



September 24, 2018 FINAL Meeting Minutes
Delmar Reformed Church, Delmar, New York

Present: Kristan Connolly, Susan Ungerman [ED1], Thomas Coffey [ED2], Margaret Bulgaro [ED3], Pam Robbins, William Reinhardt [ED4], Cara Brousseau [ED5], Jay Hurewitz, Lorraine Silverman [ED6], Jeffrey Baker, Mark Becker [ED7], Jennifer Birn, Matthew Meyer [ED8], Jeremy Snyder, Pam Skripak [ED9], Maureen Cunningham, Linda Miller [ED10], Joanne Cunningham [ED12], Amy Conway, Jeffrey Kuhn [ED13], Amy Joyce, Timothy Beebe [ED14], Rose Ann Garry, Chanson Noether [ED15], Rudy Arias, Mara Elliott [ED16], Leo Dorsey Jr., Deborah Stevens [ED17], Giles Wagoner [ED18], Michelle Sanders [ED19], Patricia Beeler [ED20], Miguel Ortiz, Peter Hackman [ED21], Tom Goodfellow [ED22], Janet Messina, Anne Furman [ED23], Gary Ginsburg [ED24], Daniel Coffey, Wendy Jordan [ED25], Gary Hallock, Sean Raleigh [ED26], Jim Bilik, John Collens [ED27], Matthew Miller, Louis Picarazzi [ED28], Gina Cocchiara, Barrett Mack [ED29], Alicia Roney, Matthew Barron [ED30], Joshua Oppenheimer [ED31] (50 members present)

By Proxy: Mario Chiarello [ED2], Emily Saunders, Steven Grasso [ED11], Bruce Bushart [ED20], Susan Hager [ED22] (5 members participated by proxy)

Absent (no proxy): Philip Paty [ED3], Reed Ference [ED5], Peter Bannigan [ED12], Richard Piccarazzi [ED18], Shari Piper [ED19], Barbara Hogan [ED24], Hayes Meredith [ED31] (7 members were absent)

Visitors: Ryan Donovan, Colleen Williams, Pat Fahy, Peter Lynch, Samuel Roods, David Van Luven, J. Sherman, Peg Walsh (8 visitors)

Call of the Roll: Chair Jeff Kuhn announced the results of the Primary election and introduced the BDC Committee members by election district for the 2018-2020 term.

Welcome and Meeting Goals: Chair Jeff Kuhn called the meeting to order. Secretary Rose Ann Garry confirmed that a quorum was present. Jeff welcomed all new BDC members and provided a brief outline of the evening's objectives along with introductions of Pat Fahy, Peter Lynch, Judge Walsh, Judge Donovan, Dan Coffey and Colleen Williams (representative for Paul Tonko). All candidates shared a few words including thanking the BDC for past support and asking for continued support. Jeff Kuhn echoed the thanks of Pat Fahy and Judge Donovan that the BDC is a great committee. Jeff noted that he was thankful for the opportunity to serve as BDC Chair, and that while he considered it an honor and privilege, he would not be running for the position again.

2018-2020 BDC Officer Elections:

Election of New Chair – nominations were opened for Chair of the BDC. There was a nomination and second for Joanne Cunningham. Pam Robbins spoke in favor of Joanne and acknowledged all the outstanding work that Jeff Kuhn has offered the BDC over the past years. There being no other nominations, the motion to close nominations was passed unanimously. The BDC voted unanimously to elect Joanne Cunningham as the new Chair. Jeff relinquished the role of chair to Joanne and Joanne continued the process of election of officers.

Election of First Vice Chair – Nominations were opened for 1st Vice Chair. There was a nomination and second for Pam Skripak. There being no other nominations, the motion to close nominations was passed unanimously. The BDC voted unanimously to elect Pam Skripak as the new 1st Vice Chair.

Election of Second Vice Chair – Nominations were opened for 2nd Vice Chair. There was a nomination and second for Jeff Baker. Pam Skripak spoke in favor of Jeff Baker and reviewed all the assistance Jeff has offered in recent months in coordinating the election petitions. There being no other nominations, the motion to close nominations was passed unanimously. The BDC voted unanimously to elect Jeff Baker as the new 2nd Vice Chair. Before moving on to the election of Treasurer Pam Skripak acknowledged all the time and wonderful talents offered by Pam Robbins for the BDC and the Bethlehem community.

