**Saugerties Democratic Committee 28 August 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**Roll Call:** Kathy Gordon, Kathleen, Judy Lechner, Connie Bailey, Elizabeth Bailey, Pam Ross, John Schoonmaker, Mike Cimorelli, Finley Schaef, Nancy Schaef, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Barbara Boyce, Bob Gelbach, Christine Dinsmore, Tim Scott, Lanny Walter, Nejla Liias, Bill Barr, Aaron Levine, Chris Allen. Non-members: Peggy Walsh, Michael Hein, Mike MacIsaac, Paul Andreassen, Joe Maloney, Alan Murphy, Hector Rodriguez, Patty Kelley, Jerry Cohen, Gene Weiss, Ernie Mortuzans

**Approval of Minutes**: Motion was made by the Secretary to approve minutes of 24 July 2018 Meeting, which was seconded by Kathy Gordon. The Chair asked to correct the statement under re-constitution to read “every other September”, deleting September 13 as the date required for it. The minutes were passed as amended.

**Song:** City of Immigrants, by Gene Weiss and Ernie Mortuzans.

**Guest Speakers:**

Update from County Executive Michael Hein:Mike Hein acknowledged the song and the legitimacy of the lyric “all of us are immigrants” and the hard work of the Committee and recognized Gary Bishoff for anticipating the now proposed ban on plastic bags in the county. He also pointed out that Ulster County is 100% dependent on solar power and far ahead of any other NY counties.

He said now is the time to lead the way for new progressive ideals, but began by recalling how we all felt the day after the last Presidential Election, and said our response is to fight for what we believe. We should continue to remember that morning and say “Never again.” Under the current county administration, property taxes at the county level are now lower than they were in 2010, while providing more essential services than ever before. The other area of pride for the county is our patriotism,which was followed by a statement that pointing out flaws is by no means unpatriotic. He said the primary reason for his showing up is to tell us that we’re doing an incredible job by turning around a Republican led town to one where Democrats are dominant. He ended by admonishing us to go out and make sure CD19 is represented by Antonio Delgado.

Judge Margaret Walsh: She too voiced her gratitude for the activities of the Committee and said she is here to seek our support for NY Supreme Court. She would like for us to spread the word of her candidacy. She noted that she is a Family Court Judge for Albany and spoke of her background in that role. She loves Family Court but would appreciate the broader reach of Supreme Court. The Judicial Convention is September 21 in Albany.

Judge Walsh then responded to questions from those present.

Phoebe Costello, representing Antonio Delgado’s Campaign: Phoebe is an organizer for Antonio Delgado responsible for Ulster County. She said the campaign is looking for more people to knock on doors and make phone calls. She passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers and provided her contact information. Patty Kelley pointed out that there is a canvas plan for Saugerties for the 8th and 9th of September and that she is the point of contact for Saugerties. There is an environmental conference tomorrow at the Sullivan County Chamber of Conference where each Congressional candidate will speak.

Matthew VanBuren and Ernest Papiz, Representing Young Democrats of Ulster County:Matthew said he is the Coordinating Campaign Manager for Ulster County, hired by Young Democrats. Their plan is to take targets where there is overlap among the candidates so we do not duplicate when canvassing. He will be cutting turfs to do that. He asked for a Captain from the Committee to take charge of distributing the turfs to committee members and uploading data in the VAN (he said that the capability will be there for using MiniVAN as well). Kathleen Grey pointed out the need for a central location for literature. Matthew said it is at the Democratic HQ in Kingston.

Nejla Liias asked how this fits in with the Ulster County Coordinating Committee. Ernest said their’s is more on the front end.

Hector Rodriguez, Ulster County Legislature**:** Hector emphasized the importance of all candidates endorsing Juan Figueroa and to make sure that in every instance in which we are talking to Democrats that we are also talking about Juan.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer made the following report:

Balance as of July 24th 2661.44

Check to US Post Office (Mailing) 57.50

Check to Bill Barr (SDC Palm Cards) 24.82

Check to Katie Holtz (Poster) 51.70

Check to Town for Pavilion Rental 295.00

Collected at Meeting 134.00

Balance as of August 28 2336.83

The Treasurer also mentioned that the Cantine Pavilion has been reserved for the October 4th fundraiser and tickets are available. She asked for a little more than usual in contributions to cover the cost of a mailing for Juan Figueroa.

