**Saugerties Democratic Committee**

**July 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes (Zoom)**

***Roll Call***

The Secretary called roll and determined that a quorum was present:

*Voting Members*: Kathryn Gordon, Mike Cimorelli, Pam Ross, Bill Barr, John Schoonmaker, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Michael Harkavy, Nejla Liias, Louise Bloomfield, Sue Breen, Tim Scott, Nancy Schaef, Brigid Walsh, Cara Stammler, Joseph Maloney, Matthew Maloney, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Katherine Smith, Barbara Boyce, Aaron Levine, Lanny Walter

*Associate Members*: Ken Kleinberg, Michelle Grossbohlin, Justine Tomkiell, Andrew Zink, Finley Schaef, Lauren Ruberg, Deena Turner

***Approval of Minutes***

The Chair accepted the Secretary’s motion to approve the Minutes from the June 22, 2021, Zoom meeting (prepared by former Secretary Bill Barr), seconded by Mike Harkavy. The motion passed without objection.

***Treasurer’s Report***

The Chair accepted the Treasurer’s motion to approve the report below for July 27, 2021, seconded by Louise Bloomfield. The motion passed without objection.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Actual** |  | **Pending** |  |
| **Beginning Balance** |  | $1,990.03 |  |  |  |
| 22-Jun-21 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Income** |  |  |  |  |  |
| ActBlue |  | $144.02 |  | $24 in pipeline | |
| Member Donation |  | $75.00 |  | $10 not deposited | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fundraiser Ck 238 |  | -$410.00 |  |  |  |
| OpaVote |  | -$70.00 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **New Balance** |  | $1,729.05 |  | $1,763.05 |  |
| 27-Jul-21 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fundraiser |  |  |  | -$2,500.00 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Shortfall** |  |  |  | -$736.95 |  |

Bill noted the importance of regular contributions from committee members. Donors can easily set up (or stop) automatic contributions via Act Blue: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/saugerties-democratic-committee-1>

***Committee Vacancy in Saugerties ED 4***

The Chair reported that Kathleen Gray resigned from the SDC.

ED 4 Associate Member Justine Tomkiell was nominated by Christine Dinsmore and her nomination seconded by Kevin Freeman.

ED 16 Associate Member Deena Turner was nominated by John Schoonmaker and her nomination seconded by Tim Scott.

The Chair outlined the process by which Democrats qualify for consideration. Several prospective candidates have expressed interest in joining the committee but have not yet completed the screening process that precedes nomination.

A motion to table the two nominations was made by Katherine Smith and seconded by Michael Harkavy. The motion passed by 13 votes to 5.

***Election and Campaign Considerations***

**SDC Elections Fundraiser:** Margo reported that the event will take place Thursday September 9, 6:00-8:30 p.m. It will be held outdoors, at the Cantine Pavilion. Dinner catering will be by Seasoned Delicious. The order--based on known and estimated ticket sales--is due a week in advance along with a 50% deposit. Pops and the Weasels will provide music. Connie Bailey is donating dessert, and Joe Maloney is donating wine. The ticket price is $30; all SDC members are asked to sell 10 or more tickets each. Tickets will also be available for purchase through Act Blue (which accepts credit cards and Paypal). Each Member was asked to pick up tickets to sell, from Pam Ross at 67 Livingston St. in the Village. SDC members and friends are needed as volunteersto set up and staff the event.

**Neighbor to Neighbor** (N2N): There will be a soft rollout in Saugerties in August.

**Candidate Campaigns**: Democratic Town Supervisor and Tax Collector candidates are unopposed. Campaigns for town office and county legislature seats are gearing up.

**County Committee**: The Chair reported that Sarah Rakov was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Ulster County Family Court judge. Christine noted that our 3rd Judicial District will get a third NYS Supreme Court judge, with a Democratic candidate from Rensselaer County to be nominated on August 6 at the Third Judicial District nominating convention. The county judicial pipeline committee is producing a resource booklet for the public defender and district attorney offices to increase diversity in their hiring process.

-- Nejla reported on the Committee’s first Anti-Racism training, noting that it has produced action plans for each town represented in the class.

-- The Ulster County Democratic Committee Fundraiser will be held in person on Sept. 30, 2021.

***Community Issues***

**Housing**: The Chair and Bob Gelbach are SDC representatives on the recently formed Saugerties Housing Committee. The Woodstock Housing Committee is a potential resource. In the County, the former county jail at Golden Hill is slated to be replaced by affordable housing and senior housing, with planning now under way. Attendee Anna Markowitz noted that the Hudson Valley [Pattern for Progress](https://www.pattern-for-progress.org/reports/) affordable housing report outlines a course of action for each community.

**Ulster County Issues—Redistricting:** Kathy Gordon asked how to give input to the process with the goal of reuniting Saugerties with the rest of Ulster County. Aaron noted that the independent redistricting commission for Congressional and state legislature districts would meet August 2 on the mid-Hudson region, with changes to take effect in 2022. That meeting would be the forum for comment. People wishing to comment must sign up in advance to attend, through nyirc.gov/meetings. Katherine suggested getting input from Kevin Cahill.

County legislature redistricting is a separate process, with changes to take effect in 2023. A nonpartisan commission was being recruited, which would exclude party committee members.

***Standing Subcommittees***

No reports

***Adjournment***

Margo McGilvrey moved to adjourn, seconded by Christine Dinsmore. The motion passed without objection, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary