



General Membership Meeting
February 14, 2019

President David Siffert opened the meeting asking for the adoption of the agenda, which passed unanimously.

He went on to address Governor Cuomo's proposed budget rule affecting grassroots organizations, requiring anyone giving over \$500 to register as a lobbyist. He said we needed to be together and organized, and mentioned that Deborah Glick and Brad Hoylman were against it, and we needed to work with Deborah.

David introduced the Resolution in Support of Public Financing of Elections, which was discussed and passed 26 in favor and 4 against, with one small amendment. Voted a second time there were 35 in favor and one abstention.

There now followed a general discussion of the much longer Statement of Legislative Priorities, each of whose Parts passed, with amendments. The vote was Part I, 18 in favor, no opposed or abstentions. Part II, 23 in favor, no opposed or abstentions. Part III, 15 in favor, no opposed or abstentions. Part IV, 16 in favor, one opposed, no abstentions. Part V, 17 in favor, one opposed, no abstentions. Part VI, 15 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Part VII, 20 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Part VIII, 18 in favor, one opposed, no abstentions. Part IX, 19 in favor, no opposed or abstentions. Part X, 12 in favor, 10 opposed, and three abstentions. Part XI, 20 in favor, no opposed or abstentions. And Part XII, 21 in favor, no opposed or abstentions.

Deborah Glick was present and addressed the club, speaking of the many bills in progress, especially the Reproductive Health Act, a ban on conversion therapy, the Child Victims Act, voting rights, and a possible Dream Act. A discussion about the Governor's attack on grassroots organizing followed, with David promising to send a letter to the Governor from VID on this topic.

Now the Civil Court Judge candidates spoke. Eric Schumacher spoke but was not seeking an endorsement. Robert Rosenthal and Ashlee Crawford spoke, both seeking endorsement. Grace Park and Chris Chin also spoke, but were not seeking endorsements. Ashlee and Robert were both endorsed, Ashlee with 38 in favor, and Robert with 42 in favor.

Now District Leader Keen Berger spoke of her fourteen years as DL, and how VID now had two excellent candidates for female DL, Elissa Stein and Jen



Hoppe. Elissa and Jen spoke, and a discussion followed. Jen won, 26 to 24 with one no endorse vote.

Arthur Schwartz now spoke, asking for a VID endorsement for male DL. A spirited discussion followed, with a split vote, 24-24, meaning no endorsement.

The election of Judicial Delegates and Alternates now ensued, with Karla Moskowitz, Kelly Grace Price (alternate only), Sharon Woolums, Irene Kaufman, Kathy Slawinski, Allison Stowell, Jen Hoppe, Elissa Stein (alternate only), Ed Yutkowitz, Melissa Carty, Jonathan Geballe, Lois Rakoff, and Judith Jacobson nominated. The vote was:

Jen 26
Allison 26
Irene 25
Jonathan 24
Judith 22

Alternates
Ed 21
Carla 21
Elissa 21
Kathy 21
Lois 19

Others
Sharon 17
Melissa 13
Grace 9

Tiffany Hodges made a plea for volunteers for Ben Yee, candidate for Public Advocate

Nat Johnson, of the Environmental Committee, announced a meeting Tuesday, with discussions on plastic bags and the climate, and a resource map.

Allison Stowell, of the Gun Reform Committee, announced a meeting March 5.

The meeting was adjourned.