



501c3/c4 Council Meeting Agenda
7:00 pm, Monday, Feb. 18th, 2019
Metro Justice Office

Attendance: Aaron, Evelyn, Crescenzo, Marcus, Mahima, Michael, Grania, Jack, Robert, Julie, Vel, Mohini

Called to Order: 7:05pm

Opening Remarks, Orientation:

Usually the first Council meeting of the year is fully orientation. Andrew sent a link to the virtual New Council binder to everyone by email (accidentally not including Task Force reps - Crescenzo will forward). First responsibility is attending Council meetings. The full year's schedule is in the virtual packet. If you can't make it just let Aaron, Evelyn, Crescenzo, or Andrew know. Attending a racial justice training is another requirement (more on this later). Serving on a committee - most already are, but if not contact Andrew or committee chair (important to keep leadership connected to organization's work). Assist with Membership recruitment/retention - later we'll be calling lapsed members. Strategic plan approved by 2017 Annual Meeting, was product of year-long survey process to discern membership's priorities. That's also in virtual binder. Important to be familiar with it. Conflict of interest form also in virtual binder. We're the board of directors of two non-profits (c3, c4 - except TF reps who are only c3). If you haven't signed the form, we need that. Slack is preferable to email for lots of business, but Council meeting reminders will go out via email regardless. Anyone who hasn't been invited to the Slack will be invited shortly.

This political moment in the coming year. Key to strategic plan is our theory of change. We see change coming from the building of social movements. We're in a very exciting time, including lots of legislative opportunities in Albany. Even nationally, the boundaries of debate have expanded around imperialism, green new deal, medicare for all. Between this and the 2020 election, there'll be lots of focus on those processes, potentially at the expense of building the power that made the moment possible. We've an opportunity to frame narratives, force candidates to answer our questions/agenda on things like healthcare and marijuana legalization. Another unique role for us is to help de-silo progressive issues in ways that others don't. This is why Council's structured to represent various fields of work, and why we had the leadership summit - to connect the efforts and subject them to common values like racial justice. The GND is all about radically transforming economy to sustainability and green jobs. That kind of shift means lots of changing jobs, plus geographic displacement/migration. Healthcare being tied to job/location makes this less sustainable. As an organization with ties to climate justice, immigrant, economic justice, and racial justice movements, we're in a unique position to make the impossible inevitable. This is a leadership transition year. Aaron leaving later this year - exact date TBD (June-Sept-ish). Evelyn and Aaron planning for smooth transition, but we'll later need an acting VP. Doesn't have to be

already on Council, but if there's interest let Aaron know. Evelyn: I'll be working with Aaron and each Committee/Task Force to get a better sense of each body within the organization.

ROCLA Report (Grania): ROCLA's annual dinner fundraiser Rice and Beans Dinner is on 3/22. Each year we honor International White Dove Award winners - stand out in fight for democracy and justice in or for Latin America. 2 international winners this year: 1 woman former sociologist in Bolivia who fights for LGBT rights in indigenous communities, an international labor solidarity activist from Tuscon (Alliance for Global Justice) working with a persecuted union in Colombia. Local winner: Ireni Sanchez - works with Puerto Ricans displaced since the hurricane. Standard tickets start at \$30. Deadline to buy ads in the program 2/26 (get it to Grania) - MJ already has one. We're moving to an online newsletter only as of April '19.

PA&E Report: No report.

Ciudad Hermana Report (Michael): Next public activity is a screening at the Little Theater Friday 03/08 at 6:15pm of Las Sandinistas. Covers both historical legacy of women's contributions to Sandinismo and current/recent crisis (though it's partisan about that). Regular Little prices.

Committee Reports and New Business

- **Elder Justice Committee Report:** Written report submitted by Ken.
- **Annual Meeting Follow-up:** Bylaws updated since Annual Meeting. Included in virtual binder.
- **Personnel:** Convening meeting in next few weeks.
- **Treasury and Finance / Marcus:** First treasury meeting scheduled for first wednesday in march. Covering taxes (filing extension). Marcus, John, Jay. Finalizing MoU with RPCC for Jay's time. Start on quarterly report to Council. Lunchtime meeting Noon to 1ish.
- **Racial Justice:**
 - **Popular Education Proposal:** (Vel) We're proposing consideration of White Supremacy Reader/Education program. Vel, Robert, Robin Wilt, Judy Toyer, John Greenbaum asked to facilitate. here at MJ office, 2 hour session monthly TBD - 2nd, 4th Monday @ 6:30 or Saturday 10am. First two articles chosen, more to follow. Starting focus on Council, Staff. (Michael) We haven't been doing the workshops like we used to, but it's still a Council requirement. The hope is for this to serve in its place at least for now. (Mohini) Question about articles, criteria seem a little vague. (Vel) Robert and Judy chose starting articles. Continuation from White Supremacy Reader, mix-up that that wasn't included in materials here. (Aaron) Ideal number of participants? (Vel, Michael) 12-20, but we'll see who shows up. (Aaron) Leadership summit is around 20-30 most invested members, might be best starting point. (Vel) Talked to Andrew about doing the films - next Monday (2/25) public screening Black

Power Mixtape at 6:30 in MJ Community Room. (Aaron) Thank committee, glad this is moving.

