



Saugerties Democratic Committee

September 27, 2022 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Senior Center and Zoom, 7:00pm

Roll Call

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

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

Guests: AD103 Candidate Sarahana Shrestha, Town Supervisor Fred Costello, Chris Allen, Paul Andreassen, Marjorie Leopold, John Schoonmaker, John Stegmayer, Leslie Surprenant, John Tucker

Approval of Minutes

Kevin Freeman moved to approve the draft Minutes of the August 30 meeting, seconded by Margo McGilvrey. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Barr presented the Treasurer's Report and Mike Harkavy moved for its approval, seconded by Christine Dinsmore. The motion passed.

SDC TREASURER REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

	Actual		Pending
Beginning Balance			
30-Aug-22	\$3,097.09		
Income			
ActBlue Donations (Recurring)	\$144.08	Pavilion Refund	\$250.00
ActBlue Donations (Fundraiser)	\$4,567.76		
Cash, Checks (Fundraiser)	\$3,096.16		
Total Income	\$7,808.00		
Expenses			
Check # 268 Meals (Fundraiser)	(\$1,100.00)		
Check # 269 (Plaque)	(\$99.88)		
Check #271 (Fundraiser)	(\$277.28)		
Check# 272 Meals (Fundraiser)	(\$1,100.00)		
Check#273 Beer, Ice (Fundraiser)	(\$206.24)		
Total Expenses	(\$2,783.40)		

New Balance

27-Sep-22

\$8,121.69



\$8,371.69

Fundraiser Recap

The fundraiser netted more than \$5,000—about \$1500 more than last year’s total, which was boosted by \$1000 from the Ryan campaign. This year Josh Riley purchased \$500 worth of tickets. Expenses were higher than last year’s.

Future planning notes: Fundraisers need more volunteers for setup. This crowd was smaller than last year’s, though the income was greater--a date less close to the first day of school might have allowed more people to attend, but the Senior Center was not available the following week. Personal phone calls sold a lot of physical tickets, while the online sales channel allows contributors to donate on top of the ticket price. A graphic a bit lighter than this year’s might be helpful. The band, and dancing, are a must-have feature for future SDC fundraisers.

SDC General Election Campaign

- **Office**

Chair Nejla Liias reported that a lease has been signed by the State Democratic Committee for our campaign headquarters, at 262 Main St. Lanny Walter, Kevin Freeman and Kathy Gordon helped locate and view potential spaces. At the last SDC meeting we allocated up to \$2500 to a rent contribution—how much of that will be needed is not yet known. Office Manager Bob Gelbach noted the office hours: Monday to Friday, 11:00am-5:00pm. Canvassers will use the office on weekends. Committee members are encouraged to sign up for staffing shifts; a spreadsheet will be circulated to track shifts. Bob and Kathy will provide keys or access to staffers during the week; canvass leaders will provide access on weekends.

- **Meet & Greet**

The Committee will host an office opening reception October 7, 5:00-7:00 pm, a meet & greet event for as many candidates as can be there. Most or all of the refreshments needed are already on hand, left over from the fundraiser.

- **Campaign Coordination**

Nejla thanked the SDC for its strong attendance at the County Convention and emphasized the importance of boosting Jen Metzger’s County Executive campaign as much as possible.

Kathy Gordon noted that Saugerties canvassing has already begun, running through the Riley campaign’s VAN database and coordinated by Mike Harkavy and Liz Buono. Phonebanking will be run in conjunction with the Riley campaign. The Riley campaign has hired someone from the Ryan campaign who will work regularly from our office. Christine Dinsmore is the County

Committee's liaison to the Hinchey campaign and is contact with the Figueroa campaign, which has worked with the Metzger campaign to produce a two-candidate palmcard. The Shrestha campaign is operating independently of any Democratic party organization, though she is listed on the County's customized flyer for the towns, which our canvassers will carry. The County campaign support committee is very active and effective. Tim Scott is our yard sign coordinator; Jerry Cohen is working on postcards to voters (local and out of state). Nejla and Kevin stressed how important it is for Committee members to step up and volunteer.

- ***Candidate Campaign Events***

October 6 is Michelle Hinchey's fundraiser in Saugerties. October 9 is Juan Figueroa's salsa party/fundraiser. October 20 is a Josh Riley fundraiser in Saugerties.

- ***SDC Campaign Expenditures***

Kathy Gordon noted that the fundraiser's success enables the Committee to contribute \$2000 to candidate campaigns, spend \$1500 on campaign literature/postage and supplies, and still have a balance of \$2400. She moved to allocate up to \$1500 for campaign and office expenses, seconded by Christine Dinsmore. The motion passed unanimously. She then moved to spend up to \$2000 total on campaign donations to the Riley, Hinchey, Shrestha and Metzger campaigns. (County Sheriff Juan Figueroa's re-election candidacy is unopposed; Town Justice candidate Chris Kraft has not approached us about a donation.) Margo McGilvrey offered an amendment to allocate the full \$2000; Lanny offered one to specify a donation of \$500 to each of the four campaigns. Kathy made the amended motion seconded by Mike Harkavy, which passed unanimously.

Assembly Candidate Sarahana Shrestha

Sarahana Shrestha explained that their campaign is focusing on a few towns in the district, including Saugerties. They already canvassed Saugerties extensively during the primary season. For the general election they already got to almost 700 doors in the town. Ulster and Esopus are other towns where they are finding unaffiliated and disengaged voters. They are doing what they can to turn out the Democratic base, especially young voters. They will do a GOTV sweep close to the election. They are carrying literature for Jen Metzger and Michelle Hinchey but not for the Congressional candidates, and sharing survey response voter IDs with the Hinchey campaign. Sarahana's campaign will provide a talking points sheet and as many palmcards as they can for Saugerties canvassers.

Community Updates

- ***Resignation of Town Justice***

Lanny noted that former Town Justice Claudia Andreassen called him to inform us that she has resigned her position. The Town Board is tasked with appointing a replacement for the remaining two years (approximately) of her term.

- **Winston Farm**

Following the Town Board's public hearing, Skip Arthur noted that October 1 is the deadline to receive public comment on the draft scoping document. Comments can be submitted to the Town Clerk or on a web page for the purpose. The Town Board will then rework the scoping document incorporating the public comments before the document is handed over to the developers. The CAC/Climate Smart commission has asked the Town Board for a public review of the final scoping document before it goes to the developers, who will then address it in an Environmental Impact Statement.

- **Affordable Housing in Saugerties**

Marjorie Leopold and others in Saugerties are forming a Saugerties Housing Committee. Ulster County has formed the Housing Smart Communities Initiative (HSCI), headed by Kai Lord Farmer, whose purpose is to support municipalities in tackling the housing crisis. The website is <https://hsci.ulstercountyny.gov/about/>. Marjorie asked interested SDC members to provide their contact information. Joe Maloney and Justine Tomkiell did so. High on the HSCI priority list are Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and adopting a homesharing program. Joe Maloney noted that he has a resolution before the Legislature regarding the regulation of short-term rentals and an increase to the bed tax. Marjorie noted the importance of using local construction firms and resources to carry out the work.

- **Other Business**

Nejla thanked Justine and the other members who set up and attended the Sept. 24 brunch.

The Town Board has appointed Jill Zarccone Receiver of Taxes and Diana Friedman bookkeeper, replacing Julie Dunn.

There being no other business, Rick Cousin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kathy Gordon; the meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary
