

MINUTES OF LINC MEETING 12/9/18

The meeting opened with a reading of the LINC Mission Statement. Emily then asked everyone to speak to their neighbors and then each for group to answer the question “What are you most excited about moving forward ?”.

Responses included:

The State Legislature is now in the hands of the Democrats and important bottled – up legislation can now move forward

Excited that Democrats now control The House of Representatives.

Election results show that groups like ours can make a difference.

Happy that the election motivated people to get involved.

Now voting rights and voting reform can move forward.

Suffolk County Legislature will be voting on a bill to ban flavored (except Menthol) vaping products. Rally this week. Also 3 minute public comments can be made to the Legislature.

Then came, compliments of Lynn Kaufman, a Champagne toast to the first two years of LINC’s accomplishments. Here, Here!

We then heard a recap of these accomplishments by the various committees:

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (Rich Rhodes):

In April there was a special election to fill the State Assembly seat made vacant by Chad Lupinacci’s election to Huntington Town Supervisor. This seat has been in Republican hands for 35 years and yet it was won by Steve Stern who went on to win it again in November.

The momentum this created was taken forward and we did an enormous amount of canvassing and phone banking for the November elections and though we weren’t able to turn Zeldin’s and King’s seats in the House around, we did help to maintain Steve Stern’s April win and turn Carl Marcellino’s out of the State Senate and install Jim Gaughran.

The Election Committee will be meeting in January to begin planning for 2020 and the Suffolk races for 2019.

We need to define the important issues and how to hold office holders accountable.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 9th 7 P.M. at Panera Bread

EVENTS COMMITTEE (Peter Wayne):

We started off with Bev Wayne reviewing our September fund raiser held at the beautiful home of Ryan Vollmer. Over \$1600 was raised and beyond covering the cost of our meetings at the Temple, Bev spoke of branding LINC using the logo that Gayle Payne designed. So far, we've used it on the very nice shopping bags.

Peter then reviewed the past year's events beginning with Rev. David Billings presentation on March 9th : **The Persistence of White Supremacy in the United States History and Life**. This was a joint presentation of LINC, Temple Beth El and One Community. Peter pointed out how successful this event was in getting recognition for LINC as about 200 people attended.

On September 17 we presented **Everything Long Islanders Need to Know About the Water We Drink**. The presentations were made by Sarah Meyland, Director of the Center for Water Resources Management at the New York Institute of Technology and a leader of Water for Long Island as well as Charlie Bevington of the Sierra Club of Long Island.

This event was co-sponsored by LINC and the Chai Club of Temple Beth El.

On January 21st LINC's Program Events Committee presented **Voting Rights: Democracy Works Best When Everyone Participates**. Topics discussed were: Awareness of NYS voter laws vs. other states, Early Voting, Voter Turnout, Access for minorities and the disabled, Civic Engagement. Representatives of voter groups hosted informational tables. Snacks were available.

On Sunday, September 30th the aforementioned fund raiser was held at Ryan Vollmer's home. The co-chairs were Ryan Vollmer, Fran Whitehead and Bev Wayne. The speakers were: Tom Suozzi, Steve Stern, Avrum Rosen, Katherine Cleary and Jim Gaughran.

Proposed events for 2019 are: **Who's House? Our House: National Day of Action** January 3rd, **Mary Speed Peri: Health Care Conference** and **Immigration**.

Program Events Committee Meeting; 12/11 at 7:00 PM. at Panera Bread.

CABINET REPORTS (Brian Whitehead): We will be changing these reports away from the cabinet and instead be reporting on the various candidates who have either announced or seem to be running for President in 2020.

Brian pointed out that politicians care about numbers as in “how many members are in your organization that can help me?” We therefore need to continue growing our membership. Invite friend and neighbors. Share on Facebook. Let’s keep growing!

LINC has signed into the Fair Elections Group.

We had a lively discussion on throwing LINC’s support to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s attempt to take a seat on the House Ways and Means Committee. There is 1 seat that is to be given to a New Yorker and Tom Suozzi is next in line. Should we support Ocasio-Cortez or Suozzi or neither?

After the discussion it was decided to support neither and to instead use our future support as leverage. Support for Ocasio-Cortez can be done on an individual basis.

We need to track The Problem Solvers Group—especially Suozzi—and hold him accountable for any positions they may take.

We have a commitment for Tom Suozzi to attend our February meeting and we must decide how we want to handle the questions we ask during that meeting. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

The next Elections Committee meeting will decide questions to ask Jim Gaughran when he visits LINC. It will be at Panera Bread at 7:00 on 1/7/19

Laura reported on **The New Sanctuary** which are US citizens who will assist people on the immigration caravan who are stacked up in Tijuana. Laura will share a video and is asking us to share it with any like-minded people. She will be traveling to San Diego in January and will share relevant information with anyone who feels they might like to join her. LINC, by a show of hands, is supporting this effort.

Next meeting is January 13th.