

**Rhinebeck Democrats Club
Steering Committee Meeting
Saturday May 13, 2023**

Commenced : 11:09

Attendees:

John Rossi, Sandy Zito, Shirley Stone, David Weiner, Mel Donaldson
Guest: Susan Ragusa

Treasurer's Report:

Sandy is now listed on the Club account with the authority to sign checks through the Hudson Valley Credit Union. Currently, the checking account holds \$479.51 while the savings account has \$50.

Expenses: The cost of refreshments for Club events has been shared by different members, out-of-pocket, and will continue in this manner.
John has been paying the monthly Go Daddy bill of \$9.00. It was decided that going forward the Club will be covering this expense.

The IRS framework of political clubs requires an 1120POL filing no later than May 15th. John and Sandy briefly discussed the filing prior to John's submission of the 1120POL, postmarked May 7, 2023.

Co-Chairman's Report

- o It was proposed that David and Mel exchange responsibilities. David would be Corresponding Secretary and Mel, the Recording Secretary. While a vote was taken at this meeting to approve the change, David informed the group that this was a matter to be officially voted upon by all the DC members who have paid their dues.

An email with the opportunity to vote on this issue will be sent to all members.

- o Dave was given admin rights to GO Daddy and will be sending out electronic communications for the Club. Dave will be setting up and maintaining a listing of all members.

Speaker Series

- o Thirty-eight people have RSVP'd to the 5/21 talk with Senator Hinchey. Susan has been in communication with Dan Wrenn, Hinchey's liaison, who will be at the event. Details regarding introduction, opening statement, types of questions to be asked, and topics to be included will be finalized in the coming days.

A reminder of this event will be sent out this week.

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- o Sunday, June 11 2:00-4:00 Oliver Fein, a physician, will speak on health care issues.

Because Dr. Fein is an advocate of single payer financing for non-profit health care, the group discussed inviting a second speaker to offer an alternative or counter viewpoint to Dr. Fein. While all agreed alternative viewpoints are welcomed the goal of the club's speaker series was to stimulate discourse on community topics (local journalism, healthcare, housing etc.) mirroring a classroom setting as opposed to a debate format. Additionally, non-candidate sessions were intended to host one guest speaker per session, recognizing that the speaker, e.g. Emily, might invite a co-worker, e.g., Walter, to participate.

- o A suggestion was made that future speakers in this series should include those who are running for local offices.

Review of Club Bylaws

David felt it was important to revisit Club bylaws to ensure that they were being followed and that the Club was keeping to its mission.

After they were read and discussed, the committee felt that the DC was on track and much of what was in place was due to the events organized by the Speaker Series committee.

Club Calendar

This committee felt it was important for the Club to have an organized calendar of events/meetings. To date, it is:

May - speaker (Senator Hinchey)
June - speaker (Doctor Fein)
July - Club meeting
August - nothing
September - political speaker (TBD)
October - political speaker (TBD)
November – Club meeting (after elections)
December - TBD

Club Development

- o Much discussion was had regarding not only recruiting new members to the Club but also in finding ways to have more members become politically involved (collecting signatures/working phone banks/writing out post cards) in local campaigns.

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To help facilitate this, training would be provided as well as a listing of the different volunteer opportunities available.

- o John discussed an email from Michael Dupree, Dutchess County Democratic Committee Chair in which Chairperson Dupree shared that if the Club were to have at least 50 members it would be recognized by the County and State leadership and eligible to participate in County Executive Committee meetings.

Dave brought up questions and concerns regarding what, exactly, this participation would entail, such as: Would this association limit us in any way? What obligations would we then have? He agreed to look, more fully, into this issue.

Next meeting : TBD (possibly end of June)

Adjournment: 1:03 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Donaldson, Recording Secretary