

## 07.17.2018 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Jamie, Livvie

Notetaker: Jody

### Group contact information

- Website: [www.riseandresist.org](http://www.riseandresist.org)
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://twitter.com/RiseandResistNY)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/](https://www.facebook.com/RiseandResistNYC/)
- Instagram: [www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/](https://www.instagram.com/risenresistnyc/)
- 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 on-duty of NYPD or any other law enforcement (none responded), any working journalists? (none responded), stay off your phone and social media, don't broadcast meeting on social media or put any photos on social media, step up/step back, raise your hand and give name and preferred pronouns
- Welcome new members (Diane)

### Disability Pride Report Back (Tim)

- Happened last Sunday - about 10,000 people were there overall -in Madison Square Park
- We had about 25 people wearing Elevators are for Everyone t-shirts
- Would be great if RAR participated en masse next year
- CIDNY - Center for Independent Living New York came by and appreciated the t-shirts
- Comment: would have been good to have a sign or banner to walk behind to identify us. We were at a table at Union Square getting people to sign postcards to Cuomo - needed more bodies to

### Immigration (Jody)

- 4-day action focused on those complicit with ICE and bad immigration policy
- One day for each person complicit
  - 7/30 De Blasio - City hall
  - 7/31 Cuomo - Cuomo's NYC office (41st and 3rd Ave)
  - 8/1 Schumer - at Schumer's house on PPW
  - 8/2 Profiteers - Wall Street
  - Each day at 5:30 pm
- Martin: Facebook event? Press release?

- Jody: This Thursday at 7:30 pm at the Center, room 110 we'll be finalizing plans with facebook event to come soon after
- Stu: On Tuesday 7/31 Cosecha, a national organization will be doing the same national campaign about complicity. Everyone try to get there at least once.
- Jody: 2 books on table about immigration. We have stickers.
- Jamie: Watch out, stickers are illegal. If you stick it on the subway you could get busted.

#### Comms (Andy)

- Sunday at 6pm at Foley Square- Mark Apollo is going to be doing a session on how to livestream through Occupy ICE NYC
- Finalizing details on Rise and Resist blog - working on content - reaching out to writers and editors, lessons we have to share with the world
  - Reach out to Jennifer B if you want to contribute writing or skills
- Make life easier for Comms - let them know if things change with your events and/or if you want info on social media and the newsletter
- Can always use more help

#### Rent Collection

#### Confront Corruption: Demand Democracy (Andy)

- Part of "If Mueller is fired" coalition
- Found that those concerned with money laundering and Russia and corruption were not distinct - become unified in terms of investigation
- Wednesday action planned before Trump went to Helsinki and met with Putin and gave insane press conference
- Rise and Resist is co-sponsoring action on Wednesday night via ERT
- Wednesday at Times Square at red stairs at 8 pm
- Invite people, come
- We have a lot of messaging around corruption, impeachment, etc
- Need marshals - meet at 7:30 pm at Father Duffy statue (47th St and 7th Ave) - Wrolf is coordinating
- No plans for Civil Disobedience
- Q: is there messaging around Trump as a white supremacist and voter suppression?
- Q: What is marshaling
- A: A way for people to participate in the action by helping to facilitate the plans that the organizers have by creating a buffer between law enforcement and the protestors. De-escalate if there are counter-protestors. Partly shepherding, partly something else
- Comment: this was conceived of as a vigil, use phones as lights, there will be some music. To answer question about messaging - the focus originally was around Kavanaugh. With what's happened yesterday, the focus has changed a bit.
- This was on the agenda for last week, but we ran over because of other important conversations. This was brought to the ERT (emergency response team) and approved by them.

- Who's thinking of going? A couple dozen - about half- $\frac{1}{3}$  could marshal.
- There is a snapchat geofilter for the action - if you're a snapchat user, you can take a selfie and layer with the geofilter.
- Comment: clear descriptions of the arrests from last Friday and yesterday (not clear on source)
- Need to re-affirm ERT's vote to endorse this action - passed unanimously.

New Members (Diane): anyone new she missed - yes, a few.

