

Notes from CNY Solidarity Coalition Meeting – May 21, 2017

Meeting facilitators: Michaela Czerkies, Andy Mager

Meeting logistics/breakout coordination: Sharon Goodfellow, Lisa Harrell

Meeting Notes: Maria Norris

Committee Meetings held first

Full group

-Acknowledgement to the Onondaga Nation

-Song "We Shall Not Be Moved" – led by Dream Freedom Resistance

Committee Highlights:

Federal Legislation committee Reviewed information for weekly emails to be sure they're meeting the need well. Planning to make scorecards for politicians and using the Coalition's twitter account more effectively.

Door-knocking committee Has knocked on over 400 doors so far, primarily promoting the Coalition and recruiting new members. Beginning to talk about specific legislation the New York Health Act. Will work with committees to promote specific work in the coming time. Looking for more folks to join in.

Education Justice committee Working to oppose Charter Schools, supporting refugee students/families who face unique challenges, and one case brought to them by parents in the Lafayette school district in which the school wasn't responding to issues of bullying in an appropriate manner.

State Legislative Action Invited everyone to a rally outside Sen. Dave Valesky's office, Wed., May 24 at 12 noon, 333 E. Washington St., Syracuse to call on Valesky to stop supporting the Independent Democratic Caucus which is allied with Republicans to keep control of the NYS Senate. As a result, much progressive legislation will die in committee. Funeral for progressive issues is the theme.

Voter Registration Connecting with other groups and planning for major voter registration efforts. Also supporting voting reform efforts in NYS with a postcard campaign

Town Hall committee encouraged everyone to attend the Town Hall event Tuesday May 30th from 7pm to 9pm at Camillus Middle School, to spread the word and bring friends.

Community Outreach and Defense committee discussed the damages Honeywell should pay for 9 Mile Creek and Onondaga Lake. They also talked about an issue with Mudboils hurting lower income families by basically making them pay for flood insurance.

Climate Justice committee Looking into getting Syracuse/Onondaga County to participate in a clean energy program. The idea of starting a "letter to the edition" campaign was brought up where each of the different committees of the coalition would submit their writings.

Campaign workshop group discussed their goal of getting progressive candidates to run for office. Those seriously interested in being a part of the campaign workshop and attend those individual meetings on June 1st and June 8th, both 7-9pm, should RSVP by May 25th (this coming Thursday) by

emailing aquaactioncny@gmail.com. The meetings will include tech training and other skills needed for campaign organizing.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Town Hall meeting and doing a candlelight walk immediately afterwards past Katko's house (which is just a few blocks away). One concern that was brought up was that this might be too intrusive since it's Katko's private residence. Others said that passing by quietly wouldn't be too intrusive as long as folks were walking quietly. More discussion on this topic was made after the meeting. As a result of the discussion, a decision was made not to move forward with this action at this time.

Purview Proposal Review and Acceptance

The purview proposal was briefly overviewed by committee members Dick Kornbluth and Peter McCarthy. There were a few clarifying questions and then brief discussion.

The purview proposal details where different kinds of decisions will be made -- individual committees, the coordinating committee, or the full coalition. The goal is to maximize independence and minimize control of one group over the other within the Committees, the Coordinating committee and the full coalition. Two sections (section 1B and 1C- the relationship between individual committees and the communication committee and what to do if someone had a concern about an individual or committee regarding their actions) were part of an earlier proposal but had been removed as they require further discussion.

The proposal as presented was approved by Consensus.

It was agreed to creating clearer Principles and Guidelines for Action was an important next step – Dick and Peter agreed to work on that along with Diana Ryan, ???

Meeting Evaluation

Positives – good space, good to start with song, people liked hearing reports from committees
Improvements - provide sign language interpretation, move the tables aside so the group feels more unified and consider how to increase attendance with better weather coming.

Next Meeting: Sun., June 4, 3-5 pm, location probably All Saints Bishop Harrison, Committees then full coalition

Announcements:

Town Hall Meeting: Tuesday, May 30, 7-9 pm, Camillus Middle School

Meet Candidates for Common Council, City Court and School Board, Wednesday, May 31 at 6 pm, Southside Innovation Center, 2610 S Salina St, Syracuse

Meet Mayoral Candidates, Thursday, June 1 at 7 pm, Southside Innovation Center, 2610 S Salina St, Syracuse

City/County Merger Proposal (Consensus) Information Session, Thursday, June 15 at 6 pm, Southside Innovation Center, 2610 S Salina St, Syracuse

