

MINUTES/U-ACT Meeting 4/14/19

Meeting opened with an impromptu visit by Pat Ryan who stopped by to thank us for our help in the past and to remind of us of the April 30 election. They are using the minivan and will have a big push April 27&28 got GetOutTheVote (GOTV).

The weekend of April 27 & 28th, April 23 is the deadline for absentee ballots.

Pat also pointed out that while he is running unopposed as the Democratic candidate on the 30th, he does have a Republican opponent for the general election and sees this as an opportunity to show the strength he has among voters.

We asked Pat to come back after the election and do a workshop for us to discuss his agenda, which includes a “Green New Deal Ulster County” and for us to give him our thoughts.

April 23 is the deadline for absentee ballots.

Following Pat Ryan, Laura Petit spoke about her candidacy for re-election. She thanked Tom D and U-Act for all our help in the last election and expressed concern about her opponent in the upcoming election - Lorrie Morse, who describes herself as a “local girl from Esopus” and was Faso’s secretary. She says she brings progressive values to Esopus, and prefers to work with individuals instead of the caucus to facilitate faster action.

Laura is looking forward to a change in the County Exec that will streamline her ability to get things done. She is endorsed by the County Dems, Working Families, Ulster People (and as of the meeting) U-Act.

We had also expected to meet Betty Diorio - a candidate for Ulster County Legislature District 12 Plattekill. Unfortunately, she had death in the family and was unable to attend.

FYI -in the other County Legislature elections, Jim Delaune is running unopposed but Eve Walter does have an opponent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Maggie Veve reported for the NP Democratic Party Committee:

1. New Paltz Dems are asking for folks to volunteer (2 per district) to serve as a back-up for the Committee member for that NP District. This will start after the April 30 election and will include efforts by “Neighbor to Neighbor”. Susan Jawarski will do a workshop for Neighbor To Neighbor.
2. There is a person resigning from the Committee so there will be an opening for that Member seat and another U-ACT member would be welcome.

Maggie Veve also reported on National Issues:

1. An Antonio Delgado Advisory Board has been set up throughout the District (Maggie, Jacki Brownstein and Tom D are participating). This is an opportunity for folks to give feed-back or get clarification about Delgado’s positions and votes. Key is assuring both his re-electability and his responsiveness to the activists who helped get him elected. (Give feedback to Maggie, Jacki and Tom D.)
2. Delgado co-sponsored a bipartisan bill, Medicare X, with public option. He is working to find common ground, stop institutional grid lock and support restrictions in the War Powers Act. He meets with the Activist Advisory Board via video conferences in an effort to be responsive to voters.

Howie Leibovitch reported on the Voting Reform Committee:

1. He and Liz Lee reviewed hundreds of bills concerning term limits with the hope that the Assembly term limits can be extended to 4 years. This is in collaboration with Let NY Vote.

2. Gerrymandering cases have gone to the Supreme Court. Oral arguments have been heard and a decision is expected in June.

Maggie Veve reported on the Health Committee:

1. The NY State Assembly has passed the New York Health Care Act.
2. 2-3 Senators are needed for THIS SAME BILL to pass the Senate. Jim Skoufis, whom U-Act supported had originally support this but has withdrawn his support. Perhaps he can be persuaded. Maggie will email further information.

1. The Pot Luck was successful. There are plans for a future fundraiser in order to purchase magnetic car bumper stickers.

2. Victories: a. proposed commission to study Health Care Act was not funded in the budget allowing the act to pass.

- b. Government cut Medicaid aid in the budget but that funding was restored. Unfortunately overall, the government has cut social services by 34%.

Tom Rocco and Linda McCarthy reported on the County Committee:

1. the County Committee has been quiet lately but is gearing up for Pat Ryan, Dave Clegg, Laura Petite and Eve Walter

2. The committee will be re-focusing action on Restorative Justice as an objective for the Committee

3. Remind attendees to look for info regarding Local School Board and Budget votes the 3rd Tuesday in May.

Tom Denton reported on Antonio Delgado and liaison with other Activist Groups:

1. Suggests sending emails to push for support for Pat Ryan, Jim Delaune, Laura Petite, Eve Walter.

2. Delgado:

a. has his act together, is looking for local input ; proposing Clean Act at making campaign funding

b. sources easy to identify

c. Public financing of campaigns most important

d. Takes no PAC money but has accepted money from Labor

e. thinks Faso's racist campaign gave Delgado a donor base wider than just NY CD 19

Other Activity:

Amy Kletter reported that she and Lorrie Morris are working on the possibility of setting up a U-ACT Environment Committee. Amy will post info to the U-Act website.

Endorsement: Jane Schanburg moved; Tom Rocco seconded that U-Act endorse Laura Petite. The motion passed unanimously. (It had also been decided that if a candidate was present, he or she would be asked to leave the room while the vote was taken.)

Discussion regarding proposed U-ACT organization structure was tabled.

Revisions to U-Act website are ongoing. It is hoped they will be complete by the next meeting.

Kathy Adorney has post cards folks can send out to encourage people to vote on April 30. The target is 500 cards.

Denizen Theater has offered to donate \$5 for each ticket purchased by a U-ACT member.

Jacki Brownstein will host a fundraiser for Dave Clegg. Information to be sent.

Amy Kletter and Linda McCarthy will organize a meet and greet for Dave Clegg. Date and place to be announced.

Jane Schanberg proposed two ways we might honor the memory of Sarah Holland, who recently passed away. One was to name future Candidate Forums in her name in recognition of her contributions to their success; the other to donate a bench in her honor at the Distance Swimmers beach at Minnewaska State Park. Misha will investigate the the feasibility of that suggestion.

MAY MEETING DATE CHANGED: Mother's Day is May 12. U-Act meeting date is changed to May 19 in deference to Mother's Day.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Rocco