

THE NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC RURAL

IT'S SCHENECTADY! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The 2011 DRC Annual Conference will be held on April 29 and 30th in the Proctors Center, Schenectady, New York.

On Saturday, December 4, the Executive Committee of the DRC met in Schenectady and made the decision to determine the site for the Annual Committee.

The 2011 Conference will be the 15th since our founding and it was suggested that it being a significant anniversary we would like to do something special and a little out of the ordinary. Schenectady County proposed that the DRC return to Schenectady and have its convention in its rejuvenated downtown and arts district.

After a tour of the Proctors Theater complex it was unanimously agreed that it would make a unique setting for our 2011 convention. Proctors is a newly refurbished 1926 movie house within a significant complex of smaller theaters, meeting rooms, and banquet hall. There are three hotels very nearby and ample opportunities for receptions and other gatherings. Proctors is also situated in the middle of downtown Schenectady which has undergone extensive development under the direction of the local Democratic elected officials. Conference chair Jane Dobbs will be providing information concerning registration, hotel reservations, cost, program, etc. at a later date.

2011 is the year of local races and we want to provide some campaign training for candidates, potential candidates and for all of us who work on these races. In keeping with the baseball theme of the event, we want to put forward the best possible set of candidate with an excellent farm team right behind them.

We will also be holding elections for all 5 officers and 5 board member seats on the DRC Executive Committee.

And of course, we are looking forward to hearing from the new Administration at our Friday night banquet as well as our re-elected U.S. Senators. We rural Democrats gain enormous benefit from their perspectives. You will be motivated and energized.

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Tentative Agenda for 2011 Spring Conference

BUILDING THE FARM TEAM

Recruiting, Training & Electing the Democratic Team

SEASON GOAL: Each DRC County will bring a new attendee, a new candidate for Village, Town or County Board, Local Boards & Offices, potential County Committee leaders, State Senate and Assembly candidates. Bring them to Camp, Train them for Tryouts, Help them Learn from the Pros!

FRIDAY CONVENTION SCHEDULE:

Registration	2:00 - 6:00
Training: FIELD LAYOUT & RULES OF THE GAME	3:00 - 5:00
<u>New York State Election Law</u> , and Campaign Calendar for Village Boards, Town Boards, Local & County Offices, November 2011 elections (with panel of Democratic Election Commissioners)	
GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION	6:00 - 7:00
DINNER WITH THE ALL STARS	7:00 - - overtime "CHOOSING
SIDES: Why We Are Democrats, with Winning Democratic Values"	
Governor Cuomo	Lt. Gov. Duffy
Senator Schumer	Senator Gillibrand
Attorney General Schneiderman	Comptroller DiNapoli
Congressional Representatives	Host County Officials
	DRC Executive Committee

SATURDAY CONVENTION SCHEDULE:

Breakfast	7:00 - 8:00
DRC ELECTIONS	8:00 - 9:15
Training: TEAM ROSTER: WHO'S ON FIRST?	9:30 - 11:00
Coaches, Managers, Trainers, Players, Field Staff, Candidates and Fans	
Identifying critical roles & responsibilities for <u>Campaign Team Development</u>	
Coffee Break	11:00 - 11:30
Training: BUY ME SOME PEANUTS AND CRACKERJACKS	11:30 - 1:30
Campaign <u>Budgets and Fundraising</u> , Resource Allocation, Buliding the Bench, Grooming the Field, Training the Team, and Seventh Inning Stretching of Dollars	
Luncheon PUT ME IN, COACH, I'M READY TO PLAY!	1:30 - 2:30
Luncheon Speaker, Election results and Special introductions for the all the new candidates in the lineup!	

Conference Adjourns: Play Ball!

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REPORT ON DECEMBER 4TH BOARD MEETING

In addition to visiting the site, we reviewed the suggestions that you made in the follow-up survey to the 2010 Conference. There were many excellent suggestions, and the Board is committed to incorporate as many as practical in future gatherings. For example, you will receive DRC buttons with your registration!!!!

Chair Stein led a roundtable on the recent 2010 elections, what went wrong, how we can best proceed in the future and what worked from our perspective. The Board felt deeply the loss of some of our state legislative incumbents as well as the lack of success, even though outstanding, candidates in our rural counties.

Attending our meeting was Susan Savage, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature and State Committee member from 110 AD, and recent unsuccessful candidate for the NYS Senate who shared with us her insights as someone who personally experienced the entire process. We were also joined at the meeting by Cliff Hay, Chair of the Schoharie County Democratic committee, Judy D'Agostino, Schenectady Legislature Vice-Chair as well as Mark Alquist, Wayne County State Committeeman, Bill Wood and Mary Leonard of Cortland County.

We agreed to write Lt. Gov. Elect Duffy about continuing the dialogue he initiated with us, especially in relation to plans for rural and upstate economic development as they become more concrete.

We will be holding our next meeting in Binghamton, but have not yet set the date.

You will of course receive actual minutes of the meeting from DRC Secretary, Phil Jones.

THE DRC CONTACT INFO,

Web page: www.nysdrc.org

To subscribe to our list serve go to: NYSDemocraticRuralConference-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To Post a Message on the List serve go to : NYSDemocraticRuralConference@yahoogroups.com

Meet on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Democratic-Rural-Conference-of-New-York-State/162050418621

Or e-mail us at:

Irene Stein, Chair --- iws2iws2@gmail.com

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Dan McCandless, Vice - Chair --- danmcc44@earthlink.net;

Cindy Emmer, Treasurer --- cindy.emmer@yahoo.com

Phil Jones, Secretary --- phildem@rochester.rr.com

Cindy Lockrow-Schimmerling, Issues Committee Chair --- lockrow@hotmail.com

Dan McCandless, By-Laws Committee Chair --- danmcc44@earthlink.net

Tom Poelker, Political Committee Chair --- TPoelker@aol.com

DRC Board Services...

SPEAKERS Bureau:

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

Irene Stein, 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.

WEB SITE

We are asking all County Chairs to send our Secretary their web site addresses so we can put a link on the DRC web site. Send the web address to phildem@rochester.rr.com

DRC 15TH BIRTHDAY

Yes, it's true. We are turning 15. We can look back with pride. We have united and, through that unity, gained the attention of state and national candidates to an extent not previously experienced. We have contributed to many victories and can take pride in our relationships and accomplishments. All of this is due to the commitment of all of you. Thank you.

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Musings from the Chair

There is no question that the recent election was very disappointing. But it was also not a great surprise. The context of the depressed economy, the huge state budget shortfall at a time when Democrats held majorities in both houses of the Legislature and Congress as well as a Democratic Governor and President resulted in a very high mountain to climb.

This is a time of challenge, and we must rise to face it. We must take actions to change the situation. The Governor-elect has a clear and stated agenda. While one may argue about the details, I think we all agree that we need ethical and governmental reform and radical budget changes. I also believe that we will see a real focus on upstate and rural economic development.

We have to meet these challenges without forgetting that we are Democrats that we care about more than the bottom line, that we have to improve the general welfare but we must always strive to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

If we can work together with civility and, yes, compromise, we can overcome!....

OUR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES ARE WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT. ENJOY THEM TO THE FULLEST DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Thanks.

Irene

Contributors: Irene Stein, Don Ackerman, Phil Jones