

THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

Bulletin #33

January 2018

Message from the DRC Chair

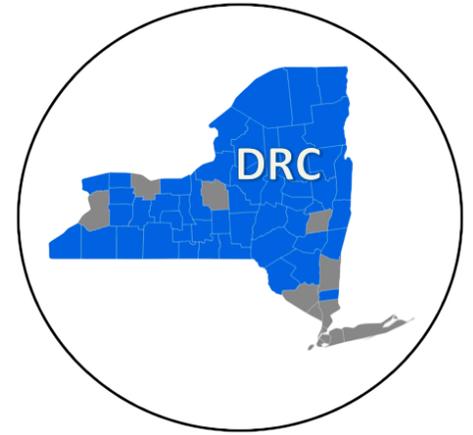
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As 2017 has drawn to a close, we see the opportunity for a Democratic sweep from Congress to the Senate to our NYS leadership statewide and in both Legislative Houses. The very large number of candidates for our endorsements for Congress testify to the perceived shakiness of the Trump regime and the Republicans. His cynical trumpeting (no pun intended) of his concern for the middle class is belied by his actions benefiting the few AT the expense of the many. We need to build up our forces from the local level to beat back this wave of demagoguery and we are doing just that.

The DRC has tried to put information out on its website to educate both ourselves and our candidates. We have offered campaign training, mentoring and technical advice. We have provided limited financial assistance. We are offering a workshop on how one community is fighting the opioid epidemic.

We are planning our 2018 Conference to feature our candidates for US Senate, Congress, statewide offices and state legislative offices. We will ask them for their ideas and plans to benefit our rural communities. We see the prospects of Democratic victories and majorities at all levels. Our enthusiasm is at a high level and our commitment is firm. We leave 2017 more united than ever and look forward to a glorious election in 2018.

Irene



www.nysdrc.org

Visit and join our Facebook page at

**Democratic Rural Conference of
New York State**



2018 DRC Conference
The Desmond Hotel
660 Albany Shaker Rd.
Albany, NY 12211

April 13th and 14th

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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

The DRC Board met on September 16, 2017 in Syracuse at 10:00 AM at Tony's Restaurant. The Board's Nominating Committee oversaw the election of the vacancy left by Joyce Melfi Cwiklinski. After nominations were submitted the Board elected Molly Reilly to fill the vacancy through April 2018. On December 9, 2017 the DRC Board met again at Tony's Restaurant in Syracuse where much of the discussions centered around planning the Spring Conference which is scheduled to be held at The Desmond Hotel in Albany on April 13th and 14th. Please see Jane Dodd's Committee Report for more details.

Resistance Report

From Across Rural NY State an amazing number of spontaneous groups dedicated to curbing and ultimately defeating the Trump agenda have sprung up all over rural NY. There is no waning of enthusiasm by the numerous groups that sprang up last year after the presidential election. On January 20th the second annual Women's March events planned across the country also promise that rural NY State, with historic Seneca Falls sitting in DRC's own Seneca County, will play host again this year to one of many historic marches. Our DRC counties have welcomed the new activists into our committees, as candidates who stepped up and ran in local elections and as new volunteers who will be working tirelessly on congressional and state legislature races in 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit / Finance - Mark Alquist

Bank account balance as of December 9, 2017 – \$8,277.20

Please send 2018 DRC dues to Mark --

\$10.00 payable to the DRC c/o Mark H. Alquist, 4046 Wayne Street Williamson, NY 14589

Conference Committee – Jane Dodds

The DRC Board is pleased to confirm that our 2018 Conference will be held Friday, April 13th and Saturday April 14th at the Desmond in Albany. Our theme this year is MIDTERMS MATTER! Our program will include the opportunities to hear from our statewide Electeds in meetings, receptions, and mealtimes. We'll provide plenty of opportunities for networking, and we hope to see all the wonderful candidates who are getting off the sidelines and into the 2018 races. Tentative workshops will offer information on the VAN (Voter Access Network), retaking the State Senate, and relations with organized labor. And, of course, our incumbent Democrats will share their plans to grow stronger together, as we unify in support of our November candidates. The DRC will elect more and better Democrats. On Saturday, we'll focus on Congress - we'll invite all the declared candidates ahead of the expected Congressional primaries. We've scheduled networking sessions for the 9 DRC Congressional districts, and will share strategies to continue turning our red counties blue. If Alabama and Virginia can do it, we can too! Mark your calendars now - FRIDAY APRIL 13- DRC at The Desmond.

