

RAR Minutes

2018-2-20

Facilitators: Elka, Kellen

Timekeeper: none

Notes: Susan Hodges

Group contact information

- Website: www.riseandresist.org
- Email list signup <http://eepurl.com/cCzq1X>
- Twitter: www.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.

Introduction

Any police/law enforcement/ICE/FBI/Homeland Security? (no answer)

Any working journalists covering this meeting? (no answer)

Please use your preferred pronouns when you introduce yourself.

Put down your phone. Do not take pictures.

Step Up/Step Back - Make space for people whose voices are usually not heard.

No cross-talk, interrupting others when they speak.

Also come to front of the room when you make announcements, so that people can see your mouth when you speak.

Seats in the front two rows - please leave open for people with disabilities.

Read mission statement.

- Welcome new members and introduce Donna, the greeter. See Donna in the back of the room if you have questions.

If you are going to propose a new action - go and speak to Jamie and/or John first. They will explain how to go about it.

Also announce that anyone making report backs needs to check in with Jamie and/or John before coming to the floor, and that anyone making a new action proposal or a non-RAR announcement needs to sign up and talk to us as well.

Agenda

(5) New Members welcome - Donna Gould (and Jon Carter at the end)

- **Elevator Group Update Jennifer and Jackie**

On Monday March 5, hearing in state court re: lawsuit ongoing to get NYS to comply with the ADA. Important to have support for the plaintiffs. AT 60 Centre St. Meet outside at 9am where we can hold posters. (Inside courtroom, we cannot).

Jennifer- Need support. Not sure what will happen that day, but at some point, someone will be legally forced to bring the subway up to ADA compliance. Grandfathered under the ADA, but there's a human rights law they're breaking and that's what we're trying to get them on. Newly elected MTA director Andy [...]. We asked him to ride the subway with some folks from our subway group and he agreed! Email riseandresist.eag@gmail.com
Look at our web page: Elevators are for everyone

Web page: <https://www.riseandresist.org/elevator-action-group/>

- **Gun Violence/Gun Control Update - Gays Against Guns**

Kenn Kidd, Kevin Hertzog, Jay Walker, Re shooting at Parkland High last week. The only positive aspect of this tragedy is that there are some folks down there, the parents are finally saying, "Enough we call B.S."

Kevin: Three actions coming to fruition.

March 14th, 10 am. National school walkout. Limited action. Only 17 minutes at 10 am.

GAG having special town hall meeting this Thursday Feb 22 7:30-8:30 pm at the Center, 208 West 13th street. This is a strategy meeting to figure out what we can do to support them. Also a chance for folks who haven't been involved in GAG in a while, because we may be at a tipping point, and we need different folks with different voices.

March 24, March for Our Lives - created by the students in Parkland. Modeled on the Women's March, Major march on DC, ancillary marches in other cities. Across the board, we can to give these kids some really good tutelage and and info on direct action. There are basically only two direct action groups working on gun violence, us and Betsy Riot. We want to let them know WE are hearing THEM. FB #marchforourlives. Really important to magnify what these kids are doing. Follow them, retweet, etc.

April 20 National School walkout. On the anniversary of Columbine. Wear orange.

Twitter handle @schoolwalkoutus

Asking for support (endorsement?)

Weds 6-8pm at Center Action Group can address that.

Jennifer says problem with the walkouts, it's illegal for children to leave school without permission from their parents. Also wants to know the age groups for the walkout.

Ken: His imagination tells him that it would be household by household.

For the 17-minute one, best thing to do is to think of it as a fire drill. School administrators are involved, so it shouldn't be a disruption of their school day.

Florida state legislature today overturned assault weapons ban.

From floor: suggestion that RAR continue to shame politicians who take NRA donations, and really make this a successful platform to resist Trump.

Pass bag for donations.

Impeach Report Back and Update - Jamie - Last week's action very well -received by the people who were down there. Afterwards went up to LAGuardia high school to join GAG.

This Thursday's weekly impeach will be re: NRA and possible Russian collusion in channeling funds Trump is the Chief Citizen and act like it; he should not blame the folks who were shot. 5:30 at Trump hotel in Columbus Circle. The plaza is ours.

(5) President's Day Report Back

How many people were on the ice for "Activist on Ice"? We did a few things we haven't done before. We did human billboard, formed different words. We can do this again. It was fun to have Sing Out louise there. The banners looked great. We disposed some disposable paper banner that we knew . We didn't do a FB event, so there no police. Even our favorite detectives and weren't there, so that's interesting. We collected some additional money over what we expected and will donate about \$100 to New Sanctuary.

Wroff and Tom Gilroy did some press, arranged NowThis to live stream. That got 250,000 views.

Facilitators announce book group and fundraiser party on Feb 25, 2pm LGBT Center Room 310.

