

08.07.2018 RAR Meeting Minutes

Facilitators: Maryellen, Kellen

Notetaker: Jody

Group contact information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: [www.twitter.com/RiseandResistNY](https://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 Introduction

- Any law enforcement in the room (none responded), any journalists? (none responded), get off your phone, step up/step back, raise your hand, introduce self with pronouns, reading of mission statement
- New members? About half a dozen
- Rachel (Greeter) will come around with new member info

Media and Communications Update (Martin)

- Straw poll for blog name:
 - Write and Resist
 - Blog and Resist
 - RAR Blog
- Q: Is there a reason not to call it Rise and Resist?
- Q: Will the Rise and Resist logo be on the blog? If so, the branding is there
- Q: Who is going to be writing on the blog?
- A: Each person who writes or provides photos and videos will be credited by name. Several people have already written pieces for it.
- Q: How will people know that it's Rise and Resist's blog?
- A: Our logo will be there and there will be a subtitle
- Q: If someone wants to write something, do they just submit it? Does it need to be approved?
- A: There won't be an approval process
- Q: But they're speaking for us - shouldn't it be vetted?
- A: We don't have control over what people from the group say to the media - so it's similar. But we can consider a vetting group.
- Should we take a straw poll about the vetting process?
 - Yes, we should

- Overwhelmingly in favor of content being vetted
- Should be something like an editorial board to approve the pieces
- The reason to not just allow anybody to put things up, is to not have people put things up that violate our mission statement
- We don't vet facebook posts or anything that media puts up
- Comment: I thought that Jim and Jennifer were editing the blog - should we hold off on this conversation until they're back in the room?
- Comment: There's value in vetting a blog - but maybe we should just call this a forum in which people just post their opinions. Do we want to create a public space in which people can give their opinions or just a space in which people write things on behalf of the org
- Comment: The media and communications group has been discussing how best to run the blog for the last 3-4 weeks. Martin will pass around a sign up sheet for people who want to work on the blog. Hashing out the details of the blog would be better handled by that committee and not here by the floor. We welcome everyone to join that committee. We are focusing now on the name for the blog.
- Comment: I'm concerned about new members who are here now and may want to put something up on the blog. How can someone who comes to protests but not to meetings put something up on the blog?
- A: We're working out those details but we'll make sure that people know how to do that.
- VOTE:
 - Write and Resist - 27
 - Blog and Resist - 5
 - RAR Blog - 4.5
 - Rise and Resist Blog - 24
- Marlane Selip is hosting "How to talk to the press" on August 20th at 7 pm, at Thoughtworks, 99 Madison Ave

Elections (Livvie)

- Clipboard going around to sign up for elections weekly newsletter/action alerts
- Fast history of Elections Group
 - Dedicated to cleaning up govt in NYS - target has been the Independent Democratic Caucus (IDC)
 - Been vetting and properly identifying replacements for the IDC
- Cuomo has supported the IDC - we think it's important to vote him out
 - Asking the floor to vote to endorse Cynthia Nixon
 - Comment: I was part of the elections group when we asked the floor to endorse the IDC but that was a special case. We generally don't endorse candidates. This is not primarily who we are.
 - Comment: I agree. Can you give a little background on why we endorsed the IDC candidates? As I recall, it was a very specific situation. I think this will be

very polarizing and a change for Rise and Resist. I'm not sure what purpose this serves. A lot of people are away - they'll come back to this.

- A: It was a specific event. But the world has moved on since then and Cuomo's policies have become more and more odious since then.
- Comment: Cuomo has supported the IDC all these years and then Cynthia Nixon comes in and the first thing she talks about is the IDC. And then the IDC disbands. The IDC has stood in the way of all of this legislation. Cynthia Nixon is the other option.
- Comment: I don't need to be persuaded about Cynthia at all but I think that Ken's point that many important people in this group are away on vacation and it's a very contentious issue to be voting on right now. We should wait until we have more people back. It would be a mistake to vote on this tonight.
- A: We don't want to wait until the end of August to endorse as the primary will be right around the corner. We want it to have an impact.
- Comment: I agree that we shouldn't vote on this tonight. I don't understand what an endorsement will allow us to do. Why do we need to endorse?
- Comment: If I remember correctly on the anti-IDC endorsements, it was postponed until the following week once it was brought up - we knew a week in advance before it was voted on it. I think that was done intentionally so people had time to think about it, and so that people who weren't here could come to the next meeting and vote. I would like to suggest that. I also don't think that Rise and Resist should be in a position to endorse candidates under any circumstance.
- Comment: I am grateful for the work that Elections does, but I absolutely do not think we should be endorsing any candidates.
- STRAW POLL TO DETERMINE IF WE SHOULD VOTE ON THIS TONIGHT OR NOT -
 - Vote tonight - 8
 - Vote next week - clear majority
- To answer the question about why we should endorse Nixon? What does that allow us to do?
 - It would allow us to support her via social media - with information
- This will be discussed and voted on next week.

