

RAR Minutes

2018-2-6

Facilitators: Jamie, Jennifer

Timekeeper: none

Notes: Joe Robins

Group contact information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/
- General email: info@riseandresist.org
- Press email: media@riseandresist.org
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm at the Church of the Village, 201 W 13th St.

Meeting Notes

- Welcome/Introduction
 - Reviewed norms, asked if any law enforcement or journalists were present (none identified themselves), read mission statement.
 - Annette is our floating facilitator for the night.
- Welcome new members
- State of Disgrace
 - Recognized all those present who participated in last week's action - those who participated in Trump Tower, banner crew, support crew.
- Tom Cat Bakery - Jean
 - Explained context of Tom Cat actions - solidarity with undocumented workers who got fired from Tom Cat Bakery in response to an ICE audit. We have demanded that Tom Cat adopt practices that stand for immigrant rights, we've been pressuring them by putting pressure on restaurants who buy from them.
 - We are going to do an action that brings this into one of the restaurants.
 - Action will be this Friday, Feb. 9th, 6:45 PM. We will be meeting at the Hudson Yards subway station on the 7 train. Meet on 34th St. and Hudson Blvd East (between 10th and 11th). If it's raining, meet just inside the station, at the bottom of the escalators.
 - Not naming the restaurant to avoid letting people know ahead of time.
 - We will have signs, chants, etc. We are in coalition with the DSA, IWW, and other groups. Our comms group will be there to record the action.
 - There will be a reporter embedded in the restaurant to document it.
 - We are not walking out on our bills, so make sure you bring money with you to pay for your drink/whatever.

- Q: Is there a site with a list of restaurants who buy from Tom Cat?
 - We are working on creating that list. Tom Cat is huge, they have 1,000 accounts, we only know a small number of them.
- Q: Do you hand out educational materials at these events?
 - We are working on a flyer for the outside group. The inside group will have bowls of good bread with a message on them, to replace the bad bread.
- More info: riseandresist.org/tomcat
- Contact me at: radiobaron@gmail.com
- Report back on Feb. 3rd “beginning of the year” meeting - Jay
 - We’ve had a series of meetings where we reviewed how things have worked over the last year, and how we can tweak things to make them work better.
 - Focus at this meeting was on internal dynamics - in our meetings, how can we be precise, how can we be respectful, how can we communicate better?
 - Most issues were in the realm of facilitation. Outcome of the meeting was shared with the facilitation group.
 - In addition to doing these meetings where we talk about these dynamics, how to welcome new members, etc., we wanted to set up another meeting.
 - This meeting will be on March 4th, 2PM, at the LGBT Center.
 - This meeting will be focused on strategy moving forward. How we will focus our efforts, how will we be effective?
 - We gave a brief treatment to the subject of oppression (in the internal dynamics of our group and our meetings), we will be coming back to that in a future discussion. Might have a presentation here at the weekly meeting, or hold a separate discussion on these issues. Reinforced the idea of a conflict resolution team - Jay, Elka, Jake volunteered for that.
 - Showed suggestions for working across differences (see meeting slides).
 - Helps to remind ourselves of what we’re fighting for, and not just what we’re trying to fight against, that can help keep us grounded. Web site committee would like to post the goals from all of our different committees on the site. Email media@riseandresist.org to share content from your committee.
- Impeach report back and upcoming actions - Martin
 - Action happens every Thursday, 5:30-6:30.
 - Last week, we were at Trump Hotel at Columbus Circle, had about 30 people.
 - Reporter from Fordham university, will be writing this up for Fordham newspaper and Medium.com.
 - Got about 55,000 views of the video.
 - This week, Feb. 8th: Trump Tower, theme is obstruction of justice. We’ll be doing an obstruction timeline, building the case. Please RSVP on Facebook.
 - For future actions, will need help organizing, creating a theme.
 - Email: checkoutthatlady@gmail.com
 - Comment: for a while, there were a bunch of police barricades in front of the hotel, blocking off the plaza. In a past action, we challenged the police on why

the plaza was barricaded off, when it was a public space. When we returned this time, the barricades were gone. There is still a chain roping off the stairs, but the police told us they would not apply trespass charges for crossing the chain peacefully. We hope to get them to take down the chains in the future.

