

Democratic Rural Conference
Minutes from a Meeting of the DRC Board of Directors
Saturday July 23, 2022 at 10:00 AM
West Ballroom Ramada by Wyndham, Liverpool, NY

Meeting of the board called to order by Ms. Hunter at 10.00 AM

Board members in attendance

Judith Hunter*	Bill Thickstun*	Michael Plitt*
Ron McDougall*	John Hurley*	Keith Batman*
Dan Farfaglia*	Margaret Bartley	Michael Monescalchi
Ted Young*	Frank Puglisi *	Tim Perfetti*
Jason Clark*	Cindy Appleton	Liz Moran*

Board Members Absent

Jeanne Crane Bill Hughes Darlene Baker
Tom Schimmerling

Guests

Linda Hoffman Irene Stein Kate Friedlander, Rick Gell.

Presentation on the Democratic Civic Network (DCN): Rick Gell

I am concerned about people who join committee but then only end up dealing with mundane campaign related and administrative stuff.

Living in a time of rural Democratic crisis

Use technology to connect us better and bring more younger folks into the party.

1. Technology
2. Data base
3. Email
4. Web site with community access

Every committee should have newsletter going out to thousands in their town / county

DCN is developing a template for use by counties

- The model is corporations with franchises

The civic network is where county committee members can connect (mini-Facebook, Linkedn

Describes the capabilities of the DCN software.

Judith – what is the DRC role with the DCN

- Create content – put full membership of DRC into the network

For additional information: Rick.Gell@icipnation.tv

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hurley presented the minutes from the February 16,2022 Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Perfetti moved approval. Ms. Bartley seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report

Mr. Puglisi, appearing via Zoom, walked the board through report

- Operating Bank Balance at 07/22/2022: \$38,706.25
- Federal PAC Bank Balance at 7/22/2022: 9956.00

Motion to approve Treasurers report by Ms. Appleton. Second by Mr. Thickstun. Motion approved unanimously

Grant Allocation Proposal

- Mr. Puglisi recommended retaining \$12,831.25 in the bank
- He proposed \$575.00 to 45 counties (Lewis & Franklin not getting funding)
- Represents a 43% increase from previous years.
- Ms. Moran moves approval of the proposal. Mr. Perfetti seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Puglisi said that he would send an email to each of the county chairs requesting address to send checks

Ms. Hunter recommended making a donation to Congressional candidates in special Elections from the DRC Federal PAC - \$500.00 to Max Della Pia and Pat Ryan

Mr. Perfetti moved approval. Mr. Plitt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Chair

Ms. Hunter asked how many folks put events on Mobilize. She noted that the poor response indicated a total lack of support to counties for use. She said that we need training and support.

Mr. Hunter initiated a discussion of the role of Regional Vice-Chair (RVC).

Agreement that at a minimum they should keep current with state committee and county chair positions in their region.

Ms. Appleton suggested creating email list of regional chairs to enhance support of all counties in the region.

A discussion of updating the data base followed.

Mr. Thickstun asked that he be updated with list of chairs and state committee folks

Discussion about the need to get better at welcoming and orienting new county chairs

The DRC should be the resource for new chairs and SCM

By-laws Committee – Ms. Baker

No report

Reminder to board members to have county committees look at their county by-laws with regard to Zoom meeting

Issues Committee – Mr. Batman

Siting of solar and wind contained a template to be used in the future. Would like feedback as to whether the format worked.

Need help from the board to identify issues to work on. Contact Keith with a brief summary of the issue.

Communications and Outreach Committee – Mr. Thickstun

Thanks for discussion about updating the data base

Please remember to send reports for newsletter.

Need to get someone to be responsible the web site. Was on WordPress but was rebuilt

Break for lunch

Political Committee – Mr. Perfetti

Results of Lobby Day. Voting reform bottled up in Assembly

Staffing at the BOE. Commissioners to include funding for full-time, full-time deputy

The positive is that changing commissioners to civil service is stalled.

Need to help legislators identify with reforms we can all get behind.

Also need to speak about petition reform.

- Judicial delegate selection petitioning change so that it reflects the state committee process.
- Ultimately this is something that the State Committee can change
- Have to do something about the process of petitioning in February. Need some other process for ballot access.

Cannabis Stores– make sure they are going to follow the social equity piece.

Keep CHIPS funding but make sure the towns and workers are continued to be protected.

Broadband – continuing discussions – always a priority

Mentoring program for new chairs etc. seconded the previous comments – see above

Messaging

To be successful this year we have to make opposition to “hate and extremist” a key message to Democrats and unaffiliated voters.

Will put out a messaging memo to the membership so that they can respond

Need to tie Carl Paladino to every GOP candidate

New Business:

Mr. Clark suggested creating a DRC “intervention team” to help county committees that are struggling. He recommended using Lewis County as a pilot.

Ms. Hunter appointed an Ad Hoc committee to develop a model. Members include Mr. Perfetti, Mr. Thickstun, Ms. Hunter and Mr. Clark.

Ms. Hunter announced that the 2023 Conference will be held April 14-15 at Ramada by Wyndam, Liverpool, NY

The sessions will focus on training Deep Canvass techniques, candidate recruitment, poll watching

Next Meeting: Sunday August 28, 2022 at 7:00m via Zoom

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Young at 1:59 pm. Mr. Batman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hurley

DRC Secretary