

## 12.18.18 Rise And Resist General Meeting Minutes

### 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)

Last meeting of the year!

We now have metrocards for anyone who needs one.

Facilitators: John and Libby. Elizabeth ASL translator (rockstar who is doing 2 hours of interpreting!)

### **(10) Patricia – Update on Trial and Sentencing Date**

Elka: Yesterday in front of court before trial. Patricia was convicted of 3 misdemeanors and is waiting for sentencing on March 5, 2019. Final statement of her lawyer was very moving (has a copy and will read)

Argued against charge of trespassing; highlighted history of activists who defied oppression; detective who got Patricia down said they were all safe

Since we have officially endorsed support, we should think about dealing w/ press in the future (would like someone from RAR for next hearing date who can speak to the press).

Rick: Patricia put Abolish ICE stickers on statue (they may still be there). Regrets not coughing loudly when prosecutor said "No one is above the law."

### **(5) Report Back Seeking Asylum Is Not a Crime**

Jon, Rick, Kellen reporting back. Last Thursday around 30 people met at TWC w/ signs with lights, 30 ft. banner. Lots of photos on FB. Some were tagged for possible arrest. Took over steps and sidewalk in front of Jean Georges and stayed for 1 hour. Security at building told everyone to move, cops also came in, followed by "Goon squad" from Trump Tower. Police Officer told them to move and asked for someone in charge ("we're a non-hierarchical group, so no leader"). Wanted to see how far they could go w/out being arrested.

Banner was made w/ landscaping fabric and white duct tape. Uniformed cop spoke to Rick, asking for a favor to leave. Police backed away and waited for strategic response group a few

minutes before the group decided to leave. Tourist from Spain joined (was warned of risk of arrest). Action made a good statement, nothing was lost, no one was arrested.

Good feedback from people from passersby including some from S. America. Opposition was rude and nasty. Diane printed photos from migrant crisis. Made for a solemn event w/out chanting or much noise.

Q: What was strategic goal and was it accomplished? A: Wanted to call attention to what's happening at border. No press coverage (one photographer, may show up later), News van tried to park but didn't make it before action ended.

C: We can't protest enough, room for more actions.

### **(10) Resistance Processions 12/20 5:30PM & 12/23 2:00PM**

**Jamie: Floor approved 2 resistance processions with signs, lights, banners, etc.**

- 1) Thursday, December 20 at 5:30 at Fox News (unless it rains, then will be in Grand Central Station) - Check FB event in case the weather changes (pictures will be ruined if it's raining).
- 2) Sunday, December 23 at 2pm starting at 58th and 5th Ave. Will go past Rockefeller, Trump Tower, etc. Very scenic where a lot of people will be. Will need marshalls to block traffic as we cross streets. Don't anticipate any problems w/ police, but better to plan ahead. Will bring arm bands.

Q: for people not on FB? A: Will send to actions and immigration email lists.

### **(20) New York Healthcare Act – Role of Direct Action**

Mark: Healthcare committee had good meeting about NY Health act. Katie will explain...

Katie Robbins: Director for NY Campaign for Health. Have been working for 10 years to build a statewide coalition. New York Health Act (NYHA) has passed every year since 2014. Have challenged the conventional wisdom that candidates can't win elections if they support NYHA and proven it wrong (many candidates who supported the act were elected). Benefits are more comprehensive than any private or public plan including Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP. Sponsoring senators have committed to long-term care, too. Will be funded through existing healthcare funds, and a progressive payroll tax (displacing current out of pocket insurance and other costs) and tax on capital gains (where real wealth is held in NY). Several studies show that a system will cover everyone and be cheaper than what we have now. Will be similar to how healthcare works in other countries w/ universal healthcare.

Mark: In meeting, we talked about need for 1) education and 2) direct action to people who are supporting AND people who are opposing (big pharma lobbyists)

Group called "Realities of Single-Payer" is spreading misinformation. Want to have "Realities of Private Insurance" action to combat this misinformation.

Want to ask for co-sponsorship for action at Pfizer planned in late January/early February (details forthcoming). Want to call attention to company (largest and most profitable pharma company in world).

Q: Will Senate vote this year? A: Legislative session ends in June. Will try to get it passed in Assembly in January, and keep pushing to get it passed given opposition.

Q: Has Cuomo come out either way? A: "Cool" on idea of state single payer system, but in support for federal single payer system.

Q: What would cosponsorship consist of instead of endorsement? A: Healthcare group will have a hand in planning and get money to support the action.

Q: Plans are not very concrete, would like more details before voting. Feels like more planning is needed before a vote (several others agree).

Q/C: Meeting was good b/c Healthcare group and Elections group got to meet together and talk through ways to push state legislators to support the NYHA.

15 State Senators have stated their support. We want to work w/ them to help organize public events/Town Halls to raise awareness while pushing back on opposition. We could also potentially have our own Town Hall (need to start planning right away). We need to get people behind this plan.

National Nurses United calling for Week of Action during February 9-15? to raise awareness. Want to plan a Town Hall for Wednesday, February 13.

Q: Single Payer is not same as Medicare for All. education on this is critical. A: Proposals have to meet key criteria. NYHA and National Medicare for All are both single-payer plans. Medicare as it is for all is different than what we're pushing for w/ the NYHA

Q: Will TPF be available that night? A: Need to find out ASAP

Idea behind town hall is to lay out basics, answer questions and talk about how to work together to enact the legislation

Q/C: Would also be a good way to connect w/ members of TPF because it's something that could bring people together.

Q: How will we reach out to people w/ disabilities; what will we do if there is a lot of interest?

**Endorsement for Town Hall (everyone is in favor, will move forward w/ planning for 2/13)**

Next Healthcare group meeting will be in first of year

### **Announce Read and Resist**

Saturday, January 26, 12-2 w/ Rebecca Traister (may need to contact her) Good and Mad, the Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger

### **Announce Annual Meeting**

Moved from TPF to LGBT Center  
Sunday, January 13 from 2-4 PM

### **(5) New Actions –**

**Elevator Action Group:** 12/19 Court Hearing rally has been canceled, will be rescheduled in January

**Memorandum of Support** of Senate Bill that enables prosecution of certain offenses when a pardon has been granted and closes the "double jeopardy loophole."

Writing this memorandum to inform new state legislators.

Will close loophole where in the rare case that the President may pardon someone from a federal crime.

Q: Seems like this is an "ex post facto" thing where a law is being passed to take care of something that has already happened. A: NY State couldn't file a case against someone that has been pardoned by Trump. Memo of support is a way for a group to say I support or don't support this bill.

**Vote to endorse memo: (all in favor!)**

## **(25) The People's Forum**

Alexandra: Philip will talk about the January hiatus, but want to talk about getting more involved w/ TPF first. (Check out [peoplesforum.org/calendar](https://peoplesforum.org/calendar) for many events of interest)

Kellen: went to class at TPF a month ago, has been going to 1 event per month to build connections w/ employees and members and become part of community

Philip: checkout [peoplesforum.org/about/staff](https://peoplesforum.org/about/staff) to see who the staff members are and what they do (if you want to get to know people's names). Was asked by TPF to come talk to them last Wednesday and was joined by Jamie and Andy.

## **\*(5) January Construction**

Space will be closed during month of January. RAR will temporarily move to:

**Lenox Medical Greenwich Village 200 W 13th** (across the street from old meeting space, next door to LGBT center). Renting conference space on 6th floor (\$30 for evening, space from 6-9pm for elections group to meet before general meeting).

Building is wheelchair accessible. No access to video monitors/projection, but will have microphones and tablet for taking notes.

Q: What is capacity of room? A: 75 people

Q: Act Up has projector if it would help. A: no place to project

Alexandria: we'll have access to space in January, but not in February (will be returning to TPF after construction)

Sign-in will be required (maybe bring a photo ID)

Q: How to publicize? A: New banner on website, notice on FB, email, weekly newsletter, etc.

Can ask TPF to post a notice

Q: What is needed for "opening a meeting" at temporary space? A: Elections group can handle opening since they will be meeting ahead of the general meeting

## **(15) Discussion of meeting with, and feedback from, TPF staff**

Jamie: Meeting on Wednesday w/ Ciara and Manolo. We've been thinking of this space as a transactional space since we're renting here. Our interactions have been asking where our meeting space is and that's about it. The way TPF sees our relationship is that they've invited us here to be part of community, but we're not exactly acting that way.

Who are we in this space? Can we come in w/ a relaxed attitude and appreciate the space and community? Some people have not been interacting w/ staff. We are used to that mode b/c that is how the Center is set up (to reduce interaction), but TPF wants us to have relationships and be part of community.

Membership meetings starting in February (representative from RAR will meet w/ other groups), and want to find ways to offer something (like marshall training)

We are approved for Tuesday recurring meetings, but they would prefer we don't ask for additional space (Town Hall may be awkward to ask for, but we could ask them to cosponsor event)

Culturally, they would like more events like readings, panels, etc. and not just meetings. Our meetings are unusual for events that they host here.

Q/C: Given all of the other social justice groups in the city, we should realize it's a privilege to be invited here.

Q: TPF may be interested in sponsoring a Town Hall w/ us or may happen in another space

Q/C: Should consider how we interact before and after meetings. Would be good to invite them to some of our actions.

Q/C: Would love for Town Hall to be cosponsored by TPF, Poor People's campaign, and other groups

### **Announce 12/19 Actions Meeting 6-8PM at UAW**

Actions committee meeting tomorrow night to talk about strategy. Anyone interested in working w/ actions, we'll be talking about strategies for upcoming actions.

### **(5) What's on the calendar**

**Holiday Market** (selling some RAR swag) Thursday, 12/20 from 7-11 pm at Starr Bar (looking for volunteers to help fundraise)

Q: We ran out of t-shirts "Trumpcare makes us sick" and "Immigrantes...?" in SML (price is 2X on website than in person)

**Postcard Party:** Monday, January 7 from 7-9pm at 209 E. 56th St. Apt 6B

**(10) Endorsement of Grand Central action focused on Women's and Disability rights.**

Jennifer B: Asking for sponsorship for event. Sent list of demands for disability inclusion and accessibility. Sent letters back and forth, asked for names (not just organization). Andy, Anne, others gave them names and they asked for board members. Andy tried to set up a meeting, but they ended contact. Woman named Rosarie came to RAR and worked on disability caucus. Did accessibility work last year, but no disability justice. Accessibility is physical inclusion, but disability justice is social inclusion. Katherine from march asked Rosarie to do the accessibility planning again, but she doesn't want to b/c of the way the police acted last year (asking people to identify disability, were turning away people even though there was plenty of space). Requested town hall w/ Women's March organizers and NYPD, but organizers are worried about losing license.

Women's March is in 29 days. No accessibility people, no route. 2nd march led by NYC chapter of D.C. March, but their plans are not set either.

Asking for endorsement for "Women's Non- March at GCT" from 12-2 b/c GCT is an accessible space to protest WM w/out an outright competition to WM. Doesn't have to interfere w/ other RAR march contingent plans

Q: Are you putting a flyer together explaining position, what march stands for, etc? A: Yes

Q: What will the action be like if you can't march? A: It's a non-march, but a demonstration

Q: What do you envision, people w/ signs, speaking, etc.? Would we need a marshall? Do you have any meetings planned for planning event?

Q: What is risk of arrest? Do you need a permit? A: Don't expect a large group of people

Q/C: Some people will be left alone, but some people will be asked to move along by police.

Q/C: will be a high alert day b/c police will be out in force for WM. If you aren't physically blocking people's way, it shouldn't be a problem. If you have music or other amplification, there could be issues. If we endorse, we have to be prepared to deal w/ authorities.

First rally was anti-DeVos rally w/ Annette (40 people, weren't bothered by police). Maybe the wrong way to go, but WM is not showing an interest in including people w/ disabilities.

**Vote for sponsorship of event (Non-march) January 19 at Noon - majority in favor**

**(5) Calendar Fundraiser**

Selling calendars for \$20 (available here and on website, possibly market on Thursday)

**(5) Finance**

\$170 raised today, have ~\$13K in the bank

(10) Non Rise and Resist actions and announcement

**Stu: Meeting w/ group in formation w/ London environmental group.** Looking to end big marches and have more confrontational direct actions. Planning January 26 worldwide day of climate action. Environmental movement needs more loud people. Will report back with more info.

### Rise And Resist ###