

LINC Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2019

*DISCUSSION GROUP: Lynn G. reported that the discussion group discussed personal responsibility when confronted with racist remarks. They also discussed what makes 1 group the scapegoat as opposed to another group.

*ELECTION COMMITTEE: Meetings and initiatives will pick up in the fall.

*WOMEN'S DIVERSITY NETWORK SUMMIT – MAY 4 – SUNY Old Westbury Campus

Information:

Room 1100 A&B – New Academic Building \$21-\$42 (students and seniors \$21)

8:00 – 4:30

(The expectation is for 600 people to attend this event that will feature workshops and discussion groups on a variety of diversity-related topics. Performances and a luncheon will reflect the diversity of the day.)

We had a lengthy discussion concerning whether LINC would sponsor this event at the cost of \$500. It was decided through a vote that we would sponsor it with private donations. Next month we will continue the discussion concerning criteria for sponsoring upcoming events such as this.

EVENTS COMMITTEE:

In Peter's absence, Cindy presented the latest information. The event will be on

JUNE 2...3:00...Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington

109 Browns Road Huntington

The event will focus on:

Historical underpinnings and American beliefs about immigration

Recent Congressional Legislation and Presidential Action

Immigration in NYS and LI

State and local legislation and policies

Creating positive change, getting involved and specific actions we can take.

We are hoping to focus on GREEN LIGHT NEW YORK

Peter hopes we can promote a comprehensive plan of action beginning at the LINC meetings with letter writing and additional actions that will serve as a roadmap of how to get involved. This has already begun. He would like to share this example at the Immigration Event to demonstrate to the audience how memberships of political action groups can mobilize and affect change.

For those interested in this issue there is a group: Green Light NY Coalition

They send regular emails from NYdrivers@googlegroups.com

*Our opening speaker will be Patrick Young, Esq. Program Director - Central American Refugee Center. Patrick is an immigration attorney and immigrant rights advocate who has represented thousands of immigrants in courts, INS, and Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Young was recommended at the suggestion of our member, Osman Canales, as someone who is excellent at presenting an overview of the issue.

*Osman, who is the founder and director of Long Island immigrant Student Advocates will also speak.

With the help of Helen Boxwill, who is getting back from Africa today, and David P. we are in the process of getting additional speakers. Helen suggested organizers from Migrant Ministries, Sepa Muejar and New Sanctuary. David P. has also provided suggestions from his many contacts with Bend the Arc, Jobs for Justice and other groups.

We are hoping to provide an overview from National issues to local issues, ending with specific actions that can be taken.

NEEDS:

If anyone has suggestions for a speaker or a group who would like to have a table in the lobby, we would welcome the connection

If anyone would like to help with refreshments that day, please contact Cindy.

We need a group to help with clean-up after the event.

*TRACKING CANDIDATES 2020:

We discussed the possibility of tracking candidates as to their progress in the campaign and their opinions and policies. The feeling is that all the candidates are not getting equal coverage in the press. Ryan reminded us of a sign-up sheet for this purpose devised by Brian that was previously sent around. She will contact Brian about this.

*NYS LEGISLATION TRACKER

With the abundance of activity in the NYS Legislature, it is difficult to keep track of all the information. We might try to incorporate this task within the candidate tracking updates.

*ENDORSEMENTS/STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL LINC POSITIONS

We have criteria for endorsing candidates, but we may need something similar when it comes to official LINC positions. Questions raised included,

Do we have to align ourselves with Indivisible positions?

Do we have to reach consensus with entire membership before any position statement?

How do we choose issues for potential Op-Eds?

It was decided that we will “test” the procedure with Peter Gollon writing an Op-Ed on the Green Light Initiative. It was also decided that the Steering Committee will review future Op-Eds before they are submitted.

*UPCOMING EVENTS/INFO:

-Carol reported on letter writing for the Green Light Campaign. She handed out more letters for people who may not have received a copy. They are meeting with Jim Gaughran tomorrow and will present the letters and speak about their position.

-LIISA is also meeting with Jim Gaughran tomorrow on the same topic. Osman and Lynn G. will be among those attending. Lynn passed around a petition to sign.

-Bend the Arc will be having an Immigration event on April 29 at Temple Beth Torah in Melville. It would be great to have a good showing from LINC. We will be able to learn much from them for our June 2 event.

-May 15...Nationwide protest against 5G

-LINC buttons...Decisions will be completed Tuesday morning obtaining buttons

-Jan Singer reported that her petitions have been submitted to the Democratic, Independence and Working Families lines. She will need help from LINC members going forward as the campaign develops.

-MAY 19....next LINC meeting (May 12 is Mother's Day)

-No June meeting. Members are invited to the June 2 Immigration Event

-No July meeting

-There will be a cocktail party/fundraiser in place of the August meeting

-The September meeting is scheduled for September 8.

-Cheryl reported that the Tri Community Youth Agency is looking for some volunteers this summer. There is information on their FB page.