Fundraiser: The date is October 4th. She provided a budget (see below). She asked that members sell the tickets provided. The fundraiser will be at the Cantine Field Pavilion; there will be 3 bands and beer and wine. Kathleen Gray said she is working on selling tickets in Greene County.

Fundraiser Budget

Facility Rental $295.00 ($90 deposit is refundable)

Grill Rental 200.00

Tickets 30.00

Food 300.00

Wine and Beer 700.00 (Unused wine returnable)

Paper products 300.00

Ice 100.00

Flowers 100.00

Publicity 100.00

Miscellaneous 100.00

Total $2225.00

The budget was unanimously approved.

**Juan Figueroa Campaign:** A card-writing campaign has been organized. The Chair asked that members take cards, and make a commitment to fill them out and return to the Secretary by September 5. A script will be provided to those writing the cards by email.

There will be canvassing tomorrow from the Common House at Cantine Island from 1 to 3. Kathy said she has turfs available and can hand them out or email them to those who want to canvas. This will be followed by phone banking.

Christine Dinsmore suggested that the Committee ask Mike Hein to endorse Juan Figueroa. Bob Gelbach made a motion, that was seconded by Rick Cousin. Bob, Bill, John, Mike, Nejla and Barbara said they will accompany Lanny.

**Patty Kelley for Pat Strong:** There will be a fundraiser for Pat Strong on Glenford Road Thursday of this week. She said she has been received extremely well wherever she goes. They will have a postcard mailing after the primary. Additionally, there is phone banking at her headquarters in Kingston every Thursday evening.

**Kathleen Grey for Aidan O’Connor:** Kathleen said she had literature to distribute.

**Yard Sale:** The Senior Center has been reserved for September 16th. Members are encouraged to bring their surplus. Funds raised will go to the Saugerties Food Bank and furniture will go to a local group distributing it to needy immigrant families. The cost of reserving the Senior Center for the fundraiser is $135. The Chair then asked if the Committee is willing to participate. Twelve members said they would. The Chair then made a motion to have the yard sale. It was seconded by Nejla Liias. It passed unanimiously. It was agreed to begin it at 9am and end at 2pm. Christine Dinsmore will write a press release. Nejla will forward fliers to the Chair who will have them printed.

**Committee Re-Constitution:** This happens every two years. The Chair noted that Luz Mooney is stepping down and that the other officers are willing to continue, leaving a vacancy for Vice Chair. He asked that any member interested in being a member let the Chair know and it will be discussed and, if necessary, voted upon.

**Local Campaign Coordinating Committee:** Barbara Boyce noted that it was decided to put any further actions, beyond what has been drafted, on hold until after the General Election.

**Business issues:**

Mary Ann Wrolsen—Since she did not obtain petition signatures needed to be on the Committee, there is no reason to proceed with a hearing and the Chair has so notified the County Committee Chair.

Website and Facebook—It is currently up to date.

**Announcements:**

Vote for Library Board of Trustees is September 6 and members are encouraged to vote for Tim Scott.

Aidan O’Connor has opened a Catskill office at Grandview Plaza and it will be manned from 9 till 9 Monday and Tuesday. Representatives from other races will be there and provide literature.

HVDC is having a Cider and Donut Social for Aidan O’Connor on September 6.

Saugerties is now a Clean Energy Community and eligible for a $5,000 grant.

Banners for Juan Figueroa. Jerry Cohen volunteered to put a yard sign up on Flat Bush avenue. Aaron Levine asked if a banner could be put up at the intersection of Rt32 and Rt 212. Bill Barr offered to build a frame for the sign.

Moment of Silence for John McCain. Moved by Aaron Levine.

**Motion to adjourn:** Moved by Bill Barr and seconded by Tim Scott. Passed unanimously.

Recorder: Bill Barr, Secretary