

PRESS RELEASE

Genesee County Democratic Committee

9/30/2009

Lorie Longhany was elected to a two year term as the Chairman of the Genesee County Democratic Committee Tuesday, September 29 at the Elks Club in Batavia. County Democrats gathered to vote for officers re-electing all to second terms by unanimous votes. Joe Cassidy, serving over 30 years on the Democratic committee and a representative of the State Committee, will serve a second term as Vice-Chair, Donna Ferry as treasurer and Carrie Henning, who filled a vacancy four months ago, to her first term as Secretary.

After the election Longhany welcomed 16 new committee members from across the county, who were seated last week after carrying petitions in June. "Party building from the grassroots is my biggest priority with choice at the ballot box being the end result", Longhany stated. "It's exciting, we are adding many energized people to our ranks, including many young people." Many young Democratic candidates are running for public office in their first bids for public office across the county including: Town Board candidate, Michael Plitt from Darien, Sarah Burk-Balbi, Phil Ricci, Julie Wallace running for Batavia city council at large, Jennifer Keys running for LeRoy Town Council, and Christopher Charvella running for the 8th district county legislature seat. "I am proud of all the Genesee County candidates, elected officials and committee people but it is especially satisfying to see so many young people with fresh ideas willing to step up and serve their communities and their Party".

County Democrats also voted overwhelmingly to approve a public option resolution with the results going out to elected officials.

Over the past year, under Longhany's leadership, Democrats have started a volunteer coalition called Genesee Democrats in Action. Democrats participated in the Salvation Army red kettle campaign, collect non perishable food items at county committee meetings and teamed up with the YWCA over the summer to help deliver nutritious lunches to children at the Batavia parks. Several committee members have joined the YWCA's "Power Up" mentoring program, as well. Longhany hopes to expand the volunteer efforts over the next two years. Democrats have also started a newsletter called the Genesee Blues under the direction of new committeeman, Bea McManis. Communications is essential for a political organization and the Genesee Democratic Committee are now connected through the newly launched newsletter, committee website and facebook.

The GLOW Democratic coalition, formed last year by the collective Democratic leadership of Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming counties is another source of pride linking rural Democrats together to form a stronger and more unified voice.

"It is a privilege and an honor to serve county Democrats" Longhany said. "I am grateful for the committee's trust in my leadership and will strive for consensus and shared responsibilities to meet goals that help advance our parties ideals."