



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

## VID General Meeting Minutes March 8, 2018

The agenda was adopted. Because District Leader Keen Berger would be late, President Erik Coler proposed bumping up the Gun Control Resolution by Deb Sherman and Allison Stowell. This passed unanimously.

In the President's Report, Erik notified us that Sara Kimbell would be holding a postcard writing event at her home targeting the IDC, GOTV and gathering addresses of new voters. He also advised us of the formation of new committees for Gun Control and Communications

Tony Hoffmann announced that the campaign season for Congress was beginning, with petitioning starting Tuesday. Saturday would be a big drive, with petitioning at Abingdon Square on the west side, and St. Mark's church on the east side. He asked for volunteers.

Erik introduced Richard Corman, candidate for President of DID. He asked the club to co-sponsor a Gun Control Forum featuring State Senator Brian Kavanaugh on March 18. Erik said he would send out an email.

Deb and Allison, of the ad hoc Gun Control Committee, announced a high school walkout at the Clinton School on March 14 in honor of a student who was killed in the recent shootout. Jen Hoppe announced Kate Linker would be hosting a poster making party on March 23, and asked for volunteers. Nadine Hoffmann volunteered to write thank you notes to businesses who no longer sell guns.

Erik read the VID [Resolution to Raise the Minimum Age To Own Guns](#). After discussion, this passed unanimously.

Erik now read the [VID Resolution Demanding Congressional Action to End Gun Violence](#). There was a vigorous discussion. Rachel Lavine, State Committeewoman, proposed sending it to all the local high schools connected to a District Leader. Jonathan Geballe proposed an amendment against arming teachers, and Lois Rakoff suggested the CDC must handle gun research. The resolution unanimously passed with the proposed amendments.

Next there was an election for the two State Committee positions. Ben Yee, current State Committeeman, running unopposed, gave a speech underlining his activities with workshops and phone banks for the upcoming special elections, and his lobbying for more transparency. Keith Ellison asked him to attend a SWOT session on ground organizing, and he proposed VID send one or two people to a roundtable meeting to exchange info. Jonathan volunteered to arrange the event to update the club on any changes, and Ben happily acceded.



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Ben was reelected, with 29 in support and one no endorsement.

Rachel Lavine, current State Committeewoman also running unopposed, was next. She opened by wishing everyone a Happy International Women's Day, then launched into a discussion of the sexual harassment charges against Jeff Klein, head of the IDC. She proposed a resolution to institute an independent investigation through JCOPE. She also spoke to Alphonso David of the Governor's office to institute a statewide policy to prevent harassment and discrimination, and the Governor's office has said it is open to this idea.

She is one of the co-founding members of the NYS Progressive Caucus and finally got the resolution to prevent IDC members from running on the Democratic party line passed. She underlined there is only one IDC member without a challenger, and spoke of the statewide effort to challenge every Republican State Senator--she called for strong women to come forward.

She was reelected unanimously, with 30 in support.

Nat Johnson, chair of the Environmental Committee, now introduced Tal Zakan, Senior Coordinator of Recycling and Sustainability, who gave a comprehensive slide show and presentation on the state of composting in the Village, with advice on how to organize your building and what should and can be composted. This was followed by an animated discussion.

Nadine gave thank you letters to Dick's Sporting Goods for ending the sale of assault rifles and to the companies that cut their ties to the NRA to Ed Yutkowitz to distribute.

Laurie Hardjowirogo of the Voter Reform Committee updated everyone on Shelley Meyer's campaign to unseat Judy Killian in the State Senate.

Sara Kimbell of the Gala Committee told us there were three honorees discussed so far, and the date was fixed as April 26.

Erik now read the Resolution calling for the MTA and the DOT to Suspend the Radical 14th Street Transportation Plan Imposed by the Shutdown of the L Train Tunnel, which ran into some strong opposition. A friendly amendment was offered re the City and Country School on West 13th Street, which was accepted, but ultimately the resolution was sent back to the ad hoc committee, composed of Jonathan, Ed, David Siffert, and Janet Liff. Here is the final [Resolution on the L Train](#).

Now the Resolution on the Tech Alley Impact on the Community was read, calling for zoning changes to be implemented to preserve affordability in the area. This passed unanimously.



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Now Keen gave her District Leader Report, which she led off by saying stopping the IDC was crucial to NY being a beacon to the rest of the USA . Robert Jackson, running against Marisol Alcantara of the IDC, (and whom Keen has known for 20 years) may have a forum for all the downtown clubs for all the anti-IDC candidates. We can't endorse them, but we can help introduce them to the community.

Now it was Jen Hoppe's turn to report on the Governor's Report on the Status of NY Women and Girls 2018, created by Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor, and Melissa DeRosa, first female Secretary to the Governor. She presented a slideshow on five major areas: Health, Safety, Workplace, Girls, and Family. This was a comprehensive look at what has been done and still needs to be done in NYS regarding the status of women.

Under New Business:

Nadine volunteered to organize VID and the downtown clubs for the March Against Guns. She will send an email, and exhorted people to wear orange.

Richard Corman, candidate for President of DID, urged collaboration between the downtown clubs.

The meeting was adjourned.