

09.25.18 RAR TUESDAY GENERAL MEETING

Facilitators: Jennifer Van Dyck, Elka

Notetaker : Jessica Murray

Group contact information

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Greeter: Diane

(5) Report Back on Indict Trump banner drop

Good logistics for getting banner into Grand Central, but no good logistics for getting banner to rise to ceiling of GC (slight lift). Learned a lot by doing it. It's fun to plan a balloon banner, but need large balloons with a lot of helium. Not a problem to have oversized balloons in Grand Central, there is plenty of space. Made a pact to do it properly next time. Will come back to ask for \$ for balloons for a future action.

After 2 attempts, think 3rd time should work. 1st time, banner attached to balloons, but cops caught the banner right away. 2nd time, lost the banner, but it didn't go high enough.

Generic advice: do walk-throughs to test materials. Walk-throughs were good, but should have done more testing (didn't want to spend money on balloons for a test).

Q: Where do banners go when police take them? A: Probably add to their collection of RAR banners

(5) Report Back Immigration

Annette participated in civil disobedience yesterday. Rally at Tenement Museum in LES, 300 people. Several politicians were present including Jumanee Williams. 14 walked into traffic in Delancey St., chanted and sat down and were arrested. Had good photos taken by ? staffer. Protesting public charge rule - means you are a burden to city. New rule change to dock green card holders for using benefits.

Q: Public charge rule affects anyone who has taken any tax credits, health care, etc. your green card and citizenship are at risk. People who are not naturalized are screwed.

A: Google Federal public charge rule to find out more. Actual rule change was going to be worse. Still fighting to change the rule

(5) Report back: 7/25 Return The Children court date

10 people had to show up for court appearance because of blocking traffic near Trump Tower for 45 minutes. Went to court and have two volunteer lawyers. We have to come back to court on 10/29. Court is trying to divide us by not giving us ACDs (Adjournment Contemplating Dismissal), some will be charged with resisting arrest. Work in solidarity, so nobody is dropping or taking a deal. Trying to clog courts until they give us ACDs

(10) Kavanaugh DC actions and what people in the group have been doing

Some went to DC on 2pm bus on Sunday, the rest went down separately. 450 total people who showed up at Supreme Court in rain, chanting, "We believe Anita Hill. We believe Dr. Ford."

Had to go through several entrances because of the large group. 150 Yale students. Some paid visit to Senator Collins and got arrested. Police tightened on group, were allowing certain things, but then not allowing them. When we got to last event (men believing what women were saying), moved to direct action. 128 arrests. Yale students were amazing (20% of student body of Law school). Visited Senators Collins, Flake, Sassey. Action organized in rotunda, men supporting women. History of more women getting arrested than men, so idea was for men to step up and get arrested. Women were telling stories of abuse, chanting, etc. Police were cracking down on anything that could be seen as menacing. 85 people including Ady Barkan stayed behind after some arrests. Number of women arrested still outnumbered men who were arrested.

We know that 3 women have come out to say they were abused by Kavanaugh. Looks likely that Dr. Ford will testify on Thursday. Resisters are going down, no matter if she is testifying or not. Staff members have been in tears hearing the women's stories.

Buses sponsored by Center for Popular Democracy:

- Wednesday (2pm)
- Thursday (2am, 5am) - will get more details together. cancelkavanaugh.org for more info and to sign up for buses

Want to support Dr. Ford just by presence. Whatever day that Dr. Ford testifies, they don't want any arrests to keep the focus on her testimony.

Q: Have you ever confronted Kavanaugh in person? A: No

Experience of being arrested in DC; police have smoothed out procedures over time. Good news: police are working very fast, arrested and released within 2 hours. No stories of being roughed in protests, but some roughness being pulled out from Senate chamber. People can choose level of risk depending on how they protest

Q: did you have to come back 24 hours later? A: No, paid on spot. Housing Works was willing to pay if needed

Q: Do you have more details about when Dr. is speaking? It changes so much. A: Don't know answer, but someone else might? It's a moving target, could be any day.

Q: RE: buses. Thursday morning bus to DC being advertised as 5am. Will post details on social media tonight. Have different sign up for buses from NYC > DC. Signups on RAR site. Point person lizzierosescott@gmail.com

Presumption is that Dr. Ford will testify Thursday, but it could still change. Expecting hundreds of women in capital. Optics of 10-12 white old Republican men questioning a woman is not good.

Announced at 5pm that there will be no men questioning Dr. Ford, an anonymous woman will be questioning.

