



Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

April 25-26, 2025

HILTON ALBANY
Albany, New York

1995
30 Years of Connections

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

“Thank you to the Democratic Rural Conference for being a powerful voice for our communities. I have been proud to fight for rural New York from the halls of Congress to the Executive Mansion, and I will continue to be an advocate and ally for the DRC for the years to come. Congratulations to the caucus for three decades of building Democratic power in our state!”

- GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL



PAID FOR BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



1995

30 Years of Connections

DRC 2025 CONVENTION

The Albany Hilton | April 25-26, 2025

AGENDA

FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2025

1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Convention Registration and Credentialing	East Gallery
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	NY Legislative Commission on Rural Resources Deputy Director Steven Gamache	Gov D&E
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Effects of the New Administration on Rural NY Congressman Paul Tonko & State Senator Pat Fahy	Gov D&E
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	NY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, Moderator, with State Senate and Assemblymembers representing DRC counties	Gov D&E
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	WELCOME RECEPTION with Governor Kathy Hochul	Gov C
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	DINNER with New York’s Democrats Welcome & Remarks from New York’s elected Democrats	Gov A&B
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	DESSERT RECEPTION with Attorney General Letitia James	Gov C
10:00 p.m.	Afterparty	Hotel Lounge

SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2024

7:30 a.m.	Convention Registration and Credentials	East Gallery
8:00 a.m.	BREAKFAST with Comptroller Tom DiNapoli	Gov A&B
9:00 a.m.	DRC Annual Business Meeting Followed by Board Directors Elections	Gov A&B
10:00 a.m.	Social Media: “What’s New? What’s Blue” – Ryan Adams Hands On Training, Bring your Laptop!	Gov D&E
11:30 a.m.	Chairs Roundtables – Networking for Chairs by Congressional District	Gov C
12:00 p.m.	LUNCHEON with Speaker Congressman Dan Goldman Luncheon Sponsors: New York State United Teachers, NYS AFLCIO, CWA local 1124, AFSCME, IBEW local 2104, IBEW local 2032, 1199 SEIU Healthcare East, and Teamsters Joint Council 18	Gov A&B
2:30 p.m.	Board Wrap-Up Meeting – new members please plan to attend!	

WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE ARE

UNITED

Congratulations to the Democratic Rural Conference on 30 years of bringing together New Yorkers. PEF is proud to partner with the DRC to protect our members and all civil service workers across rural New York and the entire state. Together, unions thrive, allowing New Yorkers to receive the quality public services they deserve. When we work together, we can achieve anything!

www.PEF.org/FundOurFuture



Wayne Spence
President



Joe Donahue
Secretary-Treasurer



**New York State
Public Employees Federation**
pef.org | #FundOurFuture



Welcome Letter



from the Chair

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2025 DRC, where we are celebrating Thirty Years of Connections! The Democratic Rural Conference of New York State started out as a mere idea in the early 1990s, but rural New York was truly lucky to have visionary leaders who understood the importance of having an institutional voice which could speak to the entire state on behalf of the smaller counties. Mike Schell and his colleagues, through lots of travel and meetings in the rural counties, were able to bring their ideas to fruition by 1995. (Mike Schell has continued to be a mentor for leaders of this organization; I'm very grateful for his continued advice and counsel.)

Over the course of three decades, the DRC has made itself a factor in New York politics, and the April meeting (nicknamed by all "the DRC") has become a can't-miss part of New York's political calendar. Democratic fortunes have waxed and waned over the years, but the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State has proudly stood up for the interests of rural New Yorkers throughout.

This is my final Chair's message to you, as I believe in the importance of rotating leadership to the health of any organization. My three terms have been a truly challenging time: a global pandemic that brought normal politics to a halt (we had to skip two April DRC's), a gubernatorial resignation, and two deeply hostile federal administrations. Through it all, I hope you have found the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State to be a support and voice for you in your counties. We have been able to make our federal PAC an important contributor to upstate congressional races. We have worked hard to increase lines of communication and cooperation with downstate leaders. Finally, we have made working with the growing number of Democratic legislators who represent our rural counties a priority.

I want to convey my thanks to the officers and Board members I have had the privilege of working with both as Chair and during my earlier service as a Board member and Officer. We're all volunteers working for the same goals, and it's truly a labor of love on behalf of rural New York. I would be remiss if I didn't single out Jane Dodds' work as our Conference Coordinator, without which the spring DRC could not have become the powerhouse that it is. I am confident that the new leadership of our organization will continue to maintain and grow our influence, and I congratulate everyone who will be elected to serve going forward.

Judith Hunter
Chair, Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

ELEANOR'S LEGACY

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE
DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE FOR
30 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING DEMOCRATIC
CANDIDATES AND VALUES--AND TO
CHAIR JUDITH HUNTER FOR HER YEARS
OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION!**

Since 2001, Eleanor's Legacy has trained, endorsed, and supported pro-choice Democratic women running at the state and local level.

“Action brings its own courage.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

Join us in Buffalo on May 17th for
a free, all-day Campaign Boot
Camp in Partnership with:



**ERIE COUNTY
FEDERATION OF
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN**

RSVP AT:

[HTTPS://CAMPAIGNTRAININGBUFFALO.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://campaigntrainingbuffalo.eventbrite.com)

Questions?

Contact Abigail Martin, Political
Director at
abigail@eleanorslegacy.com

Or sign up for our email list to
find out about our
endorsements, trainings, and
more!



ELEANORSLEGACY.COM



The voice of rural New York State

The Democratic Rural Conference of New York State sincerely thanks our 2025 Conference Sponsors

FRIDAY WELCOME RECEPTION

Governor Kathy Hochul
and
The New York State Democratic Committee

FRIDAY DESSERT RECEPTION

Attorney General Letitia James

SATURDAY BREAKFAST

Comptroller Tom DiNapoli

SATURDAY LUNCHEON

NYSUT, NYS AFL-CIO, CWA, AFSCME,
IBEW, 1199SEIU, and the
Teamsters Unions



The Founding of the Democratic Rural Conference

1995

30 YEARS AGO: THE FOUNDING OF THE DRC

By Mike Schell, DRC Founding Chair

In December 1995, a small group of Democratic leaders from rural upstate counties gathered at a motel in Syracuse. They were meeting for the first time as a “Steering Committee” to consider building a “Small County Rural Coalition.”

For too long, many Democrats from the smaller counties felt ignored and powerless. The idea of creating a Rural Caucus had been talked about in the past but was discouraged by the party establishment.

Things came to a head after the disastrous 1994 election. Incumbent Governor Mario Cuomo carried only one upstate county, and in our rural counties he received only 23% of the vote.

The crisis presented an opportunity. There was a change in state party leadership as a Democrat from Oswego (John Sullivan) was put in as executive chair. Recognizing the need to rebuild the party in the upstate counties, John held a breakout session in Oswego for small county leaders when the state party met in September 1995. It was at that session it was decided that a “steering committee” would start down the road of creating a caucus of rural Democratic leaders.

So that is why, a week before Christmas ‘95, a dozen of us, the “Steering Committee,” gathered in Syracuse and all agreed we wanted help for our candidates, a voice in the party, and attention to our issues. To achieve those goals, we needed to UNITE! Eventually we adopted the slogan: **UNITE FOR VOICE AND VICTORY.**



1995

In the meantime, steering committee secretary Steve Jones (Madison) would start drafting by laws with input from the Steering Committee. At the meeting, several important decisions were made about the DRC: the name became The Democratic Rural Conference of NYS (as it was thought “Caucus” was too divisive.) Membership was limited to county chairs and state committee members representing counties of under 150,000 population (chairs and state committee members are elected by local Democrats.)

Following the Dec. '95 meeting, several of us hit the road, meeting across upstate with Democratic leaders to get input and buy-in. The response was overwhelming.

The following September, DRC members from 40 counties gathered in Binghamton to formally organize, adopt by-laws, and elect officers.

The DRC quickly became a force in New York State politics. DRC members were included as presidential delegates, state convention speakers, on the DNC and other leadership positions. The state party began providing political and financial assistance to DRC counties. Democrats began having success in our “red counties.” Social events, having fun and forging friendships became an important aspect of DRC membership.

The DRC would not endorse primary candidates but instead would rate them as to their “upstate friendliness” and invite them to compete in a DRC straw poll. Every statewide candidate came to the '98 DRC straw poll convention in Ithaca as did reporters from around the state. DRC events became a “must” for aspiring statewide candidates, Governors, U.S. senators and even presidential candidates. Other states have followed NY’s lead in forming rural caucuses. The DRC has now grown to 47 counties with a change in 2010 of the population bylaws’ membership criteria to 250,000.

The new century brought new leadership. Denise King, Stu Brody, Irene Stein, and Judith Hunter took the DRC to new levels of advocacy.

We have come a long way since that meeting in 1995. The critical political challenges now faced by the nation are directly related to the results of the rural vote. More than ever, the DRC is not only relevant but desperately needed.



The Founding of the Democratic Rural Conference

CHARTER MEMBERS

Abbott, Dick - Chenango Co.
Baker, Almina - Hamilton Co.
Barbash, Steven - Ontario Co.
Bender, Patricia - Fulton Co.
Betz - Dorothy U. - Madison Co.
Braily, Francis - Seneca Co.
Brody, Stu - Essex Co.
Doran, Robert J. - St. Lawrence Co.
Egan, Dorothy - Ontario Co.
Emmer, Cindy - Chemung Co.
Ferrara, Pat - Putnam Co.
FitzGibbons, John - Oswego Co.
Flood, Deborah G. - Yates Co.
Gardner, Lori C. - Tompkins Co.
Hare, James E. - Chemung Co.
Hay, Clifford - Schoharie Co.
Jasewicz, Edmund C. - Fulton Co.
Jones, Steven - Madison Co.
Kalmus, Leon - Otsego Co.
Kersch, Robert - Wyoming Co.
King, Denise - Columbia Co.
Lacey, Katie - Cayuga Co.
LeFevre, Arthur - Clinton Co.
Liddington, Pat - Tioga Co.
Mack, Marty - Cortland Co.
Merrell, Charles C. - Lewis Co.
Montfort, William A. - Warren Co.
Muller, Kim - Otsego Co.
O'Dell, William - Cattaraugus Co.
Osborne, Keith - Chemung Co.
Schell, Mike - Jefferson Co.
Scriber, William - Oswego Co.
Secovnie, Robert T. - Columbia Co.
Stein, Irene - Tompkins Co.
Steinwachs, Barbara - Yates Co.
Sweeney Salotti, Mary Q. - Seneca Co.
Thompson, Bill - Tioga Co.
Tibbits, Carol - Orleans Co.
Ulfik, Catherine - Chenango Co.
Vona, John L. - Schuyler Co.
Warden, Mike - Yates Co.
Watson, Jason - Herkimer Co.
Williamson, Margaret S.J. - Oswego Co.
Wood, Bill - Cortland Co.
Young, Ruth S. - Schuyler Co.

SMALL COUNTY RURAL COALITION PROPOSAL

NEED

- Democratic rural leaders and voters feel alienated and disconnected. They feel left out of the mainstream and are therefore less motivated to assist the party.
- Support for Democrats in rural areas is dropping dramatically - and it has cost elections. Had these 40 smallest counties voted in the same proportion as the registration, as they have in the past (30-40%), we would have retained the governorship.

MEMBERSHIP

County Chairs and State Committee members (each rural county has two) from the forty counties with populations of under 150,000

These counties represent approximately 200,000 Democratic voters in the 1994 gubernatorial election or about 8% of the total votes cast for governor on the Democratic line (hence, 8% of the vote in the state committee).

PURPOSE OF THE COALITION

- Provide support and assistance to the Democratic Party and its leadership by carrying the Democratic message to the small towns and villages in the state.
- Share information and resources - ie: campaign techniques, fund raising methods in Republican counties.
- Develop and recruit potential candidates for multi-county districts (ie: Congress, State Senate, Assembly).
- Provide a ready forum for state Democratic leaders to reach the leadership and voters of the small counties.
- Develop understanding of issues of concern to voters in small counties and convey that information to Democratic leaders and candidates.

MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING OUR GOALS

- Organize - a steering committee has been meeting to organize the coalition.
- Conduct 4 Regional rural county meetings including all 40 small county chairs.
- Hold organizing meeting to adopt rules, elect leaders.
- Meet regularly in the future in conjunction with State Committee meetings

LEADERSHIP

Temporary Chairman: Jefferson County Chair, Mike Schell; Temporary Vice Chairman: Orleans County Chair, Carol Tibbits; Temporary Secretary: Madison County State Committeeman, Steve Jones; Temporary Treasurer: Oswego County State Committeeman, John Fitzgibbons. Permanent officers are to be elected at the organizing meeting. We also plan to elect four directors.

**New Rural
Association**

**Upstate Democrats
start organization
for small communities**

**Democrats Push
For Upstaters
Party Forms Rural Conference**

'North 40' Is Attempt to Unify Upstate Party



July 23, 1996 photo taken by Charlotte Sullivan of the DRC Steering Committee meeting.
 Bottom row: Irene Stein, Ruth Young, Chair Mike Schell, Cindy Emmer and Bob Kersch;
 Back row: Kellaura Jones, Secretary Steve Jones, John Sullivan, Vice Chair Carol Tibbits
 Not pictured: John FitzGibbons, Marty Mack, Bob Bowman, Charles Merrell, Stu Brody.

