

## **ORA General Meeting 3-12-18**

### **Welcome/ Announcements**

- If you would like to become a voting member, sign in at [ourrevolutionarlington.us](http://ourrevolutionarlington.us)
- Upcoming Events
  - o ARL Reinvest Tuesday, March 13, 2018 7-9 pm, Columbia Pike Library 1<sup>st</sup> floor meeting room
  - o National Issues Committee Monday, March 19, 2018 7 pm & pizza 3924 Wilson Blvd.
  - o ACDC has organized a Weekend of Action on March 23-25 surrounding the March 24 March for our Lives.

Stay tuned for announcements – check facebook

- o Revolutionary Reading group Thursday, March 22, 2018 7:30 p.m at Café Sazon  
*A History of the World in 7 Cheap Things*

Are you interested in joining the Steering committee? *Voting next general meeting*  
Neighborhood College? *See Alison after the meeting*

Do you want to learn how to become a candidate? *Progressive Change Campaign Committee*  
*Candidate training program*

### **Public Forum Notes**

- Susan Murphy from citizen advocacy group, Welcoming Immigrant Network of NOVA, “Win NOVA”t works with immigrants: listserv, register people to vote, educating people on the issues
- Please sign One Virginian a National Issues committee petition (Daniel passed it around)
- Bennett Minton from One Virginia 2021 discussed the issue of advocacy for an Independent commission to oversee redistricting in Virginia. There is a meeting at Cherrydale Library 7:00 on Tuesday, March 12, 2018

### **Delegate Lee Carter and Delegate Elizabeth Guzman**

#### **Delegate Lee Carter , 50<sup>th</sup> District VA**

- What have I learned in Richmond?
  - o Corporate corruption is insidious in practice
  - o System set up to isolate legislators and voices of corporate interests are the ones in their ears
  - o It is crucial during the legislative session to call delegates and senators to show that you are paying attention. Talk about specific bills
  - o \* NOT all the delegates & senators read all of the bills\*
  - o You need to go to go in person, call, electoral action (emails don't work)

#### **Delegate Elizabeth Guzman**

- Intense two months!
- Decided to put over 28 pieces of legislation forward!
- Only a few hours to know your bill is going to be heard the next week
- She learned that you need to lobby Dems in addition to Republicans (you can't take their vote for granted)

- Learned that lobbyists have more power than legislators
- o For example, bill on sick leave – Lobbyists from Walmart and other corporations who are the first ones to speak against the bill
- o Argued for bills on sick leave, school counselors, special education, renewal energy, equal rights amendment, gun safety
- o System is broken – so many people that sit on committees do not have any knowledge
- o As long as we are not in the majority, issues that are common sense are voted down. You cannot even speak up
- o For all of the bills that they killed this year, continue to fight.
- o We need your help for next year to flip seats in 2019!

### **Q&A**

A few points discussed (NOT all)

Resources to check out to, if you want to get involved

- VA PLAN on facebook (all the bills that are introduced)
- Virginia LIS
- Richmond Sunlight
- VPAP.org
- Carter: DSA local chapter