RAR Minutes 12-19-2017

Facilitators: Jay, MaryEllen

NO MEETING NEXT WEEK (12/26)

Group contact information
- Website: www.riseandresist.org
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- Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 2nd at 7pm at the LGBT Center: www.gaycenter.org

Report Backs

1) Elevator Action
Jessica/Jackie/Pat/Alexandra
Helen Rosenthal, Susan Tooha were elected official speakers
About 30 protestors
Handed out about 250 color in dinosaur papers about the subway issue
“This Station is a Dinosaur”
We want to do another action to focus on the issue with the inaccessibility by strollers as well, with the kid focus for the Museum
Ellen Fudder, the director of the museum, to pressure her

Pat
Parents were really open to the idea because of being tired with carrying strollers

Alexandra
I just attended and wanted to mention that it was very well run and designed to not need as many people

Martin
There was a livestream that got around 1.5k views, and we have a transcript for accessibility

2) DC Tax Bill Action
There have been 3 days of action, and maybe another tomorrow
Wednesday - Went to the office of a CA rep, with Center for Public Democracy, HousingWorks, etc
Did civil disobedience at each official’s office
85 arrested altogether (reported in HuffPo)
Police were fairly nice but definitely pushed us out
We waited outside of Susanne Collins office and some Maine activists actually got to meet with her
Reporters, activists, and staffers were all touched and crying because of the power of the event
There has been a formal appeal to work with the planners of the Women's' March, it was purposefully after the AL election to answer about sexual assault

Yesterday
Jody
Went to offices and tried to talk to staffers, and went to Corker’s office and his staff allowed 8-10 people in to a conference room to
Had a birthday for Abigail in the Senate Dining Room, had a die-in in the rotunda of the Senate building
~63 ppl were arrested
RAR intentionally reached out to medical professionals to get them involved, and there was a lot of media coverage based on it
Americans for Tax Fairness

Mike
People also protested today during the house vote today (12/19) and the media caught a lot of the disruptions in the gallery and how everyone was going down fighting

Mark H
On Wall St today there was also a protest that was a die-in in front of the Stock Exchange
The bill is likely to be decided in the next few days
And we have to be prepared for the spending bill next year that will then levy the expected cuts

Mel
Why can’t we use a filibuster for this?

Mark
Since they are using budget reconciliation to be able to vote through on a simple majority

3) 12/14 Impeach Action
Virginia - Sexual Assault
About 75 people
Mic check made the speech about 2x as long, as a planning
Martin
Virginia’s speech was really good and I think people were just moved to want to repeat it
Andy Periscoped it live and some notable Twitters retweeted and it has been shared
13K time and got around 200K views
Were retweeted by Rosie O’Donnell

Leon
Kellen helped by drowning out counter protestors with a drum
Virginia
Yeah those pro Trump counter protestors seem like they are going to show up regularly now

How do we keep this connected more to the legal ramifications or what we don’t like?

Alex L
What was the police presence like and how adversarial were they?

Martin
The police confronted us, as did the head of security of Fox, so we had to move out of a certain space, but Jamie and the other facilitators

Owen
Municipal of NY is a great resource for public vs. private space

Wendy
I really loved the historical garb, especially the wigs, were attention getting so if we could continue that

4) 12/17 End of the Year RAR discussion
Eve/Susan/Phillip
Had a good turnout (around 25 ppl)
Themes:
Grateful for the existence of RAR and our work
Everyone thinks we are great at protests, protest-machine
Thought the Tues meetings are long/over-packed
There’s a sense that we need to think more about long term strategy/what causes we engage with
Community and doing better about getting to know each other
Susan
I want Martin for his great graphic that helped get people there
Having some sugar or cookies at every meeting, especially with tense situations
The first result is that we now have greeters for new people
Saturday
Beginning of Year discussion is scheduled to continue this work

Virginia
For the community part, I like Martin’s idea to build in the social aspect to eat/drink after the action
Also that he is trying to get people to plan them that haven’t before

Eve
The Jan 8th meeting is the Board Meeting; this meeting is a discussion for our goals as RAR

SEO for YouTube channel
bit.ly/rarvideo
Video about the “Naked Trump/Emperor Has No Clothes Action”

Money Bags

Phillip
We agreed to stay here 2018
We can’t negotiate a discount because we are already getting the lowest rate available, and the money is mostly going to pay for the security

Working Groups:

1) Immigration (2 letters for approval)
Mel
I just found out about 7 ppl doing a hungerstrike in DC jails that were arrested protesting DACA repeal

Elka
We want an account for RAR - https://littlesis.org/
It is a tool for background research that is dynamic and updated through users

Leon
For the RAR synopsis who would be providing that?

