



Saugerties Democratic Committee August 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Gilda Riccardi, Liz Buono, Kathryn Gordon, Ken Kleinberg (Acting), Pam Ross, Bill Barr, Justine Tomkiell (Acting), Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Nejla Liias, Louise Bloomfield, Sue Breen, Tim Scott, Nicole Roskos, Brigid Walsh, Cara Stammier, Bob Gelbach, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Katherine Smith, Lauren Ruberg (Acting), Aaron Levine, Lanny Walter

Associate Members: Michelle Grossbohlin, Deena Turner

Approval of Minutes

The Chair accepted the Secretary's motion to approve the Minutes from the July 27, 2021, Zoom meeting, seconded by Nejla Liias. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report

The Chair accepted the Treasurer's motion to approve the report below for August 24, 2021, seconded by Louise Bloomfield. The motion passed without objection.

	Actual	Pending
Beginning Balance 27-Jul-21	\$1,729.05	
Income		
ActBlue	\$1,238.96	\$461.00
Other Donation	\$40.00	
Expenses		
Fundraiser Ck 240	-\$114.55	
Checks	-\$16.97	
New Balance 24-Aug-21	\$2,876.49	\$3,337.49

Committee Vacancies in Saugerties Election District (ED) 4 and ED 9

Christine Dinsmore noted that Justine Tomkiell chooses to remain an Associate Member for ED 4 and thus withdraws her Voting Member candidacy. Deena Turner, Associate Member for ED 16, was nominated by Bill Barr and seconded by Tim Scott. Barbara Gardner was nominated by

Lauren Ruberg and seconded Katherine Smith. The vote was held using OpaVote. Results: Deena Turner—21 votes (2 by email); Barbara Gardner—4 votes. Deena Turner is elected as a Voting Member for ED 4.

Anna Markowitz was nominated by Nejla Lias to become the second Associate Member for ED 9 and seconded by Christine. Results of the open vote: 22 in favor, none opposed.

Election and Campaign Considerations

SDC Elections Fundraiser 9/9: Margo reported that volunteers are needed to set up, staff and break down from the event. Christine reported that the food deposit—\$1200, half the anticipated total—is due Sept. 2 to Seasoned Delicious. The Chair moved to authorize the deposit, seconded by Skip Arthur. The motion passed without objection. The balance is due to Seasoned Delicious on delivery 9/9.

Other payments are due in advance to cover expenses including beer and nonalcoholic beverages. Skip moved to authorize payments of additional expenses up to a cap of \$2,000, seconded by Margo McGilvrey. The motion passed without objection. Existing sales alone have generated more than enough to cover these expenses. Covid protocols will be sent to all Act Blue purchasers and prominently posted. Members are asked to send the Covid protocols to the people who buy tickets from them. Masks will be on hand.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N): Kevin reported that volunteers are still being sought.

Candidate Campaigns: Town Board: Kevin reported that Fred's team is in touch with him and Kayleigh and Fred himself has volunteered to help. Because of early voting (from 10/23-10/31/21) and absentee voting, the campaign time window is reduced this year. Campaign volunteers are welcome. *County Legislature District 1:* Aaron welcomes volunteers. Lanny stressed that the County Democratic Committee is targeting this seat, and noted the importance to the whole county of increasing the Dem margin in the Legislature. *County Legislature District 2:* Katherine Smith reported that the LD2 campaign will launch starting Labor Day and encouraged volunteering for LDs 2 and 3. *Town Supervisor (unopposed):* Mike Harkavy reported that fifteen 4' x 6' signs will promote all 3 Town candidates, along with a planned bulk mailing.

Judicial Campaigns: Democratic NYS Supreme Court and Ulster County Family Court candidates are all unopposed, along with the campaign for Comptroller (March Gallagher). The Chair noted that this puts more responsibility on the down-ballot campaigns to turn out the vote.

Community Issues--Town

Resolution Supporting Masks in the Saugerties Public Schools: Kathy Gordon moved to pass this Resolution, seconded by Rick Cousin. The Resolution provides for its distribution to the School District, community, and town, county and state government. After discussion and a vote, the motion passed by 16 votes to 4.

Lanny noted the recommendation due to reduced student population to close Grant D. Morse Elementary School.

--Village

Tim Scott, a Saugerties Library Trustee, noted the upcoming budget and trustee election on Sept. 2. The \$650K budget does not increase the tax levy. Two trustee candidates, including

Deena Turner, are on the ballot for five-year terms; another one-year vacancy has also arisen. It is possible to vote by absentee ballot at the Library.

Ulster County Issues—Election Inspectors: Bill Barr reported that the Board of Elections is recruiting and training returning and new election inspectors for the November elections. It may be important to guard against election inspectors who may bring right-wing political biases with them to the job. The pay rate is \$15/hr. The Chair noted the importance of a balanced and objective group of election inspectors.

Resolution in Support March On for Voting Rights: The Chair moved to adopt the resolution as circulated before the meeting, seconded by Louise Bloomfield. Rick Cousin offered an amendment to the second paragraph, seconded by Justine Tomkiell. The amendment passed without objection. The resolution as amended passed without objection.

Announcements:

Aaron Levine noted the release of the US Census results, including Saugerties' population loss of 2.8% or approximately 450 people.

Aaron reported on the state Independent Redistricting Commission hearing [held August 2] for the Mid-Hudson region, which focused mostly on Westchester and Rockland counties. Kathy Nolan advocated against the existing split of Ulster County among four State Senate districts. The Commission's first draft of the revised maps is due for release Sept. 15, to be followed by another round of public comment before the maps are presented to the Legislature for approval.

Adjournment

Justine Tomkiell moved to adjourn, seconded by Pam Ross. The motion passed without objection, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary