



## Saugerties Democratic Committee July 23, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Saugerties Senior Center, 6:30pm

Chair Nejla Liias called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

### **Roll Call**

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

*Voting Members:* Gilda Riccardi, Kathy Gordon, Andrew Zink, Teresa Giordano, Bill Barr, Liz Buono, Christine Dinsmore, Skip Arthur, Nejla Liias, Katie Cokinos, Louise Bloomfield, Ken Germano, Bob Gelbach, Brigid Walsh, Anna Markowitz, Nina Schmidbaur, Beth Maloney, Margo McGilvrey, Joe Maloney, Andy Cowan, Lanny Walter

*Auditing Members (on Zoom):* Aimee Richter, Aaron Levine

*Others:* Kevin Freeman, Sheila Dinesburg Azoff, Richard Azoff

### **Approval of Minutes**

Bill Barr moved to approve the Minutes of the monthly meetings held on May 28 and June 18, 2024, seconded by Margo McGilvrey; the motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bill Barr presented the July Treasurer's Report. He noted that a total of \$1,500 had been raised specifically to fund the SDC slate's primary campaign.

#### **SDC TREASURER REPORT JULY 2024**

	<b>Actual</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>		
	18-Jun-24	\$4,588.08
<b>Income</b>		
ActBlue Donations SDC	120.03	
Pat Ryan Cmpgn	500.00	
Meeting Donation	104.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		\$724.03
<b>Expenses</b>		
Zoom CC Payment	(15.99)	
Fitz Studio (Banner)	(182.52)	
Check 455 Cornerstone Press	(1,341.77)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		(\$1,540.28)
<b>New Balance</b>		
	23-Jul-24	\$3,771.83

### **Fall Campaign and Election Discussion**

*County Campaign:* Kathy Gordon reported that all campaigning in the county is going to be run from the coordinated VAN account of the State Democratic Committee. The State Committee will organize coordinated canvassing and will also work with town committee teams to manage canvassing in towns that can set up their own operations.

*Fall Fundraiser:* Margo McGilvrey reported for the fundraising Committee. Seasoned Gives can cater the fundraising dinner, and the Cantine Pavilion is available for the preferred date of September 19 at 7pm.

*Campaign Office:* The Committee agreed to pursue a campaign office in a central location; Brigid Walsh and Lanny Walter offered to look for space. The State Dem Cttee will not pay for a Saugerties office now that we are in CD18. Kathy Gordon moved to authorize a deposit on an office space for an amount up to \$1000 if the search is successful. The motion was seconded by Nejla. The motion passed.

### **SDC Business**

*SDC Bylaws:* Lanny Walter reported that a document detailing proposed Bylaws changes and the rationales for them is in preparation, for discussion by the whole Committee at an upcoming meeting and a vote at the following meeting.

*Scribes:* Kathy reported great and enthusiastic participation. Three local designs for postcards are being used.

*Vacancies:* Committee seat vacancies were announced in ED 4 (Sakinah Irizarry having resigned before the primary election) and ED 8 (effective Sept. 1, following Bob Gelbach's resignation).

*Dual Residents Outreach Program:* Louise Bloomfield reported that, along with our personal outreach from the Dem Committee, there is a nonpartisan flyer encouraging upstate registration that can be left at retail establishments and/or used for follow-up mailings and canvassing. Christine noted that some digital ads have been targeting Republicans urging them to register upstate.

*July 4 Parade:* Bill and other members reported a good reception; more member participation would be better for next year's event. (The SDC primary affected participation rates this year.) A U.S. flag sticker was a big hit as a giveaway.

*Democracy Tent:* Bill appealed for volunteers to staff the County's Dem tent at the Caribbean Festival, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Community Updates**

*Winston Farm:* Nejla reported that the citizens group monitoring this has been reinvigorated. Katie Cokinos reported that the Orpheum would be glad to host an event featuring all the

stakeholders: town government, developers, Catskill Mountainkeeper, and perhaps an outside expert. Brigid Walsh suggested a roundtable format, or a moderated discussion.

*Town Updates:* Nina Schmidbaur, Arts Commission chair, reported on their just concluded meet and greet event. She urged committee members to complete and promote the Library's Survey, which is online for the first time. Teenagers' input is especially valuable. The Library Trustee election, coming on Sept. 5, is attracting a large amount of interest.

*County Updates:* The Board of Elections' "I Voted" sticker contest is under way.

**Member Considerations and Discussion:**

Lanny Walter moved for the Committee to adopt a Resolution stating that the Committee repudiates the immigration policy ideas expressed to Sheriff Juan Figueroa by member Joe Maloney at a recent County Legislature committee meeting, and condemns Joe Maloney's behavior toward the Sheriff at that meeting. The motion was seconded by Nejla Liias. Discussion followed. Some members had concerns about the wording of the Resolution. The Chair proposed tabling the Resolution. Gilda Riccardi called the question. The motion to pass the Resolution as written did not pass. Bob Gelbach then moved to table the Resolution till the next meeting, when a modified version can be circulated and discussed. The motion was seconded by Liz Buono. The motion passed.

There being no other business, Liz Buono moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Margo McGilvrey, and the meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Bloomfield, Secretary

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