel, the Issues Committee is looking for input from you.

What are the issues that people in your communities are talking about? What would you like to hear the candidates discuss? Please send your suggestions to me@dawnisme.com for the Issues Committee to review.

Thank you very much for your help.
Dawn R. Rivers, Chair, DRC Issues Committee

BOARD ELECTIONS AT THE 2012 SPRING CONFERENCE

There will be elections for 5 seats on the DRC Board as well as for Parliamentarian. The individuals currently holding those seats are:

Don Ackerman - Parliamentarian
Joe Pickreign - Board Member
Dawn Rivers - Board Member
Cindy Lockrow - Board Member
Ted Young - Board Member
Joyce Melfi - Board Member

If you are interested in running for the Board, please send Mike Schell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at michaelwschell@yahoo.com a **BRIEF** statement as to why you are interested and your qualifications by NO LATER THAN Sunday, April 15, 2012. To be eligible to run, one must be a Democratic State Committee Member or a Democratic County Chair from a DRC County.



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THE DRC CONTACT INFO, ETC....

Web page: www.nysdrc.org

To subscribe to our list serve go to: NYSDemocraticRuralConference-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Post a Message on the List serve go to : NYSDemocraticRuralConference@yahoogroups.com

Meet on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Democratic-Rural-Conference-of-New-York-State/162050418621

Or e-mail us at:

Irene Stein, Chair ----

Dan McCandless, Vice Chair ---

Cindy Emmer, Treasurer ---

Phil Jones, Secretary ---

Don Ackerman, Parliamentarian ---

Doris Kirsch, Asst. Secretary ---

Dawn Rivers, Issues Committee Chair ---

Dan McCandless, By-Laws Committee Chair ---

Tom Poelker, Political Committee Chair ---

Jane Dodds, Conference Chair ----

Mark Bellardini, Labor Committee Chair

Ted Young, Board Member----

Bob Reynolds, Board Member ----

Cindy Lockrow, Board Member ----

Joe Pickreign, Board Member -----

Joyce Melfi, Board Member -----

Ian Brody, Web Master ---

iws2iws2@gmail.com

danmcc44@earthlink.net;

cindy.emmer@yahoo.com

phildem@rochester.rr.com

Bdonack@aol.com;

wdkirsch@gmail.com;

me@dawnisme.com

danmcc44@earthlink.net

tpoelker@aol.com

jmdodds@aol.com

bellar@earthlink.net

tyoung28@rochester.rr.com

bobnkaren@live.com

lockrow@hotmail.com

jpic11@roadrunner.com

babbmelfi@juno.com

ian.brody@ianbrody.com;

DRC Board Services...

SPEAKERS Bureau:

The following DRC Executive Committee Members are available as speakers at DRC County events:

Irene Stein, Cindy Emmer, Tom Poelker or Phil Jones.

Mentoring Services: The DRC Executive Committee has many experienced County Chairs. As such, we are available to mentor and provide support to new County Chairs.

DUES

Dues are \$10 for 2012, checks are payable to the DRC and should be sent to Cindy Emmer, 858 Davis St., Elmira, NY 14901.

If you are not getting correspondence from the DRC, be sure to share your e-mail address with phildem@rochester.rr.com

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE BULLETIN: IRENE STEIN, PHIL JONES, CINDY EMMER, JOYCE MELFI, JANE DODDS, DAWN RIVERS, DORIS KIRSCH



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2012 DRC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Note: Dues are due January of each year

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE: _____

COUNTY: _____

TITLE: COUNTY CHAIR _____

STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER _____

OTHER (FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS) _____

Please enclose a check made out to DRC in the amount of \$10 per person and mail to

Cindy Emmer, 858 Davis St, Elmira, NY 14901



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2011 Spring Conference in Schenectady

