

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

February, 2013

Bulletin # 17

Page 1 of 6

DRC 2013 CONFERENCE

Saratoga, April 26-27

Saratoga Hilton

THEME: BUILDING THE FARM TEAM, GROWING THE PARTY

TENTATIVE Program Agenda

Friday Afternoon, April 26, 2013:

- 2:00 – 6:00PM Convention Registration and Credentialing
3:00 PM Cultivating Diversity in your County Committee --- Irene Stein
4:00 PM (2 choices): County Chairs' Roundtable - Learning from experienced Chairs – Chaired by Mark Bellardini
OR
NYS BOE Campaign Finance Website - Tips for Campaigns & Treasurers – Jane Dodds
6:00 – 7:00 PM Welcome Reception
7:00 – 10:00 PM Dinner with New York's Elected Democrats
10:00 – 11:00 PM Dessert Reception with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman

Saturday Morning, April 27, 2013:

- 7:00 - 8:30 AM Convention Registration and Credentialing
8:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast in the Ballroom with Comptroller Tom DiNapoli
9:00 – 10:00 AM DRC Business Meeting and Board Elections
10:00 – 11:30 AM Grassroots Campaign Management in a Nutshell---- Denise King
11:30 – 12:30 PM Turning the Grassroots Blue
Lessons from St. Lawrence County -- June O'Neill, Moderator of Panel
12:30 PM Luncheon-----Speaker to be announced
Rural Economic Development

The DRC wishes to thank United States Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand for their generous support of the 2013 DRC Conference.

The Program for the conference with a little more detail is attached.

REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

February, 2013

Bulletin # 17

Page 2 of 6

2013 Program Book Ad Rates

April 26th & 27th

Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs

The program book will be distributed to all sponsors and participants at the convention. We ask all of you to support the DRC by sponsoring an ad. Also, please encourage all our Democratic supporters -- businesses, unions, candidates, neighboring counties and or/ individuals that you know personally or can contact to sponsor an ad. Following is a price list for sponsorship in our 8 ½" x 11" program book:

Outside Back Cover	\$2500.00
Inside Front Cover	\$2000.00
Inside back Cover	\$2000.00
Centerfold (2 pages)	\$1500.00
Gold Page	\$1000.00
Full Page	\$500.00
Half page	\$250.00
Quarter Page	\$125.00
Business Card	\$100.00

As always DRC counties are allowed a reduction in rates

County Committee	Full Page	\$100.00
	Half Page	\$50.00

*All advertisements must be camera-ready and reach us by **April 2, 2013**. Checks should be made payable to NYS DRC. All correspondences and e-mails should be directed to the 2013 program book coordinator:*

Joyce L. Melfi **babbmelfi@juno.com**
709 East State St. **716-372-4838 (home)**
Olean, NY 14760 **716-560-5938 (cell phone)**

If you need camera ready artwork or have changes from last year's ad, please send changes and ad text to: Lorie Longhany lorie.longhany@gmail.com Thank you in advance for your support. Your prompt attention to our request and sponsorship is greatly appreciated.

*Sincerely,
Joyce Melfi*

Ad Rate Card Attached

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

February, 2013

Bulletin # 17

Page 3 of 6

SPRING CONFERENCE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- Minutes – Jones
- Treasurer's Report – Emmer
- Elections - Schell
- Committee Reports
 - Issues Comm. – Rivers
 - By-Laws- Jones - Revision Proposed
 - Other
- Old Business
- New Business

BY-LAWS Revision

Current By-laws

VACANCIES- Any vacancy in the office of an officer or director shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Committee.

Proposed Changes to By Laws in **Bold Red and underlined**

VACANCIES- Any vacancy in the office of an officer or director shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Committee **until the General Membership meeting at the next spring conference. At the Spring Conference General Membership Meeting, the full membership shall fill the vacancy for the completion of the term of the office left vacant.**

ELECTION

At the General membership meeting, we will hold elections for the 5 officers and 5 Board seats. The individuals currently holding those seats are:

Irene Stein – Chair
Jane Dodds – Vice Chair
Cindy Emmer – Treasurer
Phil Jones – Secretary
Don Ackerman - Parliamentarian

Mark Bellardini - Board Member
Jason Clark - Board Member
Jeanne Crane - Board Member
Doris Kirsch - Board Member
Bob Reynolds - 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 14, 2013. To be eligible to run, one must be a Democratic State Committee Member or a Democratic County Chair from a DRC County and paid 2013 DRC dues of \$10.

While nominations may be made from the floor, and write-in votes will be counted, candidates who do not file with the nominating committee by the deadline will not have their names appear on the written ballot.

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

February, 2013

Bulletin # 17

Page 4 of 6

DRC FEBRUARY 16, 2013 BOARD MEETING

Highlights:

- 2013 Budget established;
- Audit Report Accepted;
- Conference Program and Pricing Approved;
- Program Ad strategy reviewed;
- Youth Recruitment and Retention discussed extensively;
- Issues Committee working on the following:
 - Medicare/Medicaid Issues
 - Meeting with Lt. Governor's representative regarding Economic Development, School Aid, Local government and Mandates
 - School Aid;
- Political Committee exploring data mining for targeting voters and will be addressing the early voting issue;
- Board will hold a retreat this summer to review the Vision, Mission and Goals of the DRC;
- Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo joined the Board and discussed some issues related to Governor Cuomo's budget which included the privatization of some State Health care facilities. The School Aid issue was discussed. Assemblywomen Addie Russell and Donna Lupardo have sponsored a bill called the School Equity Funding Act Bill # A4609 which they hope will facilitate more equitable funding.