Protesting Marty Golden (Martin)

- Voted against GENDA
- It's been denied coming to the floor of the NYS Senate 8 times
- Fight Back Bay Ridge is interested in joining us in this protest
- Next Wednesday meeting
- Email martin at checkoutthatlady@gmail.com if you're interested in joining

Whitney Museum trip (Andy)

- 7 pm on Friday, August 10 - going to David Wojnarowicz exhibit at the Whitney

- Pay what you want at the Whitney on Friday
- They do public tours at 8 pm so that will be an option
- Wear Rise and Resist and ACT UP clothing - we'll do a group photo
- Look for people you know in the line
- Q: How to find the group?
- A: Exchange phone numbers with people and text and meet up. Will update facebook on where we are.
- A handful of people said they would come.

Postcard Party (Mary, Rachel)

- Wednesday, August 8th - postcard party
- 7-9 pm at 209 East 56th St, Apt 6C

Rent collection

Use of Space (Mark H)

- Philip and Jeremiah are no longer coordinating
- Logistics workgroup
- 4 tasks need to be done each week: opening the space at 6:30, staying until 9:30 pm and closing the space, notetaking - need to bring a laptop or someone will need to provide one, running the video screen
- Need someone to run video screen next week
- Need someone to take notes in 2 weeks

Healthcare and Social Safety Net Action Report Back (Mark H, Betsy, Cherie, Karen, Katrina, Ann, Maryellen)

- SCOTUS action in DC on Wednesday, August 1
- Coordinated by the Center for Popular Democracy and Housing Works
- 8 people who participated in CD from Rise and Resist were all women
- Ann and Mark did support
- 74 arrests
- First major action in the Senate buildings around the Supreme Court
- Met at a nearby church - marched to a location overlooking the Mall - met up with a bunch of different groups there to protest the Kavanaugh nomination
- Theme was "Be a Hero" - part of a national campaign spearheaded by Ady Barkan
- Marched to Senate office buildings - had plans to meet with different Senators - some who would be friendly and some more hostile. Got there and learned that Kavanaugh was doing office visits that afternoon. Ended up being a birddogging action to meet him when he arrived at each of these offices. He never showed up. Not sure if they stopped the meetings from happening or if they ended up happening elsewhere.
- Sen. John Boozman from Arkansas - his office is where the action happened
- Center for Popular Democracy and Housing Works - smart orgs - great action to participate in.

- This affects absolutely everything - this is so important - there will be more actions in DC - everyone should sign up and do it.
- They seem to be changing the arrests in DC - last year you could be arrested and wait a few hours, pay and go home. What they did this time is that they process you very quickly and you have to return more than 24 hours later to pay your fine. Bear in mind this may be the way it happens from now on.
- Bring a sleeping bag - you can stay in the church
- They're working towards a much bigger event in DC - be on the lookout for that
- The downside of having to go back to DC - CPD incurs enormous expenses
- Comment: I was arrested last year 6 times with these groups and I had the most exhilarating experiences. Go to BeAHero.org and look at what Ady said last night. He'll be in Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire coming up.
- Proposal that Rise and Resist put some money together to support the 8 people going back to DC to pay their fines.
 - Approved action has \$200 but may need to come back for more
 - There are white vans with about 13 seats that can be rented for \$300 plus gas, tolls, etc or so for the future if we need to do this again.
 - VOTE: To approve covering expenses of those who need to go back to DC
 - Overwhelmingly approved.
- Sunday, August 26th - National Day of Action with MoveOn and other orgs

Abolish ICE Everywhere - 4 Days of Action - Schumer Report Back (Lizzie, Mel, Patricia)

- August 1 - met at Grand Army Plaza and marched to Schumer's house
- Good turnout and had a drummer which helped
- Well attended at all 4 actions
- Left a Statue of Liberty at the door with our demands
- Had press - covered on Brooklyn News 12
- Buy Abolish ICE t-shirts in the RAR Store! It's a good conversation starter

