

Rise and Resist Meeting Notes - Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 2017

Facilitators: Jennifer, Jeremiah

RAR 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.

3 working journalists

- Julia, 50 States of Blue
- DSA forums online
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New format for agenda

Groups will be called up when ready, rather than lining up

Report backs:

Mueller

- Tom
- Warning Shot to admonish the GOP congressmen for discrediting Mueller/the investigation
- Not to be confused with the national coalition that will activate when/if Mueller is fired
- Around 40 ppl, with signs that say "hands off Mueller" and "the world is watching"
- Chanted "you can't fire the truth"
- Moving picket in Times Sq in front of the recruitment center

Beginning of Year Meeting

- Susan/Jay

- 35-40 people in attendance
- There will be a beginning of the year meeting part 2
- Jay
- There were a lot of ideas about how to run our Tues meetings better
- And how to do actions better
- We weren't able to get 1/27 (Sat), so we might do 1/28 (Sun), or the next week
- Straw poll, 2/3 Sat is seemingly better

Board Meeting

- Alex L
 - Annual Meeting and Board Meeting were held together, separate from Tuesday meetings
 - As voted by the floor
 - About 15-20 attended, which met quorum for necessary votes
 - There was clarification to the yes/no/abstention language
 - Bylaws will be able to be reviewed on our site
 - We decided on a Board of five people
 - Elections were then held for each opening
 - Members: Jamie, Martin, Ivy, Stu, Jay
 - Chair - Jamie, Treasurer - Ivy, Secretary - Martin

ERT - Claire

- 3 votes to approve
 - Election groups action
 - Gov Cuomo phone banking to call for special elections for the two vacant state senate seats
 - Vote for approval: Passed
 - True Blue a coalition around fighting the IDC created a letter looking for a candidate to run in Westchester
 - Vote for approval: Passed
 - Elevator Action Group wanted to attend a discussion about installing an elevator in Tribeca, people have been upset in the area about the elevator compromising their view or a terror threat around bombs potentially being left in the elevator
 - Since we are committed to accessibility the Elevator Group asked for approval to attend the meeting and speak in favor of the elevator
 - The vote at the meeting went in favor of the elevator

- Vote for approval: Passed

Claire aside

- The elections group is often offered to sign as RAR to coalition letters around IDC opposition, so could they have standing approval to use our name
 - So trying to avoid having to go to the ERT with only 24 hours notice frequently
 - Seems like it will need a longer discussion so tabling for now

Election

- A member of the ERT has stepped down and there is a current vacancy
- Tim is currently in DC handling a legal repercussion from a previous protest
- Alex L and Jim ? are also interested

Jeremiah

- Please refrain from voting if you are only attending for Zephyr

Jamie

- Tim has participated before in Act Up and has been with Rise and Resist since the beginning

Jim F

- I've been an activist all my life, I've been one of the original attendees of the Stonewall riots
- I have worked with other AIDS orgs
- I think the position is critical that so many positions are happening on a daily basis and we need to be able to do things between actions
- I'm an old queen so I want to be involved

Alex L

- The ERT only approve actions without time to go to the floor, and I am pretty much always at meetings and taking notes, so I have a good pulse on the views of the org, to be able to reflect the floor
- It's email and tech heavy, and I'm happy to help with that
- I love RAR and love to get involved

Vote - Kellen & Jon are counting votes

Alex L will be joining the ERT

Paul Intro for Zephyr Teachout

- Associate Professor of Law at Fordham
- 2014 primaried Cuomo, she gave the governor a real run for his money
 - Had she won we would not be having these same IDC issues, etc.
- Last year in the 19th district she won in the Congressional Dem primary, and got endorsements from all important orgs
- Occupy Wall Street, part of Howard Dean 2004
- Working with citizens for responsibility and ethics in Washington DC, going after the President's violations of the Emoluments Clause

Tonight she is speaking to us about the unethical and unfair "Independent Democratic Caucus" (IDC)