Those elected as the Charter Members of the Board of Directors were:

- Chair – Mike Schell – Jefferson County
- Vice Chair- Carol Tibbits – Orleans County
- Secretary – Steve Jones – Madison County
- Treasurer- John Fitzgibbons- Oswego County
- Parliamentarian- Marty Mack- Cortland County
- Directors: Stu Brody (Essex), Cindy Emmer (Chemung), Bob Kersch (Wyoming)
- Kim Muller (Otsego), Almina Baker (Hamilton), Irene Stein (Tompkins),
- Ruth Young (Schuyler), Bill O’Dell (Cattaraugus)
- Denise King (Columbia) and Dick Abbott (Chenango).

Minutes of the Initial Steering Committee, December 18, 1995

A meeting of the Rural Caucus was held at the Quality Inn, Buckley Road, Liverpool, New York on Monday, December 18, 1995 at 12:00 noon. Those attending were Mike Schell, a long time State Committee member and recently elected County Chairman of the Jefferson County Democratic Committee, Orleans County Chair, Carol Tibbits, Wyoming County Chair, Bob Kersch, Marty Mack, State Committeeman and former County Chair of Cortland County, John Fitzgibbons, State Committeeman and former County Chair of Oswego County, Steven Jones, State Committeeman and former County Chair of Madison County, and Executive Chairman of the New York State Democratic Committee, John Sullivan of Oswego.

The meeting was opened by Mike Schell, who was congratulated on his recent election as Jefferson County Chair. Mike was designated as the temporary chair of the caucus.

John Sullivan, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the State Democratic Committee, reported on the status of petitioning for the Presidential Primary and solicited comments regarding petitioning and delegate slates. There was widespread dissatisfaction with the slates.

Chairman Sullivan mentioned that he has received a number of complaints from other congressional districts regarding party workers who were unable to get on the delegate slates. He has explained to them that there are a limited number of spots available and he will do his best to see that those who did not get on slates will get credentials to the convention in Chicago, though he admits that he is still waiting for an accurate count on the credentials that New York will be entitled to pass out for the convention. He also mentioned that a number of people are asking for spots on the platform committee, the rules committee and the credentials committee.

Chairman Sullivan also mentioned the need for fundraisers, particularly upstate to help the State Committee and local committees raise money. He mentioned the possibility of regional fundraisers with one now being scheduled for Watertown with the "lions share" of the proceeds going to the local committee.

There is also a plan to have house parties held as fundraisers on the night of the Presidential primary.

Chairman Sullivan also mentioned that President Clinton will be holding a fundraiser in New York City on January 11th. The cost will be \$1,000.00 per person.

Sullivan also mentioned that there will be a retreat scheduled in New York City for the weekend of February 24 - 25.

Sullivan also mentioned that the opening of the new headquarters in New York City was an excellent event, but only two representatives from Upstate appeared. In his Oswego headquarters, Sullivan now has a part-time staffer from the Democratic Committee.

Currently the State Committee is temporarily operating out of Senator Martin Connor's office for its base in Albany. Chairman Sullivan expects to spend one or two days a week in Albany when the session begins. Chairman Sullivan also noted that the best time to reach him is after 4:00 p.m. and he is trying to set aside time each day from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. to return his phone calls. His number is 342-4871. His wife, Charlotte, will be helping soon with the organization of fundraising activities.

Chairman Sullivan was pleased to see a number of rural representatives appear at the meeting and encouraged us to work together to represent upstate rural interests.

The State Committee is interviewing vendors to provide voter lists to local committees. This involves a substantial commitment of money on the part of the State Committee and the National Committee, but it should net considerable results. A candidate or local committee will be able to request a list of prime voters or target mail to certain ethnic groups by using these lists. Mailing labels will be available at a very reasonable rate from the chosen vendor.

There was considerable discussion about the next meeting of the rural caucus and it was decided to include in the caucus those counties with population of less than 150,000 people. County Chairs and State Committee members from those counties will be drafted at the next meeting. Steve Jones will draft a set of By-laws that can be reviewed at the next meeting. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 22 - 23, 1996, probably to take place in the Auburn area. There was discussion about combining a fundraiser with the conference, but it was felt that it might be better to separate the fundraising and concentrate on a conference with a major speaker who will draw rural representatives, and assist us in forming a new organization.

Chairman Sullivan was asked when the next meeting for the New York Democratic Committee will be held. He said there is no meeting scheduled at this time, but perhaps a meeting will be held in conjunction with the retreat scheduled for February 23-24.

Bob Kersch suggested the need for a press release about today's meeting in the hope of encouraging other rural Democrats. Chairman Schell appointed Steve Jones to the post of Temporary Secretary of the Rural Caucus and asked him to draft the press release and the minutes of this meeting.

There was discussion of the logistics of the conference to be held March 22 through 23. Chairman Schell will ask Chairman Sullivan's staff to help us with the cost of mailing, accommodations, and planning a speaker. It was expected that since we have 30 to 40 counties in the rural category, we might expect a turn out of 40 to 120 people for the conference. Among the items that Chairman Schell will put on the conference agenda will be a discussion of issues that are vital to rural New Yorkers, political problems that we encounter (such as our town caucuses), and consideration of the form that our organization should take, and the adoption of by-laws. Mention was made of the expense associated with the caucus and it was suggested that perhaps each County that sends delegates or participates in the caucus could contribute toward the expenses of the caucus.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

CHAIRS OF THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

Michael Schell (Jefferson)	1996-1998, 2002
Denise King (Columbia)	1998-2002
Kim Muller (acting) (Otsego)	2002
Stu Brody (Essex)	2002-2009
Irene Stein (Tompkins)	2009-2018
Judith Hunter (Livingston)	2019-2025

State Dems
 Eye Voters
 Upstate 9/2/96

■ The 1992 governor's race convinced the leaders that calling the area a loss just isn't safe anymore. :-)



DRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair, Judith Hunter (Livingston County)

Vice Chair, Liz Moran (Madison)

Treasurer, John Hurley (Ontario)

Secretary, Bill Thickstun (Oneida)

Parliamentarian, Dia Carabajal (Cayuga)

Western Regional Vice Chair,

Cindy Appleton (Wyoming)

Northern Regional Vice Chair,

Ron McDougall (St. Lawrence)

Catskill/Hudson Regional Vice Chair,

Sam Hodge (Columbia)

Central Regional Vice Chair,

Roger Saltman (Madison)

BOARD MEMBERS:

Karen Ash (Allegany)

Maggie Bartley (Essex)

Max Della Pia (Tioga)

Summer Downing (Washington)

Bill Hughes (Columbia)

James Mills (Putnam)

Michael Plitt (Genesee)

Tom Schimmerling (Delaware)

Ted Young (Seneca)

Michael Zagrobelny (St Lawrence)

THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

2025 LEADERSHIP ROSTER

Judith Hunter, DRC Chair

Jane Dodds, Conference Coordinator

Summer Downing, Conference Assistant Coordinator

PROGRAM BOOK COMMITTEE:

Cindy Appleton, Karen Ash,

Suzanne Coogan, John Hurley

Thank you to Erie County Democratic Committee for printing the program.

