



# THE NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE



## DRC Summer Meeting

The DRC Executive Committee met in Waterloo, NY on Saturday July 17 for one of its periodic meetings in order to stay abreast of the issues and political activities affecting rural New Yorkers.

### I. Highlights of July 17 Board Meeting

**\*Mayor Bob Duffy**, our dynamic candidate for **New York State Lieutenant Governor** was our guest. He shared a bit about his background as well as the vision for better serving New Yorkers that he and candidate Andrew Cuomo share. He emphasized the severe problems faced by upstate and rural areas in the course of his remarks. Board members made comments and raised issues in response to Mayor Duffy's comments. Finally, Mayor Duffy asked the DRC to come up with our main issues with a view to future discussions with him and appropriate others. We are enthusiastic about taking up this offer. You should have received an e-mail requesting your ideas, and we will move forward with this dialogue about upstate, rural issues.

### **\*Good News for DRC Counties**

The Board voted to give grants of \$700 to each county whose members have paid their DRC dues. Last year our grants were \$400 each, so we are delighted to be able to offer more help. We exist to help our member counties achieve ever greater success in elections, and believe this financial contribution is part of that objective.

### **\*State Senate Candidates**

There are 18 (yes, 18!) candidates for State Senate from DRC Counties. We are exploring how we can work with the Democratic State Senate Committee to enhance their chances for Victory

# THE DRC CONTACT INFO, ETC....

Web page: [www.nysdrc.org](http://www.nysdrc.org)

To subscribe to our list serve go to: [NYSDemocraticRuralConference-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NYSDemocraticRuralConference-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To Post a Message on the List serve go to : [NYSDemocraticRuralConference@yahoogroups.com](mailto:NYSDemocraticRuralConference@yahoogroups.com)

Meet on Facebook at [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)

Or e-mail us at:

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Phil Jones, Secretary --- [phildem@rochester.rr.com](mailto:phildem@rochester.rr.com)

Cindy Lockrow-Schimmerling, Issues Committee Chair --- [lockrow@hotmail.com](mailto:lockrow@hotmail.com)

Dan McCandless, By-Laws Committee Chair --- [danmcc44@earthlink.net](mailto:danmcc44@earthlink.net)

Tom Poelker, Political Committee Chair --- [TPoelker@aol.com](mailto:TPoelker@aol.com)

## *DRC Board Services...*

### **SPEAKERS Bureau:**

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

Irene Stein, Bill Wood, Cindy Emmer 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 2010, checks need to be sent to Cindy Emmer, 858 Davis St., Elmira, NY 14901.

## **\*2011 Convention**

The Board will try to arrange for an early April conference for 2011. It will be the year of local races, and we plan to provide several campaign training workshops. The theme will be "Building a Farm Team", and we will provide more information as soon as it is available. The DRC also turns 15 in 2011 and we welcome ideas as to how to give ourselves appropriate recognition for that achievement.

We are exploring a location for the event, and will notify you as soon as something is in place.

## **THE DRC Board Summer Meeting**

### **Post Mortem on 2010 Niagara Falls Convention**

The Board reviewed responses to the survey that was made available. Overall, the conference scored high marks. We noted concerns about cost of the event and proximity in the date to that of the NYSDC meeting. We will do our best to improve upon those aspects, and will systematically consider other suggestions made.

### **Bringing the DRC into the Modern Era**

When we started the DRC, we communicated mainly by phone and paper. Hard to believe! We will propose by-law changes at our September meeting to bring us up to date now that we have a website, list serve and e-mail access.





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### More Highlights of July 17 Board Meeting

#### Visit from Nora Bredes, President, Eleanor Roosevelt Legacy Foundation (ERLF)

President Bredes thanked the DRC for its ongoing support and expressed her intention to make the ERLF more of a state-wide as opposed to a downstate organization. She announced that the Foundation had issued 9 early start grants of \$1000 each to 9 women candidates, many of whom are in DRC counties. The ERLF will hold its Annual Luncheon on Sept. 27 in NYC and will honor Matilda Cuomo. It will highlight the many women running for State Senate seat.

#### Musings from the Chair

When I became Chair about two years ago, we had several goals. One was to strengthen the relationship between the Board and the member counties. We have had some success in that we have issued Bulletins reporting on meetings and events. We established a list-serve so that members could communicate with one another. We also set up a Speakers' Bureau and agreed to mentor new chairs.

Many of you have expressed your appreciation of the financial contributions. I also have heard a number of expressions of appreciation for the Bulletins. However, utilization of the list-serve has been minimal; there have been only a few requests for speakers; there have been no requests for mentoring of new chairs. We continue to offer these resources and would welcome ideas for other ways in which we can serve you better.

Thanks.

Irene Stein

**Contributors: Irene Stein, Don Ackerman, Phil Jones**