Zephyr Teachout 7:30-8:00

- This is not going to be a lecture, I'm just speaking for a bit and then talking with you about your questions
- The IDC is affecting the MTA, the health of ppl in NY, the capacity of access to decent education, every aspect of our lives
- It is profoundly embarrassing that NY is in a position to be standing up against DT, but that our home affairs are in disarray
- NYC has the highest inequality in the country
 - Schools are among the most segregated
- Our voting laws are so bad that NC used our laws as the defense for their laws that Federal Courts have pointed out as racist, and they weren't wrong
- We have a 2:1 Dem registration, PROGRESSIVE even, over GOP
- There are 8 Dem State Senators who are elected as Dems who then support a GOP control of the NY State Senate
- Because of gerrymandering in NYC the state was split between 31 and 31, but the 8 (and 1 other Dem who works on his own) chose to support a GOP majority
 - Some people think that these are just middle of the road Dems - not true! They pretend to back progressive policies but don't have to vote on them because they never get to the floor
 - NYS has a very centralized system, called 3 men in the room
 - Individual Senators cannot bring things to be on the floor for votes, it can only be introduced by leaders
 - So even if the NYS Assembly is heavily Dem and come up with great progressive legislation, it won't see the floor on the State Senate
 - The IDC members often run as progressive Dems, saying they support single payer, Dream Act, GENDA Act,

- The most important decision they could make is who they support for state leadership, but they help to keep any of those bills from being voted on by holding up GOP that keep bills from the floor
- They do this because they get special benefits and potentially even more money
- Or for others it's about power (Jeff Klein, the head of the IDC)
- What do real estate, hedge funds, etc want
 - Dan Loeb is a hedge fund manager, said Andrea Cousins (who should be the majority leader of Dems) was worse than the KKK for funding public schools and challenging charter schools
 - He is one of Cuomo's biggest donors, but also spends millions to elect GOP at state level in NYS and also in NY Congressional delegations
 - This is not *just* a play for NYS, when Dems take back Congress, this is a model for them to try out in other states
 - Why does Cuomo want this?
 - His big donors are the ones who don't want progressive legislation
 - Like Leonard Litten real estate firms used a loophole to give him nearly \$1m
 - They don't want progressive taxation because they don't use the public services that need that funding
 - They also want to disempower the people (teachers' unions, etc) that are advocating for that
 - Cuomo also wants to look like a progressive, so the block on these bills help him make empty promises to seem more left
 - His state of the state included the same progressive proposals he always makes, which he allows the legislation to be stalled by the GOP State Senate, so that it will never happen but he gets credit for saying it
 - Like his proposal about tax credit loophole to be closed
 - It is immoral to play politics with the resources for students, immigration status, Roe V Wade does not exist at the state level,
- The elections subgroup at Rise and Resist was really awesome, doing an incredible job with a huge coalition to help people to understand what the IDC is and why it's so bad
 - By protesting, by calling, by door knocking

- This past fall, Cuomo finally had enough pressure that his spokesperson said that they were going to make the IDC “come home”
 - With caveats:
 - not until after the budget (in March)
 - There’s no enforcement mechanism
- In 2014, I decided to challenge Cuomo on the Working Families Party line, and at the party convention people were torn about whether or not to support him or my challenging candidacy, and they decided to go with Cuomo because he promised to do several things
- They had to call him to the convention because he refused to get rid of the IDC, until they made him promise
- So his promise this year is the same as his previous promises, but now there’s at least public pressure and he’s consistently being questioned about disbanding the IDC
- With the two vacant NYS senate seats that Cuomo has refused to call a special election in order to avoid having Dems be able to mount a legit resistance
- This upcoming session in NY is important, because last time people forgot to hold him accountable to his promise, so we cannot let people forget this year
- We need to be pressuring Cuomo everyday, and we need to support primary challengers against these IDC members
- In every single one of the races that we win will impact this issue

Vote to extend for 15 mins for questions

- Approved

Money Bags going out

Comments -

Besides holding Cuomo to account, the counties where these candidates on the IDC are should be held accountable, the chair for the Bronx supported Jeff Klein and Brooklyn is an issue, Golder, martin, no one challenged Schumer and no one are pressuring Sepio

Z

Ben Lee and I are delegates to the State Party, the state party has not agreed to not fund the IDC

The state party is getting enough pressure to say that we should be supporting challengers since these figures are not acting as Dems
In Dutchess county, a Clinton delegate COunty chair, is a big Anti-IDC advocate
Why doesn't the state party supporting local Dems?
Why isn't the state party funding challengers?

