



Village Independent Democrats  
26 Perry Street  
New York, New York 10014

November 10, 2016  
Membership Meeting Minutes

President Nadine Hoffmann was ill, so Vice President Erik Coler stood in.

Erik opened by acknowledging the shock of the election outcome. He outlined three steps necessary for dealing with the situation:

1. We don't want to accept it, but as a club we will get through it.
2. We must accept it--Trump is the President.
3. We need to understand it, organize and fight.

He added that no one should feel like they didn't do enough. As a club, we worked hard to forestall this outcome, and we should avoid dividing the party. Erik read from a paper about Trump's plans for his first 100 days, then opened the floor to members to express their fears about the new administration-to-be.

Many members spoke of the possible end of the ACA, the fracturing of the party, and mistakes made by the DNC, along with the unraveling of climate protections. Voting restrictions were addressed, along with possible remedies VID can provide.

Ben Yee, the new State Committeeman, addressed the club about his efforts in PA, where he thought we would win. He is working with Gale Brewer's office on a small business resolution. He is hoping to bring a Pipeline Resolution to the Progressive Caucus, to take on the Dakota Access Pipeline along with the AIM and Spectra PL's. He is anxious to create a Technology Caucus to discuss such issues as airbnb, uber, and self-driving cars.

Robbie Kaplan, wife of State Committeewoman Rachel Lavine, now spoke of the threats to the Supreme Court, with probable over rulings of LGBT rights, Roe v. Wade, trans rights, voting rights, and Griswold v. Connecticut (birth control), under the umbrella of "religious freedom". Mike Pence's clear homophobia was noted.



Barbara Reuther brought up gerrymandering, and Keen Berger, District Leader, spoke of the many problems at voting sites in New York, and the balance of power going even more strongly to the Republicans. Tony Hoffmann recounted how Keen got burned out of her home and spent three days with him and Nadine.

Tony warned everyone about forming a "circular firing squad" and blaming others. He recommended watching Michael Moore's new film, Michael Moore in Trumpland, illustrating the working class of Michigan feeling forgotten.

Erik thanked everyone for speaking and called for hope in the future.

Now Nat Johnson introduced Kim Fraczek and Patrick Robbins from SANE Energy. They narrated a slideshow regarding shutting down the fossil fuel infrastructure, the AIM and Spectra Pipelines, and their efforts, along with other green organizations, to shut them down. This was followed by a discussion and how to fight dirty energy.

Tony now introduced his amendment to the VID constitution so that the only offices subject to the anti-patronage clause would be the President, Campaign Chairs, District Leaders, and State Committee Members. There was a general discussion and Frieda Bradlow suggested removing all offices from the clause. Kathy Slawinski agreed except in the case of President, and proposed this new amendment, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.