Saugerties Democratic Committee 30 October 2018 Meeting Minutes

**Roll Call:** Nancy Schaef, Finley Schaef, Connie Bailey, Mike Harkavy, Barbara Boyce, Kathleen Gray, John Schoonmaker, Tim Scott, Nejla Liias, Kathy Gordon, Chris Allen, Rick Cousin, Christine Dinsmore, Pam Ross, Lanny Walter, Bill Barr, Kevin Freeman, Aaron Levine

Nonmembers: Gary and Marge Bischoff, John Tyrell, Starllie Swonyoung, Gavin Perri, Emily Schirmer

**Approval of August and September Minutes:** Secretary moved that they be approved, seconded by Rick Cousin, and approved subject to correction of names in Roll Call.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Given by the Chair. Began with a word of gratitude to the Committee for effort that went into the Fund Raiser. He recounted amount raised, and amounts sent to campaigns as well as funds allocated for advertising. He delayed approval to the return of Margo McGilvrey.

**Ballot Proposition 1:** Presentation by Gary Bischoff. The proposition deals with a mechanism for redistricting. He laid out how the Commission for redistricting would be formed. Biggest change is that what the Commission does becomes law. The legislature has no say in it. He said this is unique and looks promising, and urged those present to vote for it. Kathy Gordon moved that the Committee endorse a ‘Yes’ vote on Proposition 1, that was seconded by Chris Allen. Nejla Liias discussed that support for it could be communicated through canvassers. There was a friendly amendment made, to the effect that a note be sent to Tom Turcko and Ashley Dittus reminding them to instruct poll personnel to point out the Proposition on the back of the ballot. The Resolution passed, as amended.

**Coordinated Campaign:** Nejla Liias reported. It was noted that more staff was needed at HQ. Need personnel to put materials together for canvassing. Phone banking personnel needed as well. Canvassing is scheduled for Nov. 3, 4, and 5th. Mike Harkavy passed around a canvassing sign-up sheet.

**Poll Watching:** The Chair discussed Poll Watching. He pointed out that normally it was not so essential, but wondered if it may be more critical this year. He noted that the Legal Counsel conducting poll watch training has notified anticipated trouble spots and may request poll watchers go there. He asked that those wishing to participate contact him tonight. He noted that training will take place at the Senior Center October 31 and November 4. He emphasized the overall goal of maximizing the number of people who vote. Aaron Levine pointed out that NYS AG has publicized a phone number that can be called concerning any voting irregularities--800 771 7755.

**Election Day Phone Calls:** Phone banking out of HQ is scheduled for election night from 6-8. The Chair suggested that someone could volunteer to collect the names of those voting at a certain time in various locations and use as a tool to focus calls. Kathy Gordon said her experience last year was that it took so much time to cross names off the call that it distracted too much from calling. A discussion of the pros and cons followed, ending in an agreement to compile a list of volunteers by Election District to see if it is feasible. Connie offered the use of the Bakery as an overflow space for phone banking. Chair moved, seconded by Rick Cousin; passed. Nejla Liias and Gordon will see if the Coordinated Campaign will make a list available to make it happen. It was agreed to try to use Poll Watchers to obtain lists and have them obtain results at each station. Kathy Gordon asked that results be texted to her for her to forward to the Campaigns.

**Election Watch Party:** Nejla Liias suggested that the back room of The Dutch be used. Aaron Levine offered that we should follow the lead of the Ulster County Committee. The mood was that we move to Kingston, bringing a Saugerties Banner.

**County Executive Endorsement of Juan Figueroa:** The County Executive is waiting to be asked. He has introduced Juan Figueroa on numerous occasions and wasn’t sure why that wasn’t sufficient. Christine Dinsmore said she would communicate this back to Juan’s campaign.

**Standing Committee Reports**

County: Nancy Schaef noted that Assemblyman Cahill did not seem to support Juan Figueroa at UCDC Dinner.

Elliott Auerbach: Nancy noted he was told he would lose his membership in the County Committee if he supported a Republican again. He just publicly stated that he was supporting a Republican for NYS Senate, so we are recommending that he be removed from the UCDC.

State Democratic Committee: Finley gave a report on the last meeting where candidates were selected. There is a Progressive Caucus that meets prior to the full meeting. The resolution of the Progressive Caucus was ignored. As a result, the Progressive Caucus delegates have been meeting and are now taking the leadership of the NYS Democratic Committee to court for not following their own rules.

Publicity Committee: Christine Dinsmore stated that the level of activity has been very high. She took a moment to welcome our three young visitors, Starllie Swonyoung, Emily Schirmer and Gavin Perri. Starllie has offered to work with Cara on Instagram. Mike Harkavy also stated their actions in canvassing and asked whether they could become Associate Members; however the Bylaws states that they must enrolled Democrats (which Emily is). The Chair suggested that she begin by having conversations with members to familiarize her with the duties and obligations of Committee Membership.

Facebook: Eight videos have been put on Blue Banter, and they have been viewed for a total of eleven hours.

**Holiday Party:** Nejla Liias stated that her barn was again available for New Years, since she is having a party anyway. Chris Allen said the Smokin’ Pony is available for rent. Some objection to the owner’s politics followed. Also using the HQ as a venue for a volunteer appreciation party was discussed and Saturday, 7 pm, November 10 for a wine, cheese and dessert was decided upon.

**Announcements:**

John Schoonmaker: Next Wednesday at 6 pm there will be a Town Board meeting on the 2019 Budget. He instructed us to look at the 2019 Preliminary Budget prior to the meeting.

Adjournment: Moved by Christine Dinsmore, seconded by Nejla Liias, and unanimously passed.

Recorded: Bill Barr, Secretary