Tom DiNapoli

STATE COMPTROLLER

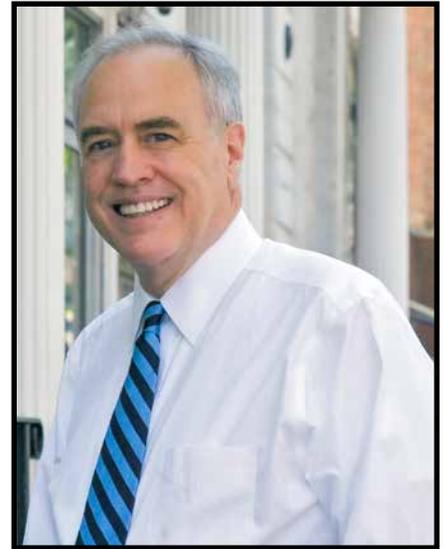
For 30 years, the Democratic Rural Conference has brought together leaders from every community across New York to strategize, organize, and bring the issues that matter to everyday New Yorkers to the forefront of the Democratic agenda.

Your voice has never been more important than it is in 2025. Rural Democratic leaders like you are fighting back daily against the Trump administration and holding Republican elected officials accountable. Your advocacy is key to taking back the House next year and to laying the groundwork for 2028.

It's my honor to serve as New York's Comptroller, and I thank you for your friendship and for all the support you've given me over the years.



Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller



**“CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
DEMOCRATIC RURAL
CONFERENCE OF
NEW YORK STATE
FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE, AND
THANK YOU JUDITH HUNTER
FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP.”**

- CHUCK SCHUMER
U.S. Senator from New York
& Senate Democratic Leader

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF SCHUMER





IN RECOGNITION OF

JUDITH HUNTER

*We celebrate and thank you for
your years of unparalleled leadership
and service to the DRC.*

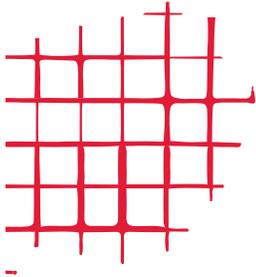
Cynthia Appleton	Joan Davis	Margaret Milman-Barris
Karen Ash	Max H. Della Pia	Michael J. Monescalchi
Maggie Bartley	Summer Downing	Lisa Colleen Moore
Keith Batman	Barbara Graves-Poller	Liz Moran
Karen Beebe	Juanita L. Hale	Tricia Owen
Lena Bishop	Sam Hodge	Morris Owen
Lynne Boecher	Michael Hoffman	Michael Plitt
Valerie Brechko	Linda Hoffman	Mike Schell
Robert Brechko	Shawn D. Hogan	Mark Streb
Lou Burke	Bill Hughes	Bill Thickstun
Harold Bush	John F. Hurley	Kenneth Lee Warner
Mandy Bushnell	Phil Jones	Rachel Weil
Mary Carr	Hilda Lando	Robin Wentworth
Jim Carr	Brandi B. Lloyd	Tommy White
Jennifer Colamonico	William Markey	Ted Young
Suzanne Coogan	James Mills	Jeremy Zellner



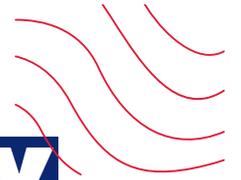
Allegany County Democratic Committee proudly supports the DRC. THANK YOU for your LEADERSHIP!



RURAL DEMS ARE BETTER TOGETHER!



BROOME COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



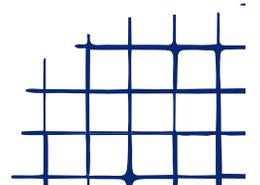
& CHAIR KAREN BEEBE

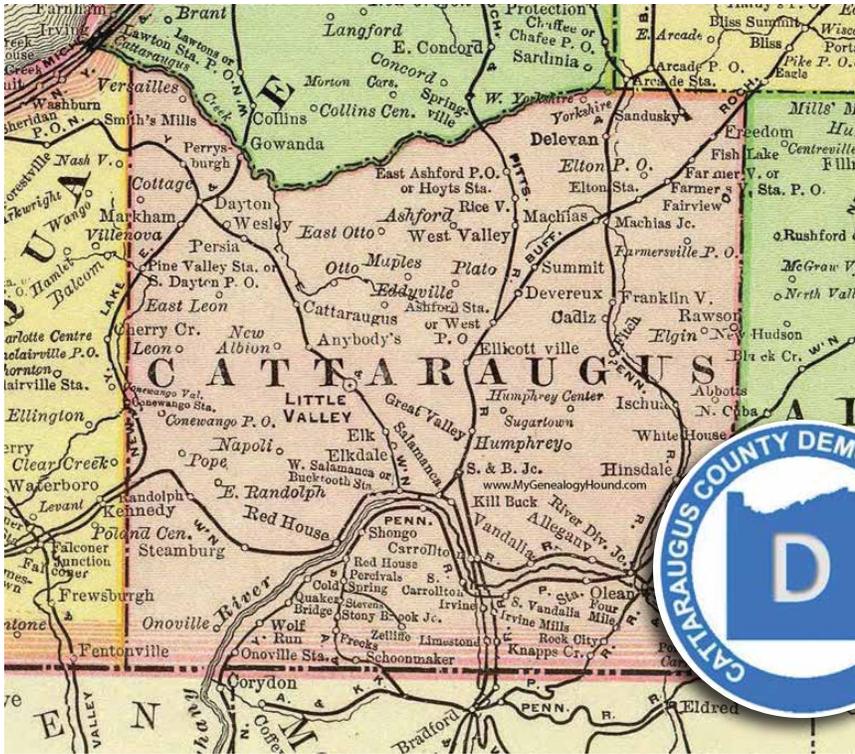
THANKS
THE
DRC
FOR ALL
THE
WORK
YOU DO!



Chair: Karen Beebe
Vice Chair: Sarah Dinhofer
Vice Chair: Justin MacGregor
Treasurer: Matt Wahila
Secretary: Sue Walker

 www.broomedems.org
 Broome County Democratic Party





Cattaraugus
County
Democratic
Committee
would like to
thank the DRC
for all of the
work you
do for
our party.

From the heart of the Finger Lakes

*Congratulations on the
30th Anniversary of the DRC*



CHEMUNG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



empty chair
town hall

save
medicaid

save our
democracy

fight for
education



Chair - Jamal Abdul Malik ● Secretary - Halie Saunders ● Treasurer - Tina Kane

Vice Chairs: Towns - Joyce Hyatt City - Willie Owens

email: chemungdems@gmail.com
website: chemungdems.org

Congratulations to the Democratic Rural Conference on 30 Years of Connection!