#### Picnic on Saturday 3-6 pm (Diane)

- it's a potluck
- Will be near the Q stop at Prospect Park - exact location will be on facebook event

#### Some ideas on RAR inclusion of POC (John)

- Want to look forward at what Rise and Resist could do better
- Internally what are some problems - want to try to find solutions
- Location - we've been meeting in the West Village for 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  years
  - What about bringing this meeting out to different to different neighborhoods?
  - Try to build a presence elsewhere
  - We would need to all embrace that and commit to that
- We had a POC group early on - not sure what happened to it
  - Should we revive it?
  - Perhaps as an email group - for support
  - [poc.rar@gmail.com](mailto:poc.rar@gmail.com)
- Comment: I like the idea of going to other geographic areas - would need some advance notice for groups that meet beforehand - perhaps those meetings could be at the location
- Comment: in terms of moving locations - we would need to do outreach and community building in order for it to be effective. We would need to communicate very clearly that there's a change since so many people have it ingrained in their brain.
- Find out what's important to the communities that we're going to - bring in speakers that would appeal to people in those communities.
- Comment: This is an excellent opportunity - this isn't a "field trip". We are fluid and dynamic - we are good at adjusting and pivoting.
- Comment: I appreciate opening this conversation - dealing with intersectionality is a way of life instead of a conversation. Would like to set up a larger conversation in August with people of color - we need some outside input. For flat power structures that are primarily white, haven't heard of many successes in attracting poc. Is it something in this structure? The reputation of Rise and Resist is that this is not a safe environment for people of color.
- A lot of it has to do with group dynamics - as a person of color in a white group, there isn't a lot of support - it's about having a shared experience.

- Comment: we should worry less about who is coming here and spend more time on supporting others' actions. We should maybe plan a few less actions and go support Black Lives Matter and Make the road, etc.
- Comment: would like to have a conversation about our reaction media-wise to July 4th - contact [media@riseandresist.org](mailto:media@riseandresist.org)
- Comment: we need to show up and actively support groups of color. Re flat power structure - it's not totally true that there's a flat power structure here. A lot of the people who speak up here are cis white gay men. We have unofficial leaders.
- Comment: we white folks need to do some real work on ourselves - read "White Fragility". Tamela Gordon just posted a list of other reading
- Comment: we need to do work before we ask someone to teach us something. We need to do work - we need to get comfortable with calling ourselves out.
- Comment: agree that we need to support groups of color. Focus on racial justice and economic justice more. Coalition building over outreach makes a lot of sense.
- Comment: we follow a traditional stack - people who raise their hands first get called on. As a teacher, if you just call on the people who raise their hands, you get the same students every time. Is there a way we can experiment with how we do stack to include more voices? Don't know the solution but need to think about a way to include more voices.
- Comment: Even things that we do do, like our involvement in the Poor People's Campaign, tend to be invisible. It's not the dominant narrative of what we're doing. There are a bunch of groups that we come in contact with but it doesn't get any attentions - maybe we can figure out a way to bring that more to the surface. Location - there's a place on west 37th Street that they're hoping will be an incubator for groups to meet and work together.
- Comment: Eric Gardner was murdered 4 years ago by a police officer who is still getting paid and getting pay raises, etc. I learned to go to demos for people of color a long time ago even if I was the only white person. Please stop being so critical and talk about actions - this is a direct action group. If you want to learn about black people, go hang with them. Sit and listen or read a book. This is a direct action group.
- Comment: I can speak as a black person at Rise and Resist. Despite the suppression that I've gone through - I come here for direct action. I got treated like everyone else when I came here. Let's embrace the work that's already begun. Don't beat yourself up trying to find a magical pill or magical answers. If you move, you might miss people who want to come to Rise and Resist. Maybe people can individually make commitment to go to actions for people of color. Want to make sure we don't burn out. A lot of the time people just don't even show up.
- We all have our own opinions - different opinions - be supportive of each other. We're all rising and resisting against 45.
- Straw poll about meeting in a different location was pretty evenly divided.

## New Actions

## Elections (Sherie, Claire)

- About the Elections group - they wrote up a little bit about the group - being handed out. Rise and Resist is focussed on sending messages to people in power. The elections group is focused on changing people in power, especially in NY State. Women's rights, LGBTQ rights, gun laws, gerrymandering, etc, decisions made at the state level.
- NY State senate has been dominated by Republicans for many years because of the IDC (Independent Democratic Conference).
- We've been at this for 1-½ years - very successfully. No one knew what the IDC was when they started.
- IDC: 8 Senators who allied themselves with the Republicans - calling themselves progressives but making sure that no progressive legislation could get to the senate floor.
- IDC disbanded in April - because of fear over elections coming up. Protested outside every IDC members office, fundraisers, Cuomo's office. Did a postcard campaign of thousands of postcards to Cuomo.
- Highlight of the year - outside an IDC fundraiser, caught Cuomo going in after they had supposedly disbanded - video went viral
- Now moving on to the next stage of the campaign - spent most of the summer getting challengers to the IDC onto the ballot
- Primary on Thursday, September 15th
- Moving onto canvassing, door-knocking and handing out materials
- After September 15th, will be focusing on turning red states blue.
- These last 2 months up to the primary are really important - need the IDC challengers to win. They welcome anybody who wants to join and help - no need to go to meetings. Just canvassing.
- Weekly email blast will go out each week letting you know what you can do that week - whatever opportunities there are for that week. Passing around clipboard for sign up.
- NEW ACTION: United Federation of Teachers has endorsed some of the IDC members rather than their challengers even though those IDC members have blocked billions of money that could have gone to those schools.
  - Would like to run a facebook ad targeted at teachers that explains what the IDC has done, what the issues are and what the IDC has done to education
  - Asking for initially \$50 but would like to go up to \$200 if the ad is getting good response.
  - Q: Wondering about the Governor's race and platform re education. Can we include Cuomo in the information in the ads? Even if Nixon doesn't win, important that people are educated about him. Can we add messaging to target Cuomo/support Nixon?
  - A: Rise and Resist has endorsed the primary challengers. The elections group is focused on this - we can't do everything
  - Comment: professionally I work with unions on healthcare advocacy. In your messaging, be positive about why they should vote for the IDC challengers -

refrain from pointing fingers at the UFT leadership. We will want to partner with the UFT in the future - we don't want them to view us as a hostile force.

- Comment: opposed to anything that smacks of an endorsement of a candidate.
- A: Rise and Resist already endorsed the 8 primary challengers.
- Vote for approval on Facebook ad for \$50-200 - passed strongly with a few opposed and a few abstentions.

#### Wednesday, July 25 New Action 12:30 - 1:30 pm

- In front of Trump Tower
- Return Their Children
- Legal picket in front of Trump Tower
- Purpose - the deadline is July 26 for returning the children to their parents (for children over 5)
- With significant visual symbolism including empty strollers to represent the 3,000 children
- There are posters that will be in Spanish and English that say "Return Their Children"
- Separate vague action - if you want to participate in that, want experienced CD activists or those who have been trained.
- For more info, talk to Jamie at the end of the meeting or go to the Actions Committee on Wednesday at 6 pm at UAW, 256 W 38 Street, 12th floor
- Will need marshals, people to show up
- Budget request - \$200 has been donated plus \$200 (stickers, strollers, signage)
- Request for social media
- Q: Do we know if children have been hospitalized or died?
- A: We don't know but you are welcome to research that. This is an extension of "where are the children?" but we know where they are.
- Q: Will there be literature updating people on the situation which is changing every day. A group of mothers from the Hudson Valley reached out to RAR about something like this the other day - I will let them know about this.
- Q: the CD training is really important. Will there be a training before the 25th?
- A: Not before next Wednesday but will try to have more regular ones in the future.
- Q: I understand that the kids may be returned to their parents, but then may spend an inordinate amount of time in detention. Is that true?
- A: The situation keeps changing with court order after court order after court order. We know that kids will still be separated from their parents. Also Abolish ICE signs will be present too.
- Q: can you explain the choice of "Return THEIR Children" as opposed to "THE" children?
- A: there was an extensive conversation about it - trying to bring the parents into this. There's a lot out there about criminalizing the parents - the children are "innocent" but trying to bring the parents into this.
- Vote on legal picket and vague action as a package - overwhelmingly passed with a couple of abstentions.
- A fair number of people can attend.

#### Strategy (Susan, Jeremiah)

- Strategy meeting continuation - about structure
- Monday, August 6 from 8-10 pm at the Center
- If you'd like to help with agenda planning, talk to Susan
- Thought about having two meetings - one about inclusion and one above all other strategy - inclusion perhaps later in August.

