

## **Rutland County Democrats Caucus Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

**6:38 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

### **Rutland Free Library Fox Room**

The Rutland County Democratic Caucus Meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Heather Juliussen-Stevenson. Meeting was held in the Library Fox Room and on Zoom video/phone. Heather verified the names of voting delegates in attendance in-person and on Zoom and verified quorum.

#### **Election of New Officers for the County and Delegates to the State Party:**

Chair – Heather described the duties of the position. Call for nominations. Noah French nominated and seconded. Noah has been in Rutland about 2 years. He enjoys Rutland and is a student at CCV. Motion for Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Vice Chair – Duties are to support the Chair. Call for nominations. Anna Tadio nominated and seconded. Anna was born and raised in Rutland. She ran for School Board last election and is Chair of Rutland City Dems. Hopes to run for BOA. Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Recording Secretary – Carol Wright has agreed to run again. Nominated and seconded. Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Coordinating Secretary – Heather Juliussen-Stevenson nominated and seconded. Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Treasurer - Scott Garren nominated and seconded. Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Assistant Treasurer – Eugenia Cooke nominated and seconded. Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Two State Delegates - Heather Juliussen-Stevenson and Josh Ferguson nominated and seconded. Joshua finished grad school and plans to be active in the Democratic party and across party lines. Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Three Alternates to the State Delegates - Meetings are on Sat. every other month. Carol Wright, Barbara Noyes-Pulling, and Annie Delyth Stratton nominated and seconded. Motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot. Motion seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Meeting closed. Noah French chaired the rest of the meeting, with assistance from Heather.

**VDP Liaisons** - The VDP would like us to pick 4 liaisons: 1) Fundraising, 2) Message and Communications, 3) Field and Grassroots Organizing, and 4) Equity, Diversity, Justice, and Inclusion. These are not positions we need to vote on. Kathy Hall suggested that we take our time to find qualified people, especially with 3 new people on the Ex. Committee. We will discuss this at a future meeting.

**Report from the Secretary:** The minutes from the August 2021 meeting were not sent out in advance, will be reviewed at next meeting.

**Report from the Treasurer:** No report.

**Curtis-Hoff Raffle Basket from Rutland County** - Heather reported that a basket of local crafts, art, and business donations from Rutland County was raffled to raise money for the VDP. She encouraged local crafters to donate to our basket next fall.

**Declaration of Inclusion** – Norm Cohen discussed the Declaration, which is being passed by various towns in the state. He, Al Wakefield, Bob Harnish and others have been promoting the Declaration. It's their goal to have every town and municipality in the state adopt it. They've been working on this project about 10 months. He read the Declaration. His coalition is working closely with groups around Rutland. There are 27 towns in Rutland County. 17 have been organized by Democrats, 9 have adopted the Declaration, 8 have not. He plans to call the town chairs to try to get their attention. He needs the help with the 9 or 10 towns not organized. He listed those towns. Heather will give Norm a new list of reorganized towns. Norm gave us his email, if anyone wants to help him with this:

[Norcohd26@gmail.com](mailto:Norcohd26@gmail.com)

Norm has been working with the VT League of Cities and Towns and they recommend keeping it nonpartisan. It needs to be a community effort.

**Proposals to Reform Adult Guardianship in VT in light of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**– (documents sent by email prior to meeting) - David Searles talked about the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He spoke of his personal experiences and his work over the years regarding the unexplained contradictions between VT's adult guardianship provisions and the ADA. Senator Cheryl Hooker has presented a bill that will hopefully help address one of these issues; this may pass in the next session. David passed out copies of his Proposed Guardianship Reforms. David asked that the RCDC approve and sign his draft request to the Vermont State Democratic Committee.

Motion made to forward the one-and-a-half page statement written by David on behalf of the RCDC to the VDP along with David's proposals. Discussion of motion. It was proposed that a survey be conducted of other affected individuals affected by this issue. Collaboration with allied entities was also proposed.

Senator Cheryl Hooker clarified her legislation is about reopening specific cases related to guardianship, and isn't directly related to David's proposal.

Motion to forward the one-page statement written by David on behalf of the RCDC was withdrawn.

Motion made and seconded that the RCDC send David's proposals to the VDP Committee with the following statement: *The Rutland County Democratic Committee suggests that serious consideration be given to ensuring that Vermont's adult guardianship provisions live up to the goals of non-discrimination as stated in the Americans with Disabilities Act. To ensure this, we recommend consideration of the proposals put forth by Rutland City resident, David Searles.* Motion passed; 11 in favor, 2 opposed; (8 is quorum).

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wright

Recording Secretary