

Democratic Rural Conference

Minutes from a Meeting of the DRC Board of Directors

Held via ZOOM on July 10, 2021, at 10:01 AM

Meeting of the board called to order by Ms. Hunter at 10:03 AM

Board members in attendance

Judith Hunter	Bill Thickstun	Michael Lausell
Jeanne Crane	Ron McDougall	John Hurley
Daniel Sniezek	Susan Ottenweller	Lorie Longhany
Margaret Bartley	Max Della Pia	Michael Monescalchi
Frank Puglisi	Darlene Baker	Tim Perfetti
Cindy Appleton		

Board members absent

Ted Young	Keith Batman	Leslie Berliant
-----------	--------------	-----------------

Nominating Committee

Mr. Jones encouraged folks to announce if they were running for the board seats or officer positions. The deadline is 07/23/2021

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hurley presented minutes from the April 10, 2021 / May 25, 2021 and June 26, 2021 Board of Directors Meetings.

Ms. Baker moved approval of the minutes.

Ms. Crane seconded. Minutes approved unanimously

Treasurer Report

The Secretary does not have record of the report or the vote to approve.

Report from the Chair

Ms. Hunter reported that she has been successful in working with state committee to help rural counties.

The “New York” delivers message developed by the DRC Messaging Task Force has received very positive response from the state committee. They fully support the effort to communicate the positive message about the good things being done to support rural counties, thanks to Democratic leadership.

The state committee also pledge support to help recruit candidates. Though started late and somewhat ineffective there were some benefits in terms of recruiting volunteers and some candidates.

Ms. Ottenweller noted that two towns had people identified that were good candidates

Mr. Della Pia thought that it was a good program – helped find volunteers

Mr. Perfetti said that he received good names but need to check them against the VAN

Committee Reports

By-laws: Ms. Baker

Ms. Baker introduced the proposal to change the by-laws regarding payment of dues.

- Change section 4b from current to proposed language
- The proposed change is more equitable and easier to administer
- The proposal is revenue neutral

There was a sidebar discussion about redistricting timing

Ms. Baker moved to approve the report and the by-laws change. Mr. Puglisi seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous

Issues Committee: Mr. Batman

Ms. Hunter reported for Mr. Batman

The Issues Committee was focusing on issues of climate change and renewable energy.

They were working to compile information about 2019 renewable energy legislation to share with rural counties.

She reported that they were also following proposed Biden administration proposals and their impact on rural counties

Communications Committee: Mr. Thickstun

Mt. Thickstun reported that a DRC newsletter bulletin was sent at end of April.

He planned another newsletter to go out after the elections

Mr. Thickstun continues to work on lists on Neon. He stressed the need for county chairs to report changes in state committee and chairs as soon as they happen.

Ms. Hunter shared that the DRC Facebook page continues to grow and reach more people. There are currently 1,600 users

Conference Committee

The DRC 2022 conference will be held at the newly remodeled Desmond Hotel on April 29 / 30, 2022.

More details will be discussed at the next DRC Board meeting.

Political Committee: Mr. Perfetti

The Political Committee is working to set up virtual regional meet and greet sessions with legislative Democrats.

There are 15 Democrats in the Assembly who represent at least part of DRC counties.

There are 7 Democrats in the Senate who represent at least part of DRC counties,

The goal is to have a conversation, share ideas and for them to know that there are active Democrats in their districts that can help them.

This is not a lobbying effort – more an effort to make sure the legislators know that the DRC is there to help them.

Old business

New business

Working Group Reports

Technology and Campaign training

They decided to put pause on campaign training to see what the state and other organizations were doing this year.

Given the overlap of their “charters” it was decided to merge the data working group into the campaign training group.

Ms. Hunter noted that Eleanor’s List was hosting a virtual training on 8/14/2021 10am – 4 pm . virtual.

Ms. Hunter also said that she was contacting the new NYDEMS VAN Director to set up training for county committee’s with a special emphasis on local races.

Messaging Working Group

The DRC inspired “Democrats Deliver” message has been enthusiastically received by the state committee thanks to Ms. Hunter’s effective sales pitch.

The Working Group recommends creating a repository of issue papers, ads, outreach, tools. It could be located on Slack or Google Doc’s We might also consider Drop box or a protected space on the web site

Next Meeting: September 11, 2021 at 10:00 am via Zoom

Motion to adjourn made by ~~Mr. Young~~ Mr. Puglisi, seconded by Mr. Perfetti. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hurley

DRC Secretary