RAR Minutes

Facilitators: Ken and Annette
Timekeeper: none
Notes: Jody

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.

Meeting Notes
- Welcome/Introduction
  - Say your name and preferred pronouns, any members of law enforcement (no one responded), any working press (no one responded), put your phones away, step back/step up
  - Question: Is it inappropriate to be quizzed on the details of a vague action?
  - A: let's see how things unfold at the meeting
  - Check in with Harris if you're new to Rise and Resist
  - Reading of mission statement

- Report back on DC and NYC March for Our Lives (Ken)
  - Almost the entire meeting was at one of the two Marches
  - Friday morning - collaborative action at the NRA in DC - did a farewell to all of the brands that had left the NRA
  - 100,000 people watched video online
  - Rise and Resist, Gays against Guns, Sing Out Louise all together
  - It was noted all around in the press that we were there
  - Rise and Resist provided marshalls for NYC march
  - It is now an intergenerational thing - the young people appreciated our help and that we were listening to them
  - The young people are accomplishing what we have not been able to
  - Video shown (not so successfully) from Yahoo Lifestyle news - Teaming Up re the role gay rights activists played in the March
  - Jody: told story of birddogging Senator Schumer at March in NYC re the Dreamers
- Jake: Levity and fun was a big part of the protest which was good for the young people to see
- Alexis and Jamie: young man who organized march had never organized anything like this before. They trained about 50 marshalls at marshall training plus there were lots of Rise and Resist marshalls
  - No politicians onstage but politicians showed up and inserted selves at front of march
  - Gov Cuomo inserted self behind banner and chanted “Black Lives Matter” many times because he inserted himself right up there with BLM activists
  - Marshalls made politicians walk behind banner instead of in front of it
  - Forceful line of marshalls between press and front of march set pace
  - Back of the march marshalls kept a barrier between NYPD and marchers
  - Hundreds of people were sent way uptown and downtown and were unable to join the march
  - Aggressive NYPD on scooters driving into the crowd at the back - badge numbers 2285 (?) and 2286 (?) - been in touch with Letitia James’ office to report them
  - Great that Rise and Resist and others showed up to help manage
  - Really do want everyone to be trained to be a marshall and help next time

- DC: GAG in Pershing Park - between Trump Post Office and White House
  - Had been told it was a rally followed by a march ending in Pershing Park
  - There were no marshalls - the Police were able to keep the march from happening - only a rally
  - There was a strong police presence at the front where the rally was taking place
  - A lot of people who organized in DC were experienced organizers from Occupy. There was a concern about youth marching in the street - there were too many people to march. There just wasn’t space for them to march. The emphasis was on the voices at the rally.

60 minutes viewing report back (Martin)
  - Raised $319 for the Sex Workers Project
  - Pix11 did a news segment - NY Times linked to it and BBC mentioned it as well
  - Sex Workers Project would like to work with us - invite them to actions

Rent Collection

Immigration Impeach Action - March 29 (Alvin)
  - Stop Trump’s Racist Attacks on Immigrants
  - In front of the National Museum of the American Indian
  - Partnering with Native American playwright and actors
  - Original home of the Lenape tribe
Opening blessing and closing poem from William S. Yellow robe
Will also have traditional articles of impeachment
Reading of opening welcome by William S. Yellow Robe jr.
This Thursday 5:30-6:30 pm - One Bowling Green
Other groups have endorsed the action

- **Impeach Action April 5 (Eve and Martin)**
  - Trump and Russia
  - Over 125 million Americans were exposed to fake news on facebook - meddling has continued after election
  - Trump has refused to do anything about Russia - government has passed sanctions but he's refused to enact them
  - Will have Russian Bots
  - Columbus Circle - April 5th at 5:30 pm
  - They need someone to play Putin - any volunteers?

- **Impeach April 19 - youth caucus**
- **Impeach April 26 - stop Sabotaging Healthcare**
- **Impeach April 12 - TBD**

- **New Actions**
  - Elections (Libby) - Eric Schneiderman is uniquely positioned to take on Trump
    - His office has invited us to co-sponsor event on Wednesday, April 11 “Taking on Trump”- 6 pm
    - They get to use our name and social media outreach
    - Helps us in our goals to turn NYS Blue - helps with visibility
    - At the Friends Seminary School on 15th Street
    - Q: Will there be an opportunity for someone at RAR to speak
      - A: don’t know yet - maybe not speaker but recruiting
    - Q: Would we be endorsing Schneiderman?
      - A: I don’t think it’s an endorsement - he hasn’t declared for anything
    - Q: Does it cost money to attend?
      - A: Don’t think so but will find out
    - comment: Schneiderman is working with Mueller so that people can be tried in NYS if Trump pardons everyone federally
    - Q: Is he the only speaker
      - A: Don’t know
    - Comment: this is a pretty straightforward event - our name would just be at the bottom of a list of progressive groups
    - Comment: Not comfortable voting without knowing about price tag - can we delay vote until we confirm whether event is free
    - General agreement on this point
- Comment: Eric Schneiderman is great but he will be running for office - does it set a precedent for other people running for office?
- To be delayed until we know re cost to attend
  - Elections (Eve)
    - Has postcards for people to sign IDC - mad as hell

- Any new people came in late - talk to Harris
- New Actions continued
  - Need ASL translator for meetings (Jennifer)
    - Andy has been working on it - if anyone has access to a volunteer ASL translator, please contact Jennifer at reJennifer@gmail.com

- Fundraising (Andy)
  - We have been having a gradual decline in the RAR coffers - need to address
  - Online store with many wonderful products - shop and share links
  - Want to encourage everyone to solicit someone else to donate to Rise and Resist
  - This may seem like a scary idea
  - You need to be specific and direct in your conversation - be personal
  - There’s a hierarchy of effectiveness of conversation: in person convo, phone call, text and then lower down, group emails, social media
  - You know your friends, have the convo how you usually talk to them (text, phone, etc)
  - Be personal, direct, specific and meaningful
  - Be specific about what you’re doing - e.g. I work with the elections group for the last year, we are working to eliminate the IDC, can you donate, we need the money for an event next week
  - You know what’s important to your friends - so appeal to that part of it (immigration, elections, etc)
  - Start with close friends, family and then spread outward to people you know less well
  - Spend the most time with the people you’ll have the best conversations with - those who have a higher capacity to give - make a specific ask ($25-50 or $10-15)
  - Persistence helps - with practice you’ll be better at it
  - It’s hard to sustain this level of energy for 4 years, so the more people we can get involved as donors, the better
  - You can tie fundraising to events - a birthday coming up, a specific protest or holiday
  - Comment: the people you’re talking to have to have a baseline agreement with what you’re doing and they are donating to support YOU not the cause
  - Q: Can people donate by check instead of online?
A: Link to PayPal and ActBlue have ability to do a recurring donation, they can give you cash and you can bring it to the meeting, checks can be made out to "Rise and Resist"

Q: If we give info to ActBlue, will they give your info out to every democrat in the country? Is there a way to keep them from doing that?

A: Not sure if it's ActBlue or the people you donate to who share info

A: it's the organization you give money to not ActBlue who shares your info

Q: where is the donate button on your cell phone? On the website

A: Scroll down on RiseandResist.org and it’s on the bottom

Asked for people to commit to bringing in one new donor to Rise and Resist over the next 2 weeks - many people agreed to

Role play - Stu asked Andy to make a donation - not very comfortable

Email Rise and Resist and ask for practice if you want

Practice with other members so it won’t be so scary when you do it in real life

Comment/Q: what are some of the things that you can give as examples of what the money is for?

A: Be prepared to talk about upcoming events - rent, props and stamps

- Easter Parade (Diane, Donna and Lorenzo)
  - We have fun with this but there’s a pretty serious for being out there
  - Fifth Avenue right in front of Trump Tower
  - Distractions (Stormy, etc) but these policies are slipping through without anyone paying attention
  - EPA barely functions - Pruitt is there to dismantle the agency
  - Climate change - getting really bad with hurricanes
  - Making Easter Eggs tomorrow from 4-6 pm at the Center just before the Actions Meeting
  - A repeat of the impeach action at the Winter Garden at World Financial Center
  - The Rights of Spring (Right to clean air, Right to….)
  - Sunday, April 1st - noon - at 58th St and 5th Ave at the Plaza
  - Bring your own bonnet or costume - they’ll have props for people to hold
  - Who’s coming?
  - It will be about 2 hours
  - comment: someone is planning a pretend military march in front of Trump Tower that day in case it’s a conflict
  - Not a conflict.
  - Fussy LoMein will be there leading

- Postcard Party - tomorrow 7-9 pm (Mary and Rachel)
  - Postcards from California District One - incumbent is terrible - have postcards to send re that race
  - Postcards against Klein
  - 209 East 56th St, Apt 6B - will have postcards, stamps, pens, snacks
• Elections (Libby)
  o Eric Schneiderman event -
    ■ Not charging admission
    ■ he is the keynote speaker - how the legal resistance will be working with the grassroots resistance
    ■ He is running for AG re-election
  o Q: will he give us an opportunity to talk about what is important to us
  o A: don’t know layout of the evening - the others on the panel will be grassroots activists
  o Vote - should Rise and Resist co-sponsor Taking on Trump event- April 11 at 6 pm at Friends’ Seminary?
  o Vast majority in favor, few opposed, few abstentions- motion carries
  o Friend’s Seminary - 15 Rutherford Place - RSVP to takingontrump2018@gmail.com