Andy thanks folks for buying the book. Direct Action by LA Kaufman.

Donna wants to know if we're discussing the whole book? Yes. Even though we encourage

Following Sunday, Activist Disco party at Nowhere Bar. Selling t-shirts, hats, buttons, etc. Proceeds Martin is going to be DJing. It's accessible.

also remake announcement about signing up for announcements with Jamie and John.

First, Fashion show, folks wearing our brand new hoodies Has mission statement on the back. Andy - Stuff in our store is great, and RAR gets a notification when a purchase is made. Share this link store.riseandresist.org.

Guest Speaker - Kiara St. James (co-founder and CEO of New York Transgender Advocacy Group)

She is working to transform the narratives of being someone with intersecting identities, transgender, people of color, gender non-conforming and someone living with HIV. Jeremiah introduces her.

Ofentimes people say that systems are broken, but they are actually working the way they were set up to do, to keep people down. Asks us to repeat with her, to get it out into the universe. "The system is not broken, But it will break us if we do not work together to dismantle it." This is what we have to do to create new systems that are inclusive. Asked for a show of

hands who knows the names Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P Johnson. People forget that they also talked about other interesting issues, i.e. mental health . The suicide rate for transgender women of color is three times the national average. Their life expectancy is 35 years of age. Not just HIV, but depression, addiction issues. These all come from systems that do not support us. It is our responsibility to talk about these.

Slide: Positively Trans website

How many folks have heard of “GENDA”. How many have called their legislators to support it? Not as many. This is an area where allies/partners need to do something. There are still difficulties with housing, going to school

Suggests Town meetings, surveys to collect information in NYC and NYS. Urges us to get involved, work with groups working to change the narrative for trans folks.

We need to create spaces to talk about equity. Include trans folks in coalition. Compensation - sharing your skill set, your spaces. Trans people want to be in spaces that are affirming of them. SHe says that when she come sin her, she feels welcome. Thanks the room for that.

Does workshops around language. It's not just about 'cis'. It's also about how we build together. We are identified as trans today and may not be so identified 10 years from now. Difference between cultural competency and cultural literacy.

Questions: Will we have to change our acronym to LGBTQA (A for asexual). Yes, we have already gone beyond all those initials. We need to talk about including everyone. Give trans people agency to say whether they want to be involved in academic discussions, don't assume they do not want to be included.

Jake: in terms of supporting your work, what are tangible steps we can take to make political presened. Meet with legislators. Make sure these conversations are being had around NYC and state wide. HASA is for HIV+ folks can live in their own apartments. Housing is a healthcare issue. Difficult to adhere to a medical regimen if you are homeless. Expand HASA to all New York State. ADAPT (what people outside New York State depend on) will run out soon, make sure they still have access.

Question: What is it about RAR that makes it welcoming? What should we do at protest? It's important when folks say their gender pronouns / identities are supported.

Trans 101 history

Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P Johnson, (STAR)

When people are speaking about trans issues they often give shoutouts to those mentioned above, but people forget that their “children” are still here. But when people talk about them they also forget about the layers of the issues they dealt with, like mental health, etc. Especially thoughts of suicide.

Go to positively trans our website has a lot of resources, and I am honored to be a national board member.

I want to point out how mental health plays a central role in how trans women have been marginalized. The suicide rate for our people are 4x the national avg, and I am considered an elder since the life expectancy for us is only 35 yrs old.

We have issues with depression, addiction, and they are all from systems that do not support or affirm us, so it is our responsibility to create system that support us.

Outside of the NYC bubble trans individuals still have a lot of problems in NY state, because they do not have connection to resources in other areas, like upstate which is generally very conservative.

So I am having a series of town halls with allies, and taking surveys to collect data for trans individuals outside of city areas, and send to relevant institutions to help challenge the expectations for trans people across the nation.

If you have trans friends or partners, etc, please make sure to reach out to help connect them to these type of opportunities.

How we make space to be able to talk about equity, and how best to include trans folks in these types of coalitions. And folks may say "compensation" but that is not all about \$\$ but also about resources and opportunities. A lot of orgs do a good job of talking about inclusivity, but they need to do more to make the space welcoming. And RaR is good for that for me as a black trans woman.

I do workshops around language, like cisgender vs trans, but also about how we build together. Making sure that we are creating positive spaces, and understanding how language changes and evolves, especially about trans folks. Since we are not a monolith and we are a continuously evolving community, so language for now may not be the same in even a few years.

I want to see if there are specific questions

Elizabeth

I was wondering if you changed names

SOmeone who is cis is that they feel that their gender matches the sex they were born with
Trans is that their gender is different than their born sex, so trans people may medically transition with hormones and/or surgery to be perceived as their gender

Jake

GENDA, a Gender Exclusion and Discrimination Act, helping to support this in the NYS legislature, to protect gender nonconforming people in our state at their jobs.

