



Rappahannock Indivisible - We the People

April 27, 2017

26 people in attendance

What does democracy look like? It looks like this!

Diana Jamison opened the meeting. She encouraged participants to contribute to the post card sale fund raiser

Introduced **Steering Committee**

Caroline Young – SB District 5 Candidate requested signatures to get onto the ballot

Eddie Correa – Tonight's guest speaker

Rappahannock Indivisible WTP Group will meet on 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Steering committee will meet on 2nd Monday of the month at Diana's House.

Website introduced by Jenny Dunaway. Events are announced there; Call to Action items posted; articles sent to website and posted there. Those interested in subscribing to the website may do so at bottom of the blog. An email will be sent whenever the site is updated.

Tom Edwards contacted **Francis Edwards and Vivian Messner** asking them to attend the May 17 meeting; both agreed to be there. He tried to contact Margaret Ransone but she has not responded to any requests at this time.

One Virginia 2012 Meeting at the library on 4:00 on Wednesday, May 3, 2017—Topic: *Gerrymandering and Redistricting*

Calls to Action:

- Climate Change Awareness march in Kilmarnock – starts at 9:45 at the Pebbles parking lot.
- **West Point paper mill** has right to use 20 million of gallons of water per day—the permit is coming up for renewal. Additional info is in Rappahannock Record.

Eddie Correa/Guest Speaker

A professor at American University
Practices Law in Washington DC

- He discussed ways we can put ideas into action.

- Discussed reasons why democrats lost the election from Clinton's weaknesses to Comey's actions that led to Trump's election. People thought they were voting for issues that which Trump said he would deliver.
- He agreed that we need to be non-partisan.
- Need to work with GOP voters. Need to appeal to Wittman and Wittman voters. The people who voted for Trump had legitimate concerns and we shouldn't make the mistake of not listening to them or criticizing them.
- Ask ourselves what policy issues we want to focus on. Two areas he recommended:
- Health care – the newest bill is actually worse than the first. The bill will turn health care system to states; will allow states to decide how much coverage people will have and whether or not people with pre-existing conditions will pay more for health coverage.
- Tax reform – the current proposal is a massive tax cut for the wealthy, will balloon the deficit, will cut personal income tax rates, and will allow some people to funnel income to qualify them for the 15% rate (versus the higher rate for individual taxes).
- If we're trying to influence the White House, it makes a difference if we communicate our views and get some publicity, it may filter up to the White House. Keep in mind that the more people you're trying to influence will dilute one's ability to really have an influence. Bottom line – stay focused. Pick issues that there is consensus around in this group.
- Help people to get involved. Make the website accessible and help people connect with our group.
- Most effective way to contact a member of congress is to email and call.
- Develop some kind of press strategy. Try to get a list of media outlets such as a Richmond TV station, the Rap Record, etc.
- Suggested we think about sponsoring a jobs summit for this area. Our economy is not booming. Get some HS counselors, someone from the governor's office, some business leaders and discuss strategies.
- What do we want this organization to be in 2 or 3 or 4 years from now? Should it be a 501c3?
- Don't get discouraged. Together the many indivisible orgs will make a real difference.
- If someone asked – "what is that Rappahannock Indivisible group all about? What do they do?" what would our answer be?