(10) New Actions: Proposed federal rule change for immigrants

([Handout - Protecting Immigrant Families, Advancing Our Future](#)) 60 day public comment period after it is announced. We want to clog up process and slow down process by submitting a lot of comments. Have to allow another 60 days to implement changes. Looking at 6 months before any rules change. As of now, benefits are currently available to immigrants and their families. Policy will not be retroactive, so it will not affect benefit use in the past. Only thing looking at now is cash assistance (SSI or TANF), or long-term institutional care through Medicaid. Proposal to expand to housing assistance, non-emergency medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), CHIP (children's health insurance) Medicare Part D. Elevates use of public charge bonds for people applying for lawful permanent residence (green card)

Q: how will this impact tax credits? A: Not expert on taxes, but healthcare deductions should not be affected. A; Various tax people are saying that is not the case

Q: Is limiting SSI a way of keeping disabled people out of the country? A: not necessarily about removing people or preventing people from getting citizenship if they have a green card. More about preventing people from getting new green cards, new immigrants

Jessica: we've got a couple of items to get endorsement

rally at union square to fix the subway Tuesday Oct. 2 11 am - congestion pricing. estimated to raise about a million dollars a year. List of partnering organizations. Straphangers, Transportation Alternatives, etc. Asking for an endorsement.

Stu: we're voting to endorse the rally?

Jessica: the rally and the ongoing effort.

Vote: Almost all in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining

Jessica: March for the subway on Columbus day October 8. People would be more available because it's Columbus day. We'd tell people to show up at different stations. Message would be "are you ready to vote?" Give fliers to people in subway station. Calling for endorsement.

Joe: Will this conflict with other columbus day protests?

Mary: Figure out if you're going to do it i the morning or afternoon so people can decide what to do

Timothy: will there be press

Jessica: I think so

Janna: will we have voter registration forms?

Jessica: No, we'll just have fliers

Livvie: You can only register online if you have a DMV id. Otherwise you need a postcard by the 12th.

Rachel: I'm confused about link between subways and voting.

Jessica: No but this coalition is pressuring politicians to endorse congestion pricing. We're trying to get politicians on record.

Vote: Most in favor 0 opposed, 2 abstain

Immigration Committee & Moms Rising

9/26 individual action - anytime: Rise and Resist get out of the bank letter (Chase and Wells Fargo). Take a picture of yourself in front of a bank w/ stuffed toy, onesie (something to symbolize children / family separation) and give letter to banker. Can post image to social media? Flyers are in Spanish also.

Q: What's the connection to family separation? A:Centers that house children are funded by banks.

9/26, 12-2 action (separate from above) Justice for Mariee. Child who died
JP Morgan 270 Park/47th St.

Make the Road, NY Communities for Change, Moms Rising (and other sponsors)

www.facebook.com/events/745943739083730/

www.facebook.com/NYdomesticworkers/ (member org)

Q: Organizing feels very last minute. Is there a better URL? A: A lot of actions lately are announced very last minute. Heard about this on Thursday night. Things are changing, Chase logo taken off of event page yesterday, but Wells Fargo still on? Moms Rising has 10 cities participating.

Understanding this is last minute and not everyone can attend, we can still take a vote. Action is endorsed.

Booth for Drag Con?

Anyone available and interested in staffing a booth? Mary is available. Also need a vote for RAR will cohabitate a booth with GAG (Gays Against Guns) and Voices For at Drag Con on Sunday. Booth with flyers, RAR swag, be at booth.

Q: can we send recruitment materials? A: Yes

Q: Is this all about outreach? A: Yes

Q: can we sell buttons? A: yes, will get details

Vote for endorsement: endorsed

Baby Trump balloon

Looking for groups to do simultaneous rallies as boat moves around city. Focus is on immigration. Asking if people are interested in helping to plan action - Get in touch with Jodie if interested.

(5) Justice for Andrew Kearsse/A Place For Justice update

Last Friday, several people attended press conference to ask Tish James for tapes to be released from police car. Put together online petition (will announce next week). Want to raise awareness of what went down - Andrew was killed May 11, 2017 in Schenectady in police car. Press conference also talks about plans for organizing in the future. Update of what happened, will keep people in the loop. Petition will be hosted on Color of Change, link will be announced.

Q: Want to know more about memorial for Andrew, would like to get a plaque for the tree that was previously planted to memorialize. A: It's still being discussed, but it is happening

Postcard Update

Sent postcards for two candidates Adrian Bell (Houston), Local politician (?).

Also working on a card for Dr. Blasey Ford to express support from RAR. Next postcard party, Wednesday, October 24, 7-9 pm. 209 E. 56th St. Facebook event coming soon.

(5) Read and Resist

Met on Sunday and read White Fragility by Robin DeAngelo. Had white and nonwhite participants. Common for minority populations to have understanding of majority populations than vice versa. FB group: Read and Resist NYC with discussion group.

Announcement about concert

Songs for Resistance? Nobody present who knows details

Call for meeting volunteers for open/close/slides/notes

Meeting tasks for October. Need volunteers for 1) opening up meeting room getting materials and agendas, 2) closing down and straightening up, 3) take notes, 4) make slides / oversee AV

Q: request for Google form so answers can be found online

(20) Elections Committee presentation

Background: Elections committee formed after Trump was elected, and New Yorkers felt that they were "safe." Trying to highlight problems and corruption in our own state. Demonstrated at least 1x a month outside of IDC senate offices. Demonstrated on the issues. As a result, were able to expose IDC, get press coverage, educating voters and press. Formed a coalition of 50+ groups to accomplish goal of getting rid of dishonest politicians who were blocking progressive legislation.