Thank you for your support and guidance!

Chautauqua County Democratic Committee

CHQDEM



Thank you to the **Democratic Rural Conference** for your vital work supporting and strengthening rural communities across our state.

Special thanks to **Judith Hunter** for your outstanding leadership.



 KENNEDYFORUSCONGRESS.COM

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Paid for by Kennedy for Congress

JOIN the FIGHT



CHENANGO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

WE SUPPORT THE

DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE

www.chenangoconydems.com

Patti Giltner - Committee Chairperson





CLINTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



THANK YOU, JUDITH HUNTER, FOR
YOUR DEDICATED LEADERSHIP AS
CHAIR OF THE DRC! YOUR GUIDANCE
AND COMMITMENT HAVE MADE A
LASTING IMPACT AND WE ARE
GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE
DONE!





 **COLUMBIA COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**Chair
Sam Hodge**

**State Democratic Committee Members
Bill Hughes, Mark Leinung & Lee Jamison**

Proud members of the Democratic Rural Conference

columbiacountydemocrats.org



CORTLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



Proud to Stand With Rural Democrats Across NY State



As we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State, we honor the decades of grassroots organizing, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to rural communities.

A heartfelt thank you to outgoing Chair Judith Hunter for her extraordinary leadership, vision, and dedication.

From the heart of Central New York, we celebrate the work of the Democratic Rural Conference of New York State and all who champion the voices of our small towns, farms, and front porches.

We believe in:

- ✓ Strong public schools for every child
- ✓ Affordable healthcare close to home
- ✓ Jobs and infrastructure that lift our communities
- ✓ Defending reproductive rights and personal freedoms
- ✓ Protecting our environment for future generations
- ✓ A democracy where every voice is heard and every vote counts

Our roots run deep., Our values run strong.
Together, rural Democrats are building a future that works for everyone.

Rebecca Bryan, Chair
Dean Corbin, Vice Chair

DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE



Working for **PEOPLE**

Compliments of the
DELAWARE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

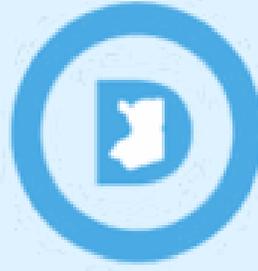
COUNTY CHAIR: **KATHLEEN HAYEK**

STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

AD101: **JOSEF SCHOELL**

AD102: **KATHY MARIO • TOM SCHIMMERLING**

AD121: **KEVIN GREENE • KATHY WALTERS**



from left to right: Ivory (Ike) Payne, Mitchell Nowakowski, Amelida Ortiz-Weinmann, Adam Fogel, Olivia Owens, Howard Johnson, Jeremy Zellner, Lavonya Lester, Karen Hoak, Benjamin Swanekamp, Jennifer Hibit, April Baskin, John Crangle

The Democratic Rural Conference provides a critically important platform for members of our party who represent and fight for small communities across New York.

On behalf of the Erie County Democratic Committee, I thank the DRC for their invaluable work and outstanding leadership for the past 30 years!



Erie County Democratic Committee



@ecdems



chairjeremyzellner



zellnerforecdc



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ecdems.com

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In the Heart of the Adirondacks



PO Box 737, Elizabethtown, NY 12932

essexcodems@gmail.com

<http://essexcountynydemocrats.com>

“Democracy Begins Locally”



photo - Aaron Miller

Demonstrators in Support of Ukraine March 9, 2025 Keene, Essex County NY



FULTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



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State Committee:

Edmund Jasewicz

John Spaeth

Robin Wentworth

Barbara Spaeth

Donald Savoie



Barn Quilt Trail

GENESEE COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

Commemorating 30 Years of Rural
Representation from the DRC

Chair Michael Plitt
Vice Chair Nikki Calhoun
Vice Chair Erica O'Donnell
Treasurer Jennifer Keys

Hamilton County Democratic Committee

Supporting your Democratic
candidates in Hamilton County, NY.



Wishing Everyone a Great
Democratic Rural Conference!

***Congressman
John W. Mannion***





JEFFERSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



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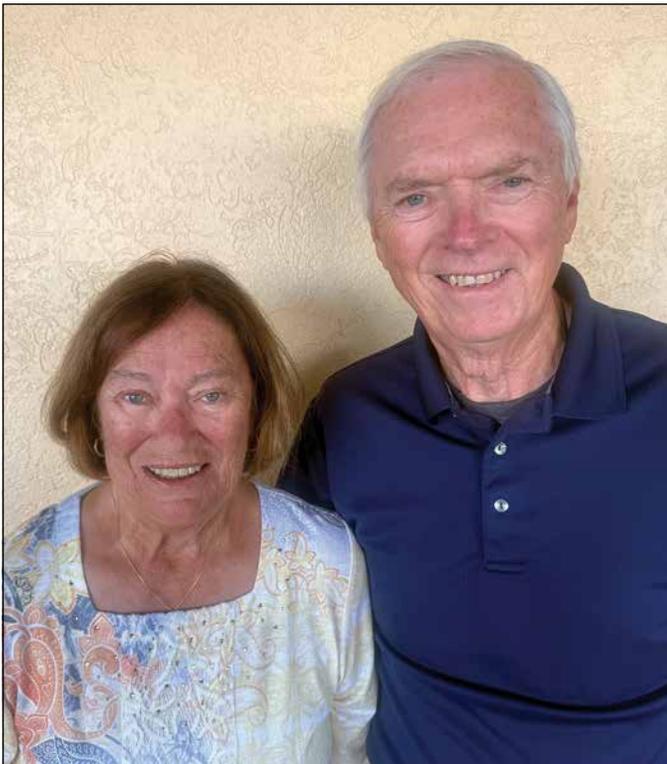
Michelle Lafave
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Joe Hart
Sergeant At Arms



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Congratulations
DRC
on
30 Years.

Mike Schell, founding chair, DRC;
Jacki Schell, former member NYSDC
(Jefferson County)

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
Democratic Rural Conference
of New York State
on 30 years of serving and
fighting for
rural Democrats.

Thank you to **Judith Hunter**
and the leadership team
for your dedication and advocacy
and giving voice to our
rural communities.



Joseph P. Robinson
Mayor Village of Warsaw (2011 – 2023)

**Livingston County congratulates
the Democratic Rural Conference of
New York State on**

**30
YEARS**



**of being
TRUE BLUE!**



Montgomery County Democratic Committee



Let's get to work and elect more Democrats this fall!

Thank you to the DRC for the leadership, guidance and support.

"The rural voice of New York State."

