

Democratic Rural Conference

Minutes from a Meeting of the DRC Board of Directors

Held via ZOOM on January 15, 2022, at 10:00 AM

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

**Board members in attendance**

- |                  |                     |                  |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Judith Hunter    | Bill Thickstun      | Michael Plitt    |
| Jeanne Crane     | Ron McDougall       | John Hurley      |
| Keith Batman     | Dan Farfaglia       | Darlene Baker    |
| Margaret Bartley | Michael Monescalchi | Ted Young        |
| Frank Puglisi    | Tim Perfetti        | Tom Schimmerling |
| Bill Hughes      | Daniel Sniezek      | Cindy Appleton   |
| Max Della Pia    |                     |                  |

**Board members absent**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Hurley presented minutes from the December 18, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

MRon moved approval of the minutes. M Darleneseconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report**

Mr. Puglisi reported the following:

**STATE ACCOUNT-**

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 17, 2021 \$19,433.44

19,433.44

- 150.11 – NEON MONTHLY CHARGE (JANUARY)

19,283.33

- 5.67 – NEON CREDIT CARD RETURN FEE (STRAW POLL DUES)

19,277.66

+ 29.80 – DRC 2021 DUES

19,307.46

+ 906.40 – DRC 2022 DUES (This amount is not deposited it came in 20,213.86  
the mail and Actblue 1/14/22)

- 6,000.00 – Check 1078 deposit for Ramada Liverpool conference 2023

14,213.86

13,307.46 (BANK BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 14, 2022)

+ 906.40 (TO BE DEPOSITED TUESDAY 1/18/2022)

14,213.86 (TOTAL AVAILABLE AS OF 1/18/2022)

- 9,393.89 (ENCUMBERED FROM 2020 CONFERENCE FEES)

\$4,819.97 (UNENCUMBERED BALANCE JANUARY 14, 2022)

FEDERAL PAC

\$956.00 (BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 14, 2022)

NO TRANSACTIONS

\$ 956.00 (BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 14, 2022)

Frank – explained the dues notice process. \$90.00 per county / \$10 for associate

Ted moved approval of the Treasurers report. Motion seconded by Ms. Darlene Unanimous

### **Nominating Committee – Mr. Jones**

Filling 9 positions at conference

4 vice chair

5 directors

Elections in April regardless of when held.

Election will be held using Election Buddy - virtual

All voting members of DRC, having paid dues will be able to vote wether in attendance at conference

Proxy

There will be test votes – take them seriously

Judith – ask for folks to consider running for a board position

We are looking for geographic diversity

Straw Poll Task Force

In December meeting decided to cancel 02/05 event.

Move the poll to be part of the April conference

### **Task Force Report**

Jane clarify why associate members have to be county committee members from a DRC County.

Judith explain that because the straw poll will happen after the state convention we felt we want as many rural county Dems as possible to participate.

Questionnaire out 01/10/2022. All candidates must respond. Only those in contested races will be asked for interview – 3 gov. candidates. Week of Jan. 24 or 31 plus Saturday's

Ms Adams – allow all legitimate candidates to be on the ballot so that folks are not forced to go out to collect signatures.

### **Report from the Chair**

Convention 02/10/2022 in Manhattan in person.

State rules state alternating upstate / downstate

NCY is expensive and the normal things we do to defray the cost are not possible with covid

Given where we are with covid the convention should not be held in person

Judith want to know who is not attending in person so that she can report to Jay. Judith to send email to all county chairs so that she can report back “real” information.

Who goes to the convention – state committee people

Can only carry 5 proxies and they must be from state committee people in the judicial district.

This could turn into a super spreader event.

### **By-laws Committee – Ms. Baker**

No report

### **Issues Committee – Mr. Batman**

Talking with folks at the state on renewable energy siting rules. Making sure that rural counties are not used and get no benefit

### **Communications Committee – Mr. Thickstun**

Problem with the newsletter – moving targets

Will try to get something out this month

Facebook page – 1,600 followers. Judith continues to post information / links that will help us

### **Political Committee – Mr. Perfetti**

Ian – REACH Project

Relational Organizing – use existing relationships merges with voter file to text for contact.

Pilot project in the spring

Not as successful as desired but Cayuga used heavily.

Describes the process

Tim issues in Cortland

Candidates were not as supportive

Problem with smaller races – contacts don't necessarily line up with district lines.

Easy to integrate with VAN

Challenge is to get buy in

Tim – Lobby Day 15 assembly from DRC

First Lobby day in 2020 just beat covid shut downs

Virtual in 2021. Will be virtual in 2022

January 28, 2022 3 sessions

8:30 am: gallif.....

10:00 – 11:00 Kellis, warner

11:30 – 12:30 7 Senators from DRC Skuffas, Manuion, May, Harkum, Breslin Hinchely later waiting on Brouk.

Send them the topics in advance.

Election Reform

Social Justice / Equity piece of the Marijuana legislation

Redistricting

Hughes what is the DRC and other counties doing.

Judith – Hard to come up with a DEC position that is fair to each county. DRC in a tricky spot because what is good for one county may work to the detriment of another. We should lobby for competitive districts.

People having issues with getting appointments through the Gov office. Many chairs share that they are having the same trouble

Judith – we should write as a group (47 counties) to have the most impact.

Tim move that DRC send letter to gov office expressing concern and frustration about the delay in getting appointments approved. Ted and other second.

More discussion –

Implication of not making appointments.

Mike – go inside first before sending the letter so that the Gov. is not embarrassed.

Judith friendly amendment letter sent if we don't get a satisfactory response through less formal channels – tim / Bill H unanimous

### **Conference Report – Ms. Dodds**

April 29 – 30 at renovated Desmond in Albany

Dinner Friday is a good time to let electeds and candidates familiar with DRC.

Programming starts early Friday afternoon. Bring elected's staff and other government officials dealing with rural issues will be available to respond to questions.

State Senate networking. Saturday – congressional networking / candidate forums.

Registration will open soon – important that we have a robust attendance to show the strength of the DRC

Straw poll Saturday afternoon

Jane – if you receive a test ballot please open and vote so that we know that the system works and need the information provided.

### **Campaign Tech Task Force – Ian**

### **Old Maggie report on gender language for small town elected officials**

### **New Business:**

**Next Meeting:** Saturday , 2022 at 10:00 am via Zoom Judith ask for delay until after lines are set.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Young at m. Mr. Tom s seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 12:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hurley

DRC Secretary