- Review emergency activation in case either Rosenstein or Mueller is fired - Andy, Wrolf
 - RAR is part of the coalition that will be protesting in the event that Trump interferes with the Mueller investigation. This is part of a national effort, a coalition of many groups.
 - The trigger is expanded to include if Trump fires Rod Rosenstein, who oversees the investigation (because Sessions recused himself).
 - There are weekly calls keeping people up to date on what to expect.
 - Depending on the time the firing happened, there would be a protest at 5PM that day at Times Square, rallying, then marching to Union Square, and continuing the rally there. If it happens late enough in the day that we cannot congregate that day at 5:00, the protest will happen at 5PM the next day.
 - Sign up for notification:
 - Web site: trumpisnotabovethelaw.org
 - Text "follow nycmueller" to 40404
 - We will be helping provide marshals for the action.
 - We will be setting up another marshal training soon. Great to see that many people have already done the marshal training.
 - There are 200,000 people signed up nationally already.
 - The Republican party as a whole has gotten on board in obstructing justice. They are more interested in protecting Trump than protecting the country. We might need to think about how we expand our definition of crisis.
 - Floor comment: there is a call for people to participate. Sense is that there are a lot of people who will want to do something stronger than what we have planned. We might want to have a tactical team that will help steer action in a way that is strategic.
 - There is a strict stance against civil disobedience from the organizers of this action. There are many great locations in NYC where people who want to participate in civil disobedience can go instead.
 - Floor comment: Kirsten Gillibrand asked leaders of the Women's March "If I can get people into Congress, can you provide people to shut it down?" I want to participate in the kind of planning that needs to happen to take a bold action.
 - We are trying to figure out how to call people to come to DC. It would not be that same night, it would be complementary to what we are planning to do.
 - Floor question: Are people interested in a CD training in March?
 - Many hands were raised.
- Elections 2018 - brief on next week's discussion
 - We have a committee on elections.
 - We want to talk about endorsing certain candidates in a very specific way.

- Over the last year, we've been fighting against the IDC - eight state senators who were elected as Democrats, and then joined a coalition with Republicans, preventing a lot of progressive legislation from reaching a vote.
- Many of these issues are coming to the state level as a protection against the things that are happening at the federal level, as well as to serve as leaders to the rest of the country.
- Our committee is focused on the 2018 NY State Senate elections.
- Right now, New York is terribly gerrymandered. If we can't take control of the State Senate by 2020, the Republicans will get to draw the lines and maintain these bad districts.
- We've done a lot of protesting in front of the IDC members' offices. We've done publicizing of the IDC, educating people about them and what they are doing. We are also acting in coalition with other anti-IDC groups in the city.
- There are candidates who are announcing to run against IDC members in the Democratic primary this September.
 - New York has a closed primary system, so only registered Democrats can vote in the primary.
- In many of these districts, whoever wins the Democratic primary will win the general election.
- We are asking to be able to endorse anti-IDC senate candidates, be allowed to mention them by name in our actions.
- There is a questionnaire on progressive issues being distributed by the True Blue coalition, as well as a forum being hosted by them. These candidates also have to sign an anti-IDC pledge. (RAR has already signed on to the anti-IDC pledge.)
- We are asking that Rise and Resist be listed as one of the groups endorsing these coalition-approved candidates.
- Q: Are there any limits to what RAR could do after this endorsement, in terms of reacting to these candidates on specific issues?
 - There are no top-down rules. We can still do all the same things we do.
- Q: Are we in a situation where there will only be one Democratic candidate going against the IDC member? What if there are multiple candidates, and RAR likes one candidate, but other coalition members like another one?
 - We do not have to endorse anyone. If we don't like the candidate that the coalition endorses, we don't have to sign on. But there is strength in having a large coalition supporting a single candidate, especially against an entrenched incumbent.
- Q: Is there anything coming up in New York to challenge gerrymandering here, following the PA decision?
 - We don't know.
- Q: Does our endorsement mean anything more than a seal of approval?
 - We want to be able to engage in actions and say that we are supporting a specific candidate against the IDC member. This allows us to say who we're for, and not just who we're against.

