



Saugerties Democratic Committee June 29, 2022 Monthly Meeting Minutes Saugerties Senior Center and Zoom, 7:00pm

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Liz Buono, Kathy Gordon, Ken Kleinberg (Acting), Bill Barr, Pam Ross, Justine Tomkiell, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Nejla Liias, Louise Bloomfield, Sue Breen, Tim Scott, Nicole Roskos, Brigid Walsh, Bob Gelbach, Joe Maloney, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Barbara Boyce, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Associate Members: Andrew Zink

Guests: Chris Allen, Marsha Franklin, David Gordon, Gary Hustwit, Cheryl Qamar, Nina Schmidbaur, John Tucker

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Christine Dinsmore and seconded by Liz Buono to approve the draft Minutes of the April 24, 2022 meeting, which had been previously circulated. The motion passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Bill Barr and seconded by Pam Ross to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed without objection.

	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

The Chair, Nejla Liias, welcomed guests and invited them to introduce themselves.

Gun Show Outcome

Nejla reflected on the Executive Committee's role in writing to the Town Board voicing concern about the planned gun show. It perfectly demonstrates the Monitoring component of the Committee's strategy. The Town Board meeting's public comment period on the issue drew 180 people in person and additional online participants, with civil exchanges of views that lasted some two hours. At least one Town Board member changed their position as a result of the community input. Lanny Walter noted that we additionally planned and publicized a peaceful demonstration adjacent to the show had it taken place. Nejla invited more committee members to participate in monitoring our elected officials and ongoing issues.

Campaign Strategy and Work

Nejla reviewed the races ahead, and spoke about the committee's having sent out information on campaign events for both Assembly District candidates in the recent primary. We will clarify guidelines on doing this in cases where the county makes an endorsement and the town does not. Sarahana Shrestha, who won the primary both districtwide and in Ulster County, and her campaign had knocked a very large number of doors. The amount of negative literature against both candidates from organizations not affiliated with the campaigns set an unfortunate precedent: "Negativity is not a good way to encourage people to vote." Ulster County had the highest turnout percentage of Democrats in all the state, at 31%, more than twice the 15% statewide figure.

Kathy Gordon outlined the communications strategy for the two elections on August 23: Primary for the new CD19, Special Election for the old CD19. The issue is turnout. We will mail postcards provided by Indivisible Ulster to 800 voters for whom we don't have email or phone contact, and to newly registered voters. At the July 26 monthly meeting, the Senior Center will be available half an hour before the SDC meeting starts for people to come and prepare postcards for mail. We will also put out an email explaining that voters need to apply for separate absentee ballots for each. Just before early voting starts, we will email another 900 Dems for whom we have email addresses. We will also do a phone bank for 2000+ Dems for whom we have phone nos., likely August 1-5. Campaigns will plan canvasses for which we can help get volunteers, but we will gear up our canvassing efforts after the primary.

Kathy noted that Andy Cowan is coordinating letters to the editor and asked people interested in contributing them to contact Andy. Jerry Cohen is coordinating postcard campaigns, locally and to other states. Non-committee members are welcome to participate and engage friends in this effort. Mike Harkavy will coordinate the fall canvass efforts, and is looking for a partner to help with this. We may produce a series of short videos.

Budget Issues

Kathy Gordon moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$525 for postage of the Indivisible Ulster postcards, seconded by Lanny Walter. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Ryan's campaign has requested \$500 from each municipal committee ahead of the 6/30 fundraising deadline. Christine spoke in favor of this and moved to approve it, seconded by Margo McGilvrey. The motion passed unanimously. Lanny urged all to consider individual contributions; Nejla noted a fundraiser for Pat to take place in Saugerties on June 30.

Candidate Events

Bob Gelbach noted the upcoming CD19 Democratic primary candidate forum in Saugerties on July 21 and that we will have an opportunity to consider endorsement five days later and asked the Executive Committee to include it on the agenda.

Organizing Meeting for 2022-2024

The organizing meeting will be over Zoom only, on July 14 at 7pm. Nejlá explained the start of the new term and the need to elect officers at this meeting, and invited candidates for officer positions. Louise Bloomfield expressed the Committee's thanks to the departing members of the 2020-2022 committee as well as to the continuing members. Lanny explained that the legal requirement that the County committee reorganize in September is still standing. The Town committees have an obligation to organize within 25 days of the June 28 primary.

Mike Harkavy noted that non-SDC members can also seek nomination to committee offices; nominations must be made and seconded by elected committee members. A guide to the procedures to follow at the meeting will be circulated in advance. Nejlá emphasized the importance of this meeting to launch the new term and the crucial importance of members' proactive participation in committee activities.

July 4 Parade

Plans are under way for the parade, and everyone is invited to join in. We will promote our participation on social media. Details of exact position and rules about signs and other displays are to come.

SDC Strategy Updates

Community Mapping: The County committee is leading this effort. Saugerties town leads are Rick Cousin and Barbara Boyce. The aim is to generate a breakdown of power and influencers in the community so that candidates from outside this area know, e.g., where to hold events, whom to ask to events, and how the town works.

Ulster County Racial Equity Report: This report was recently released by March Gallagher. She will hold an open presentation and discussion of the report's findings with Rashida Tyler and Dafne DeJesus, on July 12 over Zoom.

[In Nejlá's absence, Lanny Walter chaired the remainder of the meeting.]

Neighbor to Neighbor: Kevin stressed that this work involves "the friendliest of the friendlies" and how important it is to reach out to people before the campaign.

Second Homeowners: Louise announced two countywide events at Kingston headquarters July 9 and July 12 to mail re-registration information to second homeowners countywide. She also offered a flyer with re-registration information, to pass along to second homeowners that members or their friends might know.

Program Committee/Fundraising Committee: Margo announced the July 21 Candidate Forum for new CD19 and moved to approve an amount of up to \$200 for refreshments and supplies at the event, seconded by Liz Buono. The motion passed unanimously.

The SDC Fall Fundraiser will take place the evening of Sept. 8, at the Cantine Pavilion, with catering and music provided by the same teams as last year. Margo moved to authorize expenditure of \$2000 to secure the space and the caterer, seconded by Skip Arthur. The motion passed unanimously. Total expenses in 2021 were about \$4000; the \$2000 amount is for needed advance payments, which may be needed before ticket revenue is collected. Last year's fundraiser raised more than \$5,600 (net of expenses), the most these events have ever raised. Bill Barr encouraged Act Blue donations.

Get to Know Me

Margo McGilvrey, Bill Barr, Skip Arthur and Brigid Walsh introduced themselves and spoke about their backgrounds as illustrated by photos.

Michelle Hinchey Fundraiser

Lanny announced this upcoming fundraiser at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston.

SDC August Meeting

Kathy moved to reschedule our August meeting to Wednesday, August 24 at the Senior Center, seconded by Kevin Freeman. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business, Christine moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Liz Buono. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary