

THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

Bulletin #29

September 2016

Message from the DRC Chair

Our 2016 Elections present strong challenges but great opportunities. Perhaps the choice for President is the most important we have seen in our lifetimes where the Republican Party is offering a dangerous, rash ill-informed, fascistically inclined alternative. We must unite to elect our nominee, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

We can expect a high turnout in this Presidential year. A major challenge, however, is to get voters to vote for the whole slate. We have the opportunity not only to re-elect Senator Schumer (no problem there!) but also to take the State Senate majority and to maintain or even increase our Assembly majority.

We are creative Democrats! Let's put on our thinking caps and come up with DRC ideas for getting voters to vote for our entire slate. Send your ideas to me and I will publicize them.

I look forward to meeting with all of you on April 21 and 22, 2017 at our Annual Conference, to be held at the Marriott Hotel in Syracuse. My hope is that President Hillary Clinton will attend in a sentimental journey back to the DRC where she attended our Conference in Ithaca during her campaign for Senate.

In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful late summer and fall that we in DRC counties experience and enjoy. Election season is upon us. Best of luck to all of you with your candidates. Onward to Unity and Victory!

Best regards,

Irene



www.nysdrc.org

Visit and join our Facebook page at

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State



Save the Date April 21th & 22nd
2017 DRC Conference

Hotel Syracuse

Syracuse, NY

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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

After a very successful spring conference, culminating with a campaign stop from President Bill Clinton, we held a meeting on June 11th in Putnam County where special guest Richard Brodsky gave us some insight into IDA reform. A summary of Brodsky's overview is below in John Hurley's Issues Committee report.

We also met recently on August 20th at the incredible Hotel Syracuse where next year's conference will be held. This historic hotel has just been restored to all of its splendor. Our committee was given a private tour of the facilities that we will be using next spring and to say this venue is wonderful is an understatement. Make sure you mark your calendars!

Agreements, Focused Discussions and General News

1. Agreed to try and organize a wine and cheese benefit for DRC State Senate candidates at the Fall NYSDC meeting in Buffalo on September 18th.
2. Discussed holding a silent auction at the 2017 DRC Conference, with a desire to showcase each county's regional specialties. This would be a fund raiser, but would also give all of the attendees a chance to bid on some extraordinary items unique to our individual member counties.
3. Came to an agreement to continue funding DRC counties and DRC NY State senate candidates as we have in the past.
4. Considered and discussed a new outreach of campaign training to DRC counties on a regional basis.
5. Discussed in our early planning of the 2017 Conference to include; Constitutional Convention topic breakout and social media training breakout.
6. Agreed to invite Mario Cilento, AFL-CIO President to the 2017 Conference
7. New Logo! See information on the eventual roll out in Judith Hunter's Communications Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit / Finance - Mark Alquist

Mark Alquist reported a balance of \$35,616.68

Reminder, time is running out: Pay your 2016 dues by 9/12/2016!

\$10.00 payable to the DRC c/o Mark H. Alquist, 4046 Wayne Street Williamson, NY 14589.

NOTE; if your dues are not paid your county will not receive the annual DRC Committee contribution allocation.

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Conference Committee – Jane Dodds

We hope you enjoyed the Conference last April. Our feedback was very positive. We are looking forward to a great Conference in 2017 at the newly restored Hotel Syracuse! Stay tuned as our planning is getting under way.

Issues Committee – John Hurley

Highlights of the presentation in Putnam County by former Assemblyman Richard Brodsky;

1. History of economic development in NY State – Empire Zones, public benefit corporations, re-charge NY, etc.
2. Need for overhaul of regulations that hold corporations accountable.
3. Severe lack of compliance with statute that requires their activity be tied to job creation.
4. Oversight and accountability through investigations, FOIA and new regulations.
5. In conclusion he spoke in great length for the need of a NY State constitutional convention which would cover issues like IDA reform, charter schools, Forever Wild, Board of Regents, prevailing wage, women's health issues, state pensions, etc. He encouraged the DRC to take up a discussion at our 2017 Conference in Syracuse.

Communications Committee – Judith Hunter

We had a very busy convention, given the media attention surrounding President Clinton's appearance. Our efforts were hampered in part by a lack of press contacts in some upstate regions. If county chairs could send their local press contact information to Judith Hunter, Communications Committee Chair, by email at -- judith.hunter@gmail.com it will make sending out press releases for the next convention much easier. A complete and thorough list would also be helpful for distributing DRC press releases that we may want to issue at other times, as well.

We are working on developing a new logo. This logo will consist of an interactive map of the state with all 47 rural counties highlighted. This shows the powerful footprint that the DRC encompasses geographically across NY State. Stay tuned for a rollout of the exciting new branding.

The DRC Facebook page (like us @Democratic Rural Conference of New York State) continues to grow. We are approaching 850 "likes". That represents an increase of almost 25% since we started posting news important to Democrats. Recognizing that more stories related to rural issues in particular would be good, Judith Hunter invites members to send her possible postings by email: judith.hunter@gmail.com

Finally, these periodic DRC bulletins are part of the Communications efforts of the DRC. Thanks to Lorie Longhany of Genesee County for single-handedly producing these several times a year.

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Youth Committee – Jason Clark

Proud to report the karaoke event at the April DRC Conference proved again to be a highlight with attendees. Young Dems are now gearing up for the serious business of helping with the State Senate races across our DRC County's.

DRC Board Services

Speakers Bureau

The following DRC members are available as speakers at DRC County Events: Irene Stein, Bill Wood, Judith Hunter, Jason Clark.

Mentoring Services

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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