

# THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

Bulletin #27

July 2015

## Message from the DRC Chair

Dear DRC Family,

I hope you are enjoying the summer season. I want to get you updated about some of the things the Board accomplished at its July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in Geneva so this is a short bulletin to keep everyone in the loop.

We voted to give each DRC County, whose dues are paid in full, \$500 to help with your local races.

We are looking forward to and are busy making plans for the 2016 Conference, which will be held at the Desmond in Albany on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!

I thank you for your steadfast commitment to our Democratic ideals and wish you all good luck in your local elections!

*Irene*



[www.nysdrc.org](http://www.nysdrc.org)

Visit and join our Facebook page at

**Democratic Rural Conference of  
New York State**



Save the Date April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
2016 DRC Conference

The Desmond Albany

660 Albany Shaker Rd.

Albany, NY 12211

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## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?.....

We thank the services of Board members, Bob Reynolds and Joe Pickreign, who resigned from the DRC Board a short time ago. After sending out vacancy notices, per Bylaws, by the Nominating Committee the DRC Board voted to fill the two vacancies. We welcome new Board members Peter Bujanow (Columbia County Chair) and Rich Souza (Herkimer County Chair).

The Board also voted to purchase a software program, Z2 Systems, which will greatly improve the DRC's ability to communicate with our membership, register members and attendees at our annual conferences and educate and communicate with our membership on issues. The program is called Neon CRM and will cost \$49.00 per month.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Audit / Finance - Mark Alquist

Cindy Emmer reported a balance of \$29,526.70 in checking and \$4,049.42 in savings for a total of \$33,576.12 as of 7/18/15. Reminder: If you have not paid your 2015 dues please do so as soon as possible. Send \$10.00 payable to the DRC c/o Mark H. Alquist, 4046 Wayne Street Williamson, NY 14589. Each DRC County will receive \$500 if dues are paid.

### Conference Committee – Jane Dodds

The DRC 2016 Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 15-16, 2016 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Our working agenda includes: Issues Update, State Assembly races, Congressional Campaign Panel and Networking, DRC Elections, Presidential Campaign Forum, and a Job Fair for young Democrats interested in working in government or politics.

We encourage DRC members to sign on to the Neon system, when it becomes available to our membership, to facilitate communication as we develop our meeting agenda. We anticipate robust attendance, both DRC members and other active Democrats, as we celebrate the successes of our statewide elected officials, and continue our work to elect more Democrats!

### Issues Committee – John Hurley

John Hurley is the new Issues Committee Chair, continuing the work Judith Hunter started. We will be sending a survey to membership to catalog the critical issues that may affect local town and county elections this year. If anyone has an issue they would like the Issues Committee to research please contact me. [585.303.5357](tel:585.303.5357) [JFHurley@Rochester.rr.com](mailto:JFHurley@Rochester.rr.com)

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Judith Hunter, outgoing Issues Committee Chair, presented the Committee's work on the SAFE Act. 'SAFE Act Facts, Talking Points, and Resources' is now available on request to any Democratic candidate in our rural counties. Because of the need to keep it updated, it is in email form. Please request it by emailing Judith – Judith.hunter@gmail.com

## Communications Committee – Judith Hunter

Judith Hunter, incoming Chair of the Communications Committee, discussed administrative issues pertaining to the Facebook page.

## Campaign Finance Information for Treasurers

For those DRC members who missed the Campaign Finance Workshop at the DRC Conference in Syracuse, here's a brief summary of what we learned.

The 2014-15 State Budget established some new requirements for the Board of Elections. In addition to the pilot program for public financing, the state has established new reporting requirements for Independent Expenditure reporting, and has created a Compliance Unit within the NYSBOE.

The Compliance Unit was created to identify and assist those committees whose filings are not quite perfect under the new guidelines. In the past, committees with small budgets may have filed reports "the way we always did it". Now, with electronic filings, it's very easy for everyone to scrutinize the reports. The Compliance Unit is making every attempt to reach out to Treasurers, and help them understand the new filing guidelines so that their reports are accurate.

We were given a nice handout describing the most common deficiencies, and a new summary of the Schedules for Contributions and Expenditures. Thankfully, some good friends of the DRC, who are very knowledgeable about the new regulations, were available to answer many questions from the DRC membership.

As one very knowledgeable workshop participant told us: the Compliance Unit is the GOOD COPS, here to help us so that we don't have to meet the Enforcement Unit. If your Treasurer receives a notice of deficiency, there will be a direct personal contact with someone in the Compliance Unit included in the notice. Your Treasurer can work directly with this representative to learn how to make the appropriate changes.

You can find the updated Campaign Finance Handbook at [www.elections.ny.gov](http://www.elections.ny.gov). You can also call the Board at any time at 800-458-3453.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION AND MEMBER SERVICES

Irene Stein, Chair

[iws2iws2@gmail.com](mailto:iws2iws2@gmail.com)

Jane Dodds, Vice Chair and Conference Chair

[jmdodds@aol.com](mailto:jmdodds@aol.com)

Mark Alquist, Treasurer, Audit and Finance Chair, Political Chair

[mhalquist@verizon.net](mailto:mhalquist@verizon.net)

Jason Clark, Secretary and Youth Committee Chair

[jasonclark2002@gmail.com](mailto:jasonclark2002@gmail.com)

Don Ackerman, Parliamentarian

[Bdonack@aol.com](mailto:Bdonack@aol.com)

Doris Kirsch, Board Member and Assist. Secretary

[wdkirsch@gmail.com](mailto:wdkirsch@gmail.com)

Mark Bellardini, Board Member and Labor Committee Chair

[bellar@earthlink.net](mailto:bellar@earthlink.net)

Ted Young, Board Member

[tyoung28@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tyoung28@rochester.rr.com)

Lorie Longhany, Board Member and Bulletin

[lorie.longhany@gmail.com](mailto:lorie.longhany@gmail.com)

Jeanne Crane, Board Member

[jeannecrane01@localnet.com](mailto:jeannecrane01@localnet.com)

John Hurley, Board Member and Issues Chair

[JFHurley@rochester.rr.com](mailto:JFHurley@rochester.rr.com)

Joyce Melfi, Board Member and Program Book Chair

[babbmelfi@juno.com](mailto:babbmelfi@juno.com)

Judith Hunter, Board Member and Communications Chair

[Judith.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.hunter@gmail.com)

Peter Bujanow , Board Member

[bujanow@berk.com](mailto:bujanow@berk.com)

Rich Souza, Board Member

[rsouza5046@cloud.com](mailto:rsouza5046@cloud.com)

## DRC Board Services

### Speakers Bureau

The following DRC members are available as speakers at DRC County Events:

Irene Stein, Bill Wood, Judith Hunter, Jason Clark.

### Mentoring Services

The DRC Executive Committee has many experienced County Chairs. We are available to mentor and provide support to new County Chairs.

PREPARED AND FORMATTED BY: Lorie Longhany

EDITOR: Irene Stein and Doris Kirsch