- Q: Will Rise and Resist be listed as an endorser?
 - Yes.
- Q: For the people who are running against the IDC member, have they come out and confronted the incumbent for their part in the IDC?
 - Yes, they are very vocal about the problem of the IDC.
- Q: After the primary, what's the plan? What are we committed to? Will we continue to support the candidate beyond that?
 - Most of the NYC IDC members are in blue districts, so if they win the primary, they will likely win the general election.
 - We intend to keep an eye on them, and hold them to what they committed to in the questionnaire and the primary.
- Q: Do we have contact information for these 40 organizations in this coalition?
 - Join the elections group and we can help put you in contact.
- Q: What is the plan if the current IDC member chooses to run as an independent in the general election after losing the primary?
 - We think it would be unlikely they could win after losing the primary.
- *Moving on to discussion - please stay respectful.*
- Comment: A lot of politicians respond to support. If we are demanding that politicians do things, we will get more traction if we show public support for the candidates who actually do the things we demand.
- Comment: In my neighborhood, we had three candidates run against an incumbent, so he won. Focusing our support is good.
- Comment: The State Assembly has passed single-payer, GENDA, the NY Dream Act, but the IDC prevents it from getting to the floor. We have no choice, we have to get rid of the IDC, so I think we have to support people who are fighting against the IDC candidates.
- Comment: There was a state senator who tried to pass a law demanding that presidential candidates release their taxes, that got blocked. We have to fight for what we're for, not just what we're against.
- Comment: In general, the idea of supporting a candidate feels like a means to an ends to me. I have some concerns about what we are legally allowed to do, given the specific nature of our incorporation as a 501c3.
 - It was noted that we do not believe that that is a problem. We can confirm this.
- Comment: I am not comfortable with our endorsing candidates. I am fine with us giving people information about candidates and what they stand for, but not with an official endorsement.
- Comment: We have to be very clear about the message we put out. Rise and Resist is not a Democrat-affiliated organization, and we have to be clear on that.
- Comment: Sometimes in politics, there's an insider/outsider strategy. We can target the IDC and do things like crash an IDC fundraiser to make trouble, things that a Democratic candidate would not do. The official campaigns will do positive

actions like phone banking, raising awareness, etc. We can do more disruptive actions. Would we have to toe the line?

- We can continue to do disruptive actions, we have no intention of stopping.
- Comment: I feel so strongly on this issue. If we don't get involved in things like this, we will become irrelevant. We have to have a bifurcated strategy. The elections committee has been successful in what they're doing, while we also can be disruptive in our actions.
- Comment: Your actions are excellent. Do you foresee the possibility of endorsing a candidate, and then the candidate feels like they have to distance themselves from us because of our disruptive actions?
 - In the bigger world, it takes a variety of actions, and all things that move things in the right direction are helpful.
- Comment: I don't agree that we don't have a choice. There are powerful arguments on both sides. For me, the most compelling thing is that I want to trust this working group, who have put so many hours into this. That sways me.
- Comment: I've been very involved in direct actions. We want to encourage people who will do the hard work of getting the votes we need to get rid of the IDC in 2018. There is an urgent need for both direct action as well as the electoral work.
- Comment: This is a point of information. The idea that we've galvanized this energy in Hamilton's district, I would urge the committee to do the deep work of understanding Hamilton's district much better than that. He has a strong power base, they bus people to the polls. The idea that there are a lot of people activated, that this will be a cake walk, is wrong. We also have to understand the racial dynamics that are at play here. Hamilton has been talking about the anti-IDC movement as all-white, trying to work against people of color in the district.
- Straw poll: How many people are uncomfortable with Rise and Resist endorsing a candidate?
 - A few hands were raised.
- Vote: Rise and Resist elections committee, as part of True Blue, will participate in creating the questionnaire and forum, help select candidates to run against IDC members, and endorse those candidates.
 - Q: Is this a blanket approval, or would the group come back to the floor for specific candidates?
 - This is an approval for the committee to take this action.
 - Vote results: Strong vote in favor, a few against, a medium number of abstentions.
- Postcard Party - Rachel, Mary
 - Tomorrow (Feb. 7th): 7-9PM, 209 E 56th St., Apt. 6B
 - We will be writing postcards to voters in swing districts.

