**27 June 2018 Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Roll Call:** Kathleen Gray, Connie Bailey, Christine Dinsmore, Marcus Arthur, Barbara Boyce, Finlay Schaef, Judy Lechner, Tim Scott, Mike Harkavy, Kathy Gordon, Mike Harkavy, Pam Ross, Chris Allen, Lanny Walter, Bill Barr, Margo McGilvrey, Mike Cimorelli, Nejla Liias, Aaron Levine

**Song (Finlay Schaef):** “Keep on the Sunny Side”

**Visit by Town Supervisor:** Fred Costello regrets that he could not attend due to illness in the family.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve made by the Secretary; seconded by Chris Allen. Unanimously approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Balance 22 May 2018 $4569.69

Collected at meeting 103.00

Check#153 MacIsaac Campaign 500.00

Balance 27 June 2018 $4172.69

Treasurer moved to approve the report, seconded by Chris Allen. Unanimously approved.

**Update on Congressional Candidates:** The Chair noted that Antonio Delgado had won the CD19 Primary Election. Mike Harkavy moved to endorse Antonio Delgado, seconded by Nejla Liias. Unanimously approved. Kathy Gordon recounted that the turnout was 25% throughout CD19 and 30% in Ulster County.

**Report on Senate, Assembly and Sheriff campaigns:** Judy Lechner commented that there was no phone number for Juan Figueroa’s phone site and the generally poor quality of it. She hoped that someone could help with the site. The Chair announced that a fundraiser is being held on June 29th at 311 VanVlierden Road. Judy is the POC for it.

Christine Dinsmore said she is sponsoring a fundraiser for all Democratic candidates on July 26 7-9 pm with Amy Fradon. It will be at her home, 976 Church Rd.

Nejla Liias asked if we could set up a list of volunteers tor help for campaigns. She offered to send out an email to the Candidates Forum list.

Mike Harkavy asked if this was the time to decide how the $1500 we had earmarked for candidates to be allocated. He moved that those three (Aidan, Pat, Juan) each receive $500. Nejla Liias wondered if Juan Figueroa might need a little more money than the others; Aaron Levine added that Juan does not have any campaign committees supporting him. Furthermore, he has a primary in September. Chris Allen countered that Pat Strong has at least as large a need for funds to fight George Amedore. Mike Harkavy added that we will not know for a couple of weeks whether Van Blarcum will get enough signatures to get on the ballot. The Chair offered to amend the motion to $1,000 for Figueroa and $250 for the other two. Mike Harkavy seconded the motion as amended. Unanimously passed.

Aaron Levine wondered if Juan Figueroa has someone to help review van Blarcum’s petitions. Margo asked Judy to suggest this to Juan, that he at least get a copy of his opponent’s petitions.

**Petitioning:** Kathleen Gray reported on her experiences while petitioning and felt we should have left something with them about the Congressional Primary.The Chair said a time had been established on Sunday (11 AM) at the Barr-Ross house to turn in petitions, however, they may be turned in as late as July 3.

**Report on NYS Democratic Committee Meeting:** (Finley Schaef) Candidates for Governor, Lt Gov, Comptroller, Attorney General were nominated. He spoke a few words in favor of Jumaane Williams for Lt. Governor. Resolutions: 1) Support proposed legislation decriminalizing marijuana. 2) Proposal by Kelleigh McKenzie to amend party rules requiring that election of 26 Executive Committee members be conducted at the State Committee organizational meeting. 3) Call for removal of Senator Simcha Felder from the Democratic Party. 4) Officially oppose Simcha Felder. There were additional resolutions proposed by the Progressive Caucus, but the meeting was preemptively adjourned by the Chair before these resolutions could be voted upon, despite the fact that additional time was remaining for the meeting.

Mike Harkavy said he felt the scheduling of the Congressional Primary was moved for political purposes. Aaron Levine said it first happened in 2012 to comply with receiving absentee ballots but it has been since supported by Republicans to move these elections into August (when turnout would be low).

(Due to illness, the Chair handed control of the meeting over to Margo McGilvrey)

**July 4 Parade:**  Signs to be made: “Families Belong Together” and “Make America Kind Again”. Still need to find a pick-up truck. Tin Horn Uprising has backed out because they can’t support a political party. Marchers need to be on Washington Ave. (by the ice rink) by 10 AM. Margo McGilvrey will send an update to the Secretary for distribution.

Pat Stong will be at HVDC for First Friday , July 6. Committee members are encouraged to show up, be photographed with her and distributed.

Aaron Levine noted that during that weekend, Sunday July 8, is the Sawyer Motors Car Show and wondered if the committee could have a table or some activity during that. Maybe we can share that with the candidates so they can be present. Connie said she can do something in front of her shop, which is in the middle of the car show.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

 **PR/Communication Committee**: (Christine Dinsmore) noted that our press releases about the Caucus were sent to Ulster Publishing but Hugh Reynolds mis-quoted it. He did correct it in a subsequent edition. She proposed that beginning in October, we send out critiques of candidates self-promoted list of accomplishments. Christine asked for feedback on the pamphlet.

Nejla Liias wants to do a study of why people don’t vote. She was doing a podcast on the use of data in her business and, when asked what other subjects she would like to use data to study, she said why people don’t vote. A data analysis organization heard the podcast and contacted her with an offer to do the analysis. She asked for help on the design of questions to be used for it. Bill Barr offered to help. She also said she will forward the podcast to the Secretary for distribution.

Nejla wondered if the Committee could develop a calendar of activities to take before the General Election. Christine Dinsmore agreed to help with it.

Kathy Gordon suggested that all present commit to writing letters to the editor each month. Margo noted her agreement.

Mike Harkavy suggested that the Committee write a letter to each person who attended the Caucus, thanking them for coming and encouraging their subsequent participation. Another letter to Christopher Kraft was suggested, congratulating him for his victory. Christine Dinsmore offered to write both letters and send them to the Chair for signature.

**Announcements:** Judy Lechner said there will be a march this Saturday at 10 AM in Woodstock and another at one o’clock at the Kingston City Hall to protest the current zero tolerance immigration practices and the separation of mothers and their children.

**Motion to adjourn:** Made by Christine Dinsmore, seconded by Tim Scott. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by Bill Barr, Secretary