

THE DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE OF NEW YORK STATE

Bulletin #35

December 2018

Message from the DRC Chair

Dear Members,

When you honored me by re-electing me as Chair last April, I indicated that this term would be my last. Unfortunately, I must resign before the term is completed due to family health issues. My resignation becomes effective January 1, 2019.

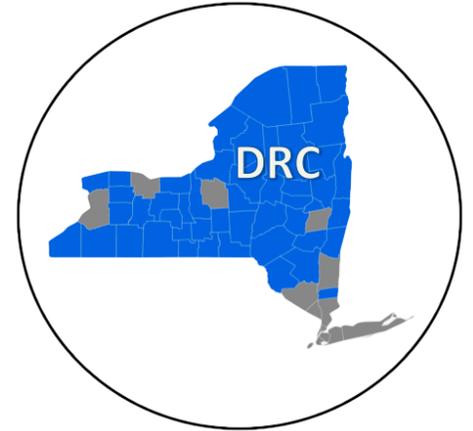
I leave after serving as your Chair for more than nine years. I leave gratified by the fact that we contributed to achieving the Democratic majority in Congress, and by helping elect two Congressmen from DRC areas – Anthony Brandisi and Antonio Delgado. We believe we were a factor in the swelling of Democratic votes with our Neighbor to Neighbor campaign project. We are equally excited by the new Democratic majority in the State Senate with the incredible new Majority Leader and good friend of the DRC, Andrea Stewart Cousins. We did it and we will do it again!

Please note our continued focus on ballot access and economic development in the coming year. We are also in the planning stages of our annual Conference. Please note that we will be including a much anticipated Presidential Straw Poll on the agenda.

I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to lead our Conference. Effective January 1st, 2019 I leave with both gratitude for your work and optimism for the future.

Happy Holidays,

Irene



www.nysdrc.org

Visit and join our Facebook page at

**Democratic Rural Conference of
New York State**

2019 Conference



**Liverpool Holiday Inn
April 12th and 13th
Liverpool, NY
Exit 37**

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WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

The DRC Board met in Syracuse on December 8th. With a board vacancy appointment to fill, we are very proud to announce that we had nine quality nominees from across rural New York to consider. Leslie Berliant from Cooperstown, Otsego County was elected to fill the vacancy left by Peter Bujanow. The Board made a point of asking the other eight nominees to stay active with the DRC. We thank Peter for his service on the DRC Board and welcome Leslie to the Board of Directors and also to agreeing to accept an ad hoc position as Issues Chair.

With a heavy heart, the Board accepted the resignation (effective January 1st) of our incredible Chairwoman, Irene Stein. It goes without saying that Irene Stein's leadership, from the very inception of this organization more than 20 years ago, has been nothing less than incredible and transformative. She has given thousands of hours of dedicated service to this organization and her leadership is unprecedented. From traveling across the state to visit our rural outposts to reaching out to our statewide and national representatives to fighting for our fair share of attention in a state where before the DRC the rural counties were ignored and relegated to the back bench -- Irene has roared like a lion. We will be forever grateful for everything she has done to elevate the DRC and although she is stepping down as Chair, she will always be the DRC. The Board wishes her the very best!

We welcome the leadership of Judith Hunter, who will take the reigns as our Chair to fill the vacancy left by Irene's resignation. Board leadership positions will be voted on when we meet in Liverpool at our annual Conference in April. The Board of Directors look forward to a seamless transition with Judith's leadership and direction.

Resistance Report -- The Blue Wave!

We did it! The marriage between our Party infrastructures and the many grass roots organizations -- Indivisible, Moms Demand, Huddle and many more -- bore incredible electoral successes across our rural counties. We look forward to joining with activists again on January 19th for the Women's March. The rural counties again will be center stage in the Resistance movement as we will see organized marches in both Seneca County and Genesee County. Stay tuned. We have only just begun!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit / Finance - Mark Alquist

Bank account balance as of December 2, 2018 – \$8329.63

The DRC Board voted to change membership dues beginning in 2019 to \$20.00 for members (County Chairs and State Committee members) and \$10 for Associate members (any registered Democrat living in New York State)

Mail your 2019 dues --

Payable to the DRC c/o Mark H. Alquist, 4046 Wayne Street, Williamson, NY 14589

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By-Laws Committee – B. Donald Ackerman

The By-Laws Committee presented two amendments to the by-laws at the DRC Board meeting on Dec. 8, 2018.

No. 1` - In Article VI, Section A, add the sentence, "Officers and At-Large Directors must be members of the DRC as described in Article IV".

No. 2 - In Article IV - Membership, insert in the seventh line after "county" "A member of the New York State Democratic Committee Executive Committee, from a DRC county, who has been elected to the New York State Democratic Executive Committee as a male or female representative of their Judicial District is eligible to be a member of the DRC."

Both amendments were passed by the DRC Board of Directors and will be submitted at the next general membership meeting for consideration.

Conference Committee – Jane Dodds

Conference Committee: SAVE THE DATE! 2019 DRC Conference will be April 12-13 in Liverpool, NY. Celebrate the Blue Wave, and build the grassroots campaigns to elect more Democrats in the 2019 local elections. New York's rural Democrats are moving from 'invisible' to INDIVISIBLE! We invite everyone who worked so hard in 2018 to join us for networking and celebration as we plan for 2019 and 2020!

Program Book – Jeanne Crane, Lorie Longhany

Along with the help from Doris Kirsch and Molly Reilly, in the next few weeks' information on the 2019 Program Book will be going out to all County Chairs and former patrons of the annual Program Book. We look forward to working with you to achieve our objectives to highlight -- each DRC county, elected officials, labor unions, businesses and in turn to bring in revenue that supports the DRC and all of our efforts. We ask for your support in helping make the 2019 book a success.

Political Committee – Tim Perfetti

The Political Committee continues to follow up on the Voter Access proposal which was introduced as a resolution last year. We anticipate some legislation when the new legislative session begins. Another issue being addressed by the Committee is the agri-business potential for our rural farmers in the wake of the possible passage of a recreational marijuana law. This includes contacting Farm Organizations to look at the feasibility for local farmers within the state of NY obtaining access to marijuana agri-business if a bill should pass. Allowing local family farmers, who choose to do so, to convert current operations and reap the benefits of this emerging market instead of ceding the growth potential to big agribusinesses which are known to undercut smaller farms is a political issue the DRC plans on lobbying for.

Women's Liaison – Donna Schick

The New York State Federation of Democratic Women will be hosting the National Federation of Democratic Women's 48th Annual Convention at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY on June 13-16, 2019. The NYSFDW is very excited & honored to be the host of this event and hope you will attend. We also hope you will join New York State Democratic Women and the Democratic Rural

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Conference in Seneca Falls on January 19th for the Annual Women's March this year.
Donna Schick, DRC Women's Liaison & Pres. NYSFDW

DRC Board Services

Speakers Bureau

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