
THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

♦ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ♦ President: Pat Almonrode ♦

General Meeting THIS THURSDAY February 9th

Get Active!

Come hear from representatives of local grassroots groups including *Rise & Resist*, *United thru Action*, *Grassroots Action NYC*, and *Solidarity Sundays*, and from *Dr. Debbie Almontaser* (lead organizer of the recent Yemeni shopkeepers' strike) about ways we can all work together in the growing resistance to the Trump Administration.

Meeting starts at 8:00 PM

Bank Street College

610 West 112th Street (between Broadway and Riverside Drive)

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District Leader's Report

Paula Diamond Román

This article is primarily about everything I've learned from the massive amount of political emails I get and the Facebook postings I read, especially since January 20th. I receive a lot of email from other political clubs and I have a lot of activist, or just concerned friends on FB. I've also been following the selection of a new Democratic National Committee chair and listening to all their suggestions for the future of the Party.

Broaden our outreach. Most, if not all, of the candidates for DNC chair referred to Dean's 50 State Strategy and criticized our focus on "purple" states and election season. At an event I attended, one of the candidates talked in great detail about how they increased voter participation in general by having voter outreach events 1) all year round, 2) even in traditional true blue districts, and 3) that spoke to different groups of the electorate, especially to young people. (They also do regular door-to-door outreach but I'm not sure how that would play in Manhattan.) Tabling, picnics, concerts, street fairs, listening sessions, basketball tournaments. The **only** limit is our imagination.

Piggybacking on our activities outside the district during presidential elections, many activists are supporting "adopt a district," making ourselves available to a district that could use help organizing and registering Democrats, especially in time for the midterm elections. We can "adopt a district" far away, which limits us to 'phone calling and fundraising, or within driving distance, which opens up all sorts of traditional, old-fashioned community organizing techniques. (I have a friend, a former club member who moved to Pennsylvania who is **begging** us to adopt her congressional district!) However, if we do this, we **must** let the district lead us, rather than showing up all New York know-it-all. It's crucial that we support the candidates that are part of the community and of the community, rather than candidates we know already. We may even have to search our hearts about what we can compromise on. (One example is gun control in areas where people hunt; one of my heroes,

Senator Gillibrand, would never been elected in the first place if she hadn't supported gun policies that I completely disagree with.)

Tighten our focus. Our country has elected a president who tweets, sign executive orders, nominates, and says horrifying, outrageous things twice a day, minimum. In addition, we also have a state and a city to be concerned about, albeit on a much gentler level. We must **prioritize**, we must focus, and we must learn to shut our ears to some of the noise. We also should perform our due diligence when we publicize something or participate in an action. Double-check sources, especially when everything you see is clearly the exact same wording; that is a separate source. (Snopes.com is always a reasonable final source.)

Also, most activists rate 'phone calls over snail mail which is rated far above emails. Petitions are rarely of any use, especially when they are connected to fundraising efforts or political campaigns; look at who is distributing the petition! If there are three horrible things going on, pick one and focus on it. (As I write this, I'm watch the DeVos vote; because activists picked that one to drill down on, the vote is 50-50 right now; by the time you read this, Vice-President Pence will probably have broken the tie.)

I'm a big fan of a version of the five W's of journalism:

- Why are we doing it? What is the specific goal of this specific action?
- What is the action, and how exactly will it accomplish the goal? (Does it have a good chance of accomplishing the goal?)
- Who is participating? Who is doing the work? Who is overseeing the safety of the action, when relevant?
- Where? When?

Open our hearts. If people support something you want supported, be glad. Don't question their motives. For example, why do men have to mention the important women in their lives when they express their support for women's rights? Who cares? They're supporting women's rights, often in an environment that is not friendly to their decision.

Don't demand that people then engage in one more action. For example, why didn't the white woman marching for women's rights attend the Black Lives Matter march last year? I don't know. This could be her first political action ever. Also, if you chat her up, maybe exchange contact information, invite her to an event, she might come and bring her friends. She might even invite you and your friends to a Lady Parts Justice concert. Or, you'll be unable to make a connection and nothing will have changed.

Be realistic about what the Democratic Party is, and isn't. Everything wrong with the country right now is not the DNC's fault; the DNC made a lot of mistakes in the past election. However, the purpose of the DNC is to elect Democrats. Not to change the capitalist system. Not to respond to people who "do not wish to enroll in a political party," including the Democratic Party. (Btw, y'all aren't Independents. In several states, there is an Independence Party and you haven't enrolled with that party, have you? You're unaffiliated voters.) As Democrats, we have a right to be concerned about the Democrats elected and the DNC platform (<https://www.democrats.org/party-platform>) We have a right to be concerned if we don't think the DNC reflects our core values and welcomes our diversity. I often find myself concerned about these things; our club works very hard to have an effect in this arena.

