



Saugerties Democratic Committee July 26, 2022 Monthly Meeting Minutes Senior Center and Zoom, 7:00pm

Chair Nejla Liias began by thanking the members and volunteers who arrived early to participate in the postcarding session to get out the vote in the August 23 Special and Primary elections.

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Gilda Riccardi, Liz Buono, Andrew Zink, Justine Tomkiell, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Nejla Liias, Mike Harkavy, Kathy Gordon, Louise Bloomfield, Nicole Roskos, Cara Stammler, Kevin Freeman, Hélène Lesterlin, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Guests: Dan Torres, Ian Borrero, Lisa Nicholas, Nina Schmidbaur

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Justine Tomkiell and seconded by Kevin Freeman to approve the draft Minutes of the June 29 Monthly Meeting and the July 14 Organizing Meeting, which had been previously circulated. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the treasurer the secretary presented the report:

	Actual	
Beginning Balance		
29-Jun-22		\$3,602.60
Income		
ActBlue Donations	\$153.64	
Cash	\$20.00	
Total Income		\$173.64
Expenses		
Check #261 Town (Fundraiser)	(\$35.00)	
Check #262 Town (Fundraiser)	(\$470.00)	
Check #263 Pat Ryan for CD19	(\$500.00)	
Check #264 Justine (Parade)	(\$124.98)	
Total Expenses		(\$1,129.98)
New Balance		
26-Jul-22		\$2,646.26

A motion was made by Gilda Riccardi and seconded by Liz Buono to approve the Treasurer's report; the motion passed without objection.

Nejla welcomed guests. She introduced Dan Torres, manager of the Ryan campaign. Dan stressed that turnout is crucial and our efforts will need to overcome a huge ad buy on the opponent's side. He pointed out that a Ryan win would be a big assist for the primary winner in the new 19th district. Field organizer Ian Borrero noted that a win depends on the amount of volunteers' voter engagement that will take place within the coming four weeks. Dan noted that Pat is the only candidate willing to talk both about fundamental freedoms and about economic accomplishments. He pointed to the revitalization of Tech City along with the investments in a marijuana facility in the Ellenville area and in small businesses countywide during the pandemic. The campaign is very active and on the scene throughout the existing NY19, making big efforts to contain the opponent's margins even in counties Pat is unlikely to win.

Campaign Strategy

Nejla reviewed the Special and Primary Election schedule, with early voting beginning August 13 for the August 23 elections.

Kathy Gordon noted that we can't officially coordinate with the candidate campaigns. We will send postcards to Dems for whom we have no phone nos. or email. We will set up a phonebank for Saugerties accessible to any volunteer (no autodialer involved). We will focus on Dems first and then help out the Ryan campaign with any additional targets. We are not planning to do primary canvasses at this stage. Members are encouraged to seek canvass turfs from the candidate campaigns. Kathy noted the recent Politico article and its reference to the Dem second homeowner registration efforts. Bottom line--Voters need a very simple lesson: Two Ballots; Two Votes; one Election Day, early voting, VOTE!

Nejla announced a Saugerties Pat Ryan campaign canvass for August 7.

Turning to the General Election campaign, Mike Harkavy will coordinate canvass efforts for the whole town, in partnership with Liz Buono. A key decision is whether we have the resources for an office.

The next monthly meeting is moved to August 30 to assimilate the primary results, and will be Zoom only.

Liz Buono outlined absentee ballot procedures for this primary. Covid-19 concern is a valid reason to request an absentee ballot through December 2022. Nejla noted the early voting location in Saugerties. The Board of Elections has moved to a new office space in Kingston, in the old Daily Freeman building.

Endorsement Discussion: Primary in New CD19

Members and guests exchanged views about endorsing. Mike Harkavy noted that as County Committee members we are already committed to the County-endorsed candidate Josh Riley. There's an inherent process problem when the County endorses before the Town, which needs a broader look than this one election. The Executive Committee will research and come up with recommendations on how to handle such situations in the future. It is important to give a clear message to the Town's voters.

Liz Buono moved to close discussion; Justine Tomkiell seconded. Discussion was closed. Liz Buono moved to vote on whether to have an endorsement vote at a special meeting at least ten days after this

meeting, seconded by Christine Dinsmore. The motion failed; the Saugerties Democratic Committee will not hold an endorsement vote.

Christine raised the question of how to message on social media. Nejla will raise this with the County Chair. Meanwhile, any reference to Josh Riley can legitimately carry the information that he is endorsed by Ulster County Democrats.

Other Endorsements and Related Issues

Nejla reported that the County Committee pushed back against the SDC after the Assembly primary campaign. Their concern was about the SDC announcing upcoming GOTV events for both primary candidates to its email list. The SDC's idea was to provide information objectively, given that the Town Committee had not made any endorsement precluding that.

Other Campaign Issues

Louise Bloomfield reported that a second homeowner flyer is available for people to distribute to acquaintances who may be registered elsewhere and consider re-registering in Ulster County. The flyer will be made available on the SDC website.

Our Sept. 8 fundraiser is upcoming. Ticket prices are being held at the 2021 levels. Expectations are that each member will sell a minimum of 10 tickets.

Other Business

Justine and Cara Stammler appealed for members and associates to send photos to the Social Committee for the Get to Know Me narrated slideshow series.

Announcements

Meet and Greet for Jamie Cheney and Josh Riley are happening in the area in the near future. Nejla, Bob Gelbach and Christine will host one for Josh Riley at Nejla's property on Aug. 1 to be headlined by former U.S. Senator Al Franken.

Aug.13 at Cantine Field is the Caribbean Carnival date; SDC has a space. Thanks to Nancy Schaefer, Lanny Walter and Barb Boyce for staffing the UC County Fair's Democracy Tent presence for Saugerties.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mike Harkavy and seconded by Liz Buono, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary