



## **Solidarity Lowell Meeting Notes for Aug 22, 2021**

### **Agenda**

- 5:30(ish) About SL and brief intros
- 5:45 SL Committees / Allied Organizations
- 6:00 Preliminary election endorsements
- 6:55 Wrap up, next meeting

### **What is Solidarity Lowell?**

Solidarity Lowell is a volunteer-based group of community members of Greater Lowell working towards social justice by defending the human rights, dignity, and equality of all persons against hate and discrimination. More volunteers are always welcome!

The SL Coordinating Committee is your elected team of volunteers running the meetings, organizing events, disseminating relevant news, and sharing calls to action.

### **Progressive Massachusetts**

Solidarity Lowell is a chapter of Progressive Massachusetts. Progressive Mass is a statewide, member-driven grassroots organization committed to fighting for a vision of shared prosperity, racial and social justice, good government, and environmental sustainability in Massachusetts.

### **PM Committees**

- Issues Committee
- Elections & Endorsements Committee
- Chapters Committee
- Membership Committee
- Digital Engagement Committee
- Technology Committee
- Development Committee

### **Celebrate Victories**

- Every Lowell race is contested. There were even enough qualifying candidates to require preliminaries in several districts.
- State Rep. Vanna Howard co-sponsored 24 of 26 bills in Progressive Mass agenda.
- Gov. Baker signed bill creating State Hate Crimes Task Force.
- Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court established the right of trans, queer, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people to not be discriminated against in jury service.
- State Department will allow nonbinary and intersex people to obtain IDs and passports with an “X” gender marker instead of an “M” or and “F.”
- Ur Mendoza Jaddou, the daughter of Mexican and Iraqi immigrants, became the first woman director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
- Native American conservationist Charles Sams named to head of National Park Service.

350MA just completed white paper on Heat Islands, working with city to renew community aggregation.

Win Flint appointed to Lowell Sustainability Committee. It has been focused on solar energy for high school and recycling. We just got 3 new people on who may want to bring the group in some different directions. It can use more members. It is led by Jay Mason. Email me if you want more info: winifred.flint@gmail.com

Join Solidarity Lowell Upbeat on Facebook for more!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SolidarityLowellUpbeat>

## **Elections Subcommittee**

- Continued focus on Lowell City Council and School Committee elections
- What does a SL endorsement mean?
  - Endorsed candidates may post (no more than once a week) in our FB group
  - Custom SL graphic
  - SL may advertise volunteer opportunities and encourage members to volunteer.
  - SL will host a discussion with all endorsed candidates
- If interested in getting involved, please contact:
  - Lisa Arnold: [Lisa@solidaritylowell.com](mailto:Lisa@solidaritylowell.com)
  - Dee Halzack: [Dee@solidaritylowell.com](mailto:Dee@solidaritylowell.com)

## **Merrimack Valley Interfaith Sanctuary Network (MVISN)**

Thank you to everyone who came to our fundraiser!  
Marius has housing, but still needs support.

Donations via:

CashApp - \$gollygee17

Venmo - @owlnerd

Please put "Marius" in the notes

For more information, email [marissa@solidaritylowell.com](mailto:marissa@solidaritylowell.com)

## **Allied Group updates and announcements**

MVP:

37th Annual Bread and Roses Heritage Festival

Labor Day

11:30 AM (EST) | Campagnone Common, Lawrence, MA

## **Lowell City Council Endorsements**

- Today we are discussing preliminary race endorsements only (Districts 2, 3, 4, 7)
  - No survey responses from D3 (Belvidere)
  - No prelims in other Districts or School Committee
- Voting members (attended 3+ meetings in the last 12 months) will receive ballot via email soon

### **District 2**

Robert Gignac, Marty Hogan, Corey Robinson

### **District 4**

Wayne Jenness, Ryan Rourle

### **District 7**

Kamara Kay, Patricia Stratton, Paul Ratha Yem

Meeting notes with survey responses:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GRXPydTdhMEFimSFe2iBPKPVI4fVKhtC/view?usp=sharing>

Results will also be sent with ballots and in meeting notes. Per PM, we can't make the endorsement process public.

## **Next meeting - Sept 26, 5:30pm, on Zoom**

- Topics: General Election endorsements
- Join the discussion in #Events on Slack
- Who will help us with reminder calls/texts?

## **Join us online!**

Visit our **website**: <http://solidaritylowell.com/>

Join us on our **Facebook page**: <https://www.facebook.com/solidaritylowell/>

On the page, you'll see public events, photos, and more, but will miss out on discussions and members-only events.

Join us on the **Facebook group**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SolidarityLowell/>

On the group, you can participate in discussion, and have access to ALL of our events, including those for members only.

Visit us on **Slack**: <http://solidaritylowell.slack.com>

Follow us on **Instagram** @solidaritylowell

Follow us on **Twitter** @solidaritylowell

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING! SEE YOU SOON!**