

# MINUTES OF LINC MEETING JANUARY 13, 2019

The meeting began with updates from the various committees:

## **Racism Discussion Group**

- Meets each month prior to the general LINC meeting- welcome to the many new people who came! Discussion was focused on how to best respond when we hear a racist comment and don't want to be silent or complacent. The idea is our goal is not to change a person at that moment, not prove we are right or "attack" their views, but rather model the humanity we want to see by sharing our perspective, being curious, asking questions all intended to open up a dialogue—it's a marathon—not a sprint.

## **Election Committee**

- Reaching out to Long Island League of Women Voters regarding voter registration.
- A list of topics that we wanted to be discussed was sent to Jim Gaughran prior to today's meeting
- Invited members of LINC to send Rich Rhodes any suggested issues/topics for discussion during Tom Suozzi's visit to our February meeting. Include both national and local issues
- We will be monitoring our elected representatives to ensure that they are working on the initiatives that are important to us. We want results.
- Next election committee meeting is 7:00 PM February 5<sup>th</sup> at Panera Bread.

## **"Triple C" Committee**

- LI Progressive Coalition is sponsoring a Grassroots Progressive Rally on 2/5 and a meet and greet on 1/26 at Brennan's in N. Hempstead with a \$30 donation. Looking for a volunteer to be part of their planning and discussion meeting.

## **Membership Committee**

- Steve Levy reported on progress of work with Brian Whitehead and Bev Wayne. LINC now has 150 e-mail and 250 Facebook members.
- There are three ways to approach potential members: Face-to-face, E-mail and "Turf" distribution of targeted flyers/letters.
- All encouraged to invite friends and/or colleague to join- instructions on how to invite a friend or colleague will be posted on the LINC website.

## **Recent Events**

- Lynne Geisler shared what transpired at the recent meeting of the HUFSD Board regarding the event written jointly written up by the NY Times and Pro Publica.
- An undocumented Hispanic student from Honduras, Alex, was reported to ICE by the SRO (school reporting officer- an employee of the police department- not the school

district) He was first suspended from school, then subsequently held in detention and then deported back to Honduras for wearing blue sneakers and drawing a horned devil (the school's mascot). These were deemed to be gang activities.

- A list of demands was presented to the board with guidelines and restrictions on the ability to report school activity to federal authorities. All activities that take place in the school must be handled by the school administration.

### **LINC Events Committee**

- Peter Wayne spoke regarding the rally at Suozzi's office on 1/3 which was also attended by Indivisible, ATLI, SULT and Dems for Democracy. Lynn Kaufman spoke there and clearly made the point that as a result of the November elections, the mainstream has moved to the left and we will not support "problem solvers" efforts to move us more toward Republican initiatives. Bottom line message to Suozzi: We are watching. "Who's house? Our house!"
- Peter Pariser shared his experience at Jim Gaughran's swearing-in. Many LINC members attended.
- On January 17<sup>th</sup> at 2PM there will be a Food & Water Watch Meeting in Setauket run by NY State Assemblyman Steven Englebright. He has been a fighter in the forefront of environmental issues affecting LI.
- There will be a Women's Diversity Summit on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 4PM.
- Huntington Town Board meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans to demolish all buildings on the corner of Stewart Ave and Main Street including north to Mac's Steakhouse and the old firehouse which is now a furniture store. In its place is proposed to be a 4-story 84 unit apartment house. The builder is looking for variances including height and parking. If allowed, this will put significant additional pressure on village parking, population density and sewage treatment.
- Laura Mayer has been at the border between Mexico and California working on issues of sanctuary and the caravan. She will report at the next meeting. Will be posted on Lnetworkforchange.com. Emily asked us to use this as an opportunity to reflect on how our families originally came to this country.

### **Special Guest - Jim Gaughran**

- Next, Peter Wayne introduced our newly-elected 5<sup>th</sup> District State Senator, Jim Gaughran. He thanked LINC's members for all our hard work and many hours on the streets and on the phone to make his election a reality. He lost by 1% of the vote the first time he ran and won by 10% this time.
- He then gave a talk which hit on the following topics, details of which can be found on his website:
  - Democratic majorities in both the State Senate and Legislature. Election of a woman, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, as Senate Majority leader for the first time in 240 years.
  - Amended Ethics Rules
  - Jim has been appointed Chairperson of the Local Government Committee
  - He co-sponsored The Reproductive Health Act

- co-sponsored a bill to require anyone running for President to release their tax returns
- Will be co-sponsoring a bill which will allow state prosecution of individuals who receive federal pardons
- More transparency: more access by the press when Senate is in session and voting
- will be doing Town Hall meetings
- ban Conversion Therapy
- Jim then responded to questions submitted by LINC members who were interested in his top priorities and wanted to know how we can support his efforts:
  - First bill he sponsored will require prop guards on all boats used for training purposes
  - Three Priorities: Ethics/Electoral Reform: LLC Loophole for campaign donations, banning Fusion Voting, election districts determined by independent committee, keeping communities of interest together Environment (sewage treatment) and Gun Control: Red Flag Law allowing confiscation of guns from owners deemed by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others. 10-day waiting period to buy guns. Banning of bump stocks. Getting gun violence declared a health emergency.
  - Child Victims Act will be passed
  - Dream Act to raise the income level at which to qualify for financial assistance undocumented immigrants to get drivers licenses.
  - Universal Health Care

The next LINC meeting will be at Temple Beth El on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion Group at 2:00PM to 3:00PM

General Meeting at 3:00PM to 5:00PM

NEXT LINC MEETING: Sunday, February

Keep informed by checking out the website and/or Facebook page!

