

MINUTES

Adirondack Voters for Change Zoom membership meeting on 10/9/22

Meeting Called to Order at 6:35 p.m. 28 people attended

Before the business portion of the meeting The Honorable Teneka Frost gave a brief presentation.

Teneka Frost is a candidate for the New York Supreme Court for the 4th Judicial District. An additional seat (for a total of 13 Supreme Court positions) was created in the 4th District which contains 11 counties and is geographically the largest Judicial District in the state. There are 6 candidates running for 3 open seats. New York law dictates that candidates must run under a party and Teneka is running as a Democrat. The Honorable Teneka Frost is currently serving on the Schenectady City Court. She has presided over thousands of cases, handling civil and criminal matters and has conducted hundreds of jury and bench trials. Her experience of growing up in poverty and being labeled at risk of dropping out of high school has led Judge Frost to live a life committed to equal justice, community service and helping others. Teneka feels that she is the most qualified and experienced candidate. She is familiar with the court system and her approach to the bench is to treat people fairly, listen to the facts and apply her judgements in an impartial manner. Teneka pointed out one of the main challenges facing the court system today involves mental health issues. A brief Q & A followed the presentation.

Approval of Minutes from 9/25/22 membership meeting

Treasurer's Report There is a total of \$6,437

Items for Discussion **Committee Reports**

Hold Stefanik Accountable There have been approximately 250 "Elise Voted No" signs distributed throughout the district (\$545 was raised for AVfC through sales of the signs at the storefront). There is information on Stefanik's voting record and other talking points posted and available to hand out at the storefront. Tim Murphy, a senior reporter with Mother Jones, conducted an interview on October 3 about AVfC and this committee with regards to Stefanik as our Congressperson and candidate. Stay tuned for information on date and media release.

Abortion Access Two dates are being considered for a second showing of *Happening* at BluSeed Studios-- either Saturday November 19 or Sunday November 20. The film is an International Film Festival award winning French film based on a book written by Nobel Laureate and professor of literature Annie Ernaux. A panel discussion will follow the showing. Keep these dates open and stay tuned for more details. The committee welcomes new member Kathy Daggett who recently submitted an LTE on the differences between Congresswoman Stefanik's and Candidate Castelli's positions on reproductive health. This information is also available at the storefront. The committee had a team participate in the Sex Trivia event held on 9/16/22 at Bitters and Bones. They won the best team name category for their "Never Too Old" title.

Voter Registration An event is scheduled for Tuesday October 11 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Paul Smiths College. Nancy M and Phil N have volunteered to staff this event. Visit <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html> for information on voter registration.

Other Items for Discussion and Announcements

- A “Countdown to the Election” event was held at the storefront Friday October 7 with 30-40 people attending. All candidates sent a representative to the event except for Billy Jones, who called in. Peter S unveiled his portrait of Matt Castelli and there was food, music and an outdoor fire pit! Also on display was Ren D’s 37-panel history of the struggle for the right to vote for Black Americans that AVfC received from JBL! A brief discussion of how to address the lack of heat at the storefront with options of shortening hours of operation/increasing the number of space heaters. Decision made to put this on the agenda for the Board meeting on Tuesday October 11.
- Peggy W announced that there are 25 postcards for Jean Lapper at the storefront to be written. If anyone buys stamps please leave a receipt in the postcard box. There are more postcards coming with different target recipients and a different message. Sue AJ will take over the Lapper postcard writing action while Peggy is out of town.
- Ellen B posted county-specific websites that have sample ballots. Once on the website there will be a dropdown menu to find your town/district and candidates.
Franklin county
https://www.franklincountyny.gov/departments/administrative/board_of_elections/sample_ballots.php
Essex county
<https://www.co.essex.ny.us/EssexVoters/Switchboard.aspx>
- Nancy M reminds folks that scheduling to volunteer at the storefront can be done via phone. The number is 518-524-0901.
- Contact Ellen B to canvass for Billy Jones bebermane@gmail.com
- Contact Stephanie G to canvass for Matt Castelli sgubelin@gmail.com
- Linda R is offering a free all-event pass to the Lake Placid Film Festival to the first person who texts her at 727-510-5196.
- AVfC and JBL! are sponsoring the premier of *The Back Door* at Lake Flower Landing on Sunday October 16 at 4:00 p.m. This event is a collaboration between Janet McFetridge, social justice advocate, Paula Allen, photographer and Adrian Carr, composer/pianist, that tells the story of thousands of asylum seekers crossing into Canada via an irregular crossing known as Roxham Road. A \$10 donation is suggested (free for students) and money raised will be donated to 2 groups: (1) Plattsburgh Cares, a coalition of faith, service and activists groups working to assist immigrants and others in the community to achieve their goals safely and responsibly with compassion, justice and respect for all, and (2) Adirondack Friends of Refugees and Immigrants which helps meet the humanitarian needs of those seeking asylum in Canada via Roxham Road. Also, winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves and small stuffed animals will be collected at the event for

the people crossing this border. A box will be placed outside LFL on Monday 10/10/22 for donation of these items by folks not attending the event.

- AVfC received Ren Davidson Seward's 37-panel installation from JBL! *Spiraling Round the Promise of the Right to Vote* focuses on people who have lost their lives fighting for the right to vote. The decision was made to form a group including Ren, Sue A-J and Margot G to work on getting this installation into the local schools, either the physical panels or a digital version.
- Jim A announced that AVfC now has 87 paid members of which 59 are lifetime members.

The next zoom membership meeting will be Sunday October 23 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.