Turn from protesting to electioneering was somewhat controversial. In this day and age, we have to protest, but also do action to get the vote out (phone banking, canvassing, flyering, standing outside subway stations, schools, drudge work, election work). Sent newsletter, got a lot of RAR volunteers to participate.

Ultimately unseated 6 of 8 IDC candidates, winning by double digits. Election night was very exciting. Didn't expect to get 8 out of 8. It's not over yet. To quote Cuomo, "we just rearranged the deck chairs" We don't have more Democrats now (they are more progressive), but we don't have a Democratic majority now. Want to change that for November 6. Continuing to focus on NY State Senate. Can focus on Federal races, but primarily state elections. Goal is to get to 40 Democrats (flip 9 seats to get to 40) that would be a solid majority. They may not all be progressive, but we're working on the most progressive candidates (True Blue Coalition). Most progressive, not indebted to Cuomo, not "Republican Light," have narrowed down to 12 candidates worth fighting for and most likely to flip. Not much time left (~6 weeks). Will be doing a lot of postcarding with Mary's help. Some special cards will be partially filled out on the back, won't require much writing, can get them ready to send faster but still be personalized. 4 of the races are far upstate (near Rochester), so it's not possible to get there and canvas. Have to postcard and phone bank. 3 in Hudson Valley, 4 in Long Island, 1 in BK. Weeknights will be postcarding and phone banking, weekends will be for canvassing in HV and LI.

Have a spreadsheet for planned postcarding and canvassing events. Can also sign up on list to get emails about plans. We're not endorsing candidates, it's a matter of support. 42 days until election, need more help. Once we get "true blue" senators, we have to continue to hold their feet to the fire. Help them stay the course in the face of a very corrupt system. Follow up with letters and phone calls. We won't drop out the day after the election.

Q: How to deal with Simcha Felder, other 2 IDC senators? A: We're stuck with all 3 until the next primary election in 2 years.

Q: How do you get names addresses for postcards? A: Campaigns have access to VAN (voter access network) can be purchased, public record.

Q: Curious if phone banking is effective? A: Personally not a fan, but people say that 2.5-5% return rate. Face to face canvassing is 10-15%. Postcards, 4%

Q: If we get a majority now, 2020 election will give us a better chance of changing district. Simcha Felder is in office because of gerrymandering. A: District lines are drawn in v. partisan way thanks to Cuomo. Impt. for 2020 redistricting.

Q: Can we take cards with us? A: We're working on them now, but yes in the future, we'll have some to take

Q/C: Wants tips to reach out to millennials, especially male millennials. Some young people don't seem to be paying attention. Any tips? A: Healthcare is an important issue that affects women especially. College loans, that can change w/ election. Talk about issues that affect people directly. Pollution, a lot of issues.

(5) Report Back on tonight's Trump demonstration

20 people in rain. Great moving picket outside Trump International Hotel sign. Good chants, people stuck it out. Lots of press, some police. Began with "No One is Above the Law"

50 second video on YT (AP) interviewing Jenny Heinz (?)

TY to Mary for poster design. Police tried to get us off the plaza that we worked so hard to get access to. Kellen was great about pushing back and not standing down. Asking what law was being broken when threatened with arrest. Police officer couldn't cite a law (just kept repeating that they wanted us off the plaza). Walked away to "check" and never came back. The law is on our side. Rick and Sean had crime scene tape. Prevailed against police, who didn't try to arrest anyone for trespassing, they know not to do that. Press will hopefully get to other countries.

NYU Journalism student (son of fellow RAR members) was there reporting.

Tim: Police were definitely unpleasant, tried to tell us we didn't have a right to be there. Told them we were on a public sidewalk. As long as we're moving, we have a right to be there, should stand our ground.

Sean: Police did try to say I was trespassing on property at first.

(5) Finance

Collected \$235 tonight. Report on total is not available, will be next week. When we got a 501(c)3, gave us ability to apply for grants. Got our first grant for \$3,000. Grant talked about last week was submitted in time (\$5K or \$10K if we get it)

(5) Comms

Added a donate button on FB page. If anyone wants to help w/ FB, website, taking pictures, live streaming, email media@riseandresist.org

Reminder of Action: No Business with ICE

Targeting businesses that make ICE run (finance, for profit prisons). This week, targeting software companies. Monday, October 1, 5:30 PM meeting at Rockefeller Center skating rink. Want to identify and embarrass companies that are supporting ICE

Organized actions for people who can't do civil disobedience.

There may be a disruptive action planned.

(10) Non Rise and Resist Actions & Announcements

City is working on closing Rikers, but want to create a lot of new jails in each borough. Group called Critical Resistance NY. BK hearing has already happened. Hearings about new jails for other borough jails happening soon. Looking for people to testify.

Details will be posted on FB RAR page soon.