**SAUGERTIES DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

**22 AUGUST 2017**

**Roll Call:**

Members: Connie Bailey, Bill Barr, Kathy Gordon, Mike Cimorelli, Elisabeth Lennon, Judith Lechner, Timothy Scott, Barbara Boyce, Chris Allen, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Lanny Walter, Lisa Ellerby

Nonmembers: Liz Bailey, Sue Rosenberg.

Nonmembers: Mike MacIsaac, Sue Rosenberg, Liz Bailey

**Approval of minutes from May 23 2017 and 25 July 2017 meetings:** Secretary moved to approve, seconded by Kathy Gordon, passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Margo McGilvrey made the report as follows:

Balance as of July 25th meeting: $4951.36

Collected at meeting: $94.00

Balance as of August 22, 2017: $5045.36

The Treasurer made a motion to approve the report: it was seconded by Barbara Boyce and unanimously approved.

**Filing Fees for Chris Allen**: The Chair recounted that it had been approved at the last meeting to fund the filing fees for Chris Allen to challenge his opponents petitioning, but had been discovered that the funds would not be required.

**Phone bank:** Chair said team met and discussed whether to go door to door for Chris Allen. Kathy G: Decided instead to phone bank from common house of Cantine Island on September 10 to call all Dems who reliably vote from Chris’ district. If not complete, some can take sheets home and make calls from there. Scripts will be available. Need volunteers. (Mahoney is working an OTB to round up enough ballots to get on the Dem line). Connie Bailey asked if script could be available early so she could talk to people. The Chair said we would make that possible. Mike C: Asked if Dem HQ would make the HQ available for phone banking. That way we could increase our numbers. Rick said if you dial \*67 first, your number will not be shown. Mike also suggested we send out pamphlets to increase our effectiveness. The Chair said it is on the agenda. Liz and Rick supported it. Mike Cimorelli moved that we send out fliers to the same 400; seconded by Rick Cousin. The Chair voiced his opinion: Chris’ election should be a shoe-in if we make the calls, Chris is working very hard going door to door, and we have other priorities for spending the money. (Chris suggested making robo-calls, but did not know what it costs. He said he would make a recording of his own voice and use that.) Kathy wanted to know if Chris would prefer robo-calls to phone-banking. It was moved to table the motion until he could find out the cost. Chris, due to lack of information, removed motion from the table, seconded by Mike and approved. Chris then requested Committee funds for a newspaper ad and robo-calls. Kathy Gordon said she supported it up to $400. Margo asked if we would do phone banking if there were robo-calls, and the answer was negative. Barbara Boyce said robo-calls are annoying and hurt the candidate. Chris withdrew the request for robo-call funds and asked $204. Seconded by Mike Cimorelli. Passed unanimously. It was noted that the Committee will still doing phone-banking for Chris, as planned.

**Mike MacIsaac**: Said his campaign is going quite well with Gary Bishoff. Has made photos and fliers. Also has pens. Has website: ElectMike.org. Has done a mailing with brochure and absentee ballot application to all voters 25 yrs. old and under and included information on all Dem candidates. Also doing a mailing to small businesses. Fundraiser Sep 13 at the Pine Lodge on 173 Stoll Rd., 6 to 8.

**Canvassing Plan:** Chair said the concept was to canvass more or less in our own districts. Those willing to canvass would come to home base to get literature, walk sheet, and training if necessary and go forth to canvass. Encouraged members to enlist help of their friends. The doors will not be likely voters, but Democratic voters who usually sit out mid-term elections and NOPs. Will be handing out candidate’s literature. Not been done before by SDC in last 25 years. Elisabeth Lennon asked if we considered setting up a stand and letting voters come to us. The Chair said we decided against it because it is not effective. All supported it.

**Get Out the Vote (GOTV):** The Committee has traditionally done this and it has been effective.

**Poll-Watchers:** On September 7 (election day), there will be an opportunity for pall watching. Value is to keep track of what Dems vote and call voters who have not shown up. It has been very productive in the past.

**Canvassing Budget:** Need $115 to do Bulk Mailing to 400 people/ $200 for 1000. Rick Cousin wondered whether we should not be focusing more on people not likely to vote in the mailing instead of hitting the same people each time. Discussion over who should be the focus of the bulk mailing. The Chair said these are good points and will be considered. The Chair moved that we do the 400 person mailing to reliable Democratic voters, then withdrew it. Moved that the Committee authorize $300 to $400 for canvassing prior to next meeting. Kathy Gordon seconded it. Sue pointed out the need to coordinate activities with the candidates. Passed unanimously.

Furthermore, Connie suggested we research doing robo-calls since it is so economical.

**September 6 walk to Albany from NYC for Justice:** Sue Rosenberg. This will be a 19 day march through Hudson Valley and arrive in Albany on September 19 (anniversary of Attica). Work on re-entry services, work referrals. Asking for closure of Attica, elimination of human rights violations, and comprehensive reform of criminal justice system. Walk comes through Saugerties September 6 and Cantine Island will provide meal after which a movie will be screened concerning profiling and police-killing of suspects. Asked if SDC will be a supportor/sponsor of event and send out announcement. Lisa Ellerby asked if home stays, showers, others joining in march were required. Sue said people joining would be welcome and that there may be housing needed for some of the older walkers. Also, breakfast is needed (Connie volunteered) and also help cleaning up. Bill Barr moved and Margo McGilvrey seconded. The Chair offered his support. Motion passed. Website: Allianceoffamiliesforjustice.org.

**Program Committee: Sanctuary Movement**. Margo: All towns under the County umbrella. Most positive thing in Saugerties are meetings with Chief Sinagra. He is putting in writing policy that officers will not ask about documentation. He said he has only notified ICE once in five years when there was a stabbing at HITS. He has actually helped undocumented people in getting driver licenses. His policy may become a model in the state.

Single-Payer Health Care for NYS Training: August 26 at Old Dutch Church of Kingston at noon. Senior Action group is meeting September 29 at 12:30.

CD-19 Candidates Forum at Old Dutch Church of Kingston on August 23 6-8 from 6-8pm.

Constitutional Convention: Unions pretty much opposed. Sierra Club also opposed. Decided to make this an agenda item for next meeting.

**Website:** The Chair announced that Liz Bailey has accepted responsibility to help with the Committee webpage. He said there is also our Facebook page and our part of the County webpage. The Chair said that any entries for the webpage should go to him first and he will forward it to her. Rick Cousin said he has sent out request to all candidates for bios (only Paul has responded so far). Mike suggested that a calendar on the website would be helpful. Kathy Gordon said she would be willing to look at Saugerties input to the County webpage. Could also post meeting minutes.

Liz asked what our posting plan. The discussion centered on using Wordpress subscription vs. a much more flexible version of Wordpress that is free, but there would be a charge for the computer hosting it, which would be less than the subscription.

**Committee Rules Regarding Candidate Support:** Committee members cannot support candidates who are not Democratic candidates (after the primary) and remain members of the Committee.

**Adjournment**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ moved to adjourn; seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; unanimously approved.

Recorded by Bill Barr, SDC Secretary