

## 06.12.2018 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Annette, Jennifer

Notetaker: Jody

### Group contact information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
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- General email: [info@riseandresist.org](mailto:info@riseandresist.org)
- Press email: [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- Meetings: Every Tuesday at 7pm at the Church of the Village, 201 W 13th St.

### Meeting Introduction

- Any law enforcement here (none responded), any working journalists (none responded), get off your phone, be present, step up/step back, raise your hands and introduce yourself and your pronouns, reading of mission statement
- New member welcome (Diane, greeter) - no new members as of now

### Pruitt Action Report Back (Tom, John W.)

- Did 5 days in front of the EPA culminating in an exorcism, got a lot of press, nice coalition of participants, RAR hazmat suits looked great
- First time we did 5 days in a row - lessons were learned - would be good to have a sit down to discuss logistics
- Lots of press: Guardian, AM New York, CBS National news, etc
- Incredibly positive response from people who work at the EPA - one person said that they appreciate us being there - it meant a lot to them.
- A lot of school kids going to African American Burial Ground passed by them and teachers were into it; lots of kids joined them. Great to see kids learning that you can protest.
- Banners up on scaffold around building for 4 days; 5th day a Homeland Security cop said they had to come down. Jamie told him they'd been up for 4 days, thought it would be okay and he backed down.
- Comment: photos and videos will be in newsletter - share them and like them If you get positive responses back, ask people to donate.
- Comment: the media was great - we should figure out what we did right. There was a lot about Pruitt in the news anyway so that helped as well
- Q: how did all of the stuff in the news about Pruitt play into the action or how did you play off of it?

- A: a lot of it washed over us - we were really focusing on the issues with the environment and not so much what a jerk Pruitt is. Passersby brought up more of the current news about Pruitt than we did. Gave out over 1000 flyers over the 5 days.
- Comment: We did what we normally do re press and it actually worked this time.
- Coalition with Food and Water Watch and Friends of the Earth and Reverend Billy
- Q: Did we get a lot of press because it was 5 days? Would we have gotten the press if it was only 1 day
- A: No, we wouldn't have

#### Trump Birthday Action (Mark, Alexandra, Leon, Ann)

- This Thursday, June 14, 5:30 pm in front of Trump Tower
- Let Them Eat Cake
- Standing up for the Food Stamp program
- Trump dressed as Marie Antoinette, bday cake and package being delivered to Trump
- Package is tax cut that Trump Org gets under the new tax law - cutting food stamps to pay for those cuts
- Sidewalk is pretty open in front of Trump Tower now
- Legal pickets seem to be fine
- Will have signs and will be talking about what Trump and Ryan are proposing to do to the food stamp program
- Will hopefully have some people there that operate soup kitchens and food pantries
- Please show up
- Need a couple of people who use the food stamp program or have used it to talk about what it means to them
- Bring donations of non-perishable food items - will bring to a nearby senior center: cereal, soup, pasta, canned food, etc
- Will be masks, costumes and cake
- Bring large items - it's a photo opportunity - want to fill the carts and be visually obvious
- Bring a friend with donations too or if friends can't come, collect food donations from them
- Q: I'd like to donate food items but I won't be here - can I drop off items in advance somewhere?
- A: Talk to one of the organizers and make arrangements
- There will be some expenses, but well under the \$200 limit
- Reasoning for action this week is that they may try to vote on food stamps next week. Senate has a separate more reasonable proposal.

#### Abolish ICE July 4 (Jamie, Leon, Rick)

- Vague action at a prominent location - will involve some form of a human billboard. Human banner, banner and other paraphernalia
- Was approved last week on the floor
- Need a minimum of 20 people to pull it off - have about 15 people so far
- Will require 4-5 hours of your time

- Will discuss further at Actions committee tomorrow at 6 pm
- There will be a meeting for those participating in it - Wednesday, June 20th in lieu of action committee meeting - 6-8 pm at UAW, 256 West 28th St, 12th Fl
- Probably low risk of arrest but varying degrees depending on role
- If you're interested, important to come to the meeting on June 20th. If you really can't, talk to Jamie. [bauwau2u@gmail.com](mailto:bauwau2u@gmail.com)
- Abolish ICE stickers being passed around - don't take more than you can put up. Also, be careful where you put them in public places - it's illegal to put them in subway. Don't do the crime if you can't do the time. Look great on cash machines, citibikes, bus shelters, etc.

