

Democratic Rural Conference

Minutes from a Meeting of the DRC Board of Directors

Sunday August 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Meeting of the board called to order by Ms. Hunter at 7:01 PM

Board members in attendance

Judith Hunter *	Bill Thickstun *	Michael Plitt*
Jeanne Crane	Liz Moran*	John Hurley*
Keith Batman*	Dan Farfaglia*	Darlene Baker*
Margaret Bartley	Michael Monescalchi	Ted Young*
Frank Puglisi *	Tim Perfetti*	Tom Schimmerling*
Bill Hughes*	Jason Clark*	Cindy Appleton

Board member not in attendance

Ron McDougall

Ms. Hunter congratulated Ms. Bartley for her work getting legislation passed to make council positions gender neutral for second class towns. Ms. Heartly said that her next goal is to remove the term “second class towns”.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hurley presented the minutes from the July 23, 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

Members offered several changes. The minutes to be approved at a future meeting.

Comment from the Chair

Ms. Hunter initiated a discussion of the DRC Federal PAC.

Now that we have some experience working with our PAC we understand that there is more that we could be doing.

We need to determine the amount and process for getting funds to candidates.

Ms. Hunter turned the hosting to Mr. Puglisi.

Treasurer Report

Mr. Puglisi presented the Treasurer's report

- Operating Bank Balance at 08/28/2022 is \$11,571.21
- Federal PAC Bank Balance at 08/28/202 is \$8,956.00

Proposal to disburse DRC Federal PAC funds

Mr. Puglisi presented a proposal to distribute money to the nominees from our federal PAC. (Frank to send me the details for the minutes)

Ms. Hunter listed the candidates in each congressional district.

Mr. Thickstun noted that Oswego should be in CD22

Someone raised the question: why not just divide the total amount in the Federal PAC by the number of candidates to determine how much each should receive.

Mr. Puglisi suggested that the DRC should make sure the money goes to candidates who need it most. (For example Joe Morelle and Brian Higgins don't need DRC funds as much as other candidates)

Mr. Batman said that this is a good process for 2022. He noted that he personally looks at quality of candidate

Ms. Hunter injected that the role of the DRC was not to evaluate candidates, we need to treat each county fairly.

There was a discussion about which candidates should receive funds from the DRC Federal PAC

Mr. Thickstun suggested that perhaps we should treat incumbents differently?

Ms. Hunter again stressed that equal treatment is important at the county level. She noted that this will give the DRC a bigger role and create visibility

Mr. Hughes: agreed that creating a task force for the 2024 cycle is a good idea. Each election is different and needs to be evaluated during each cycle.

Mr. Batman moved approval of the process presented by Mr. Puglisi as well as the creation of a task force..

Mr. Clark seconded the motion.

The motion pass unanimously

Proposal for additional uses of the DRC Federal PAC

Ms. Hunter initiated a discussion of other uses of the DRC Federal PAC. She explained that a group of county chairs and committee people in the 24th CD were having discussions about creating an organization for the long term instead of just one election cycle.. Funding such an organization is a major issue unless funded through a PAC. One way to help organizations like the NY-24 group and others yet to be created is to use the DRC Federal PAC as the funding mechanism. We could help candidates or just get the message out about the Democratic message.

Mr. Puglisi said that he was speaking with an election law attorney in Buffalo. If such a use is legal, at a minimum we would need to create a separate board to oversee the PAC.

Mr. Hughes asked how a PAC like this is created. Following are comments from the discussion that followed:

- rather than creating individual PAC's in each county or congressional district, the committees could use DRC as an umbrella.
- questions about fundraising. She recommended that we should pursue and can target folks who have not been previously targeted.
- likes the idea of messaging.
- Not sure about the process of using DRC as the umbrella.
- This is a really great idea. Lots of details to be sorted out. Good way to bring folks in new congressional districts together.

- how will this work in congressional districts that are dominated by a non-DRC county.

Ms. Hunter said that Mt. Puglisi will continue working with the election attorney. She asked if folks are comfortable with allowing NY 24United be the test for this idea.

Mr. Hughes felt that we needed more information before proceeding.

Mr. Puglisi assured the board that we are able to keep track of where money is coming from so we can designate spending for specific groups/purposes..

Mr. Thickstun noted that this was similar to having a Zoom account that can be used by any county.

Ms. Appleton moved to continue doing research on the various technicalities and requirements of offering the use of the DRC Federal PAC as an umbrella organization to allow smaller organizations working in DRC congressional districts to make an impact on federal races. We have been assured by counsel that this is a legal way to help groups trying to create some structure in the new congressional districts that will last beyond the election. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

State committee will meet 09/22/2022 in Albany

Mr. Thickstun reminded the board that we need to know who the county chairs and state committee people are so that we can update NEON with new district information.

Next Meeting: Saturday 11/19, 2022 at 10:00 am via Zoom

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Young at 8:30 pm. Ms. Appleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hurley

DRC Secretary