There are many wonderful organizations working to **change** things. We are hosting a few of them at our forum on Thursday and we hope that they will help us organize and structure our call-to-action in the future. It would be great if they have some events that we can sign on to or help organize. Some people who attend the meeting may even decide that, for now, it's more important for them to dedicate their time to actions that these other groups focus on more than the Bway Dems do. My personal focus is on the midterm elections but I also recognize my need to participate in other calls-to-action along the way.

This may seem obvious or overly simplistic but I think that we are in a situation unlike any other I have experience in my lifetime. At a recent meeting, I cried out that our country was burning (while we were fiddling around like Nero) and burst into tears. Sometimes it's very hard for me to focus or to remind myself that I **do** believe that together we can make a difference. (Perhaps we aren't focusing because to focus, really focus on our situation is too scary.) I was raised on the streets of protest in the 60s; I grew up to become a tenant

and community organizer. I believe in that cartoon of all the little fish coming together to defeat the shark. So, I'm calling out to all the other little fish to join with me in broadening our reach, tightening our focus, and working for change.



From the Steering Committee Noah Kaufman

Thank you to the members for voting in this term's Steering Committee. I look forward to working with everyone to advance the interests of the Club, the Assembly District, and by extension the nation. I asked Club President, Pat Almoronde how we could recognize the hundreds of neighbors who turned out to the nation's airports to oppose the President's order to restrict immigration based on nationality. Protesters at our ports of entry brought attention to the President's sudden detention of law abiding registered aliens. Pat said, "Write an article for the newsletter." So, for your consideration:

To the thousands who rallied at Kennedy Airport and Newark International Airport, to the many protesters at other terminals across the country: I say "thank you" for standing up for immigrants, for legal residents of the United States, and for due process of the law. Thank you for not backing down. You deserve our highest applause and appreciation for reminding us that it is we the people who ensure that America stands for truth and justice.

The President's ban restricting travelers from seven Muslim nations has been resoundingly criticized. The Associated Press quotes the Catholic Cardinal of Chicago, Blase Cupich who stated, "Their design and implementation have been rushed, chaotic, cruel and oblivious to the realities." The White House, Cardinal Cupich added, has ushered in "a dark moment in U.S. history."

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/tears-and-detention-for-us-visitors-as-trump-travel-ban-hits/2017/01/29/6e9d13ec-e5ee-11e6-a419-eefe8eff0835_story.html

As of this writing, federal district courts have restrained the government from implementation of the presidential order. Our system of checks and balances works. The Ninth Federal Circuit Court, seated in San Francisco, has denied the government's request for a stay of the restraining order. It seems clear that many people have

recognized a bully's attempt to curtail due process of law.

The U.S. Consular and Immigration Services are diligent and exceedingly concerned about reviewing, and reviewing again, all applications to enter our nation. The White House call for "extreme vetting" of applicants already screened by our existing diligent process sounds like a badly written television script. For the refugees and other visa applicants who have navigated a process that already takes years, and for some many years, this saga is more like a novel by Kafka.

Unfortunately for all of us, there are some people in the new White House who would dim the beacon held aloft by Liberty in our harbor.

Fortunately for all of us, there are neighbors who won't let our neighbors be "administratively detained" by officers and agents simply because of their country of national origin.

RL

EXPAND YOUR VOLUNTEERING!

Volunteer to be newsletter editor for the Broadway Democrats

Exciting position opening. Once a month edit the writings of your fellow democrats and know that you are helping spread the message!

Contact Pat at

president@broadwaydemocrats.org

GET MORE ENGAGED!

Need Additional Members for the Technology Committee!!!

Looking for people with knowledge/skills in social media, websites, newsletter production, outreach, design!

Contact Paula at valleygirl109@rocketmail.com

Club Election Results

Officers:

President:	Pat Almonrode
Vice President:	Lizabeth Sostre
Secretary:	Barbara Trelstad
Treasurer:	Katie Hanner

Steering Committee (totaling 12):

WillieMae Anderson
Gretchen Borges
Susan Crawford
Norm Levine
Sarah Martin
Joe Nunley
Mary Peppito
Amy Porter
Luis Román
Richard Siegel
Dan Zweig

Membership

In order to vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention, amendments), you must be an eligible, voting member of the Broadway Democrats. You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues. Dues partially defray the costs of presenting forums and putting out this newsletter. Dues are \$25; senior dues are \$10.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Special Interests: _____

The Broadway Democrats
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New York, NY 10025

FIRST
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell
District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,
Paula Diamond Román
President: Pat Almonrode
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Thursday, February 9th 8:00 p.m.

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