



**Saugerties Democratic Committee**  
**November 22, 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:* Ken Kleinberg, Andrew Zink, Bill Barr, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Nejla Liias, Kathy Gordon, Louise Bloomfield, Tim Scott, Brigid Walsh, Joe Maloney, Bob Gelbach, Kevin Freeman, Sakinah Irizarry, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Anna Markowitz, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine.

*Guests:* Larry Alexander, Chris Allen, Jerry Cohen, Nina Schmidbaur

**Approval of Minutes**

Bob Gelbach moved to approve the draft Minutes of the October 25 Committee meeting, seconded by Margo McGilvrey. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer detailed our campaign support expenses, including for the office Open House and the full-page Environment Bond Act ad in *Hudson Valley One*, for which contributions from a few other participating town committees are still expected to come in. Louise Bloomfield moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mike Harkavy. The motion passed.

**SDC TREASURER REPORT NOVEMBER 2022**

	Actual		Pending
<b>Beginning Balance</b>			
25-Oct-22		\$6,461.30	
<b>Income</b>			
ActBlue Donations (Recurring)	\$158.43		
Cash, Checks	\$475.00		
<b>Total Income</b>		\$633.43	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Check#280 (Campaign)	(514.57)		
Check#281 (Campaign)	(125.00)		
Check#282 (Campaign Ofc)	(208.47)		
Check# 283 (Campaign)	(104.19)		
Check#285 (Campaign)	(145.80)		
Check #286 Jen Metzger	(\$500.00)		
Check#287 Michelle Hinchey	(\$500.00)		
		Check#293 Wm Barr	-400

Check#288 Sarahana Shrestha	(\$500.00)		
Check#289 Heidi Cochrane	(\$100.00)		
Check#290 Sharan Graff	(\$100.00)		
Check# 291 Meagan Galligan	(\$100.00)		
Check#292 Hudson Valley One	(\$1,550.00)		
<b>Total Expenses</b>		(\$4,448.03)	
<b>New Balance</b>			
22-Nov-22		\$2,646.70	\$2,246.70

Bill noted that Vice Chair Kevin Freeman is now authorized to sign checks for the Committee and that Zoom expenses will be charged direct to the SDC's new debit card going forward.

**2022 General Election (GE) Review**

Kathy Gordon presented data for the Congressional district. Josh Riley got majority vote shares in only Ulster, Columbia and Tompkins counties out of the 11 wholly or partly in CD19. (Per Riley's campaign, \$6.2 million was spent in campaign ads against him, and Zeldin's numbers drove Hochul's campaign to focus heavily on NYC late in the campaign while Zeldin was highly visible upstate.) Official results for Saugerties are not yet available; unofficially, total turnout in the town was 8,867 ballots cast.

Mike Harkavy reported on Saugerties canvassing. Targets were set by the DCCC until the final GOTV week, when all candidates' lists were pooled. Saugerties canvassers spoke to 1,370 people in person during the GE campaign, out of 3,165 doors approached. Volunteers from Moms Demand Action and Westchester County Dems helped in Saugerties, and our canvassers also helped out in Hurley and Kingston. Mike and the committee thanked the top canvassers, who include members Nejlá Liias, Nicole Roskos, Rick Cousin and Lanny Walter.

Rick pointed out the value of being able to canvass on one's own schedule rather than as part of "events" organized by the candidate campaigns, and said most of the people he canvassed seemed both informed and engaged. Mike noted the need for as much advance coordination as possible between future national/state/district-wide candidate campaigns and the local committees. Kathy observed that the county committee's leverage is crucial in getting candidate campaigns to work with the towns. Christine explained that this year with two Congressional races to support, the county committee did not coordinate the campaign as it had done in 2018. Instead, candidates' campaigns together worked out coverage and logistics in districts where they overlapped, and the county committee supported their implementation.

Bob Gelbach reported that 19 volunteers had helped staff the office and ensured it was open all the scheduled hours. Obtaining timely canvass packet materials from candidate campaigns was consistently challenging. Jerry Cohen reported on the 1000 postcards he received from Indivisible Ulster that were sent out to female Dems aged 65+, urging them to vote. 500 were

mostly written by SDC office volunteers; Jerry did 250 himself and found other volunteers for the remainder. Christine mentioned Steve Charney's highly effective videos that we deployed on social media. The lawn sign deployment led by Tim Scott was another successful initiative.

Kevin noted the county's strength compared to some other parts of CD19 and suggested reaching out to offer assistance to other counties. He noted the Shrestha campaign's success in reaching voters our campaigns don't normally talk to—Dems who do not regularly vote.

Rick and Margo McGilvrey will organize a volunteer thank you party, likely in January 2023.

### **County and State Redistricting**

A suit has been launched to compel Ulster County legislative districts to be redrawn before the 2023 Legislature elections. Assembly districts will also be redrawn for the 2025 election.

### **Upcoming Elections**

Margo moved to donate \$100 to the Rafael Warnock 2022 runoff campaign in Georgia, seconded by Bob Gelbach. Lanny moved to amend the amount to \$200, and Margo accepted. The motion passed.

Nejla previewed our 2023 elections for County Executive, County Legislature, Town Supervisor, Town Board and Town Justice, and noted that we need to implement Neighbor to Neighbor for 2023 starting at the beginning of the year. Christine is in touch with Amy Fradon about this. The Committee will also plan a spring fundraiser.

### **Announcements and Community Updates**

#### *Town Updates*

Skip Arthur reported on a useful presentation by town planning consultant Adriana Beltrani about Winston Farm and the SEQR process.

Nejla reported a vacancy on the committee following the resignation of Sue Breen (Election District 8).

Margo reported on the [Saugerties Snow Moon Festival](#) scheduled for Feb. 3-5. It will promote local businesses and benefit the food bank.

Nejla reported that Stan O'Dell has officially been sworn in as Town Judge and is also replacing the Village judge, who is ill, on an interim basis.

Andrew Zink reported that the Village Planning Board has approved the "Esopus Ice House," a 12-unit multifamily housing development on Hill St. The Library will host a festival of trees as part of the Village holiday celebrations.

Kevin reported from the Zoning Board that argument is continuing over the proposed Verizon Tower and that AirBnB inquiries continue to flood in.

### *County Updates*

Lanny Walter reported that the Legislature is looking into making its proceedings bilingual. There is a commitment to acquire property in New Paltz for a new County government operations center that will include 911 operations, whose current facility is inadequate. A \$3 million bond has been authorized for the purpose. Other pending projects include a Shandaken Rail Trail for \$664,000. Much of the Legislature's work is done within the party caucuses. The meeting to approve the 2023 County budget will be Dec. 5.

Lanny announced a new County Democratic Committee bylaws committee of which he is chair.

Nejla appealed for volunteers for the weekly UIDN food distribution, Wednesdays, 4-6pm at Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Church.

There being no other business, Mike Harkavy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rick Cousin. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.