Question re: violence. Obviously transgender teens have gone through a lot of violence in their history.

Response: will be getting her folks involved. Esp as the homicide rate is so high for transwomen of color..

We have a lot of workshops

NY Transgender Advocacy Group (not just exclusively trans)

Contact: kiara@nytag.org.

Facilitator asks for 30 seconds of silence to have all this information sink in.

Finance Report

Jeremiah - Thanks Kiara again. At at time when TG folks are being targeted, it's not just their issue, it's our issue.

Cash: \$900. A/P Net worth ??? Copy of detailed report available at front desk.

Tonight's collection for rent: \$485.25. Space costs \$350 every week, so we've more than made our rent.

Fundraising - question about public domain. We are in implementation stage. If you're interested in copyright, you're an artist, etc. We have materials others can use.

finance@riseandresist.org

Dann: Store's open, We've added colors. Red. blue, army green. No, nature green. If you have ideas on products, maybe children's shirts, onesies. store@riseandresist.org.

Would love to work with action groups to get some of our designs on shirts. For example, he really wants an Elevators Are For Everyone t-shirt. fundraising@riseandresist.org.

Elections Committee is working on a t-shirt. How long until we can get it on the store? Andy: I would say minutes. Dann: I would say 1-3 business days. From floor: a request for v-neck shirts.

Donna as tonight's greeter asks people who came in after the beginning of the meeting to identify themselves. She circulates sign-in sheet. Reiterated that those with questions should see her at the back of the room after the meeting.

Tom Cat

This information was redacted from the minutes

Comms - John media@riseandresist.org New elevator action group page on the website.

There are a few groups we don't have pages for - please email him to get one set up. (Get list of groups from John)

Location discussion and vote

Philip - COTV has informed us that the contract and the certificate of insurance we signed with them is no longer valid. A standard form called a User Agreement. Formed a committee, which with the Board of Directors examined the document and decided it was sufficiently simple as to not require a lawyer. But we do have amendments to review before signing. Church asked us to sign something simple in the interim. The insurance certificate also is fairly simple, but this is still being investigated. Asking for \$500 for the insurance. A short-term agreement, signed by Jeremiah. 6-month agreement signed by Jeremiah and Stu Waldman. Insurance signed by Jeremiah, Stuart and ? from Finance.

Jamie from floor - cannot hear/understand what is being said.

Mary - This isn't binding us? Yes, it is, for 6 months.

From floor: It hasn't been mentioned that we are getting this space very cheaply.

Donna - Is it possible to have shorter interim agreement? Especially since we have had trouble with the sound here, and it is larger than we need.

Facilitator - finding space has been very difficult. Number of attendees fluctuates. She trusts Phil's research.

Alex from floor - the Certificate of Insurance is to protect the church in case there are injuries.

Philip - We have had a certificate of insurance; this is just an update.

Vote: Motion passes.

Jody - Group of DREAMERs marching from NY to DC ... It was a small crowd for the send-off, there was some press. They got on the ferry for NJ. She's thinking of joining them.
jodyq@me.com

Join Immigration meeting this Thursday 7pm at the Center, 208

Cheri- Proposing two actions for Elections group.

Two appearances of IDC members:

Thursday 2/22, 12 pm, 250 Broadway, IDC is having an event regarding cryptocurrency , 250 Broadway. Sponsorship approved.

Information was redacted from the minutes.

Wants approval from floor to do these events. Does not want FB events set up so it is a surprise.

Cheri - The IDC has a lot of support amongst unions - that is one of the problems.

Question from floor: Are you in touch with other groups mobilizing on this? Yes.

rar.elections@gmail.com

Mary - Postcard party "If you know any introverts with good handwriting who likes cookies"

Feb 28 facebook event writing postcards to voters

Andy - Let Comms know if you need anything redacted from notes.

Valentine's Day Cards were sent to people we work with, and VOCAL responded with a very nice post on our page. Thank you to Rachel and the other people who made that happen,

Jake Education.riseandresist.org email if you have suggestions for guest speakers.

(5) Non RAR Announcements

The Phantom, candidate for Mayor of New York, reads us his platform.

next Weds free movie at 7pm benefit for WBAI at WBAI headquarters, 388 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn

Andy Next Tuesday 2/27 8am **press conference CourtWatch NYC.**

Making sure that we are getting involved to make sure that trans people have healthcare everywhere, not just in NYC

Jeremiah

What is it about RAR or other spaces that make it welcoming or not? What should we do at meetings or protests to make it more welcoming?

To state your gender pronouns, as you do, so that someone is not misgendered based on how they look. A lot of trans people do not have access to or do not take hormones to change their appearance, so you want to make sure that you show respect for what someone says their gender/pronouns are.

Cheryl

You mentioned HASA, what is that?

