



Saugerties Democratic Committee

September 26, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Senior Center, 7:00pm

Roll Call

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

Voting Members: Liz Buono, Ken Kleinberg, Andrew Zink, Bill Barr, Sakinah Irizarry, Skip Arthur, Mike Harkavy, Nejlá Liias, Kathy Gordon, Louise Blomfield, Nancy Schaef, Nicole Roskos, Barbara Boyce, Joe Maloney, Bob Gelbach, Kevin Freeman, Margo McGilvrey, Rick Cousin, Anna Markowitz, Lanny Walter, Aaron Levine

Guests: State Sen. Michelle Hinchey, Chris Allen, Teresa Giordano, Sheila Healey, Libby Post, Aimee Richter

Approval of Minutes

Margo McGilvrey moved to approve the draft Minutes of the August 29, 2023 SDC meeting, seconded by Liz Buono; the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Bill Barr presented the Treasurer's Report. Liz Buono moved to approve the report, seconded by Louise Bloomfield; the motion passed.

SDC TREASURER REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

	Actual	
Beginning Balance		
29-Aug-23		\$2,711.59
Income		
ActBlue Donations SDC	103.22	24.00
ActBlue D&DfD	5,135.38	677.12
SDC Tkt Sales	1,299.00	
Meeting Collection	41.00	
Total Income		\$6,578.60
Expenses		
Check 306 Friends of Aimee	(250.00)	
Check 307 Keith Gurgui	(250.00)	
Check 308 Friends of Leeanne	(250.00)	
Check 309 K. Gordon New Dems	(121.06)	
Check 310 Stone Pony	(4,035.20)	
Check 311 M. McGilvrey Beer	(174.94)	

PENDING

Sr. Ctr Refund	250.00
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Zoom CC Payment	(15.99)		
Total Expenses		(\$5,097.19)	
New Balance			
26-Sep-23		\$4,193.00	\$5,144.12

FALL FUNDRAISER RESULTS (Projected)

Fundraiser Receipts			
Act Blue	7,668.36		
Ticket Sales	1,299.00		
Subtotal		\$8,967.36	
Fundraiser Expenses			
Meals	-4,035.20		
Pavilion	-250.00		
Other	-405.29		
Subtotal		(\$4,690.49)	
Fundraiser Net		\$4,276.87	

State Senator Michelle Hinchey

Chair Nejla Liias welcomed guests and introduced Sen. Hinchey. Sen. Hinchey spoke about bills she has sponsored as chair of the state Senate Agriculture Committee and as a member of the Cultural Affairs, Tourism & Parks, Energy & Telecommunications, Environmental Conservation, Finance, Local Government, and Transportation committees. A Senate bill to set goals and thresholds for state agencies for farm-fresh food purchases did not pass the Assembly, but Gov. Hochul has now implemented it by executive order. As of today, almost every school district in our Senate district, including Saugerties, is now eligible for free breakfast and lunch for all students, per a bill that she co-sponsored. Universal pre-K will be phased in statewide; 50 spots are available in Saugerties this year. New environmental protection funding legislation secured an agroforestry line that will compensate farmers for forest management for carbon sequestration. A bill to decarbonize state agencies has been passed and signed. They also got \$25mm direct funding for volunteer fire departments. They are working for a statewide sales tax on short-term rentals and have crafted a bill that would create a statewide registry of short-term accommodations, which communities lacking their own registry could use to control STRs. That did not pass the Assembly this year. A bill preventing utilities from back-billing for charges older than two months has passed both houses.

Sen. Hinchey discussed her constituent services work and some other major legislation enacted this session, including the Clean Slate Act and the recently signed legislation prohibiting discharge of nuclear waste into the Hudson. She is also seeking to ensure farmland preservation amid large renewable energy

developments, and working on educating NYC Mayor Adams, the new city Water Commissioner and other NYC officials about the importance of protecting the watershed.