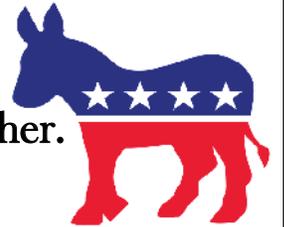
Terry A. Bieniek, Chair

Christopher Carpenter, Vice Chair

Caroline Swartz, Secretary

Jessica Daniels, Treasurer

We are stronger together.



Montgomery County NY Democrats

We obviously took this anyone can be president thing too far...

Let's get to work fixing this!

Democracy matters.



Montgomery County Democratic State Committeeperson

Bethany Schumann-McGhee
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Bethany Schumann-McGhee

✉ bethany@bsmlawfirm.com

📍 207 Wallins Corners Road, Suite 104,
Amsterdam, New York 12010

☎ 518-842-4225

📍 1758 Union Street,
Niskayuna, New York 12509

MADISON COUNTY

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**DEMOCRATIC
RURAL
CONFERENCE**

**30 Years of Advocacy
for Rural New Yorkers**



**NIAGARA COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC
COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Chris Borgatti

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO 30 YEARS OF THE
DEMOCRATIC RURAL
CAUCUS!**

**SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO JUDITH HUNTER
FOR HER LEADERSHIP
AND DEDICATION TO
OUR CAUCUS!**

LABOR - JUSTICE - FIRST RESPONDERS - PROGRESS

THE ONEIDA COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

*Thanks to the DRC for its Strong Support
of Democrats in Rural Counties.*



Mitch Ford, Chair

117th AD, Maggie Peterson and Paul Phister
118th AD, Kelli Samson and Tom Gehrig
119th AD, Freddie Hamilton and Michael Monescalchi
122nd AD, Mona Perrotti and Bill Thickstun



**The Democrat
with the Decades
of Experience
We Need**

 **ELECT** ELIZABETH SNYDER
FORTINO
SUPREME COURT 

Because Justice Matters

ONTARIO COUNTY DEMOCRATS



CELEBRATING THE DRC AND 30 YEARS FIGHTING FOR RURAL NEW YORKERS



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Maria Bucci, Vice-Chair
Liz Yockel, Secretary
Tommy White, Treasurer, State Committee 131st AD
Lisa Colleen Moore, State Committee 133rd AD
Karen White, State Committee 131st AD
AJ Magnan, Commissioner of Elections



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Beth Wood Secretary

Kriss Sniffen, Treasurer

Board of Elections

Jan Gabrowski, Commissioner

Abby Fitzwater, Deputy

Visit our website—www.orleansnydemocrats.com

Oswego County Democrats Annual Golf Tournament

Greenview Country Club
20 Whig Hill Rd.
West Monroe, NY
July 20, 2025

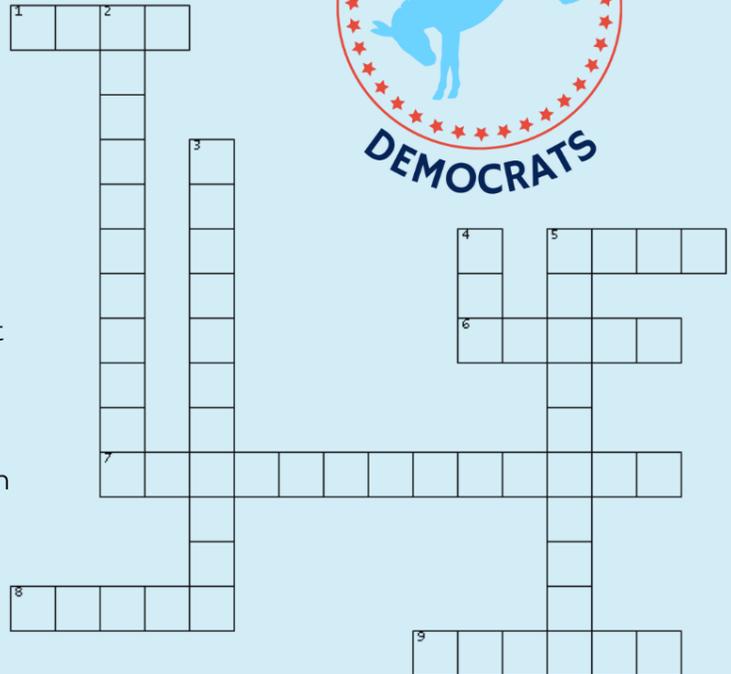


Thank you DRC!



ACROSS

- In what month was the Fourteenth Amendment ratified?
- What Amendment of the Constitution guarantees all persons to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects to be free from unreasonable search and seizures, without probable cause supported by Oath or affirmation?
- An integral concept of property assessments was decided on 'Welcome Stranger Assessing' in Pittsburgh Coal Mining Company versus the town of Webster, which was determined under the _____ Protection Clause.
- What clause in the first amendment gives us freedom concerning state governed religion?
- What was the last name of the plaintiff that brought the case that overturned Plessy v. Ferguson?
- What amendment states: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted?



DOWN

- Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
- Shall be made every ten years.
- What article in the Constitution gives the power of the purse to Congress?
- What amendment contains the Equal Protection Clause?

Find the answers at www.oswegodemocrats.com





Phillips Lytle LLP

Craig R. Bucki
PARTNER
cbucki@phillipslytle.com

ONE CANALSIDE
125 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NY 14203

Phone 716 847-5495
Fax 716 852-6100

VICE CHAIR
Town of Amherst Democratic Committee
Erie County

PUTNAM COUNTY
DEMOCRATS
THANK THE
NY DRC

WE'RE ALL IN THIS FIGHT
TOGETHER!
2025 WE WIN LOCALLY...
2026 WE WIN NY
AND THE COUNTRY!

JENNIFER COLAMONICO, COUNTY CHAIR
JAMES MILLS, DRC AT-LARGE DIRECTOR

WWW.PUTNAMDEMOCRATS.COM

PAID FOR BY THE PUTNAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

**Best Wishes to the
Democratic Rural Conference
of New York State
for a successful**

2025 SPRING CONFERENCE



RENSSELAER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

MARK STREB • CHAIR

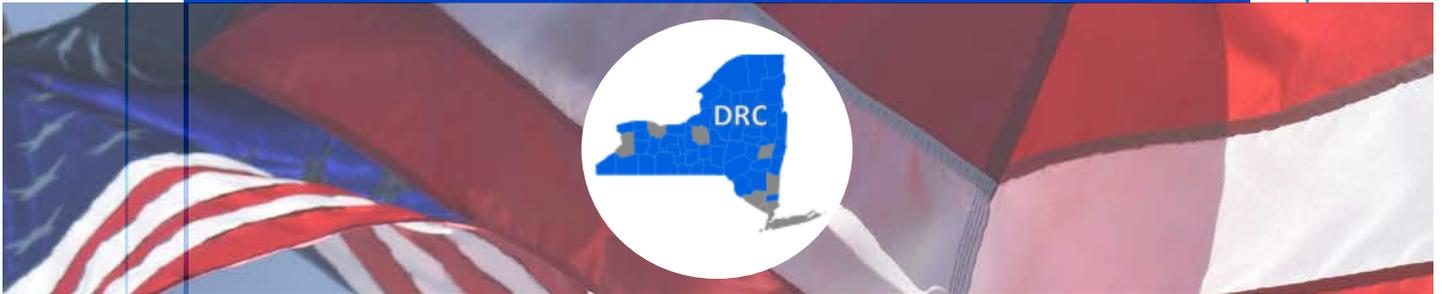
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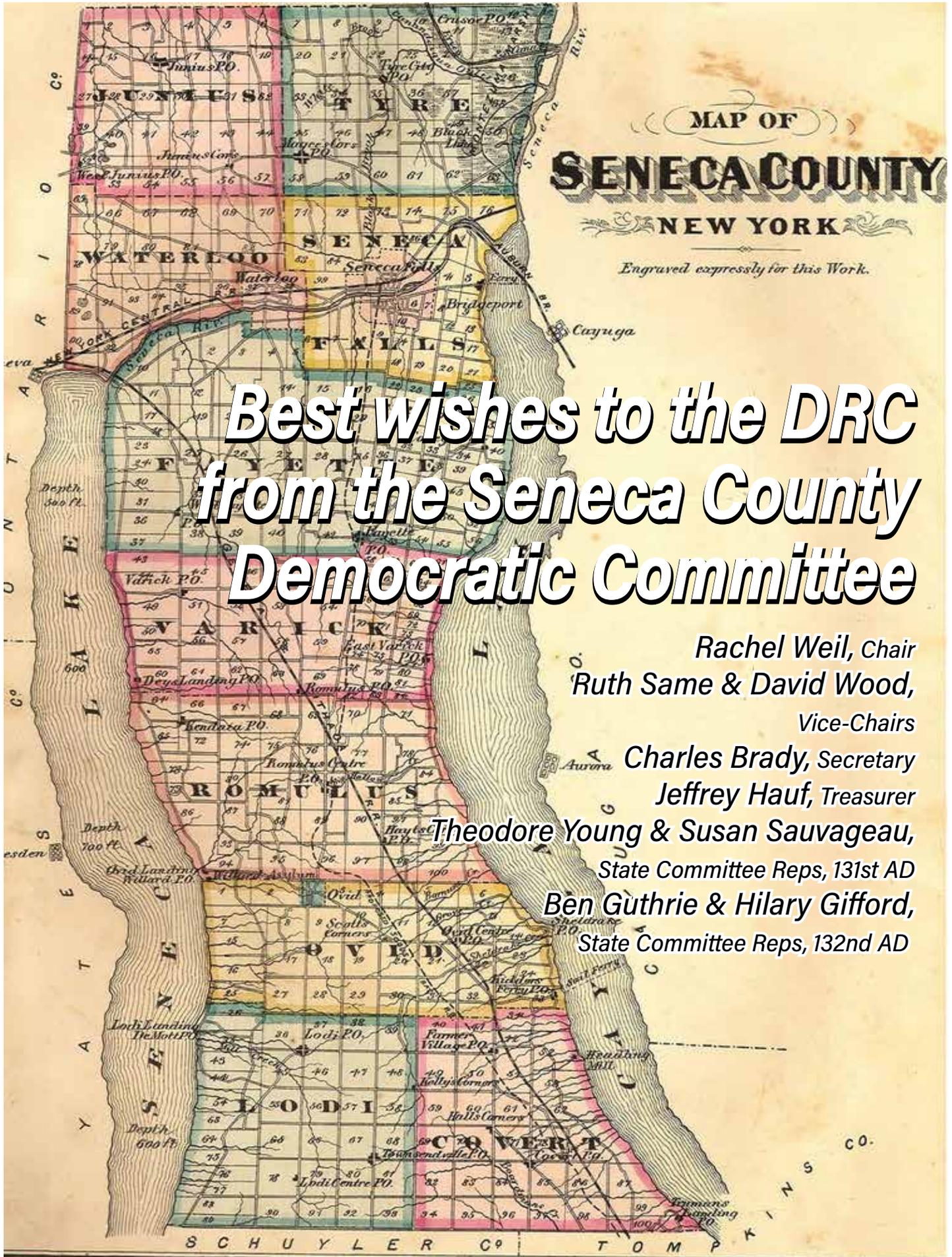
SARATOGA
— COUNTY —
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CHANGE THAT MATTERS

*Proudly supporting
the Democratic
Rural Conference.*



Together we seek and support candidates who defend democracy, protect natural resources, and deliver economic solutions to improve the quality of life for every citizen.





**Best wishes to the DRC
from the Seneca County
Democratic Committee**

- Rachel Weil, Chair*
- Ruth Same & David Wood,*
Vice-Chairs
- Charles Brady, Secretary*
- Jeffrey Hauf, Treasurer*
- Theodore Young & Susan Sauvageau,*
State Committee Reps, 131st AD
- Ben Guthrie & Hilary Gifford,*
State Committee Reps, 132nd AD



**St. Lawrence County
Democratic Committee
Salutes the DRC for
their continued hard
work and success!**

Mike Zagrobelny

Chair

Ginger Storey Welch

First Vice-Chair

Cortney Deshaise

Second Vice Chair

Barbara Finnie

Treasurer

vacant

Secretary

State Committee Members:

Ronald McDougall

Barbara Finnie

Mike Zagrobelny

Jennie Bacon

DRC
CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
NYSDRRC

THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING DRC
CHAIRPERSON JUDITH HUNTER FOR
YOUR STEADFAST LEADERSHIP

RONALD MCDOUGALL,
NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE-CHAIR
AND MAYOR
VILLAGE OF GOUVERNEUR

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT RON MCDOUGALL

STEUBEN DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE



Shawn Hogan, Co Chair
Margie Lawler, Co Chair

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DRC ON A SUCCESSFUL 30 YEARS!



Joe Bob, 1st Vice President
Hilda Lando, 2nd Vice President
Kathy Green, Treasurer
John Bradley, Secretary

STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Shawn Hogan
Hilda Lando
Kathy Green
Joshua Keller
Margie Lawler
Marshall Hyde



Congratulations to
the Democratic Rural
Conference on your
Thirtieth Year!

Thank you for connecting
rural NY Democrats
and for strengthening our voices.

Remembering Irene Stein and thanking Judith Hunter for her leadership.

Sullivan County Democratic Committee
PO Box 502, Kiamesha Lake, NY 12751
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RURAL ELECTIONS MATTER



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COUNTY
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COMMITTEE

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...Keeping a skilled labor force employed...