Watch the DRC website for updates. You can also follow the DRC Facebook Page (Democratic Rural Conference of New York State) for links.

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Program Book Committee – Joyce, Jeanne, Lorie, Peter and Molly

It's that time of year again. Please take a few minutes to read the two ad book documents (attached with this bulletin) outlining our plans for this year's book along with the ad rates. You will undoubtedly be reached out by us as well. Instructions in the attachments include where to send checks for your committee and patron ads and the dedicated email address – drcprogrambook@gmail.com -- which we will be using for all communications, correspondences and ad files. Again, we ask for your help. Do you have union contacts, businesses, candidates in your region who may potentially wish to take out an ad in the book? We need all of your help in order to expand the book!

Political & Issues Committee – Peter Bujanow

Good news from the State Committee – a proposed resolution that would require twenty-five day notice before each NY State Democratic Committee meeting passed at the Summer Business Meeting. This has been a contentious issue for DRC members for a very long time and gives our members ample time to plan attending future state committee meetings.

DRC Survey – Issues Affecting Rural Counties The Political & Issues Committee has developed a brief survey that will be electronically distributed to DRC membership in January soliciting information on the top issues facing their respective counties.

Public Forums - Combating the Opioid and Heroin Epidemic

The Political & Issues Committee, in partnership with Village of Chatham Police Chief Peter Volkmann, a recovered addict and creator of an innovative program to address the opioid and heroin epidemic called "Chatham Cares 4 U", is sponsoring an addiction awareness campaign that includes traveling to DRC rural counties to present Chief Volkmann's program and facilitate a forum on this topic for any counties that are interested in hosting.

If you have any questions regarding the rural issues survey or if you would like more information on hosting an addiction awareness event in your county please contact Peter Bujanow at Pbujanow@gmail.com.

Communications Committee – Judith Hunter

The Communications and Outreach Committee continues its work serving as a resource for DRC members. The Speakers' Bureau is happy to provide someone to say a few words about the DRC at Democratic events in DRC counties. Board member, Lorie Longhany puts together our regular bulletins. DRC Vice Chair Judith Hunter continues to put out links to news and analysis helpful to rural Democrats to our Facebook page (Democratic Rural Conference of New York State). We are also gearing up to prepare the program book for our upcoming conference. We need everyone to pitch in and sell ads in your counties! The more we raise, the more we can help New York's rural Democrats. Please send your "resistance" reports and your Democratic news links for the facebook page to judith.hunter@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee – Mike Schell

The DRC nominating committee will be issuing an announcement of board elections to be held at the DRC conference in Albany on April 14th. Five director positions will be up for election this year. To be a candidate you must be a voting member of the DRC (i.e. a county chair or state committee member) in good standing (i.e. paid up dues.)

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Information about Board responsibilities:

1) Directors meet in person three or four times a year and hold about as many telephone conference call meetings per year.

2) This is a working Board. Directors are expected to join at least one committee (Issues, By-Laws, Finance, Communications/Outreach, Political, Youth Recruitment and Retention and other ad hoc committees as needed).

3) A board member who misses three consecutive Executive Committee meetings is automatically removed from the board per the by-laws.

The official announcement will be emailed to all members in February and provide details on the election process. In the meantime, contact Mike Schell with any questions:

michaelwschell@yahoo.com

DRC Board Services

Speakers Bureau

The following DRC members are available as speakers at DRC County Events: Irene Stein, Bill Wood, Judith Hunter.

Mentoring Services

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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