2013 DRC COMMITTEES

- Speakers' Bureau – Irene Stein, Phil Jones, Cindy Emmer, Bill Wood
- Communications/Outreach – Don Ackerman (Media), Ian Brody (Website), Phil Jones, Jeanne Crane, Lorie Longhany (Bulletin)
- Issues – Dawn Rivers (Chair), Sue Montgomery Corey, Bob Reynolds, Rose Aulino, John Hurley, Richard MacKay, Mark Bellardini, Judith Hunter
- Political – Jim Testani, Mark Bellardini, Tom Poelker, Joyce Melfi, Jason Clark, Mark Alquist, Jeff Farrell
- Audit/Finance – Cindy Emmer (Chair), Ted Young, Bob Reynolds
- Events/Arrangements – Ruth Same, Jane Dodds, Doris Kirsch, Mark Alquist
- Convention Chair – Jane Dodds
 - Program Committee – Entire Board
 - Program subcommittee – Jane Dodds, Jim Testani, Mark Alquist, Mark Bellardini
- By-Laws – Phil Jones (Chair), Cindy Emmer, Steve Jones, Bill Wood, Don Ackerman
- Program Book – Joyce Melfi (Chair), Lorie Longhany, Jeanne Crane
- Liaison to Labor – Mark Bellardini, Bob Reynolds
- Youth Recruitment and Retention – Jason Clark (Chair), Jim Testani, Doris Kirsch, Bob Reynolds.
- Nominating – Mike Schell (Chair), Steve Jones, Kim Muller

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

February, 2013

Bulletin # 17

Page 5 of 6

Message from the Chair:

It is my obligation and privilege to send an annual letter to the membership. I do so with both pride and confidence in the grit and persistence of all of you as we join together to achieve victory.

Let us savor once again, the victory of President Obama. You gave the campaign your all, and were victorious in twenty-two of our DRC counties. You helped elect Sean Patrick Malony in the 118th Congressional District and returned Bill Owens to Congress in the 21st. You helped achieve a majority of Democrats in the State Senate in spite of flagrant redistricting to pave the way for Republican candidates. We helped achieve Assembly victories as well.. You know all this, but I repeat it because you need to experience a great sense of accomplishment..

Since my last annual letter, your Board continued providing you with Bulletins to keep you well-informed of our activities. We maintain a Facebook page, and a list-serve for members to extend communication as well. We continue to offer a Speakers' Bureau and technical assistance in campaigns.

We responded to the issues you raised. passed resolutions and sent them to appropriate legislators as follows:

- School Funding Formula – this must be changed to redress the inequality the formula produces. This inequality severely and negatively impacts the low income/low wealth school districts that are so common in DRC areas. **WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS UNTIL THERE IS REFORM THAT PRODUCES THE RESOURCES WE NEED FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN.**
- Strong support for the Energy Highway electric power upgrade proposal.
- Support for Assembly and Senate Bills that call for Home rule on horizontal fracking as well as a requirement for disclosure of all chemicals used in the process.
- Support and solidarity for organized labor as counter to the shocking attacks across the nation on unions and collective bargaining
- Opposition to legislation that would close rural post offices and reduce services.

In the coming year, we will be looking into early voting as it affects our rural counties. You will define the rest of our issues agenda.

We have also just appointed a Committee on Youth Recruitment and Retention and are excited about its prospects of coming up with a plan to help all our committees.

We will hold a Board retreat to re-evaluate our 17 year-old goals, activities and future directions. With many new members as well as changes in our political environment, we feel it is time to do so.

We continue to maintain and strengthen our links with elected officials Senator Valesky, NYSDC Co-Chair Stephanie Miner, Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo have attended our meetings as has Rodney Capel, NYSDC Executive Director. Our Conference, of course, will offer you the opportunity to hear from many of our United States and State elected officials. We hope that you will find the Conference training of practical value as you gear up for the local races of 2013.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with an excellent Board to serve you. You are the real soldiers of democracy in our country, all of you.

Thank you!

.

Irene

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

February, 2013

Bulletin # 17

Page 6 of 6

THE DRC CONTACT INFO, ETC....

Web page: www.nysdrc.org

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

To Post a Message on the List serve go to: NYSDemocraticRuralConference@yahoo.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 ----

Jane Dodds, Vice Chair and Conference Chair---

Cindy Emmer, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair---

Phil Jones, Secretary and By-Laws Committee Chair ---

Don Ackerman, Parliamentarian ---

Doris Kirsch, Board Member and Asst. Secretary ---

Dawn Rivers, Issues Committee Chair ---

Mark Bellardini, Board Member and Labor Committee Chair---

Jim Testani, Board Member and Political Committee Chair ----

Jason Clark, Board Member and Youth Committee Chair ---

Joyce Melfi, Board Member and Program Book Chair-----

Ted Young, Board Member----

Bob Reynolds, Board Member ----

Mark Alquist, Board Member ----

Lorie Longhany, Board Member ----

Jeanne Crane, Board Member ---

Ian Brody, Web Master ---

iws2iws2@gmail.com

jmdodds@aol.com

cindy.emmer@yahoo.com

phildem@rochester.rr.com

Bdonack@aol.com

wdkirsch@gmail.com

me@dawnisme.com

bellar@earthlink.net

jtestani1@gmail.com

jasonclark2002@gmail.com

babbmelfi@juno.com

tyoung28@rochester.rr.com

bobnkaren@live.com

mhalquist@verizon.net

lorie.longhany@gmail.com

jeannecrane01@localnet.com

ian.brody@ianbrody.com

DRC Board Services...

SPEAKERS Bureau:

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

Irene Stein, Cindy Emmer, Bill Wood 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 2013, checks are payable to the DRC and should be sent to DRC c/o Cindy Emmer, 858 Davis St., Elmira, NY 14901.