

May 8, 2014 General Membership Meeting

Nat Johnson opened the meeting by announcing that President Tony Hoffman and District Leader Keen Berger are both absent so there will be no District Leader Report.

The Candidate's Forum was begun by Machel Sweeting, with her impressive resume of education, experience, and community activism. In a question, Jim Fouratt brought out that she has been involved with Reverend Al Sharpton and the National Action Network.

Next to speak was Richard Tsai, who spoke about his education and his Chinese mother. He has a background in International Law and speaks French and Mandarin Chinese aside from English.

Last of the candidates for City Wide Position was Louis Nock. He also has an impressive resume and a long list of endorsements and awards, including those of Carolyn Maloney and President Obama. He said he was dismayed by the treatment of indigents and those without attorneys. His position is "How can I help you?" He was very clear that any private entity using a public premise without contributing is unfair to the taxpayer.

Arlene Bluth, running unopposed for re-election to the Second County Wide Position, spoke about how she had been married and the mother of a three year old within the last ten years. She handles mostly personal injury cases. She was asked if her decisions reflect the politics of New York, and answered that she must make decisions based on the law.

After the Forum concluded, Katharine Wolpe announced the MTA was going to hold a hearing on May 14 regarding the M8 and M12 bus routes.

There was a discussion regarding a different procedure on endorsements in the past. Nat suggested tabling this discussion until the next Executive Committee Meeting, as he was not familiar with the club history in this case.

There was a discussion about Allen Shulkin's non-endorsement, as he currently is in a patronage job and is thus excluded under the by-laws. Jim did not feel that Tony Hoffman should have announced he would petition for Allen even though the club could not endorse him. It was agreed that this should be handled in a future discussion.

The results of the endorsements are:

Allen Shulkin no endorsement by unanimous vote
Rachel Lavine endorsed by unanimous vote
Brad Hoylman endorsed by unanimous vote
Tom DiNapoli endorsed by unanimous vote
Eric Schneiderman endorsed by unanimous vote
Andrew Cuomo no endorsement by unanimous vote
Arlene Bluth endorsed by unanimous vote
Randy Credico received 1 vote and 2 blanks
Deborah Glick received 18 for endorsement, 4 no endorse and 1 blank

Among the civil court candidates, Machelle Sweeting got it by 12 votes.
Richard Tsai got 5 and Louis Nock received 4.

Lastly, there was the election of the Judicial Delegates and Alternates:

Delegates were Anne Heaney, Jim Fouratt, Jen Hoppe and Nat Johnson.
Charles Stimson and Ron Illardo.

The meeting was adjourned.