

# THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

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Bulletin #19

September 2013

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## NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear DRC Members,

For all of us, these days of early fall mingle the falling leaves with getting out the vote to elect our Democratic candidates. We hope the modest financial contribution the DRC made to your counties will help with your efforts. It is your hard work, however, that is the core of successful efforts. Although the odds are great that in some of our rural counties, our message of government that works openly, transparently and for all the people is still golden. Your work and our message is why we have made inroads in once solidly Republican areas.

These days will pass quickly and the DRC will be turning its attention to 2014. You can see elsewhere in this bulletin the activities we are planning and the goals we are trying to reach through our committee work. We continue to seek your input. What are the emerging issues in your county? Can we help with speakers, technical assistance and mentoring for new Chairs? Are there other ways we can assist? Please let us know.

Thank you for all the very important work that you do. You are the bulwark of democracy. Truly!

Irene

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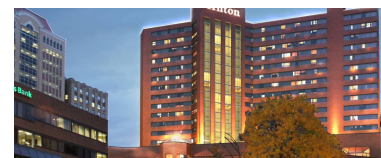
## SAVE THE DATE

2014 DRC CONFERENCE

April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

**HILTON ALBANY**

Formerly Crowne Plaza



40 Lodge St

Albany, NY 12207

# THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO.....

### August 19th Conference Call Meeting

After a very productive retreat in July, the board met on a conference call on August 19th. The minutes were approved from the July 13th meeting. Discussions included allocating member county grant funding, committee reports, procuring convention venue locations well in advance and scoping out future venues. In fact, the board agreed to hold a meeting at a possible conference location in Lake Placid early next year.

### Old Business

Irene Stein reported that she was asked to contact Madison County to see what the consensus of the local committee with David Valesky's affiliation with the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC). She reported that most people were pleased with Valesky's votes, and while there may be some discontent with his affiliation with the IDC, generally people were pleased with his representation. Discussion ensued regarding the Board's relationship with the IDC and particularly in regards to the 2014 elections. It was suggested that we contact Senator Klein and set up a meeting in the future.

### 2014 Spring Conference News and Updates

In our last bulletin we let you know how limited our options are as we plan our annual spring conference. We hold our conferences in unionized hotels that must accommodate 300 people. After learning that a Syracuse venue was not available for our 2014 date, the Hilton Albany was agreed upon by the board. This decision was not made lightly. After a lengthy debate, it was decided the Albany venue will be the best strategic location for most of our membership and strategic for our statewide and congressional elected officials and candidates. It was also decided to look at Syracuse as our location in 2014 and possibly Lake Placid in 2015.

### NY State Democratic Committee Meeting

Tentative date for NY State Committee Meeting is either October 21<sup>st</sup> or October 28<sup>th</sup> in Rye, NY. Update will be forthcoming.

### In Memoriam

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It is with great sadness that the DRC sends our sincerest condolences to our Treasurer, Cindy Emmer, for the passing of her husband, John Bryant. Cindy continues to be in our thoughts and prayers.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Audit / Finance - Cindy Emmer

Balance before grant money allocated to counties - \$29,700. We are pleased to announce that all counties up to date on their DRC dues have now been sent their grant funding check for \$350.

### Issues Committee - Dawn Rivers

Dawn will be working with Jim Testani (The Political Committee Chair) to plan 'Lobby Day', scheduled sometime early next year during state budget time. This will be a day of action to bring forward the DRC issues. Dawn and the Issues Committee, after all of your input, has proposed that the three priority issues for 'Lobby Day' are;

1. Public School Funding
2. Economic Development
3. I-98 Corridor

Prior to 'Lobby Day', Chairwoman Stein has announced holding an Educational Forum. She will work with the Issues Committee to develop and obtain a speaker for this event. The committee is in the process of developing talking points for use on 'Lobby Day'. These points will be reviewed by the Board. Dawn also reported that we should resurrect the US Post Office Issue. Post Office closures in rural areas can be devastating to rural community's economic stability. More to come on this.

### Communications - Don Ackerman

Don Ackerman announced our new webmaster, Dave Fronk who will also be managing our Facebook page. The board voted on a resolution to honor the hard work and dedication of Ian

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Brody for his years of exemplary service as our Webmaster. Don has been seeking suggestions from the Communications Committee membership on how best to get our message out to our membership and how best to implement a public relations campaign in our rural counties. He plans on setting up a conference call in the near future with committee members to discuss ideas for messaging and furthering the DRC footprint. Please 'like' our Facebook page under the name; **Democratic Rural Conference of New York State**, if you have not done so already. Be sure and invite your Democratic Committee membership to do the same. Link; [www.facebook.com/pages/Democratic-Rural-Conference-of-New-York-State/162050418621](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Democratic-Rural-Conference-of-New-York-State/162050418621)

## Youth Recruitment and Retainment Committee – Jason Clark

Jason reports that six people have expressed interest in serving on the Youth Advisory Committee. He is also looking into the feasibility of organizing the DRC Career Fair. He reported that a gentleman he knows at SUNY Albany, who has experience with Career Fairs, may be able to assist in this effort. This would be very convenient since the conference will be in Albany. If you have young Democrats on your committee please encourage them to reach out to Jason at [jasonclark2001@msn.com](mailto:jasonclark2001@msn.com)

## I-98 - Mark Ballardini

Mark will be meeting and discussing just how the DRC can help lobby and lend support for the I-98 corridor.

## Political Committee – Jim Testani

Jim will be working closely over the next few months with the Issues Committee in preparation of 'Lobby Day'.

## Conference Committee – Jane Dodds

Jane reports that the tentative program for the 2014 conference will be to focus on 'Taking Back the Senate and the House' On Friday, we'll discuss the State Senate, governance, races and candidates. On Saturday, we've traditionally held a Straw Poll for contested statewide candidates, and we are planning a Panel Discussion and Networking by Congressional Districts for the 8 Congressional Districts that encompass much of the DRC. Stay tuned.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION AND MEMBER SERVICES

Irene Stein, Chair	<a href="mailto:iws2iws2@gmail.com">iws2iws2@gmail.com</a>
Jane Dodds, Vice Chair and Conference Chair	<a href="mailto:jmdodds@aol.com">jmdodds@aol.com</a>
Cindy Emmer, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:cindy.emmer@yahoo.com">cindy.emmer@yahoo.com</a>
Phil Jones, Secretary and By-Laws Chair	<a href="mailto:phildem@rochester.rrm">phildem@rochester.rrm</a>
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Dawn Rivers, Issues Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:me@dawnisme.com">me@dawnisme.com</a>
Mark Bellardini, Labor Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:bellar@earthlink.net">bellar@earthlink.net</a>
Jim Testani, Political Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:jtestani1@gmail.com">jtestani1@gmail.com</a>
Jason Clark, Youth Committee Chair	<a href="mailto:jasonclark2002@gmai.com">jasonclark2002@gmai.com</a>
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Ian Brody, Web Master and Board Member	<a href="mailto:ian.brody@ianbrody.com">ian.brody@ianbrody.com</a>

### 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.

### Dues

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Dues are \$10 for 2013. Checks are payable to the DRC c/o Cindy Emmer, 858 Davis St., Elmira, NY 14901.

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