Election of Treasurer- Nominations were opened for Treasurer. There were nominations and seconds for Mark Becker and Bruce Bushart. Mark offered a few words in support of his nomination and Joanne Cunningham offered a few words in support of Bruce Bushart. Joanne also acknowledged Mark's contributions to the committee over the past years. There being no other nominations, the motion to close nominations was passed unanimously and the BDC voted in favor of Bruce Bushart to continue as Treasurer.

Election of Secretary – Nominations were opened for Secretary. There was a nomination and second for Chan Noether. There being no other nominations, the motion to close nominations was passed unanimously and the BDC voted unanimously to elect Chan Noether as the new Secretary.

Election of District Representative: The full BDC committee is organized into six Election District subgroups that roughly correlate to geographic regions within the Bethlehem Democratic Committee Election Area. Each District elects a representative to serve on the BDC Executive Committee and help coordinate the Committee members within their district sub group. Each District sub group caucused and elected district leaders as follows:

1. EDs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 8 (Slingerlands) – Pam Robbins
2. EDs 5, 6, 7, 16 & 17 (West Bethlehem) – Mark Becker
3. EDs 18, 21, 28, 29, & 30 (Selkirk/River) – Gina Cocchiara
4. EDs 19, 20, 22, 23, & 24 (Glenmont) – Outcome was contested – based on tally of weighted votes subsequent to the meeting, Jan Messina was elected District Leader
5. EDs 11, 13, 14, 15 & 25 (Central Delmar) – Dan Coffey
6. EDs 9, 10, 12, 26 & 27 (East Delmar/Elsmere) – Maureen Cunningham

Election of Representatives to the Executive Committee of the Albany County Democratic Committee (ACDC): Five individuals were nominated for the four positions that represent the BDC on the Executive Committee of the ACDC: Pam Robbins, Tom Coffey, Dan Coffey, Jeff Kuhn, and Joanne Cunningham. Paper ballots were distributed to the Committee Members, on which they were asked to write their Election District number and the names of the four candidates they supported, so that the appropriate weights could be assigned to each vote. The vote weighting factors were provided after the meeting concluded so a final tally of the results for the four ACDC Executive Committee members from the BDC could be made and the winners announced. In the weighted vote Pam Robbins, Dan Coffey, Jeff Kuhn, and Joanne Cunningham were elected as BDC representatives to the ACDC Executive Committee. Tom Coffey was not elected as a BDC representative to the ACDC Executive Committee, but was subsequently nominated by Joanne Cunningham as an ACDC “at large” member, which was approved by the ACDC. It was also noted that the BDC has a sixth member of the ACDC Executive Committee, as Lorraine Silverman was elected as the new ACDC treasurer.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s report was submitted and reviewed. Approval of the report was unanimous. Joanne explained that any expenditures under \$500 can be approved by the Executive Committee any expenditures over \$500 require a vote by the full BDC Committee.

Operations: Petition folders need to be returned ASAP, they are expensive and need to be available for re-use. Lots of help is needed to support “Get out the Vote” (GOTV) efforts.

Fundraising: The major fundraisers that BDC hosts were reviewed and there was a request for more BDC members to join the fundraising committee.

Personnel: Need to get people to help out. Extra hands are needed for distributing pamphlets and making phone calls. An orientation meeting for new committee members will follow the BDC meeting.

Community Service: No Report

Ad Hoc Communications: Request for help, especially with the website. Even though it was re-built it needs maintenance. It has been determined that the photos are slowing down response time so the photos will be moved to the Facebook page. The committee is in desperate need for help with social media, website, and messaging.

Ad Hoc Legal and Parliamentarian: Jeff Kuhn and Lorraine Silverman have been named to serve on this committee. As the BDC follows Robert’s Rules of Order it will be helpful to have someone facilitate the rules when necessary and to help the committee determine how we can be more effective moving forward in matters such as the nominations for judicial positions.

Meeting Minutes: May 2018 minutes were circulated electronically to the full BDC prior to the meeting for review. Minutes were approved - all in favor with 1 abstention.

General Announcements: Upcoming ACDC meeting, for those unable to attend please get your proxy in ASAP. Lots of help needed to create a 'big blue wave' to sweep Bethlehem in getting Dan Coffey elected to the Town Board. The Town Board position is a very important race and everyone's help is requested. The Town Board position is often a stepping stone to other positions and therefore carries even more significance. Oktoberfest is October 18th 5:30 – 7:30 at Roux.

There was a motion and unanimous agreement to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.