#### Close Rikers action - Tuesday, June 19th (Martin)

- Mass incarceration in NY State is the focus - Juneteenth (Freedom Day)
- Emancipation from a racist pre-trial system
- Good networking, coalition building opportunity
- 5:30-7 pm Foley Square
- Asking for an endorsement
- VOTE: unanimously passed endorsement

#### Proof (Martin)

- Bringing together photo documentation of activism
- In partnership with high school students
- Would come to our July 17th meeting and talk to a few of us before that
- HS Students come to our actions and take photos
- Would not take photos at the meeting
- No objections to them doing so.

#### Protect Mueller Coalition (Andy)

- What has come out of the investigation is endemic corruption
- National coalition is calling for coordinated mass action in response
- One being planned in NYC
- Times Square - July 18 at 7 pm - unpermitted
- Sharing of resources on ways to get involved
- Planning call tomorrow
- We are a member of the coalition - confirming that we want to participate in this nationwide day of action
- Asking for co-sponsorship - asking for marshals, probably not asking for money, but would bring that back to the floor if there's any request, comms would support
- Q: What is the action itself?
- A: Still being finalized
- Q: What is the strategic goal here? Why are they doing this now?

- A: There's been lots coming out from the investigation - guilty pleas, indictments. People may not be aware of all that has come out. Trump calls it a witch hunt every week - we need to take control of that narrative. We need to push back against his narrative
- Should we wait until after tomorrow's phone call to vote on this? Yes.
- Comment: a majority doesn't know that there are actual indictments that have come down from this - that's the reasoning for this action. Needs to be some national attention to this.

#### Elevator Action (Jennifer)

- Doing a postcard campaign targeted at Andrew Cuomo to support Andy Byford's plan
- Had 1000 postcard stamps donated by the Transit Center
- Big meeting next week at LGBT Center Courtyard - 5:30-7 pm on Tuesday, June 19
- Andy Byford has narrowed down to 3 candidates for Exec Director job
- Jennifer took an 8-hour mediator class at Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts - if you want to know more about mediation, ask her.
- Legal mediation as well as informal mediation.
- Not giving out postcards - have to be signed with Elevator Action Group and mailed by them.
- Should have postcards by next week's meeting.

#### Comms (Andy)

- Any groups can take on press releases - will schedule a coaching session. If it's short, will do it at a meeting - if need more than 20 mins, will schedule something outside of a meeting.
- If you want to distribute materials digitally, send them to [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- There's a graphic designer who has offered to do a design element to capture the resistance - idea was to put it on a flag
  - Can give ideas and they will make us some artwork
  - What are the design elements that we would want them to include?
  - Drooker is the artist- he's famous - he worked with Allen Ginsberg
  - Send some keywords, ideas, sketches, artwork you like to [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org) and they will pass it along to Drooker.
  - Q: Are we obligated to use it?
  - A: No
  - Comment: we need to be sensitive to gender things and things that use weapons in them and things that look like they're destructive. Most of the images we're looking at raise concerns in these areas.
  - A: Will raise this in the email to the artist
  - Q: Does he know we place things in the public domain?
  - A: We could not place in the public domain, but will discuss it with him. Think he likes his artwork to be used.

#### Picnic - July 21 (Diane)

- Reminder that we voted to have a picnic on July 21 mid to late afternoon
- Will have a rain date July 28

## Rent collection

### Pride Update (Jake)

- Last week town hall with HOP Board, NYPD and Mayor's Office
- All of it is on YouTube - look it up
- Believe that the Resistance contingent may move up in the parade
- Slide presentation - details: as of now, stepping off at 3:30 pm. Gather from 1-3 pm. 17th Street between 7th and 8th Aves, need to walk south on 8th Ave to get there. Need to wear wristband to get there. Jake has them and will distribute.
- Wristband Resisters will be meeting in front of the SVA Theater and will attempt to join parade - protesters will sit down and chant if they cannot enter - might be disorderly conduct arrests. NYPD will not arrest simply for a lack of wristband.
- RAR's theme this year is We're Here. We're Queer. We Know What to Do.
- Posters with phrase and with action on other side (voting, gun violence, police brutality etc) - what are things you can actually do
- Last year's posters are not so usable anymore - they refer to a lot of people who aren't in the administration anymore
- T-shirts: Date of midterm election, mission statement in rainbow flag
- Costs: \$350 for signs, \$350 for postcards (10,000), vehicle rental (\$250-300) - total \$1000
- Mary donated foamcore that can be repurposed - minus \$100.
- Would anyone donate their vehicle?
- Q: Is postcard designed yet?
- A: Not yet but will be similar to last year
- Q: What is the text on the posters? I can't read it
- A: Not finalized yet - it will be more legible. It will say "End Police Brutality" and "We're Here. We're Queer. We know what to do."
- Q: Why is Reclaim Pride meeting so late? Should we have violent imagery on the posters? What was the thought process behind deciding to participate in the March by HOP's rules?
- A: The sections line up at different times so that's why Reclaim Pride is meeting so late - to align with the resistance groups. We wanted iconic images of resistance in the past so that's why the images include violence. These are images of queer resistance.
- Q: Do your images include lesbians or just gay men?
- A: We just selected a few for the presentation - didn't notice who was in them.
- A: Once we were given the opportunity to march in the resistance contingent it was important to show HOP that people wanted that opportunity.
- Q: Do you have info on the resistance contingent being moved up? GAG wants to be earlier on so they can be in the televised part
- A: Won't know until tomorrow.