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UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW

Photo Credit: Larry Tetamore
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THE
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 COUNTY
 DEMOCRATIC
 COMMITTEE
 SUPPORTS THE
 DEMOCRATIC
 RURAL
 CONFERENCE

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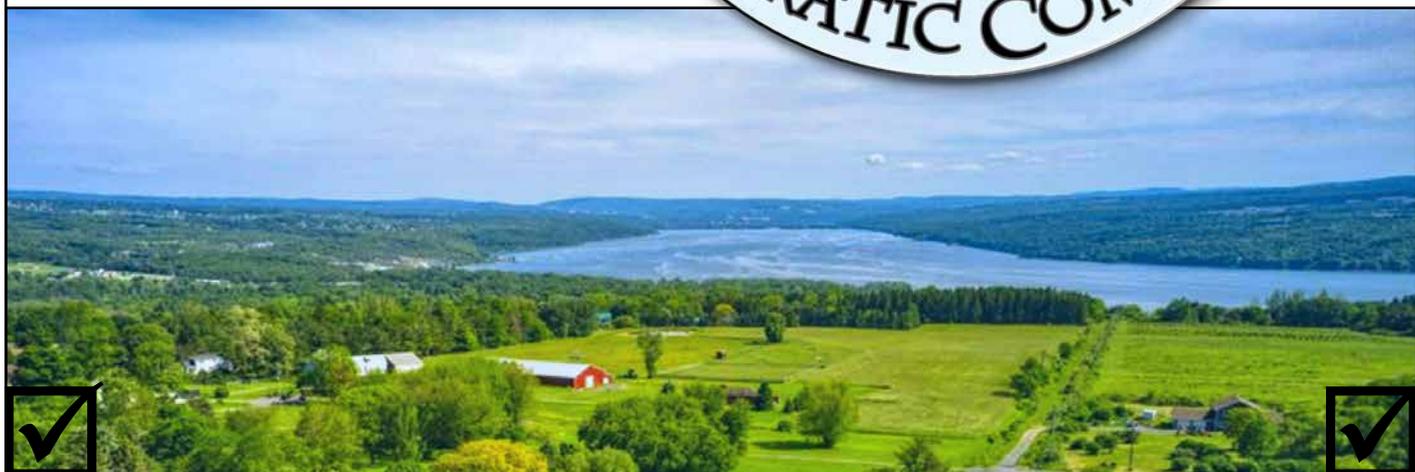
TAKING
 ACTION



ContactUs@TCDemocrats.org



TCDemocrats.org



UC DEMS

ULSTER COUNTY DEMOCRATS



- STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**
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 - Jeff Collins, Vice Chair
 - Adriana Magaña
 - Andrew Pekarik
 - Robert Haskins
 - Mici Simonofsky
 - James Amenta
 - Kathy Nolan



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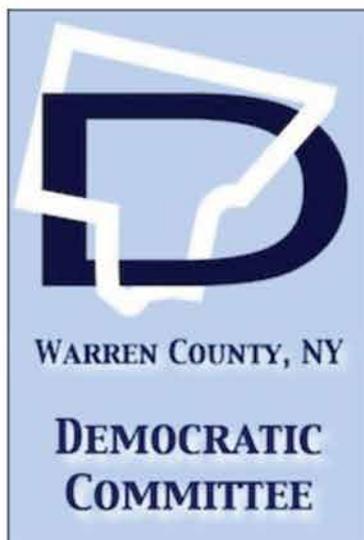
**Washington County
Democratic Committee**
working with the
**Democratic
Rural Conference**

to Save our Democracy

WARREN COUNTY



Gateway to the Adirondacks!



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Thomas McDonough, Vice Chair
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Elizabeth McLaughin, Secretary
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Elizabeth McLaughlin
Warren County Commissioner of Elections
Kim Ross
Deputy Commissioner
Assistant Secretary

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Margaret Farrell, Rich Larkin
State Party Representatives

*Congratulations DRC
On Your 30th Anniversary*



*Town of Waterloo
Democratic Committee*

WCDC

Wayne County Democratic Committee



*Working Together
Protecting Our Rights
Strengthening Communities*



Wayne County

Located on the Great Lake Ontario

includes the towns of:

Arcadia, Butler, Galen, Huron,
Lyons, Macedon, Marion,
Ontario, Palmyra, Rose,
Savannah, Sodus, Walworth,
Williamson, Wolcott



Scott Comegys, Chair
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FIGHT HUMANITARIAN
 ISSUES
STRUGGLE
 RESIST

Vive la Résistance

Thank you to the DRC for 30 years
 of support in the protection of
 our rural Democratic ideals.



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 COMMITTEE CHAIR
 DRC WESTERN REGION VICE CHAIR
 STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER
 147TH JUDICIAL DELEGATE

HAROLD (HANK) J. BUSH
 COMMISSIONER
 STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER
 147TH JUDICIAL DELEGATE



Keuka Lake Outlet

Yates County Democratic Committee Congratulates the Democratic Rural Conference for 30 years of connections to Democrats throughout Upstate New York.

NYS  DACC

NEW YORK STATE DEMOCRATIC ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

CARL E. HEASTIE

and the

MEMBERS OF THE NYS ASSEMBLY MAJORITY

would like to wish the New York State Democratic Rural Conference
and our fellow Democrats a successful 2025 election year!

Hon. Carl E. Heastie

DACC Honorary Chair

Hon. Jeffrey Dinowitz

Hon. Pamela J. Hunter

Hon. Grace Lee

DACC Co-Chairs



CONGRATULATIONS to JUDITH HUNTER

for her remarkable service as Chair of
The Democratic Rural Conference
of NY State

and to our TWO NEWEST REPRESENTATIVES



JOSH RILEY



JOHN MANNION



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DRC Labor Lunch

"The American Labor Movement has consistently demonstrated its devotion to the public interest. It is, and has been, good for all America."

— John F. Kennedy

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Teamsters Joint Council 18
President Thomas Quackenbush



Andrea Stewart-Cousins

New York State Senate, 35th District

President Pro Tem ♦ Majority Leader

Best wishes to my friends at the

Democratic Rural Conference of New York State

on the occasion of your

Annual Conference & 30th Anniversary

I would like to especially thank *DRC Chair Judith Hunter, Board Members*, and *officers* for their unwavering efforts to bring together the rural communities of Upstate New York with a shared commitment to democratic principles. This year's theme, *Thirty Years of Connections*, celebrates the immense impact DRC has had over the past three decades in recruiting, equipping and supporting successful candidates at all levels of government. Your persistent work has shaped the landscape of representation in our rural communities for the better. I wish you an incredibly successful conference. Happy 30th Anniversary!

Letitia James | For
Attorney
General

CONGRATULATIONS

*to current and former members as we celebrate the
30th anniversary of the DRC!*

*A special thank you to Judith Hunter for her tireless
service as Chair of the DRC.*

**I will continue to
stand up to the
powerful and fight
for you, as the
People's Lawyer,
and together we
will build the
future of our party.**

Letitia James





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