

**DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE OF BOARD ELECTIONS**

**APRIL 22, 2017 - SYRACUSE**

**TO: DRC Voting Members**

**FROM: DRC Nominating Committee**  
**Mike Schell, Chairperson – Jefferson County**  
**Kim Muller, Otsego County**  
**Steve Jones, Madison County**  
**Phil Jones, Livingston County**

**Date: February 25, 2017**

**RE: NOTIFICATION OF DRC BOARD ELECTIONS- 2017**

**Elections for the following offices will be conducted at the annual meeting of the DRC, April 22, 2017 at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown:**

**2 year terms for officers:**

**Chair**  
**Vice-Chair**  
**Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  
**Parliamentarian**

**2 Year terms: 5 directors**

**1 year term: to complete unexpired term of 1 or more directors**

**STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY:**

To have your name placed on the printed ballot as a candidate for the Board you must, **no later than Midnight, Saturday, April 15, 2017**, send Mike Schell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at **michaelwschell@yahoo.com**, **an email stating you are a candidate for the position.**

**Election process:**

The election will be held at the regular meeting of the DRC membership, commencing at **9 am on April 22, 2017 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel, in downtown Syracuse:**

**1. Eligibility to Vote:** As confirmed by the Nominating Committee, members eligible to vote must be:

- a. County Chairs or State Committee members from the 47 member counties; and
- b. Current in their dues (paid before meeting is called to order)

**2. Vacancies in DRC membership:** Should a vacancy exist in a DRC position in his/her county by virtue of a vacant State Committee position, the Nominating Committee shall accept as a replacement a Democrat from that county upon a written recommendation from that county's chair. The person recommended by his/ her chair becomes a voting member of the DRC, as long as appropriate dues have been paid, regardless of whether the NYSDC has acted on the appointment. In the case of the vacancy in a county chair position, any replacement provided by the succession provisions of that county committee's bylaws shall be accepted as an eligible voting member.

**3. Proxy voting:** DRC By-Laws provide that "a member may vote by a written proxy held by a registered Democrat **from the absent member's county**, so long as said signed proxy is registered with the Nominating Committee prior to the opening of the meeting." Proxy form is attached.

**4. Weighted Votes:** Each voter's ballot will be given weight, as set forth in the by-laws.

- a. Voters will be given the number of ballots accorded to them by the bylaws.
- b. Voting is by secret written ballot, except in the case of acclamation.

**5. Candidates:**

- a) **Must be a voting member of the DRC (a County Chair or State Committee member);**
- b) **Must submit the statement of candidacy** by the above deadline to appear on the printed ballot. 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.
- c) **A candidate may declare for one office only.** (officer candidates not elected may be nominated from the floor as a write-in for director).

**6. Campaigning:**

- a. Candidates are encouraged to reach out and inform the membership of their candidacies and qualifications The Nominating Committee will receive and forward to the membership all campaign material that candidates wish to provide to the membership through the DRC NEON database system.
- b. Candidates may be given a limited defined **time to speak** at the meeting before the balloting, subject to the final decision of the Nominating Committee.
- c. A candidate who is not present may have a voting member speak for him/her.

**7. Balloting for Officers:**

- a. There will be one ballot listing all declared candidates for the Officer positions, and providing space for write-ins. The balloting and tallying of the Officer ballot will take place before the balloting for Director positions. **A majority vote, that is a majority of the votes cast, ignoring blanks, is required to be elected. The balloting will continue, without eliminating any candidate from the ballot,**

**until someone has a majority. Per RULES OF PROCEDURE Section E-  
Robert's Rules of Order Revised**

- b. If all Officer positions have only one candidate each, a motion to elect the slate by acclamation will be in order. If any Officer position is contested, the balloting shall proceed on entire Officer ballot.

#### **8. Balloting for Directors:**

- a. There will be one ballot listing all declared candidates for the Director position, as well as spaces for write-ins. [In the event a new vacancy or vacancies occur due to the election to an officer position of an incumbent Director not up for election this year, the vacancy will be filled as part of this election of Directors]. **The Directors positions will be determined by a plurality of the votes cast not by majority.**
- b. In the balloting for Director, the top five finishers will receive the two year terms, the next highest finisher or finishers will be awarded one year terms to fill the vacancies of any unexpired terms.
- c. Voters may vote for as many Director candidates as there are vacancies. (Ballots marked with more candidates will be disqualified.)
- d. If the number of candidates for a Director position equals the Director vacancies, the election may be held by acclamation if the candidates themselves can agree on allocating two year terms and one year terms among them.
- e. The ballot will indicate incumbents and the home county of each candidate.

**9. Ties:** In the event of a tie between candidates for an officer position, new balloting between all the candidates for the position will take place until a majority vote is received by one of the candidates. The only exception would be if the other candidate(s) withdrew from the contest. The Directors positions will be determined by a plurality of the votes cast not by majority.

#### **Geographic Diversity on the Board (SEE ATTACHED MAP)**

The bylaws require the Nominating Committee to seek geographic diversity on the board so that all regions of the DRC are fairly represented on the ballot:

1. The ballot will indicate incumbents and the home county of each candidate
2. Attached is a map showing the geographic distribution of current members of the board. This map will be updated as people become declared candidates and will be distributed by e-mail prior to the meeting.
3. Members from underrepresented regions are encouraged to seek election to the board, or to encourage other members from that region to seek office.

#### **Information about Board responsibilities:**

- 1) Officers and Directors meet in person three or four times a year and hold about as many telephone conference call meetings per year.
- 2) This is a working Board. Directors are expected to join at least one committee (Issues, By-Laws, Finance, Communications/Outreach, Political, Youth Recruitment and Retention and other ad hoc committees as needed).
- 3) A board member who misses three consecutive Executive Committee meetings is automatically removed from the board per the by-laws.

**The following communications do not need to go through the Nominating Committee between now and the election on April 22, 2017:**

1. Meeting Announcements;
2. Minutes of Meetings;
3. The Bulletin;
4. Marketing pieces related to the Conference only;
5. Membership dues announcements
6. Treasurer's financial reports
7. Other communications that could not be interpreted as campaign related announcements. If there is any question regarding this, contact the Nominating Committee prior to sending it out.

The following communications should be transmitted through the Nominating Committee to the membership:

1. Any campaign material;
2. Announcement of candidacy;
3. Position papers on any issue;
4. Position papers on the operations of the DRC;
5. Other communications that could be interpreted as campaign-related announcements. If there is any question regarding this, contact the Nominating Committee prior to sending it out.

**PROXY**  
**For the**  
**DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**April 22, 2017 at 9 AM**

I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_  
(Who is a registered Democrat from my home county) to act and to vote as my proxy at the April 22, 2017, General Membership meeting of the members of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State and to have all of the privileges and powers to which I would be entitled to if I was personally present at that meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Executed    Signature of DRC Member    Time Executed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name & Address of DRC Member

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

DRC By-Laws provide that “a member may vote by a written proxy held by a registered Democrat from the absent member’s county, so long as said signed proxy is registered with the DRC Secretary prior to the opening of the meeting.” Voting members include County Chairs and State Committee members from the 47 member counties.

In order to vote, the 2017 dues of the DRC member must be paid. If the State Committee position is vacant, upon **written** proof from the County Chair that a person has been duly recommended by their county chair to fill that vacancy, they will become a voting member of the DRC for purposes of this meeting, upon payment of their dues, even if the State Committee has not yet acted on the appointment.

**DRC voting members and proxy holders may be required to produce photo identification to pick-up their ballots.**

**There is no limit to the number of proxies that a member can carry at a General Membership Meeting so long as the rules enumerated above are followed.**

*Sincerely*

*Nominating Committee*