Alex L
This sounds like an open-sourced web tool like Wikipedia, so we should be cautious about trusting it too much without doing research into *it* too

Leslie
I have collaborated with them in the past and I think that they do solid work and that we

Fundraising
Martin
$961 at the crafts fair at Nowhere Bar
Tonight rent was $272, RAR will cover the balance
Finance and Fundraising are pretty much only the same people right now, so we’d like more people to please join

To raise funds, we’d like to do “Impeach 45” beanie hats
They are $7 for 144, and sell them for $15 each ($1K in cost, expected to make 2K)

Wrolf
We would need a permit to sell on the street, just FYI

Ray
We can sell these from the website right?
Martin
These are more of a hassle to ship, so it’s more of

Donna
One way to deal with this is to ask for a contribution and the hat is a reward

Jody
You need a permit for that too, I think

Martin
It would say it in the same font as our logo

MaryEllen
Can it please say just Impeach so that it isn’t specific to just Trump?

Straw poll: the group mainly agrees

Roland
Can it say RAR on it somewhere?

Martin
It would be more expensive, so we hadn’t wanted to, also the hat will be navy and black

Finance
Susan
In order to get our tax/legal status for 501c4
We have to file Form 87, which has a user fee for Exempt Orgs
We have no choice but to pay the $850 to file it

Ray
When does it have to be filed by?

Ivy
There is not a hard deadline but we would have to pay it to get our status
It is a ONE time fee

Vote
Vote passed

4) Comms
Andy
We have RAR stickers that we can give out, it advertises the org, so please give them out or wear them, etc
We have even more to be able to give out at actions
We now also have flyers and more postcards, etc
Attendance is noticeably down so we should really be working to network to get people to come

Making Mass Facebook Invites to an Event (For now, pending any updates)
Go to the event page, go to the share button, you can choose the option “Invite Friends”
On the left drop down there are options: “friends who ___”
Click Select All on the right

So don’t do it weekly, but please do use invite all friends when you think appropriate like for the Women’s March

Also for our website, we will be publishing the minutes on the About section

Eve
Where does someone find forms?

Use the site map!

20 minutes for mediation/meditation presentation by Sharon
Elka
I went to a retreat with Dolores Duarte and other intense organizers I experienced amazing breakouts with this woman Sharon
I posted her work with different activists on our website for
Sharon
I went to India to study meditation
I was blown away by the RAR mission statements (with all the joy we can muster), like the cookies, etc
I have heard at least 3 people saying exhaustion, including one of the people on the mic, so I think this is a good time to focus on self-care
But in caring for ourselves we can focus actually on building our community too

3 types

The first, to use the feeling of your breath to anchor you, so that we can come back to present instead of spinning out over past or future concerns
We always have the option to take a deep breath and check in
Rest your attention on the feeling of the breath and allow yourself to slowly come back to present

One of the key ingredient to community is to make sure to keep up with self-care and making sure that we know that we are also worthy of attention, care, support, etc
Giving externally vs giving internally
Living kindness or compassion meditation
Making a verbal or mental agreement to yourself
"May I be at peace" "May I be happy" The language can be confusing, but it’s not pleading, it’s gift giving
We also offer gifts to others
To those who have helped us
To those who are struggling
To one another for being together
To all life everywhere

Not that we are perfect, but that we are still deserving, and that we always have potential to be better

Where can we find you?
NYC - Sharon

Elka
Yesterday there was an episode about how to talk to people that have very different views than you?

Onbeing.org (civil conversation)

Jackie Engel
**Nuclear Weapons Abolition**
Robert developed a loophole for students to be educated about promoting a better world, 12 years ago.
They started working with the people who survived the Hiroshima bombing and tell their story.
It is so powerful and so moving.
Met with 40K students around the world.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons: ICAN (abolishing nuclear weapons) - the org was awarded the Nobel Prize for their peace work.

Robert 468 groups in 101 countries.
The international physicians org.
To approach with a humanitarian view not as a strategy.
Through NGO conferences and members of the UN, there was a Humanitarian pledge developed (adopted by 122 nations), to prohibit nuclear weapons.
Prohibits the design the development, the transport, the use, the threat of use, and builds infrastructure to decommission them.

