Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting May 22, 2018

**7:00 ROLL CALL**

**Attendees**: Lanny Walter, John Schoonmaker, Bill Barr, Chris Allen, Finley Schaef, Nancy Schaef, Connie Bailey, Elizabeth Bailey, Kathy Gordon, Christine Dinsmore, Margo McGilvery, Pam Ross, Tim Scott, Barbara Boyce, Rick Cousin, Mike Harkavy, Skip Arthur, Bob Gelbach, Erin Cole (visitor), Mike Cimorelli, Judy Lechner, Brigid Walsh, Katie Holt, Kathleen Grey, Nejla Liias

1. **Approve minutes from April 25, 2018 meeting**: Bill Barr made a motion, seconded by Rick Cousin, approved unanimously.

2. **Treasurer’s Report-financial support for candidates**:

Balance April 25, 2018 $5151.77

Collected at meeting 95.00

Check for website fee 99.00

Check for PO Box annual fee 74.00

Check for May 10 forum flyers 123.65

Check for May 10 forum programs 380.43

Balance May 22, 2018 $4569.69

Margo McGilvrey moved that the report be approved, seconded by Nancy Schaef, and approved uaninimously.

Margo then added a new subject, a fall fundraiser. It would be an opportunity for our candidates to be seen before the election and said interested parties can meet at the HVDC. This led to a discussion of coordinating it with candidates’ campaigns. Primary focus would be on local candidates.

The Chair asked for a motion to spend an additional $143.50 to cover the cost overrun for the Candidate Forum. Motion was made by Barbara Boyce, seconded by Chris Allen and approved unanimously.

The Chair suggested that we might want to allocate some money now for candidates. Margo moved that we allocate $2000 ($500 for each candidate) to be allocated at the discretion of the executive committee. The Chair asked about funding for the judge. Katie Holt moved to amend it to $400 for each candidate. Rick Cousin suggested that we not specify how much for each candidate. Mike Harkavy seconded the motion. Margo withdrew her motion. Nancy Schaef disagreed that the Executive Committee should have discretion to distribute the money and that it is too early to allocate the money. Rick Cousin moved to allocate $2000 without specifying how it would be allocated at this time, but that distribution would be decided by the full committee. Finley Schaef seconded the amendment. Mike Harkavy agreed that it’s too early to know how the money should be used but that we should budget $2000. Connie Bailey pointed out that waiting for the full committee to decide would make it hard to react in a timely manner. John Schoonmaker moved to amend it so that funds must be dispersed by the August meeting, seconded by Bob Gelbach. Passed unanimously. Kathy Gordon moved to donate money to campaigns for town board immediately following the Caucus, seconded by Christine Dinsmore. Barbara Boyce emphasized the importance of candidate seed money. Rick Cousin amended his motion to distribute $500 to Mike MacIsaac if he wins the nomination and the balance ($1500) to be determined by August. It was seconded by Mike MacIsaac and passed with Nancy Schaef opposing it.

3. **Report by Committee on Forum for Congressional Candidates.** Nejla Liias thanked the team and pointed out how well the skills complemented each other. Connie Bailey praised Nejla for her leadership. Nancy Schaef pointed out how so many people from outside community said it was the best forum to date. It was reported that 500 people attended.

4. **Song led by Finley Schaef**, “Come Back Woody Guthrie”.

5. **Planning for Caucus**: Has been scheduled for 7 PM, June 5 at the Senior Center. We need volunteers for many tasks. The Chair has a form with all the jobs listed and passed it around for signing on. A discussion was made about publicizing the event. Erin Cole suggested creating a facebook event to promote the event. Several members volunteered to make telephone calls. Connie Bailey said she will advertise and will reach out to Inquiring Minds to help advertise. Finley Schaef moved to send out postcards, seconded by Nancy Schaef. It was estimated that advertising it would cost around $400. Christine Dinsmore said it’s too close Memorial Day. The Schaefs withdrew their nomination. Christine D. asked about using a press release and volunteered to write it. Kathy Gordon said a letter to the editor would be more effective, and it was agreed to do that.

