



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

## **General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers January 11, 2018**

President Erik Coler opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year, then launched into his newest idea, posting anti-Trump fliers in coffee shops to stimulate membership in VID. He passed around a pad to get everyone's favorite coffee shop.

Then he read aloud the proposed constitutional amendment, which had already been voted on once. It was unanimously approved, which means it will be included in the VID constitution.

District Leader Keen Berger was up next. She supplied a written Report, but she also spoke. She spoke of the demonstration where Ravi Ragbir, head of the New Sanctuary Coalition, was arrested and now faces deportation. She spoke of another rally to be held that night at Varick and Houston Streets.

Erik Bottcher also spoke about the rally, which was attended by Borough President Gale Brewer and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, and during which two Councilmembers, Jumaane Williams and Ydanis Rodriguez, were arrested. Ragbir was accused of a white collar crime many years ago, which he says he did not commit. Keen also mentioned Jean Montreal, who also is in danger of deportation. He committed a crime over 20 years ago, but has been in compliance with ICE for 25 years. He also has four American children.

Erik Coler announced that the room we customarily use for meetings would not be available next month on the appropriate date. He will keep us posted on a new venue.

Tony Hoffmann now gave the Annual Treasurer's Report. The main account is a little over \$31,000, and the campaign account about \$7,200, so altogether the club has a little under \$40,000 in funds.

Tony introduced Comptroller Tom Dinapoli, who regaled the club with a speech congratulating Jerry Nadler, Brad Hoylman, Deborah Glick, and others. He complimented the VID holiday party and spoke of the intricacies of the comptroller's office and the financial soundness of the city, then took questions about prison reform, Medicaid and nursing homes.

Arthur Schwartz, male District Leader and Keen's counterpart, now spoke briefly, advising us he had been named the Law Chair of the County Democratic Party by Keith Wright. He announced an anti-IDC demonstration in front of Senator Flanagan's office on the morning of January 25,



and a Friday press conference about Jeff Klein's harassment charges. He flacked for his weekly radio program on WBAI every Monday--Nina Turner will be his next guest. He said NYPAN is very involved in the upcoming Lieutenant Governor primary, with at least four candidates in the mix--Jumaane Williams, Zephyr Teachout, Terry Gipson, and Stephanie Miner so far.

Laurie Hardjowirogo, co-chair of the Voter Reform Committee, started her talk by saying that Arthur had given most of her report. She had spent last night and most of the day working on a press release for a protest against Jeff Klein the following day. True Blue will be doing anti-IDC phone banks and she solicited volunteers. January 19 there will be a sign-making party for the Women's March the next day. On January 22, Livvey Mann will host a second-home registration phone bank.

Laurie and Tony now gave the report for the Campaign Committee. They were asking all candidates running to take an anti-IDC stand.

President Coler now gave a shout out to Ben Yee, State Committeeman, who was present.

The Environmental Committee report was given by Nat Johnson, who opened by talking about how the Trump administration was undermining EPA regulations, which required public hearings, not being held in New York. He urged members to register objections at the EPA website. The night before they had met with the Manhattan Solid Waste Management organization. Recyclables are in two groups: metals and plastics, and trash. There is talk of combining these two. Their next meeting is 1/17 to discuss showing the Indian Point film and bioswales.

Erik Coler, for the Affordable Housing Committee, announced his next target was a Steve Croman building, with more info to come.

### **Now the elections:**

Tony was unanimously re-elected Treasurer.

Kathy Slawinski was unanimously re-elected Recording Secretary.

Ed Yutkowitz and Jonathan Geballe were unanimously re-elected Corresponding Secretaries.

There were 19 candidates for the Executive Committee, and the 15 winners were:

Nat Johnson  
Sara Kimball  
Cameron Krause  
Frieda Bradlow  
Alison Stowell  
Irene Kaufman  
Alec Pruchnicki



Chloe Chik  
Elissa Stein  
Katharine Wolpe  
Linda Jacobson  
Deb Sherman  
Lois Rakoff  
David Siffert  
Alison Greenberg

### **Under New Business:**

Erik Coler repeated his campaign putting anti-Trump fliers in favorite coffeeshops.

Frieda Bradlow said Annette Zaner was in Village Care after suffering a fall. She'll be 91 on Sunday, and Erik said he would send flowers.

Paolo Cremidis, from NYS Young Dems, talked of establishing ten new chapters in counties where Trump got 60% or more of the vote in March. He's working with Ben Yee, and will be launching a newsletter. His website is [NYSYEruralcaucus@gmail.com](mailto:NYSYEruralcaucus@gmail.com).

Grace Price passed out fliers and is working on improving conditions in city jails. The fliers were "It Makes Me Want To Cry--Visiting Rikers Island" by NYC Jails Action Coalition, [NYCJAC.org](http://NYCJAC.org)

Jen Hoppe talked about a Report on Status of NY Girls and Women, which Cuomo had tied to the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. She said it was a bunch of policies they wanted enacted and the ways we as a group know what the policies are.

The meeting was adjourned.