It needs to be ratified by 50 countries to become international law, and we only have 47, so are targeting 3 more.
The US will obviously be unlikely to support.
But we are pressuring countries that have nuclear option but don’t yet have weapons.
To divest from any banks that invest in nuclear technologies.
It’s the entire nuclear fuel chain, since Plutonium is essentially permanent once waste is created.
Anywhere it goes becomes a sacrifice zone.
Avoid a plan to have waste come down the Hudson.

Please go to the Noble website and look at the statements of the award of the Noble “Nuclear abolition” “catastrophic humanitarian consequences”.
Don’t Bank on the Bomb.
ICANW.org -

**Already Approved Actions:**

1) 12/21 Impeach with vague action component and poster party.

Trump International Hotel - a different theme than before, Santa will be giving the speeches, with elves (etc)
We want to be positive to ask for what we want/vision the future.
Signs like “Medicare for All, Clean DREAM Act, Full Accessibility to Every Subway Station” dispersed with Impeach signs.

Anyone who is interested in potential mischief, reach out to Jamie.

Meet at the Globe at 5:30pm on Thursday.
(Most of the room is planning to attend)

Please invite as many people as possible

Leon will be Santa

Action committee is meeting from 6 to 8 tomorrow at the Center, and then a poster party for the action starting at 8

2) 12/21 Tom Cat Action

3) 12/28 Impeach (Leadership vs Tweetership)
Historical speeches from Presidents vs Trump's racist/shitty tweets
We are going to do it in front of the Twitter HQ; Jay will be reading as the Presidents and Ken Kidd with read as DJT
17th b/w 7th and 8th ave (249?)
We want to stencil the tweets onto the sidewalk near Twitter
He should be banned from Twitter because he's been abusing it

**New Actions:**

Pride March
Jake Tolan
HOP needs our reservation soon if we want to march in Pride at no cost
If we want to add a support vehicle, it will be $500 for registration, and then the fee for the vehicle

Roland
Can we sign up now and worry about the support vehicle later?

Jake
Yes, but we would end up

Benz
I think we should not do an accessible action, so I think we should get the vehicle if we do it

Jake
The date is by Jan 8th

Benz
Has anyone reached out to the groups that protested Pride to see how they are feeling and to continue to support them as we have before?
Jake
We tried to research but did not reach out in that way

Jamie
What made Pride powerful for me was that we marched as a Resistance Contingent and not just as a normal marcher, can we try to find that again?

Jake
I agree, I think that we can ask for that in negotiating with HOP

Donna
I would like to say that I’m opposed to participating, it was a hassle last time, and HOP were dishonest, I don’t think we need to do it again

Ray
I would like us to at least secure the spot for free, and commit to the $500 for the vehicle (and if it’s refundable), and I don’t like Pride but I think our presence helps to change it

Carol
I also want to mention the Police presence at Pride, it was huge and problematic, and it was why many of the orgs for youth of color were protesting. I would want to make some kind of commitment that we are open to pulling out, if the police presence is not negotiable.
It was personally sickening to me to seeing queers being arrested as police marched in Pride

Ivy
Since we are working on a deadline, I think we agree to register now but plan an action

Jake
They do have to accept our registration

Susan
I remember the first gay pride and I have hated these parades for years, the Raging Grannies were invited to participate through RAR last year and that’s how I’m here.

Brody
Is the money refundable?

Jake
We don’t know yet, but after Jan 8th it will go up to

Brody
It’s the Stonewall 50th anniversary, so it sounds like a great thing for RAR to be present at

**IDC Phone bank**
Rachel
Sunday Jan 7th 4:30 to 7, 209 E. 56th St Apt 6E 10022

I connected with some members of the Election Committee to plan a phone bank to help to protest the IDC
Paul
The dialing system is really simple, we’ve been doing it with the Working Families Party, and you just reach out to constituents to ask them to commit to not supporting IDC or anyone who aspires to it
Please bring a laptop or tablet, and a phone
At least one savory and one sweet snack

**Close Rikers**

Martin
Coalition about issues of bail funds
State of the State on Jan 3rd address by Cuomo, and maybe doing a protest
We would like to keep it simple with the holidays, etc, but research the idea of multicasting the State of the State and giving living reactions to it
A rally and thinking of asking members of the coalition to speak from each group for about a minute

Stu
Are we planning to get a permit for the speaking?

Martin
No, and we can get mics that go directly to the broadcast medium

Jamie
He gives the speech in Albany, but we would be outside his NY office?

yes, and we know about at least one planned protest there

**Non RAR Announcements**

PRIDE AMENDMENT