• Pride (Jake)
  o Meeting was going to be this weekend to talk about Pride
  o Now is going to be on April 7 or 8 instead
  o There will be a community meeting with HoP and NYPD

• Recruitment (Stu)
  o Next Saturday, March 31, at noon until people get tired - Union Square, on south side (14th St)
  o Has cards to give out - very useful

• Strategy Meeting re Rise and Resist (Mark and Stu)
  o Saturday, April 7 at 2:30 pm at 420 West 45th Street (9th/10th Aves)
  o If you have a concern or an idea, come
  o Minutes are published a week or so later
  o Working on vision and goals - it’s hard but it seems to be shaping up

• Tax Day Action (Mark)
  o Tuesday, April 17th - 5-7 pm
  o People’s Tax Day Action Festival
  o Foley Square
  o We’ll have a selfie booth and soap box
  o We’ll have a person dressed as Trump holding a large weight over his head

• Poor People’s Campaign (Mark, Alexandra and Ann)
  o Would like to invite a speaker to Rise and Resist
  o 6 week period of action starting in June
  o Doing cultural development, political education, etc
- April 7th - doing an art buildout at Union Theological - if interested, please contact:
  - Alexandra woods - alexawoods1@gmail.com
  - Ann Rubin - aerubin13@gmail.com

- **Bannon report back (Jamie)**
  - Bannon speaking at Financial Times last Wednesday
  - Spoke at 4:50 pm at an all-day Financial Times event
  - Wanted to shame FT for giving him a platform, and talk to the people going inside and challenge people as to what they were going to do when Bannon spoke
  - Ended up doing 2 demos:
    - 8-9:15 am leafletting with ¼ page leaflet and one in the afternoon
    - Robert leafleted until about 11:30 am then took a break and came back at 1 pm - photo was tweeted from reporter
  - Good small action - just stood there and engaged with people on individual basis
  - They had to sneak Bannon in and out because we were there
  - The people from the Financial Times were on the defensive - came down and talked to us - said it was a good thing that people could question him
  - People come in and out all the time under our radar - we can do this kind of thing if we know about them
  - Q: How did we know he was there?
  - A: There are well connected people in the city who might know these things - people who are connected in political circles or journalism. Let them know we are a rapid-response protest team

- **Finance (Robert)**
  - We have $6300
  - $2600 accounts payable
  - Net: $3700
  - Collected $400 tonight
  - Selling stuff in the back

- **Youth Caucus (Jeremiah)**
  - If you think you're too old for the youth caucus, may not be true - talk to them
  - Working on following up from Parkland
  - Email rar.youth@gmail.com
  - Usually meets weekly - not sure if they'll meet this Sunday
  - April 19th impeach action - relating it to the April 20th walkout
  - Last Sunday they had 6 people making video re intergenerational collaborative effort
  - This group has stories on how activism matters and even though it's not the easiest thing, it's the right thing
  - Video series to show how important and worthwhile activism is
- Next round of video shooting April 10th from 6-9pm (Tuesday) - can we ask coalition partners to participate? Looking for about 6 people in 30 minute slots for April 10th. Please talk to youth caucus if you know anyone.

- Book Club (Andy) - Read and Resist
  - Met on Sunday - discussed *When They call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*
  - Next meeting April 29th - *How Democracies Die* - 3-5 pm - 632 Broadway (meetup building), 9th floor
  - May’s book will be: *The End of Policing* by Alex Vitale - will discuss and think about how policing affects different communities differently - perhaps we can invite other organizations to join that conversation - might get switched to another month if Alex Vitale can join
  - Looking for suggestions for following months, particularly with NYC authors that might take part

- Non RAR announcements
  - Justice for Stephon Clark - tomorrow 7-9:30 pm at Columbus Circle - more info on facebook (Martin and Michael)
    - People’s Monday - every Monday at 7 pm - has been marching since Eric Gardner - doing this one on Wednesday
    - Discussion of gun violence needs to include police gun violence
    - Not a permitted event - there may be some people risking arrest in the street - if you don’t want to get arrested, stay on the sidewalk

  - Heritage of Pride (Michael)
    - there will be a community meeting at the Center - HoP needs to address issues pertinent to communities of color
    - April 24-26 - date to be confirmed
    - Monday ACT UP meeting - if you want to inform what will be on that agenda

  - This Is Our Land - movie screening (Andy)
    - Showing for 2 weeks in NY - postcards in the back

  - People who got arrested during the inauguration (Michael)
    - Trials starting in April through the end of the year - 59 people still facing charges
    - April 24th - first trial
    - May 17th Michael’s trial
    - Be supportive
    - There will be more info in the newsletter