Donna

I want to underscore the hedge fund and charter school connection
When you are looking at candidates you need to look for a Teach for America connections, then their political career is funded through "Democrats for Education Reform"

Z

The people really want to underfund and undermine public education in NYS
They don't want Teachers' Unions or AQE to have any power about their tax fights
The hedge fund managers are out to gut public ed

Christina

Thank you for standing up, your energy is great
We want to go around America to set forth agendas for candidates to show that they should stand up for what you've promised

Z

It's not easy, because normally there's a checklist, but they say that they are about progressive bills, but then back GOP leaders
A history of standing up to power, doing the uncomfortable thing to criticize and speak to power when it will not advantage them
Comcast is a problem, even if it's funding lots of Dems

Annette

We are trying to pass NYS health
We have passed in the Assembly for 3 times, but can't get a hearing in
There's not a single Dem who gets elected in NY without Unions, but now there are issues around her vote
How can we engage with the Labor movement since they are powerful in NYS

Z

Great example, this is one of the important reasons for Robert Jackson to win, he's a great progressive and will actually do it.

He will prove that there's immediate consequences if you say one thing and do another by getting her out.

We should be supporting IVFW strike against Spectrum in NYC

Our people are so much better than our politics, and the politicians are just used to "how things go"

We do have one of the most powerful governors, so ppl are being very brave in standing up to him

-

Considering how well you did in the Primary against Cuomo, especially with being unheard of previously, with about 36% of the vote could you please primary him again?

Jay

We know how much the industry are destroying NYC for shops, for retail, housing

How much money are Cuomo and county level execs getting from the industry?

Is that information out there?

Z

Yes it is, but most of the money is just going to Cuomo, not as much to the county

After 6 weeks my campaign had more individual donors than his did!

Cuomo has almost 0 low dollar donations, it's all large donations from industries

Real estate is Trump world, that's not what NYS should be

About Elections

Paul

- We meet every Tuesday before the main meeting
rar.elections@gmail.com

Impeach Actions -

Martin - synopsis

Past Thurs were at Grand Central Terminal, about 100 ppl, up to 30K views online for livestream

Jennifer VD and Martin were town criers

Upcoming 1/11 (Nadler) -

5:30-6:30, the head Dem on the House Judiciary, the group that can push for impeachment, so putting pressure on him to advocate

Town Criers:

Straw Poll for future actions

Same 5:30pm time - Clear majority

New 6pm start time

Alternating times

Straw poll-

Saturday 1/27

People's march for impeachment in DC and sister marches in other cities

Utah, AK, Montreal?, Pitt,

Or join them in DC?

11am

Accessibility statement on website

Buses down from NYC to DC

Stick to racism protest for that week

Questions/Comments

Joe

Do we think that we would be able to get enough people?

Martin

I'm hoping that they'll help and they do have 27K RSVPs to DC march

Mike

I'm wondering about the attacks on immigrants if we could do an action around that

TPS for Salvador, Haitians, etc

Martin

We do have our immigration group

Jamie

I'm uncomfortable to vote on a march if there is not start info, the location, etc,

Martin

Just to get interest

Straw poll
Sister NYC - clear majority
DC
Original

Upcoming 1/18 -
Environmental action for Impeachment
Get your Hands Off Our Land
Animal costumes, Puppets, Lead by Mother Nature's speech

Poster party on Monday for the action, reach out to Tom or Jamie
If anyone has contacts with environmental groups, especially Indigenous Peoples/First Nations, and children's' groups please reach out to help us build coalition

Nadler Town Hall 1/22 (needs vote).
A presence to go to Nadler's town hall at NYU to pressure him
Find the event on EventBrite and pre-register
Action committee meeting tomorrow night
Vote for approval (no budget)

Stu
What is the purpose of going to the town hall? What do you want from him?