It is a program for HIV poz folks to make sure that they have access to housing and healthcare, especially for a lot of trans individuals need access to these types of services. In order to make sure that they are adhering to their medicinal regimens, etc, since housing is a need that affects almost everything else.

Christina

As a comment, I would like to urge everyone to contact their reps, because Trump in the fiscal year 2019 wants to cut funding for HIV prevention, and it would be a tragedy to see people dying on the streets, and they are also trying to attack the American with Disability Act. I spent 2 hrs on the phone today trying to fight against those ADA cuts, so I ask everyone to do their best to be vocal

Absolutely, I hope everyone knows "Silence = Death," or "Silence= Complicity", and I have a favorite quote that you are suffering through pain silently, "they'll kill you and say that you enjoyed it", so we have to be as vocal as possible to stand up for ourselves. Pres Obama did a pretty good job of supporting the LGBTQIA community, but Trump is definitely not helping us, and we need to make sure that we focus on legislation rather than policies set by one official who can be replaced, like Cuomo as gov.

Elka

With the violence that we are seeing, what about trans teens that experience violence at higher numbers statistically, will you be organizing around the gun violence?

Definitely, we have been and will continue to highlight that trans women especially are killed by gun violence more than any other community in the US and we NEED the support of our allies to save our lives. Definitely getting folks involved in gun control is VERY important to us.

Do we have contact info for you?

Yes, you can reach me for questions or going to our workshops, etc, the name of the agency is New York Trans Advocacy Group, but we have a lot of non trans allies working and involved with us.

Kiara@nytag.org

Jeremiah

Please say thank you again to Kiara, it means a lot to me to have her here, especially with how trans people are being targeted to help Trump's base feel together, we all need to recognize this as our issue. Especially if you've ever been bullied for being not manly or not girly enough, that is a form of transphobia.

Finance report, we have about \$3800 in net cash, which is about 1K down from last year, but there are papers with the specifics of the decrease based on spending.

Our rent collection tonight exceeded they \$350 (~400 total) for the space, so the rest will be added to our bank account

Donna, as tonight's greeter, who is NEW tonight and wants more info? I will come around and give out more info if you would like it.

We have a sign up for our email notifications, I can add you if you want?

Andy for Fundraising

The discussion about public domain for submitted artwork has come out of our group and we are now in the implementation stage in sharing our artwork with other activist groups, etc, around the country.

If you are an artist or creative type that wants to help with this, please reach out to us at media@riseandresist.org

Dann

Our store for our merch is open and we have added new colors, like red, blue, "army" (no Nature!) green.

We have hats, baby onesies(laugh), etc

We would love to be working with our working groups to get designs that we have onto t shirts, like the "Elevators are for Everyone" shirt! So I can point out whenever I see broken elevators on the subway.

Questions

Cheryl

The Elections group is in the final stages of designing a tshirt, how long do you think the turnaround is for getting our shirts on the store.

Andy - 1-3 mins, Dann- No like 3 business days! (laughs)

Stew

I would recommend everyone advertise this on their own FB page, because your friends will order

Andy

It's win win, people will look stylish and we will make money

Alexis

Speaking of style, any V neck shirts?

Yes, they will be added.

Christina

"Wifebeaters"

The name sucks but I like the cut of shirt, what about those?

We can see about adding them (they can also be called A-shirts)

Jeanne reporting back on Tom Cat, a continuous action, that protests a bakery that fired immigrant workers based on an ICE audit that was nonlegal. They did NOT have to cooperate with ICE but acted out of fear, so we are pressuring them to make good on giving the fired workers better severance, etc. But since they haven't, we have been pressuring restaurants to drop Tom Cat bakery bread to get them to meet the demands and be a model for other businesses to avoid helping Trump.

Brand Workers, a worker center, has been helping the fired workers. They are managed by the National Labor Relations Boards, which Trump is able to appoint the high level managers to, and Brand Workers has been told that Trump's admins want to make this a possible test case for rolling back the rights of these types of orgs. So NOW they are having to back off of their involvement with us about the protests we have done, because they cannot even secondhand endorse a boycott, so our previous work may actually hurt them.

So what does this mean for us? This is the Trump admin censoring us!! But what do we do without hurting our partners? I would love to have strategic and legal help with figuring this out.

Questions

I think that you should look up what district the bakery is in and find out who the representatives are and reach out to them. (It's in Long Island City)

Jeanne- my email is radiobarron@gmail.com

Lyn

Is it clear that it's the workers who can't do direct action? Is there a way to have just RAR people do the action and that would help them?

Jean

That's what we've been doing, but if they can link them to our work then the Trump admin could subpoena our emails and use us as a test case to get their 501c3 status taken away

Kevin

Is there a parent org that we could pressure?

Jeanne

There is, but it's a Japanese