VID GENERAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 13, 2025

(Before this meeting there was an ICE training meeting, hosted by Linda Bermas of Rise and Resist, designed to inform and train businesses and employees in how to resist an ICE attack.)

Co-President Sara Kimbell opened the meeting, thanking everyone who attended the ICE training session, and she thanked David Siffert for setting it up. She reminded everyone there was a Day of Action on Saturday to support local businesses and protect them from ICE intimidation.

She thanked everyone who helped in the campaign and noted that all the candidates VID endorsed had won their races. She acknowledged that it was a grassroots effort and on Election Day, the voters chose competence over MAGA. VID members canvassed week after week and she expressed profound gratitude. It was the largest voter turnout in decades. There are pics on the website and she urged everyone to check the calendar for upcoming events.

Sara also noted that midterms are right around the corner—candidate forums will be held from December to February. If anyone is interested in running for office in the club, she urged them to let the co-Presidents know.

Sara introduced Monica from Harvey Epstein's. Monica thanked everyone from VID who worked on his campaign. She also mentioned ICE training on November 20, and a roast turkey giveaway on the 24th. She urged support for Sommer Omar, running for State Committeewoman, who will be running events for the next two Saturdays to help those affected by the SNAP shutdown—volunteers are needed. There's a sign-up link on Harvey's website.

After this presentation, Sara reminded us about Downtown Nasty Women Wednesday meetings online, and Tuesday Happy Hour. She said Asemblymember Deborah Glick would be giving us an election recap. She is retiring, and Jeannine Kiely and Ben Yee will run for her seat.

Mar Fitzgerald, District Leader, gave a presentation where she described her trip to Somos Puerto Rico, with candidate meetings, 24/7 receptions, and plenty of deal-making. The City Council Speaker race was the biggest thing, with Chris Marté spurring interest by making his campaign public. Governor Hochul and A.G. Tish James were present.

On Election Day, she visited most poll sites, and everything went pretty smoothly with the exception of a few aggressive poll watchers, some from Florida. There will be an upcoming primary for Brad Hoylman-Sigal's seat when he becomes Borough President—Tony Simone will possibly run. There will be a candidate forum for Harvey's seat when he vacates.

She noted that there were pockets in AD66 which went for Cuomo, and we should be concerned—perhaps more door knocking?

Sara thanked all the poll workers, and introduced Assemblymember Deborah Glick, who is retiring.

Deborah said she had one more year to go, and still had lots on the agenda. She said if she never passes another piece of legislation, she will happily stand on her accomplishments of the last 35 years. She cited the elections across the state where Democrats won in places they

don't usually—and across the country. She said removing phones from schools was a terrific move by the Governor. She advocated for getting out on the street with postcards which we would ask voters to write a message on and put their names and addresses on too—we will mail them—to engage one issues people are interested in. Postcards and grassroots organizing is how we have to work in the future. Campaigning can't be localized.

Health care is in trouble, and there is a housing emergency due to unaffordability. She advocated for the use of eminent domain in the case of buildings in foreclosure due to rapacious landlords. She said to take NYCHA land and build 3,000 housing options. She suggested building the piers further out to create land to build on. The overreach of the right, particularly in the case of ICE, has been really scary.

She thanked VID for its years of support , and said that after next year she will have more time to do the things she hasn't had time for—she thanked everyone again and said she will be around after next year. This was followed by discussion.

Now Quinn Raymond of Common Cause delivered a talk on the new law the Governor hasn't signed yet—the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)—a bill designed to upgrade and effectively maintain NYS voter rolls. Similar bills have been passed in Pennsylvania, Kansas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. He described how this bill will make voter rolls more accurate and ease any necessary changes. He cited an incident in 2016 where voters were wrongly purged from the system. Under this bill there will be no improper purges since when they do occur, we can get the purged voters back on the rolls.

Quinn took questions and was challenged on the security of the ERIC system. David Siffert, who wrote the letter in support, read the letter and made the point that there are no good government groups in opposition to ERIC. A motion was made to make the letter "Captains Choice," but got no second. A vote was held and the letter passed with 22 in support, two opposed, and two abstentions.

Sara said in the future there will be experts both pro and con to discuss any issue.

Tony Hoffmann, chair of the Campaign Committee, delivered his report, thanking everyone for the amazing amount of work done by the club. In the 66th AD, parts A and B, Zohran Mamdani got 52% of the vote and Cuomo got 46%. Bryant Park went for Cuomo, but the east side was just as strong for Mamdani. He said he's been working with Jonathan Geballe and Sara on a calendar of endorsements and forums for upcoming elections. He will present it to the Executive Committee.

Now it was Nat Johnson's turn to report for the Environmental Committee. The Department of Sanitation released the NYC Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), a blueprint that will guide how the city handles waste for the next decade. Environmental Advocates NY urges DSNY to strength management plan by adding five strategies focused on food waste, food security, single-use packaging reduction, and biosolids handling. Saturday December 11 will be Clothing Swap Day, a fun, free way to keep our clothing in use longer, reduce waste, and reduce our urge to always be buying new stuff.

Governor Hochul is caving to Trump in approving the permit for the Williams-NESE Gas Pipeline. A march was held on November 11 in protest. The Governor approved the pipeline even though it had been rejected three times. Groups such as Third Act NYC, Sane Energy, Food and Water Watch, Fridays for Future, Rise and Resist, and Climate Families are opposed.

Beyond Plastics issued their list for the holidays: 1. Choose scratch over store-bought. 2. Shop local. 3. Use sustainable decor. 4. Serve on reusable dishes and dinnerware. 5.

Provide or remind people to use reusable containers for leftovers. 6. Compost your food scraps and decorations. The Governor's Island Coalition issued an alternative to the city's ill-conceived Manhattanization of the Island, making these points: 1. Trees not towers. 2. Urban Farm removal project. 3. Ban glyphosate (RoundUp) on the island—it is banned in NYC parks. 4. Omit the planned new electric substation. 5. Unpopular new ferry.

The Seneca Lake Bitcoin Mine will continue after NY regulators reached an agreement to cut emissions. By 2026, the All-Electric Buildings Act will require most new buildings in NY to use only electricity for heating and appliances—no new fossil fuels. NYS will delay its statewide mandate on January 1 pending appeals court ruling.

NEW BUSINESS:

Co-President Irene Kaufman knows a couple who need a sublet in NYC for six months of chemotherapy treatment.

Carol Yost asked what we can do to stop the Pipeline. Nat replied there will be protests, but the Governor has dug in her heels.

Anne Heaney mentioned that Antonio Delgado was keeping a high profile and may run against Hochul. Recording Secretary Kathy Slawinski said he seemed like a good choice and perhaps we should consider endorsing him for Governor.

State Committeeman Ben Yee noted that there will be a State Committee meeting on the 21st, with four resolutions on the agenda, and filling a vacancy in a vice-chair ship.

Lois Rakoff mentioned that Lin-Manuel Miranda may run against a county chair.

Jeannine Kiely mentioned a film screening, Left Behind, on November 20. This is a film about how Literacy Academy Collective opened the first in-district public school in the nation for students with disabilities like dyslexia and language difficulties.

Anne said let's be united to beat Stefanik.

And Ben said there will be a Delgado meet and greet in Brooklyn on the 17th—he can send info if wanted.

The meeting was adjourned.