- Bring your phone so you can get messages of voter names and addresses, and if you are particular about a writing utensil, bring the one you like.
- Book Club - Andy, Leslie
 - Read and Resist!
 - A number of people have already gotten a copy of the book.
 - Feb. 25th, 2-4PM, at the LGBT Center.
 - Book is called Direct Action, by L.A. Kaufman. It's a history of the American left since the 60s, told through the tradition of direct action.
- Comms - Martin, John
 - Website: we've been doing really well. We've had about 2.5K unique visitors per month, people from all over the world. We have the minutes on the web site. We have photos - email yours to us at media@riseandresist.org. We have events listed, we're going to be setting up a calendar. We have a page for the Tom Cat actions. If you have a page you want created, email us.
 - We are 150 people short of the 5,000 follower mark on Twitter! We've had some people helping to enlist followers for us, and our livestreams have gotten attention.
 - Press: We hope to get more press at some of our actions. We have an idea to ask the working groups to be involved in getting press attention - write a press release, pitch media, call news desks, and generate your own press lists. We have a member who is an experienced publicist who has been helping us.
 - Q: Do we have an internal document we can share with people of a list of news desks and contacts?
 - Not yet, but we're working on that. We hope that action groups will develop relationships with journalists as well.
 - Comment: The media work that the comms group have done has been excellent, they have shouldered a lot of responsibility. Right now, comms is not large enough to work as a service group for all actions, so it will be great if people involved in the actions can take on some of that role.
 - Q: Does comms still do things like printing posters, etc.?
 - We are looking for a new person to take on that role, we don't have someone right now doing that.
 - Tabled further discussion for now, because of time constraints.
- Immigration
 - New York Sanctuary Coalition has called an emergency rally for 9AM this Saturday, to protest the deportation of Ravi Ragbir. Location is Foley Square: 26 Federal Plaza
 - Message of the rally: You can't deport a movement. Focus is on all immigrants, not just Ravi.
 - Vote was unanimous to endorse.
 - New York City judicial system has allowed ICE agents into courthouses to detain immigrants. We are asking the Chief Judge to ban ICE from entering New York

courthouses. We have postcards, we ask people to sign them, we will mail them for you.

- We had a security meeting about Amanda, who is in sanctuary in a church in NYC. We are supporting her protection.
- Our next meeting is this Thursday, 7PM, at the LGBT Center.
- President's Day Activities - Jay
 - Monday, Feb. 19th we will be doing an action - ice skating and social action.
 - 4:30-6:30PM at Wollman Rink.
- Nadler Town Hall
 - Feb 12th, 6PM, NYU - Vanderbilt Hall
 - Go on Eventbrite, look for the Nadler town hall, register.
 - We are going to be doing gentle questioning on where he stands on impeachment, and what it will take for him to support the impeachment calls on the House floor.
 - Some people are also planning to ask immigration questions.
- Finance
 - About \$11K in the bank, outstanding checks around \$6100.
 - Selling Impeach hats for \$15 each.
 - Would like to hold an activist disco party at Nowhere Bar as a fundraiser, we would sell hats and t-shirts.
 - Feb. 25th, 6-10PM.
 - Would like to donate a portion of our proceeds to sanctuary, and we will try to educate attendees on immigration issues.
 - Email: fundraising@riseandresist.org
 - Next week, we want to have a discussion about how we can use our creative avenues to help raise money and get our creative works out into the world.
- New Actions
 - Sunday, 11-1PM, LGBT Center, room 304 - First meeting of Resistance Recruitment group.
 - Rachel - Supporting ally groups - on Valentine's Day, we can send valentines to groups that we want to show support for. People who are interested in participating should contact Rachel at rachel.tornheim@gmail.com.
 - Rachel can make valentines and bring them to the meeting to be signed.
 - Read a draft of the message, people loved it.
 - Rachel will bring a draft list next week of the organizations we want to send them to.
 - This Saturday, the Youth Caucus is meeting at 6PM at Spice in Brooklyn. If you're interested, talk to Jeremiah.
 - There has been some interest recently in talking about how to be good allies to transgender communities. Reached out to a contact with one group, she is available to come to our Feb. 20th meeting to do a teach-in.

- We are participating in Pride this year. They've given us a deadline of next week to give a list of people who will be part of the RAR group. We need help reaching out to everyone. Contact Jake if you can help.
- Non-RAR Actions
 - Saturday, 12PM-10PM - Going to Schenectady on a bus to support the widow of Andrew Kearse (sp?), who died in custody. Encourage people to join us. Will create a Facebook event for it. Contact Elka at elka@elka.net.
 - Meeting on Saturday, 3-6PM - coalition to save WBAI. Have the possibility of partnership. Go to savewbai.org for more information. Event is at 104th St., between 3rd and Lex.
 - Valentine's Day - GAG event - day trip to DC. Leave from LGBT Center at 7:30AM. Visiting the Senate office of John Cornyn, who is sponsoring a concealed carry reciprocity law, that would force states like New York to allow people from other states to carry concealed weapons. We are presenting Cornyn with a bloody Valentine card. We will proceed through the Senate, passing out anti-CCR cards, then stage a sit-in, singing "My Bloody Valentine", and persisting into optional civil disobedience. This Saturday, 1-3PM, at the LGBT center, we will have a preparation meeting. There is a Facebook event, look for "My Bloody Valentine - Gays Against Guns".
 - The Phantom - wants to be mayor. Wants to save WBAI.
- The end!