



General Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

6:00pm, Student Lounge

Attendance: 19

Next General Meeting: February 8

Happy New Year and welcome back everyone! We're looking forward this semester. We have a bunch of exciting things planned.

Meeting Agenda:

- Introductions. Welcome newcomers!
- Regular scheduled meetings.
- Upcoming events.
- Discuss concerns with new administration.
- Earth Week events.
- Movie suggestions for this semester.
- Paws for Beers.
- Discuss Dean applicants.
- Homework for next meeting.

1) Regular ELS Meetings:

- We finally have established set meeting dates!
- Starting February 8th, we'll have general meetings every other Wednesday. Location: Student Center. Time: 6 pm. If we decide a meeting isn't necessary, an email will be sent out beforehand. FYI e-board meets at 5:30pm, so don't feel the need to rush over in case e-board is still wrapping up its meeting.
- Mark your calendars:
 - o Saturday Feb. 25th, If you're interested, there's a Conference at Yale called "New Directions in Environment." Signup for Conference is free. ELS will have a carpool. Event website: <http://envirocenter.yale.edu/event/new-directions-environmental-law-conference-register-now>.
 - o Earth Week events: April 17–21.
 - o April 26th: Last meeting of the semester. Pizza party!

2) Upcoming Events:

- ELS e-board elections. They will be held at the end of the semester. A notification will be sent out closer to that date about positions & election date. All positions—except Treasurer—will up for grabs.
- Our first event: Panel on "Environmental Advocacy during the New Administration."
 - o Date: Wednesday, January 25.
 - o Location: Yates
 - o Time: 5:30–7:00 pm.
 - o Speakers: Professor Parenteau, Dean Latham, Professor Echeverria, Abby Armstrong, Gus Speth.
 - o We need your help:
 - Get the word out!
 - Email us questions beforehand (see list of Qs we've started below). The panel is only an hour and a half long, which isn't too much time. By giving panelists a list of our Qs beforehand, they'll be able to organize their speaking time and ensure they address what it is we're concerned about.

- Suggestions for the event: Have sheets printed with Qs & As, in case panelists don't get to all Qs. Sheets will be available for everyone who attends.

3) Our concerns with the new administration:

- Job security.
- How can we clean up environmental spills and address other environmental concerns if Trump takes away funding?
- The House of Congress recently passed a package of bills aimed at regulatory agencies that ends Chevron deference. How will this affect future challenges of agency action?
- What do to protect what we care about if certain acts (e.g., ESA) are repealed?
- Predictions on how the administration will affect state governments?
- What will happen with the Clean Power Plan?
- Regarding Trump's list of actions he plans to do, what order we can expect he'll seek to have them done?
- What will happen with the US's role in the Paris Climate Agreement?
- Where's the best spot to be as environmental advocates?
- Offshore drilling.
- Specific Q for Gus: As co-founder of NRDC, how will the administration affect him and the NRDC? How will he maintain job security and address other employees' concerns?
- Strategies for getting jobs with NGOs?
- Perspectives on Trump's SCOTUS (forthcoming) nominee?
- What will the ramifications be in international law when the US pulls out of agreements (e.g., Kyoto, Paris Climate talks)?
- Perspectives on expectations for Scott Pruitt (Trump's pick for head of EPA)?

3) Earth Week Events: Apr. 17–21:

*1L Senators are leading these events. Talk to them if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

- **Monday:**
 - o Clothing swap in Chase. "Free for all" situation.
- **Tuesday:**
 - o DIY workshop in Barrister's Café to make environmentally-friendly products. Let 1L Senators know your suggestions for DIY projects. Last year, e.g., we made face wash, deodorant, and house cleaning products.
- **Wednesday:**
 - o Movie night. 1L Senators are taking suggestions for movies.
- **Thursday:**
 - o Native plant sale in Chase Breezeway. We'll need volunteers to help table.
 - o Environmentally themed trivia night at Crossroads. Trivia people have shown their interest in letting us run trivia that night. We'd have to write the questions, and we'd get half the proceeds.
- **Friday:**
 - o T-shirt tie dying in the library quad. Idea to preorder white "Earth Week" tees. Sell tees in Chase Breezeway during the week to raise funds & encourage people to come to our events. We could donate the funds to people affected by Hurricane Irene—5-year anniversary is coming up! If you're interested in creating a design for the shirts, bring them to our next meeting.
 - o Our annual play by Sharon Elementary School kids, *The Lorax*. We'll need volunteers to meet and greet them that day. Play is at 12:45 pm.
- **Saturday:**
 - o SoRo cleanup with elementary kids. Wear our tie-dies! Potentially paint a mural afterwards.
- **Sunday:**
 - o Day hike. Ideas for trails?

4) Movie suggestions for this semester:

- Ivory Game
- Cowspiracy
- Planet Earth (if it's out)

5) Paws for Beers:

- Animal Law Society is hosting an event to bring awareness to animals that are up for adoption at Upper Valley Humane Society.
- Date: Saturday, January 28th.
- Location: Crossroads.
- They're looking for people to donate their "skills" for their raffle. E.g., cooking lessons, paint & sip. For our next meeting, everyone come up with a skill they would be willing to donate.

6) Dean Search Committee:

- Leaders of student groups have been invited to participate in interviews of Dean applicants.
- Corey & Bri are representing ELS. They're willing to take our concerns to the Dean applicants.
- Corey is attending an interview tomorrow of Deb Markowitz at 12:45. Send her an email with any questions you want her to ask Deb.

7) For Our Next Meeting:

- Come up with a skill you're willing to donate to ALS's Paws for Beers raffle.
- If you're interested, make a design for Earth Week shirts that we'll use for tie dying.
- Bring a topic on a current environmental issue you'd like to discuss.

Questions, comments, ideas? Email cmikatstevens@vermontlaw.edu!