- Q: What do you have to do to RSVP? Just RSVP on facebook? Will you be able to see the Wristband Resisters if you march with the resistance?
- A: It is helpful if you RSVP on facebook - aiming for 2000 people in the resistance contingent. Yes, you should be able to see the wristband resisters.
- Q: Last year we ran out of postcards- how does that compare to this year?
- A: We had 13,000 last year but we're trying to be budget conscious and also we're not at the front this year. And there may be some resistance fatigue.
- Q: Would you be open to acquiring difference images that include a more diverse group of people - not just gay men, not just focused on Stonewall.
- A: Welcome any photos that people have that they could use. Trying to figure out what images they're allowed to use.
- Postcards are key - they should be recruiting postcards - yes, that's what they're for.
- We're working with ACT UP to have a table at PrideFest - postcards would be helpful there too
- Q: If distributing postcards last year didn't result in people joining Rise and Resist, then why would we do it again?
- A: We did have an uptick, especially online
- Proposal - \$1000 for materials
  - Passed with some opposition and some abstentions

#### Pride T-shirt (Martin)

- Objections to the t-shirt for this year - the focus on the midterm elections which are pretty irrelevant in NY. The process for the determination of the theme - wasn't brought to the floor.
- A committee was formed - a bunch of people weighed in on messaging
- Was rushed to try to get them in time for PrideFest so we could sell t-shirts
- Front has date of midterm elections, back has a portion of the mission statement
- T-shirts will cost \$2000 - hoping to sell enough to cover that cost
- Fundraising committee approved shirt
- Should have been brought to the floor
- Q: Was there consideration given to the idea that the message on the t-shirt should have been brought to the floor as a whole?
- A: No that wasn't considered - there's a larger group that's been working on Pride and thought the messaging had been presented
- Comment: it doesn't seem like the onus should be on Martin - there's something that happened in our system that failed.
- Comment: as a member of the fundraising committee, I had assumed this had been discussed on the floor - as I've been out for a few weeks.
- Comment: Not the first or last time we hit a speed bump. We continue to work on policy, etc. If people want to wear a different shirt for pride, can they?
- There are other options that were designed by the team that you could wear as well - could be available in the store. Other options designed by Ivy and Mary.

- We can use social media to sell all t-shirts. Might not put election ones in store - don't want to create competition.
- We have done things different ways - working groups do things different ways - if you go to a working group, then your voice is heard. There were tons of ideas that were developed in the time available.
- The main concern is that we're going into pride with t-shirts that indicate that you're supposed to vote and not resist. It's a big disconnect in our mission and the message. Normally we do talk about messaging on the floor. Some people in the small working group did object to the message.
- Q: What remedy is there for this? Can we reduce the order? Or change the message?
- A: Cancellation of the order would damage the relationship that Tom has developed over time. If we change the order, shirts will not arrive in time for Pride.
- Comment: A t-shirt message is not worth losing members over. From a procedural standpoint, it needs to be clear that moving forward, any expenditure over \$200 needs to come to the floor. The intention of this got distracted by the struggle with HOP. Let's make the best of a bad situation now.
- Comment: Mary had been asking for messaging for months. Didn't get to it until after everything with HOP. As we move forward, need to keep in mind that designers can spend time designing or coming to meetings but not necessarily both.
- Comment: Can't do design by committee but can do message by committee - that's important.
- Comment: it's not any individual's, committee's fault - it's on all of us. Pride messaging convo needs to start in January. Been through it with ACT-UP. As an organization, we weren't thinking that way. We all fumbled the ball.
- We can turn a shirt around quickly on the store so people can order it and it can arrive in time for Pride.
- Would the floor find it helpful to vote retroactively on the \$2k t-shirt expenditure?
- We tend to get a little myopic - maybe it's helpful to go around to some people not in your group to get feedback in general.
- Do we want to make other shirts available on that day?
  - Comment: I don't think so - but people should buy the shirt just to support RAR.
- What is the process with a t-shirt?
  - It's been different every time. Can we codify something?
- We are running out of time - what is productive from here?