Donna
We want to know his reasoning

Eve
My understanding is that he is one of the Dems most pushing for impeachment so I don't know if he's a good target

Donna
He did not sign Rep Green's impeachment papers so we want to know why

Vote for Approval
Passed

Working group -

Finance

Susan/Robert

Balance \$9511.80

Rent collection: \$830

Susan

I am going to be stepping back for 3 months for Tax Season, so please make sure to give any collections going forward to Robert

We have a finance meeting on Saturdays

Andy

Please reach out to rarfinance@gmail.com

Tom Cat Actions

Jeanne

Synopsis: Immigration audits forced workers out

With Brand Workers, a labor org, and IWW we have been protesting but this Friday it is supposed to be raining

So we will be meeting to do a phonebanking to target restaurants

Friday 6:30-7:30pm at ?

The workers are going out to talk to restaurant owners directly

But for those that refuse to meet the workers or to drop the bread, we protest them

Working group -

Comms

Andy

Social Museum Outing

Andy

Friday at 7:30 the exhibit at the Whitney, Incomplete History of Protest

Maybe dinner beforehand, will update on FB event

Please wear Rise and Resist shirt if you have it

Virginia

Part of the website to be a more edited/curated

How To's using our great knowledgebase to publish for our allies

A good way to encourage others to get active, and even having activist profiles

Reach out to: virginia.vitzthum@gmail.com

Arrests

Ray

The action in September that had arrests (10 were) 8 had ACDS and 2 went to court (Jenny Heinz and Beverly) and the state is not resolving their cases unless they plead guilty

They are going to be going to court

So if anyone has specific evidence of their arrests (pictures, video), please reach out to Ray

rdiskinblack@gmail.com

Elevator Actions

State of Disgrace

Jamie

Planning a vague action

The action is open to all members but to get the specific info you have to reach out to Jamie

“The Whole World is Watching”

Action Committee will be talking about it at next Wed’s meeting (1/17)

Some people signed up last week but one person’s email bounced, so please reach out if you signed up and didn’t get the info

Next week there will be more of an announcement

President's Day

Jay/ Maryellen

This weekend we will be meeting to plan another action for this year’s action

Especially if someone has a space where we would be able to meet

Jayw.walker@gmail.com

Other new actions -

Block Brand

Business that work with Trump to divest, focusing on the Trump hotel at Columbus Circle

This Thursday they are having people to gather signatures for a petition

Meet on the center park side, b/w 60/61st, opposite the Trump hotel

Carol

This Thursday 1/11 at 9am, the New Sanctuary Coalition, with other orgs, is holding a solidarity vigil against deportation

NY who have to periodically checking in with ICE who live in fear of being detained

It's a silent Jericho walk, with meditation/prayer

Elka

Women's march

61st and Central Park West

11am-1pm

Rally with speakers

Around Columbus Circle, down 59th to 6th to 44th

Proposal for Endorsement - budget for posters etc (\$500)

Jake

Last year the march had some accessibility issues, which we can't change on our own, but can we do anything

They do have a spot in front of the stage at 67th, the website has all the details

Elka

We will make sure to find a spot to meet as the group that is accessibility

Jennifer B

The CEO hired a young hispanic woman to work for her to create a disability caucus for NYC women's march, with all the info on the site

This was not out of the kindness of their hearts, it was because I made an issue for a year

Annette was really helpful

They have not confirmed a disabled speaker, or whether the stage is accessible

Vote Approved

elka@elka.net msenip@aol.com

Jake

We decided to march in pride, come talk to me

Immigration

Going to a museum on Saturday as a social outing

Fb event?

1pm (1hr 30 mins)

History of detention for Chinese Americans

Vote Approved

Rachel

Phonebank on Saturday to get commitments against IDC

14 ppl came, it went great

Phillip/Jazz

Phillip

Jazz will be starting up a welcoming committee, we are looking for more volunteers, to greet new people at the meetings and to talk to them after the meeting to get them involved

Jazz

We are looking to get at least 8 people to make sure that we have at least 2 at each meeting

No Foreign Bases.org in Baltimore

IceFreeNYC

Announcements