

DRC 2.0 Discussion Points

Here is the list of discussion points participants offered during our conference roundtable session. They are numbered according to the greatest number of times they were cited by different participants to the least.

Where have we been / Where are we now?

The first two questions are placed together since responses were similar.

1. DRC is now 20 years old
2. Developed contacts in general
3. Developed contacts for specific candidates
4. We learned we have myriad challenges and proposed solutions that we need to address
5. Our goal is to flip the Senate, which we did
6. We were a fledgling organization that turned into a force and voice to be heard
7. We have been two states: Upstate v. Downstate
8. We once had a voice, but we are now stale – have a Spring conference and spend the rest of the year planning next conference
9. Improved cooperation among counties
10. Established network and notoriety regarding issues, candidates, and county visits

How do we improve the influence of the DRC?

1. We need measurable goals for leaders to follow
 - a. 90% of County level of gov't is R
 - b. Goals must have a plan and timeframe
2. Improve DRC social media and website
3. Develop a master calendar that includes events, trainings, meetings, etc. in all DRC counties
4. Need DRC Network to serve as conduit for information, legislation, liaison, etc.
5. Reach out to all county chairs – what are their issues, resources, needs
6. Establish the DRC as a lobbying force – have lobbying days
7. Raise awareness of the Democratic organization
8. Finance rural state senate and assembly candidates
9. We are missing our farm team – cost effective at local level
10. Need a sense of energy and possibility from the DRC
11. Expand the DRC conferences to other DRC counties, regardless of union v. non-union hotels
12. Create regional VPs to improve DRC relationships
13. Expand DRC geographic diversity
14. Double participation in DRC conference next year
15. Improve role of non-members interested in engaging with DRC
16. Develop strategies to hold the state party responsive and responsible

17. Regional Roundtable Events - Schedule regional roundtable events during the year – Q1 Western DRC, Q2 Mid-Hudson, Q3 Central, etc.
18. Annual Event – Needs to have more content, less speeches
 - a. Instead of a 40 minute “speech” – have a 20 minute speech and 20 minutes of listening to members (questions, concerns)
19. Add Vendors – NGP Van, Act Blue, etc...Establish Town Hall Meetings where elected officials listen to our concerns
20. Establish scholarships and/or scholarships for Young Dems
21. Require that an upstate Democrat be placed on the DNC
22. Need Advocacy group to serve as a platform for issues
 - a. Develops information materials
 - b. Focuses on specific issues
 - c. Provides sample LTEs/county resolutions, etc.
 - d. Set issues strategies for 2019-2021
23. Be like the Progressive Caucus - engaged, serious
24. Cultivate new leaders
25. Develop fundraising plans, goals and timetables
26. Establish relationships with more wealthy areas of NYS and country to help local and state candidates
27. Establish joint debates and endorsements for candidates
28. Emphasize public service in schools, communities, etc.
29. Create a “Checkbox” for events to give a candidate an excuse to not visit a district, having checked off the rural box*
30. Policy - Does not seem to be a good structure for securing member input and taking policy positions beyond occasional forums

31. Funds to Campaigns – Develop a formula for giving funds to campaigns based on need and opportunity
32. Develop a Legislative Road Map – have sessions where actual bills are shared with members – not just speeches and goals.

*This was written “as is” from notes from one table. It was not clear and the suggestion was not repeated by other tables.