Will jump to the 501c3 discussion and then come back to Pride T-shirts

#### 501c3/Finance (Robert, Jeremiah)

- AJ Muste - they provide grants to grassroots projects around the world
- Would allow us to apply for grants that we're not currently able to get
- Charge 7% processing fee for all money that goes through them
- If we receive large donations from someone who wants a tax deduction, they could go through them

- They get the money and cut us a check once or twice per month
- More restrictions on 501c3 funds - could go to marshall trainings but not CD training or legal fees. Could go to rent.
- They do this for a number of organizations - they're really on top of their game.
- They give out certain seed funds - they encouraged us to apply for a \$5k grant. They have space available that could be used on a monthly basis possibly more often once the relationship is established.
- Q: We would get a tax advantage minus the processing fee - so we'd be able to do more with the same donation?
- Comment: If people on finance can deal with the bookkeeping and we'd be eligible to get money we're not eligible for now, then what's the disadvantage?
- A: Someone could donate \$40 instead of \$10 per week for rent and get a tax deduction for that.
- Comment: 501c3 would allow us to put a donation button on our facebook page so we'd probably get more money that way.
- Proposal: Finance committee to begin application process with AJ Muste within the next well.
- Proposal passes overwhelmingly

#### Fischerspooner (Tom)

- Has asked if they can use our graphics in Prospect Park the day before Pride
- They don't have to ask
- We can table there
- Not sure we can sell t-shirts
- Any objections to them using our graphics? None.

Stonewall was a Riot bricks for sale in the back of the meeting (Andy)

#### Pride T-shirt conversation cont'd after end of meeting

- The Pride conversations haven't had a lot of sense of moving forward and a lot of discussion of complications. Maybe we should have stopped at a certain point and changed direction.
- Voting is part of our mission - so it does express our mission
- Think of it as one of Rise and Resist shirts
- Since the t-shirts are involved in fundraising, is there an assumption that the money doesn't need to be approved?
  - The fundraising approval process had been slippery because of that - some have been straw polls, some haven't come to the floor. Need to change that.
- T-shirts are a done deal - no sense in rehashing. Hopefully we learn some lessons. The lettering on the posters needs to be block and clear - needs to be read in 2 seconds or less from someone 50 feet away. Otherwise it's a waste of money and effort.
- Can the emphasis on the posters not be about voting? And have a message about resisting Trump?



- In NYC, the important election is the primary, not the general election, so the November date is particularly irrelevant.
- These things happen when people are rushed.
- We need clarity - these messages aren't clear visually. Can we modify the t-shirts when they arrive for marchers?
- Don't forget that the call went out for help and no one responded.
- If we codify that NO money can be spent over \$200 without coming to the floor, this would have all been avoided.
- The IDC t-shirts were paid by the committee member directly - that's why they didn't come to the floor with it. It's not true that we always see what things look like before the money is approved - we approved postcards tonight without seeing them.
- We agreed as a group that even if you find someone to sponsor, if you're spending money as RAR, it still needs to come to the floor.
- Why did we not do a t-shirt as part of the Reclaim Pride Coalition?
- We do have a design for a Reclaim Pride t-shirt - it could be available tonight, but we need to vote on it because it's a coalition shirt.
- Voting in the election is important but that's not the message of RAR or the resistance. We can put a message out that is not election focused but one of resistance.
- Voting is important outside of NY - can we look at it as more of an online thing where it gets more attention outside of NY.
- White space on t-shirt - can use spray paint and stencils to alter existing t-shirt.
- Would like to see the Reclaim Pride t-shirt in the store.
- Posters aren't finished - images and text. Mary working on them on Sunday - if you have ideas, please email Mary at [ME@MaryHawkins.com](mailto:ME@MaryHawkins.com) - if people want to get together as a group and discuss and then let Mary know.
- T-shirts are a done deal and posters are still in formation.
- What's the deadline for the posters? They need to be ordered on Monday.
- The messaging should go to the ERT.

#### Votes:

- 1) Supporting Rikers Juneteenth event: unanimously passed endorsement
- 2) Finance committee to begin application process with AJ Muste within the next well. - Proposal passes overwhelmingly
- 3) Informal - FischerSpooner can use our graphics in a concert.