6. **Petitioning process starting June 5 for State & County candidates and for Saugerties Committee-engaging in the campaigns**: The Chair said committee members would soon be getting petitions for Pat Strong, Aidan O’Connor and Juan Figueroa with our names on them. He said the Caucus would be the perfect opportunity for distributing the petitions to members. He admonished members to read the instructions carefully. The Chair said we could use the petitioning to disseminate information on candidates. The Chair moved that we purchase 2000 door-hanger bags, seconded by Bob Gelbach. He asked for volunteers for taking the initiative to have packets prepared. Passed unanimously. It was estimated that the cost would be $75—also unanimously approved. Bob Gelbach and Katie Holt volunteered to manage the packet preparation. Those not picking them up at the Caucus can get their packets at Bill Barr’s house. Petitions will also be returned there.

7. **July 4 Parade:** Connie Bailey shared her idea that we could get the Tin Horn Uprising Band in our parade. Christine Dinsmore volunteered to approach them. Margo volunteered to acquire the permit.

8. **Report on complaint against Elliot Auerbach**: Nancy Schaef said the recommendation of the committee has been submitted to the County Executive Committee that will meet in June.

9. **Report on complaint against Mary Ann Wrolsen:** Nancy Schaef said the committee investigating issue must come from the whole county and it has been difficult coordinating schedules and it is not yet formed.

10. **Create Public Relations Committee**: Christine Dinsmore said there is a need to identify people in charge of public relations and has volunteered to chair it and has selected Liz Bailey to help due to her social media expertise. Connie said her support was very helpful organizing the fundraiser. The Chair asked if this committee would take on the work of the Programs Committee as well, to which she said it would. Brigid Walsh volunteered to be part of it. Press releases and notices of events would be part of it. It could also coordinate letters to the editor.

It was agreed that a Publicity Committee would be formed as a Standing Committee, seconded by John Schoonmaker, and passed unanimously.

11**. Standing Committees**

 Local Campaign Coordinating Committee: Barbara Boyce said in process of creating a plan. The plan would show coordination between SDC and candidates’ campaign. Chris Allen is the chair but suggestions will go to her and are welcome. Kathy Gordon added that one of issues struggling with, for instance, is coordinating canvassing.

 Search Committee-for Town Board and Town Judge: The Chair said a meeting is being scheduled by Luz Mooney, but not as yet has happened. The committee will recommend something to the Caucus.

 Program Committee: Will coordinate it with the fundraising committee. Bob Gelbach wondered if it could be used to have programs informing us of issues of importance to the community. He said he would like to be part of that. Skip Arthur said the New York Health Care Act would be a good subject. Katie Holt said she would also like to help this committee. Kathleen Grey suggested that this committee highlight issues that are coming up for a vote at the state level that affect district members. Nejla Liias emphasized the importance of this. Rick Cousin offered that much of this could be accomplished through a monthly SDC newsletter. The Chair offered that the SDC could have individuals to serve as liaisons with candidates. Volunteers were identified to work with candidates. *Pat Strong:* Nejla Liias, Rick Cousin, Margo McGilvrey, Kathleen Gray. *Aidan* *O’Connor*: Kathleen,Kathy Gray, Mike Harkavy, Nancy Schaef. *Juan Figueroa:* Judy Lechner, Katie Holt and Lanny Walter. *Mike MacIsaac:* Mike Harkavy. Connie Bailey offered the use of the HVDC on First Fridays to be used for candidates.

**New Member:** Erin Cole introduced herself as a life-long Saugerties resident. She has studied political science in university and worked in government in the state of Vermont. Rick Cousin vouched for her and nominated her as a member, seconded by mike Harkavy and unanimously approved.

18. **Announcements:**

Kathleen Gray said she tried to contact high school about voter registration, but they have not gotten back.

Kathy Gordon asked if members could volunteer their homes for Meet and Greets.

John Schoonmaker said the Ulster County Resource Recovery Office will be ending Single Stream Recycling and there will be a meeting on June 14, 5 PM in Ulster County Legislative Chambers. Mike Harkavy commented that SSR is a negative in that it contaminates recyclables.

19. **Adjournment:** Motion by Kathleen, seconded by Mike Cimorelli and unaminously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:12.

Recorded by Bill Barr, Secretary, Saugerties Democratic Committee