



## Saugerties Democratic Committee July 14, 2022 Organizing Meeting Minutes Zoom, 7:00pm

### **Roll Call**

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

*Voting Members:* Gilda Riccardi, Liz Buono, Ken Kleinberg, Andrew Zink, Pam Ross, Bill Barr, Justine Tomkiell, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Nejla Liias, Michael Harkavy, Kathy Gordon, Louise Bloomfield, Sue Breen, Nancy Schaef, Cara Stammner, Kevin Freeman, Sakinah Irizarry, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Barbara Boyce, Josef Hinchey, Anna Markowitz, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

### **Election of Officers**

Outgoing Chair Nejla Liias and the Committee welcomed the newly elected Committee members, including Sakinah Irizarry, Anna Markowitz—newly appointed chief of staff to state Senator Michelle Hinchey—and former associate members Ken Kleinberg and Andrew Zink. Outgoing Secretary Louise Bloomfield called the roll by election district. Nejla listed the candidates for office known to the Committee so far: Chair, Nejla Liias; First Vice Chair, Kevin Freeman; Second Vice Chair, Kathy Gordon; Secretary, Louise Bloomfield; Treasurer, Bill Barr.

Lanny Walter nominated Michael Harkavy temporary Chair, seconded by Louise Bloomfield. The motion passed unanimously. Nejla nominated Liz Buono temporary secretary, seconded by Christine Dinsmore. The motion passed unanimously.

Temporary Chair Harkavy determined that 24 voting members out of 32 were present at the meeting. He read out the portion of the previously circulated document Procedures for the Election of Officers that relates to nominations and seconds. He then called for nominations. Rick Cousin nominated Louise Bloomfield for Secretary, seconded by Andrew Zink. Margo McGilvrey moved to nominate the entire slate of officers: Louise Bloomfield, Secretary; Bill Barr, Treasurer; Kathy Gordon, Second Vice Chair; Kevin Freeman, First Vice Chair; Nejla Liias, Chair. The motion was seconded by Christine Dinsmore. After brief discussion, Christine Dinsmore moved to withdraw the single nomination of Louise Bloomfield for Secretary in favor of voting on the full slate, seconded by Rick Cousin. Both motions passed unanimously.

Margo then formally nominated each officer on the slate in turn and highlighted Lanny's contributions over many years on the Committee and as Chair until 2022. The slate nomination was seconded by Justine Tomkiell.

There being no other nominations, the Temporary Secretary Buono cast a vote on behalf of the entire Committee to elect the officer slate.

### **Donation to Michelle Hinchey Campaign**

Nejla reported that Michelle had requested a donation of \$500 from the SDC after the last regular meeting, to meet a filing deadline of July 11. With no time to call for a committee vote, Nejla donated that sum on the committee's behalf, taking on a risk that the committee would not approve a donation

of that amount. She now requests reimbursement of \$500. Bill Barr reported that both fundraiser advance sales and monthly Act Blue donations individually would cover that amount. Even without these revenue streams, this payment could be made and still leave more than a \$500 balance. Aaron Levine moved to reimburse Nejla the \$500 donation to the Hinchey campaign, seconded by Justine Tomkiell. Mike Harkavy moved to provide \$500 to Michelle's campaign, seconded by Kathy Gordon. Lanny Walter registered his objection to this practice, fearing that committee funds would be too depleted and deploring that Michelle's request had come too late for due consideration by the full committee in advance of the deadline. Nejla agreed that this was not good practice and undertook to tell Michelle that this could never be repeated. Liz urged that we communicate to Michelle's campaign that this is not acceptable practice, precisely because her victory is so important. Bill reiterated that the SDC treasury is not being depleted and explained that Nejla made the donation individually; the Executive Committee simply agreed to the full committee considering the request, and Nejla's request for reimbursement, at this meeting. He agreed that this is not best practice. Kathy also agreed and urged that our processes improve. Christine noted that the filing deadline was known to Michelle and her campaign far in advance and that we should not cut any candidate any particular slack going forward. Nancy Schaefer asked why Michelle's request came so late; no one on the committee has been given a reason. Both the motion to donate \$500 to the Michelle Hinchey campaign and the motion to reimburse Nejla the advance donation passed.

### **Ulster County Fair and Democracy Tent**

Town committees are encouraged to staff two tables in the Democracy Tent at the Ulster County Fair in New Paltz at specific four-hour shifts August 2-7. Lanny pointed out that outside Kingston we are the largest municipal committee and could even cover more than one slot. Seven hands were raised to indicate availability and interest. The Saugerties date is provisionally Saturday, August 6, 10am-2pm. Staff will hand out literature, educate kids about voting, etc. Candidates may also be on hand.

### **Other Business/Announcements**

The SDC New CD19 Candidate Forum is on July 21, and arrangements are all in place, with registrations coming in.

The SDC's next regular meeting is Tuesday, July 26. It will start early, at 6:30pm at the Senior Center, with writing and mailing postcards from Indivisible Ulster urging Dems to vote August 23.

Liz noted the phenomenal traction and coverage that the County's "I Voted" contest has garnered, especially on social media and in the press.

Nejla noted that the recorded Ulster County Racial Equity Report discussion is now posted to the SDC YouTube channel.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary