

# THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

Bulletin #32

August 2017

## Message from the DRC Chair

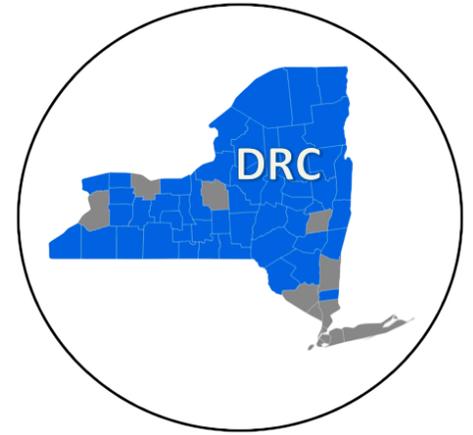
The landscape for our upcoming local races is far from typical. The fallout from the election of President Trump has raised justifiable concern and anxiety. At the same time it has resulted in an outpouring of energy and interest in turning things around by electing Democrats to office locally and to higher office in 2018. Many of our Democratic committees have been enlarged by Democrats newly interested in working for our causes. These new members are often younger than our current ones and we welcome them with open arms, recognizing that we must strengthen our ability to elect Democrats in our counties. We have an excellent opportunity to do just that, given the almost daily weakening of the President's credibility and increasing recognition of people that he does not represent their best interests. The health care debacle is the most dramatic example on the domestic front and our rural residents increasingly recognize the threat to their health care and coverage.

We need to take advantage of these trends and get out the vote as never before. Try identifying those Democrats who voted in the presidential election but not, in the preceding local election and develop a plan to get out their votes. The DRC is ready to help to the extent it can with financial and technical assistance from the vast well of experience represented on our Board. We can make great strides as a prelude to winning in 2018.

As mentioned in this Bulletin, we are focusing on your issues of concern as well as planning for our 2018 Conference. We continue to offer a Speakers Bureau to bring our messages to your committees. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way. We rural Democrats Unite for Victory.

Sincerely,

Irene



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

Visit and join our Facebook page at

**Democratic Rural Conference of New York State**



2018 DRC Conference

TBA

# THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

The next DRC Board meeting is September 16, 2017 in Syracuse beginning at 10:00 AM at Tony's Restaurant. The DRC Board's Nominating Committee will be filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Joyce Melfi Cwiklinski, who resigned after relocating out of Cattaraugus County to Erie County. The DRC is grateful to all of the hard work and dedication that Joyce gave as a Board member and wish her the best of luck in Erie County where we suspect that Joyce's retirement from her leadership in Cattaraugus will most likely lead to involvement in her new Town of Cheektowaga.

### Kudos

Joe Pickreign, former DRC Board Member, was honored in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise titled 'A Life in Politics' for serving his community for 36 years! Be it Democratic Committee member, Town Board member, Town Supervisor, State Committee member, State Committee Vice-Chair, delegate to the National Conventions – you name it! Service has been Joe's commitment to his community, his constituents and to the Democratic Party. Follow this link to read this story on our own, Joe Pickreign -- <https://www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com/news/local-news/2017/07/a-life-in-politics/>

### Resistance Report

From Across Rural NY State an amazing number of spontaneous groups dedicated to curbing and ultimately defeating the Trump agenda have sprung up all over rural NY. County Committees have filled positions with many new activists ready to help at every level -- whether it is running for town offices, helping candidates with their ground operations or involvement in next year's field of congressional candidates. These new faces on our committees are a welcome sign that the Democratic Party, in even the reddest rural areas of the state, are fortifying for the future.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Audit / Finance - Mark Alquist

Bank account balance as of August 16, 2017 – \$31,114.41

**If you haven't done so already please send 2017 dues to Mark --**

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

### Political Committee – Peter Bujanow

DRC Regional Training – "Winning Rural Elections": In response to our survey, if you are interested in hosting a DRC training event in your county or if you have any questions please contact Peter Bujanow at: [Pbujanow@gmail.com](mailto:Pbujanow@gmail.com).

### Communications Committee – Judith Hunter

The Speakers Bureau continues to be active. With late summer and fall fund raisers underway across the DRC counties please know that someone would be happy to say a few words about the DRC at your event. Please invite us! Our Facebook page (Rural Democratic Conference of New York State

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on Facebook) continues to grow. We now have 1008 likes! The point though of the Facebook page is to give you the information and opinions you need to make the case for Democrats at all levels. We invite you to share your activist activities in the "Resistance Reports." There is so much energy on the ground in our counties since the election, and we'd like to highlight it. Also, Judith can't keep on top of every single upstate media outlet, however hard she tries! So we're looking for people to help send her info on resistance activities in your part of the DRC. If you'd like to volunteer to send Judith links about activities, we could get a team going to cover all of rural New York. If you're interested in helping out, please email Judith at [judith.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:judith.hunter@gmail.com).

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## DRC Board Services

### Speakers Bureau

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

### 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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