- **PAB Update:** (Robert) Haven't heard back from Pastor Wanda or PABA Exec. Recap (Michael): Robert, Vel are MJ Reps to PABA. others in coalition were unhappy working with us due to Colin issues. Unclear exactly who, but the PABA Exec (not whole group) formally dissociated with us. The rest remains very unclear despite many outreach attempts by Robert and others. (Robert) Thursday's the last PAB Forum at City Hall before City Council submits their PAB legislation (which has wide support). There'd been chatter about Mayoral veto, but Council has a super-majority to override. It's gonna pass, we gotta figure out who gets on the PAB. Because of upcoming City Council election, there's more than usual room to be progressive on this. (Michael) Locust Club's been vocally opposed. (Robert) According to lawyers, it's almost certainly gonna be taken to court, mostly on issue of PAB disciplinary power conflicting with the Locust Club's collective bargaining agreement. Lots of lawyers, both good and bad.
- **Jalil Update:** (Michael) Jalil's an imprisoned former Black Panther. Got 25-life, has had 10 parole hearings. Other political prisoners have been getting paroled recently. Legislature's telling the parole board to focus on individual rather than the crime, didn't happen for Jalil. Denied last time, but less wait time - next chance in September. Most supporters think focus on prep for parole board, but Jalil wants to campaign at Cuomo for clemency (Cuomo's not gonna do that). He won't help, but if pressured he might become actively opposed. Jalil's in Sullivan Correctional (Catskills area). Jalil loves to have visitors, anybody who wants to go should contact Michael.
- **Healthcare Report:** (Julie) Met last Saturday at MJ as part of campaign for NY health. Katie Robbins from PNHP and Ursula from Syracuse led it. Broke out into upstate chapters getting to work together on the intersectionality of the healthcare movement plus learning from each other's local movements. Don't know when hearing will be, but it'll be after the NY budget passes. Interesting to hear from rural communities snubbed by electeds. (Grania) Will it cover the undocumented? (Julie) Yes, that's the plan. Next meeting last Wednesday of the month at MJ at 6pm (with food). (Aaron) More meetings should be potlucks. (Mahima) At UR/Strong, student group's putting on conference on healthcare access issues for undocumented folks, this Saturday 9am-3pm.
- **Ain't I A Woman Campaign sign-on request:** (Mohini) Started in NYC, immigrant homecare workers started it, now have part-time organizer in Buffalo (Mary Lister). Main fight's against 24-hour workday, paid for 8ish hours of that. Won lawsuit against that, which was then overturned by some emergency regulation. Particulars not important, but campaign of mostly women of color fighting for basic working conditions/standards. We're just being

asked to sign on, not to do anything particular. Occasional press release, legislative meetings for Mohini. **Crescenzo moves we sign on, Julie seconds the motion.** Grania asks for quorum check - quorum present. **MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

- **Annual Dinner Speaker:** List of potential speakers circulated by Jim Bearden. Dinner's 5/5. Some are big names. Present strategy is to cast a wide net, but also see if anyone's got closer connections to any of them. Speakers get paid up to \$500 + travel expenses. (Michael) Julia Salazar's a new State Senator from NYC who's progressive, particularly on housing. (Aaron) We'd prefer speakers that help us build movements/areas of work. (Robert) Due to timeline, we should prioritize/triage this list some. (Michael) Delegate that to somebody in next few days. (Aaron) We'd talked about ranked choice voting, but that'd take a while at this meeting. (Mohini) Aaron, Evelyn, Mohini can do this and let us know via Slack. Crescenzo suggests adding Kali Akuno of Cooperation Jackson to list.
- **Setting Minimum Dues:** (Aaron) Annual Meeting empowered Council to determine minimum dues rate for membership. Anyone who can't pay that minimum can apply to Council for special dispensation. Fundraising and Membership is gonna propose a rate for Council to approve.

Staff Reports

- **Lead Organizer / Mohini:** Written work plan instead of report. Abbreviated for time. Few key events in there. (Michael) Marijuana legalization town hall Friday 3/18 at Visual Studies Workshop, hope to announce by Friday.
- **Fundraising and Membership Director / Andrew:** Andrew sick. Written report submitted.

Michael: Israeli and Palestinian Combatants for Peace speaking 3/6 at Temple B'rith Kodesh at 7pm. Angela Davis speaking at Strong (sold out).

Council Phonebank