

Spring Democratic Calendar Chockful of Events

A complete listing of events is located on our web calendar at www.onondagademocrats.org. Check this site frequently for the most up to date event information. Remember, before planning any local events, check our site to ensure your date is available. Also, don't forget to call OCDC at 422-0345 so we can add your event to the calendar.

March 25: Women's History Month Luncheon. Noon. Empire Room, NYS Fairgrounds. Hosted by Mayor Matt Driscoll. Honoring 2008 Builders of Communities & Dreams. RSVP by March 18th. Call 448-8101.

April 3: Committee for Legislative Action 2008 fundraiser. Empire Room, NYS Fairgrounds. Honoring Legislative member Lovie Winslow. 5:30 p.m. Cocktails, 6:30 p.m. Dinner. Information 696-0037.

April 17: OCDC Open House. 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. Open to the public. Special guest: Paloma Capanna.

June 12: OCDC Democrat of the Year Dinner. Holiday Inn, Electronics Pkwy. Details TBA. Call 422-0345 for information.

OCDC's annual Democrat of the Year event is scheduled for June. Nominations are now being accepted for Democrat of the Year, Town Democrat of the Year and City Democrat of the Year. Call OCDC @ 422-0345 or mail your nominations to OCDC, 248 E. Water St., Syracuse, NY 13202.

Diane Dwire - Chair
Pam Hunter - Secretary
Ross Andrews - Treasurer
Fern Whyland - Executive Director
Chris Denno - Print Shop Manager

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Onondaga County Democratic Committee

Spring 2008

Call to Action: Democrats Needed



Dear Friends,

We begin the 2008 election year with a historic victory for Democrats in the 48th State Senate District. Assemblyman Darrel Aubertine won the seat decisively, and by doing

so, broke the Republican stranglehold on the New York State Senate. We can see the power of the Democratic message and with your help, bring much needed change to Onondaga County in 2008.

Nothing can be accomplished without all of us pulling together to achieve the common goal of victory for our Party. We must work together to carry our candidates to a Democratic victory.

Unity begins by joining with your friends, neighbors, blocks and townships. Strong committees are the workhorses that candidates need to propel them to victory.

March is the month we traditionally honor our Committee Chairs and recognize the work they do for our Party. I appreciate the endless donations of time and energy given by our members and Chairs and salute your efforts. Together we can and will make a difference in our county, state and country.

Sincerely,

Diane Dwire
Chairperson

Salute to Our 2008 Town & Ward Chairs

City Chair: Pete Kavanagh

Ward 1: Donald Cooper
Ward 2: Patrick Driscoll
Ward 3: Sam Laguzza
Ward 4: Karen Magnarelli
Ward 5: Margaret Chase
Ward 6: Daniel Aquillino
Ward 7: Marilyn Vinette
Ward 8: Robert O'Neil
Ward 11: Neil McCurn
Ward 12: Van Robinson
Ward 13: Dorothy Matthews
Ward 14: James Macallair
Ward 16: Patricia Body
Ward 17: Dustin Czarny
Ward 18: Mike Atkins
Ward 19: Ruth Kutz

Towns Chair: Tom Taylor

Camillus: Tony Adorante
Cicero: Jessica Zambrano
Clay: Dave Capria
Dewitt: Linda Ervin
Elbridge: Robert Meixner
Geddes: David Magnarelli
Lafayette: Bruce Donohue
Lysander: Jerome Burns
Manlius: Gifford Duffy
Marcellus: Robert Dingman
Onondaga: David Lasda
Otisco: Dave Holihan
Pompey: Vita DeMarchi
Salina: Chuck Harding
Skaneateles: James Williams
Spafford: Jim O'Connell
Van Buren: Theresa (Tess) Brickett

2008 Candidate Selection Process

OCDC is committed to a fair and equitable committee designation process. To begin the designation process, all prospective candidates must submit a letter of intent with a resume to the County Chair for review of eligibility. Elected officials seeking re-designation should also notify the County Chair of their intent. A list of candidates will then be provided to all Town and Ward chairs including contact information as well as posted on the OCDC website.

The process provides committees the opportunity to interview candidates & joint interviews are encouraged. The City & Towns Chairs will coordinate dates and interviews with consideration to both committee and candidate schedules.

January-February: All candidates' names should be submitted to the County Chair.

February 21st: The Chair will provide each Town and Ward Chair with the name and addresses of all candidates to be considered.

March 1st: Candidate interviews will begin (no voting).

April 20-May 6th: Committees will meet to cast votes for candidates in each Town and Ward. The County Candidate Selection Voting Rules will be used to cast and tabulate all votes.

May 8th: All Town and Ward votes will be submitted to the Secretary for tabulation by the County Officers.

May 15th: A Full County Committee Meeting will be held to announce the results of the vote and to present our candidates.

Manlius Democratic Committee Chair Transitions to New Post



Mark Tetley was elected Town of Manlius Supervisor this Fall and, due to his new responsibilities, has vacated his position as Town of Manlius Democratic Committee Chair. Tetley reports that the transition has gone well and everyone at Manlius Town Hall has been very cooperative and helpful.

The position is time-consuming with an abundance of evening meetings including Board meetings, Village Board meetings, shared services and task force planning meetings. However, Tetley enjoys working to "fix the small things in people's lives" since he knows that is what makes up our quality of life.

Mark said "I will miss being Chair but it was necessary to resign. I enjoyed all the people I was able to meet and interact with and the opportunity to be part of the political process." Tetley has passed the torch to Gifford Duffy, the newly elected Town of Manlius Chair.

Silver and Gold: Our OCDC Committee Chairs

Special thanks to our Town and Ward Chairs who retired their posts this year. Their Democratic spirit, energy and dedication to the cause will not be forgotten. Without unselfish donations of time and talent, our committees would be immeasurable poorer. **Our heartfelt thanks to our 2007/2008 retiring Chairs, Joan Kesel, Town of Cicero, Robert Manciocchi, Town of Marcellus and Mark Tetley, Town of Manlius.**

Incoming committee Chairs include **Robert Dingman, Town of Marcellus, Gifford Duffy, Town of Manlius, Robert Meixner, Town of Elbridge and Jessica Zambrano, Town of Cicero.**

New York State Assembly Report

Assemblywoman Joan K. Christensen participated in the RESTORE NY public hearing. Restore aims to revitalize and stabilize urban areas and neighborhoods, enabling municipalities to grow a tax base. The West Side Initiative is an example in Syracuse of a project that will benefit from the program.



Assemblyman William Magnarelli was named chair of the Assembly Ethics and Guidance Committee. Magnarelli will also serve as Co-Chair of the Legislative Ethics Committee. Magnarelli is currently serving his tenth year in the Assembly and has previously served as the Chair of the Legislative Commission on Science and Technology, Chair of the Legislative Task Force on University-Industry Cooperation, and on the Majority Steering Committee.

Assemblyman Al Stirpe is holding forums for the public to discuss the Governor's proposed 2008 budget. This March meeting is scheduled for March 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the North Syracuse Town Center, 700 South Bay Rd. Please call his district office at 452-1115 with any questions or concerns.



New York State Senate Report



We are well into budget season in Albany, as the Senate and Assembly are crafting their own proposals for the coming fiscal year. For my part, I have been meeting with constituents groups and concerned organizations, and sharing my priorities with fellow members of the joint conference committees on which I serve. By the end of March, we should have most of the differences worked out and hopefully will be ready to pass another on-time budget.

Senator David J. Valesky

Onondaga County Legislature



Our Democratic caucus, thanks to your efforts, unites new members Monica Williams, Tom Buckel, Marty Masterpole and Dave Stott, with our seasoned legislators, Lovie Winslow, Bill Kinne, Sam LaGuzza and myself. We will lead the fight for a cleaner and greener environment, support our friends in labor, advocate for a living wage, promote job development and employment opportunities, and provide services as efficiently and effectively as possible to reduce taxes and develop a more prosperous and livable central New York community.

Hon. Mark Stanczyk, Floor Leader



City of Syracuse Common Council

The Democratic majority welcomed two new members to the Syracuse Common Council in January. First District Councilor Michael Heagerty will chair the Public Works Committee. Owner of the Palace Theater in Eastwood, Michael is a former member of the Syracuse Planning Commission. Fifth District Councilor Lance Denno is a retired Deputy Chief of the Syracuse Fire Department, and will chair the Inter-Governmental Relations Committee.

Hon. Bethaida González, President