**Saugerties Democratic Committee Meeting**

**26 September 2017**

**Roll Call**

Members:Lanny Walter, Bill Barr, Margo McGilvrey, Kathy Gordon, Pamela Ross, Skip Arthur , Bob Gelbach, Rick Cousin, Barbara Boyce, Connie Bailey, Mike Harkavy, Kathleen Gray, Mary Anne Wrolsen, Chris Allen, Judy Lechner, Katy Holt, Nancy Schaef

Nonmembers:Arzi McKeowen, Gary Bishoff, Marge Bishoff, Liz Bailey, Christine Dinsmore, Kevin B. Bryant

**Approval of Minutes from August 22, 2017:** Secretary moved that they be adopted, seconded by Constance Bailey, unanimously approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Balance as of August 22, 2017…$5045.36

Check #119, July 4th Flags…………… 63.00

Check #120, Ad for Chris Allen…. 204.00

Current Balance…………………….. $4796.56

Margo McGilvrey (Treasurer) moved to that the report be approved; seconded by Rick Cousin and passed unanimously.

**Canvas Plan:** Canvassing has begun. Headquarters are District 1—Lanny Walter’s home; District 2—Bill Barr’s house. Materials have been distributed. Kathy Gordon has been developing canvassing turfs from VAN data base. The Chair expressed his opinion that Democrats who customarily vote do not need to be canvassed; that it would be more efficient to focus on those not usually voting. Kathy said that the guidance to date has been to include regular voters. The reason for going door-to-door is to identify friendly voters. The Chair made a plea for increased canvas participation; also, for poll watchers to ensure high Democrat turnout. He noted that it is labor intensive and will involve training. The Chair then moved that we canvas only those Democrats who are not regular off-year election voters. Kathy Gordon expressed her reluctance that she could generate such a list in the VAN. The suggestion was modified that we should do so, if possible. If that is not possible, then generate a companion list of “prime Democrats” and make the walking lists larger. It was noted that the number of regular, off-season voters is about 1000 in Saugerties. Rick Cousin seconded the motion. Discussion: It was asked how many will canvas? Fourteen members raised their hands. Rick Cousin asked for the script to be sent out with the request for canvas sign-up. Chris Allen said he felt we should go to all voters. It was noted that a mailing to “prime voters” reminding them of the election is planned. Motion was passed, 11 to 4.

Bob Gelbach asked how to get others involved in the canvassing process. The response was that the link can be forwarded to others and they can sign up.

**Getting out the Vote (GOTV):** It was asked how many would be willing to be Poll Watchers. Six raised their hand. The Chair noted that we need more. Mary Anne Wrolsen suggested that we could try taking pictures of the roll pages as an alternative to sitting all day at the poll.

Mike Harkavy said that in the past there has always been a GOTV mailing to all Democrats to arrive the Thursday before the election. He felt that would be more effective than a month before the election. Mike moved that a standard mailing be conducted to arrive just before the election. Bailey seconded the motion. Discussion: It was estimated that would cost about $1,200. Kathy Gordon and Chris plan to request a donation to their campaigns and conferred to determine an amount. The Chair roughly calculated that there would be a few thousand dollars available.

Gary Bishoff said we should do all; not an either/or situation. He also noted that in a previous election, the Party got the rolls and began making phone calls at 3pm and the results were that voting turnout was high by a statistically significant amount.

Motion passed to allocate $1200 for the mailing on October 24th at the regular meeting.

**Advertisement:** A quarter-page newspaper ad the week before the election would cost about $400. Gary Bishoff recommended a full-page ad supporting all endorsed candidates. Nancy Schaef said it would also be good for the Committee to do so. Chris suggested two separate motions: a full -page ad to be paid by SDC for town candidates; requests for subsequent ads from two legislative candidates. The Chair said we have $1000 after the full-page ad is paid for. Nancy Schaef moved that we spend $1040 for color full-page ad as described by Bishoff, and it was seconded by Rick Cousin. She added that it is important to get candidates’ campaigns coordinated. Chris proposed an amendment to black and white for $791. Skip Arthur seconded it. The motion was approved as amended.

Chris Allen moved to allocate $600 to his campaign and to Mike MacIsaac’s campaign. The Chair said he felt $400 was more appropriate, given the state of our finances. Nancy Schaef said $250. Chris Allen amended the amount to $500, and it was seconded by Mike Harkavy. Motion failed. Katy Holt moved to allocate $400 to each campaign; Nejla Liias seconded the motion. The motion passed as amended.

Mike Harkavy moved to spend $400 for John Schoonmaker; this was seconded by Chris Allen. The motion was unanimously passed.

**Fundraiser.** The Committee will sponsor a fundraiser October 19th at Bella Luna. The charge will be $35 a head (pasta meal will cost $15). Entertainment will be provided. Tickets will be available soon. All endorsed candidates will be expected to attend. Nancy Schaef noted that we should have a sufficient number of copies of our Statement of Values for that event. She requested that we allocate $100 for their printing. Rick seconded. The motion passed.

**New Members:**

Elizabeth Bailey: She said her address is 33 C Montgomery Street. She has lived in Saugerties since high school. Liz said she has worked on campaigns, but not local ones. She noted that she has been working on the Committee’s website and facebook page and added that she really wants to help out and be a member of the Committee.

Christine Dinsmoor: She lives in District 5, at at 976 Church Road. She said she is a long time activist, but has not been with a party. She has been a psychologist, journalist, and a reporter in Manhattan and is now a consultant for a development agency.

Mary Anne moved to admit each applicant. The motion was seconded by Rick Cousin and unanimously approved. The Chair welcomed them and said their assignment to districts will be made later.

**Constitutional Convention:** Nancy Schaef moved that we not support it. The motion was seconded by Rick Cousin. Chris Allen discussed it and cited the overwhelming objection to it. Katy Holt noted that Saugerties Indivisible will be having a presentation on the subject October 30. Mary Anne moved to table discussion of the matter to the next meeting; seconded by Judy Lechner. Motion to table passed.

**Next Meeting:** Connie Bailey suggested opening the doors to the Center at 6:30 prior to the meeting for coffee and cookies, which she is willing to provide. It was agreed that would be done next month.

**House Party for Elliott Auerbach:** He would like to have a house party fundraiser in Saugerties. There was a request for a volunteer. None.

**Deadline to Change Party Registration for 2018 Primary:** Kathy Gordon noted that the deadline for changing party registration is Oct 18th for June 2018 primary and recommended that the Committee write a letter to the Times/Freeman notifying the public. Passed. The Chair asked if she would draft the letter, to which she assented.

**Confederate Flag on Rt 212.** Rick Cousin moved to discuss at next meeting. Seconded by Nancy.

**Motion to adjourn:** Bob Gelbach moved;, seconded by Rick Cousin. Passed.