#### Finance (Susan)

- In accounts - \$6,653 plus we have a \$3600 check from Act Blue
- We made the rent - \$409.12 received tonight

#### Justice for Farmworkers/Coalition of Immokalee Workers (Alex, Sylvia)

- Representing farm workers in Florida
- This week - Coalition of Immokalee Workers - formed to protect workers from wage theft, etc
- Workers began to discuss abuses (from Guatemala, Haiti and Mexico)
- They've been organized for 25 years - the fight continues
- They have a campaign with Wendy's that started in March - pressuring them to join the Fair Food Program
- In march, 5 day fast ended in a march with a few thousand people
- Wendy's was buying tomatoes in Mexico where workers were forced to work (slavery) and children were forced to work
- Wendy's is still buying from some of those farms - we are asking them to buy from farms in the Fair Food Program where workers have protections.
- Wendy's did announce that they are shifting most of their purchases to the US and Canada from greenhouses - it sounds great but they are not part of the Fair Food Program, so those same abuses are still happening
- Back here to keep pressuring the board of Wendy's
- Thursday, July 19th at 5pm. March starts at 6 pm. 280 Park Avenue near east 49th Street.

#### SCOTUS discussion (Mark)

- There's a vacancy on the Supreme Court as of the end of this month
- Brett Kavanaugh has been nominated
- This will be a fierce, big fight
- They are combing through his record now
- Both sides are figuring out their talking points
- The senate will need to approve the nomination - debate will likely begin in September
- Goal is to have his confirmed by first Monday in October which is first day when the court begins its next session
- Majority of democrats will likely oppose the nomination
- A few are hanging out there who are up for re-election in areas where Trump won

- Issues that will likely come before the court:
  - Roe v. Wade / Repro rights
  - Future of the Affordable Care Act
  - Women's Health/Health will likely be issues initially
  - Future of voting rights
  - Future of civil rights, immigrants, etc
- How do we put this together in a package? Will obviously be working with others on this as well
- Perhaps form a working group?
- Comment: piggyback on the Trump corruption angle - that Kavanaugh has said a sitting President can't be tried
- Comment: I have 150 brick jumpsuits that can be used - currently have misogynistic messages on them but other messages can be added. They are very colorful. Happy to lend them.
- Comment: a lot of what we're fighting for is super important - but he could be appointing a justice who might be making decisions about his own fate. Can we split Republicans off with that? Could that be a wedge issue?
- There are two broad strategies that have emerged - vote down the nomination; or delay it until the elections.
- At our core, we are an anti-Trump group - if we can beat him on this, we will really set him back.
- See Mark Hannay if you want to work on this.

#### Additional thoughts on inclusion (Malik) -

- It's important to take criticism - when you start interacting with communities of color, people will criticize you
- You have to respect someone's experience even if you disagree with them
- You might change your mind later on on reflection
- If I'm going into a group for the first time and I want to criticize the way something was done - it's not up to you to police my tone
- If your first reaction is to defend yourself instead of hearing what someone is saying, you will lose those people

#### Note on Return Their Children (Jaylen)

- The use of the word "their" rubbed him the wrong way
- Attempting to liberate without active participation is treating them as objects being rescued from a burning building
- There has to be work done to be inclusive

#### Read and Resist (Andy)

- Violent Borders by Rees Jones



Bannon is speaking tomorrow at an investors conference with a bunch of investment companies that make money off of deportations

- Tomorrow at 4:30 pm at the Pierre Hotel, 2 East 61st Street - will be protest with Occupy ICE

#### Reclaim Pride Town Hall (Jon)

- Tuesday, July 31 7-9 pm - at the LGBT Center, room 301
- Global Pride coming up

Postcards re Russia Shame - Claire has them

#### Youth Caucus (Simone)

- Talk to her if interested - people under 35

#### August 3rd - 10 am

- Patricia goes back to court
- Put it on your calendars
- 500 Pearl Street at Foley Square
- There will be an action proposal next week

One more thought on inclusion of POC (Malik)

- What defines you is not what you do wrong, but how you respond when you're called out.

#### Phantom ends the meeting

- Running for mayor - presented platform
- August 16-18 in Washington DC there will be a huge gathering of white supremacists and neo nazis
- Proposing a revival of the 1960s hippie movement as a counterbalance