Abolish ICE Everywhere - 4 Days of Action - The Profiteers Report Back (Alvin, Wendy)

- August 2 - on Wall Street
- Targeting banks and for-profit prison industry
- Have copies of the flyer - which they're leaving here - has a flow chart and what you can do to stop the Profiteers
- Key demand - we demand that Wells Fargo, Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase stop extending credit to for-profit prisons
- Had great street performers
- Hope we gave people a different perspective on how to combat ICE - this movement is growing - exciting to take it to Wall St
- Walked through financial district to the bull

Immigration group meeting this Thursday at 7 pm - 242 West 38th Street, 6th fl

Patricia's Court Date Press Conference (Patricia)

- Friday, August 3rd - thank you for your support
- Just to go over court procedure
- Attorney was arguing - let's have a discussion right now re jail time
- October 1st at 3 pm - next court appearance
- Wore the dress inside the courtroom that said "I really care, why won't you?"
- Dress went viral
- Really happy for people showing up with posters, flyers, strollers, etc.
- Comment: I love that this was a Rise and Resist action and a direct action - should we vote on making the October 1st appearance a direct action and start planning now?
- VOTE: October 1st direct action around Patricia's next appearance
 - Overwhelmingly passed
- Q: What is the possible jail time?
- A: Government didn't put their big dogs on this case - the gov't attorney didn't have any control over the courtroom. Patricia's attorney: we might consider a guilty plea if jail time is taken off of the table. That's what October 1st is about - for the judge to decide whether they're willing to take that off the table.
- Q: I'm here for the first time - what are the charges?
- A: Three federal misdemeanors. I've been told after this case is over, the government is going to try to make it a felony to climb on the statue of liberty
- Comment: what concerns me with the guilty plea - what will the ramifications be for the future?
- A: If it's a misdemeanor, it doesn't really going on your record if you make a deal with the prosecutor.
- Comment: it can take time to get your record cleared even if you do community service.

Read and Resist Report Back (Andy)

- Violent Borders by Reece Jones
- Last Sunday - we called him and spoke to him for about an hour
- Encourage you to read the book
- Immigration is good for the US - we're often in a defensive position trying to combat the vitriol against immigrants -
- It's good for the economy - not just good for the immigrants
- Next month - there's a poll online now - 7 books to choose between
- Poll will conclude on Thursday
- Will meet 1st or 2nd week in September
- ReadandResistNY on all social media

Finance and Fundraising (Martin, Dann)

- \$10,609.55 - net worth
- Kellen bday party - next fundraising event - September 23
- Nowhere Bar
- ACT UP will participate as well
- Will sell buttons and shirts

- Shouldn't we vote on this fundraising event?
- VOTE to have this fundraising event
 - Overwhelmingly passed

Non-RAR Announcements

- Mary and Maria - Blue Wave Festival - September 6 (6-8 pm) in Manhattan, September 8 (1-3 pm)
 - Asking for an endorsement for social media purposes
 - Asking for volunteers - to help connect
 - Will have tables for candidates who are running against IDC candidates
 - VOTE to endorse September 6 - overwhelmingly passed
 - VOTE to endorse September 8 - overwhelmingly passed
- Nuclear Divestment for NYC (Robert)
 - Have 14 co-signers from City Council on letter to Scott Stringer to divest from Nuclear
 - Deadline is next Friday
 - DontBankontheBomb.com/nyc
 - Write to your City Council person and ask them to sign on in the next 10 days
 - Targeting some specific councilmembers
- September 28 Festival in Queens (Jay, Mike)
 - Gave some info that doesn't want shared outside this room - will redact
 - Wants festival to support Rise and Resist among a couple of other groups that are opposing Trump and trying to flip Congress
 - Flip These Houses
 - Will stream it live - revenue from tickets, merch
 - Comment: Thank you
 - VOTE - whether we're okay with being one of the beneficiaries - passed unanimously
- Patricia speaking at the Kremlin Annex in DC (Martin, Patricia)
 - Wednesday or Thursday this week
 - Interested in accompanying Patricia, contact Martin checkoutthatlady.com
- East Flatbush Village (Andy)
 - Friday, August 10 - going to check out their action and see if we can support their action
- Prison Strike (Andy) -
 - trying to organize prison strike - letter writing campaign to let prisoners know what's going on - Saturday, August 11 - Sisters Uptown Bookstore - 6pm
 - <http://prisonstrike.com/>