November Elections

Nejla identified the local campaign committee members leading the various campaign operations. Liz Buono and Mike Harkavy discussed the canvass operation, which allows people up to a week to complete a turf. Nejla introduced Libby Post, campaign manager for Aimee Richter, who appealed for canvassers to accompany Aimee. Sheila Healy, Libby's partner at Progressive Elections, is the field lead. Progressive Elections works with pro-choice and pro-LGBTQ candidates, focusing on local candidates and the NY State Supreme Court.

Canvassing: Current canvass efforts have concentrated on Keith Gurgui's Leg. District but members can also sign up for turfs in the areas they represent.

Postcards: The County Committee is offering postcards to send to reliable voters at no cost to town committees. Our volunteers would write, decorate and label them (with our website URL); our Committee would need to fund the postage volunteers don't want to cover. We could mail them to 500 reliable Democrats as voting reminders. Lanny Walter moved to authorize up to \$250 as needed to fund postage for this effort, seconded by Liz Buono. The motion passed.

Candidate Contributions: The Committee made contributions last month of \$250 apiece to the campaigns of candidates Keith Gurgui, Aimee Richter and Leeanne Thornton, against requests of \$500 apiece. Contribution requests of \$500 each have since been received from Fred Costello and Mike Ivino. Nejla proposed donating \$500 apiece to the Town Board/Supervisor campaign for Fred and Mike, plus \$250 additional contributions for Aimee and Leeanne, and an additional contribution of \$250 to Manny Nneji's campaign for County DA, for a total of \$1,750. She accepted a friendly amendment from Rick Cousin to add a further \$250 contribution to Keith Gurgui's campaign, for a total of \$2000 in donations. The motion passed unanimously.

Ballot Proposals: Lanny Walter summarized the five ballot proposals. More information will be posted to the County Committee's website.

Phonebanking to Infrequent Voters will be done during the first half of October, listening to them and urging them to be a voter. *Phonebanking to Prime Dems* will be done following that, reminding them how important their vote is. Anyone SDC member who wants to make these calls in the ED they represent can request a special phonebank of those voters.

A *Town Board Fundraiser* will be held Oct. 14 at the Centerville Fire House.

The League of Women Voters is trying to organize two candidate forums—one for town candidate races, the other for county candidate races—in Saugerties for the end of October; these are not confirmed.

Committee Business

Bench for Pam Ross: Skip Arthur explained that the plaque vendor recommends using an alternate material to brass, to prevent degradation over time. The price would increase from \$55 to \$160. Nancy Schaefer moved to fund the estimated \$105 price increase, seconded by Louise Bloomfield; the motion passed. Skip read out the wording for the SDC's plaque: "In memory of Pamela Ross whose grace and

dedication will always remain in our hearts as beacon and guide. Saugerties Democratic Committee 2023.” The companion bench plaque funded by Esopus Creek Conservancy will read, “In memory of our precious songbird Pamela Ross, a true friend and advocate of Esopus Bend Nature Preserve. ECC Board 2023.”

Kevin Freeman urged members to think about people who would make good candidates to fill the 4 vacant Committee seats.

Skip urged people to write Letters to the Editor of Hudson supporting our candidates and issues.

Community Updates

Town: We will announce the Town Hall meeting organized by Assembly member Shrestha on Central Hudson’s practices, to be held Oct. 3 at 7pm at the Senior Center.

The Dominican Sisters proposal for new senior housing on Spaulding Lane is on hold. Neighboring Lasher House’s owners never received the Planning Board’s notifications of earlier meetings. A new SEQR is required, and a resubmission will follow that.

It is not too soon to start thinking about School Board candidates for the May 2024 election.

Congressional Redistricting in NY

The Independent Redistricting Commission has been authorized to begin work, pending a Court of Appeals hearing in November.

There being no other business, Margo McGilvrey moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15, seconded by Liz Buono; the meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary
