

CCDS Labor Committee Convention Report, August 22, 2020

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The CCDS Labor Committee held monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month. Some of the topics we discussed are listed below. We aimed to have meetings that (1) provided up-to-date information and analysis of events of interest to workers, unions and the broader labor movement, (2) conduct education on topics of interest to the labor movement, and (3) plan action items that can directly help workers on the job, in their unions and in their communities.

Our goal is to help strengthen the labor movement; build inter-union, national and international labor solidarity; promote social justice unionism and class conscious unionism; promote and help build labor-community coalitions, and help labor play a leading role in building and organizing the Progressive Majority. We were pleased to have CCDS members and friends from many unions, other labor organizations, and diverse geographic regions of the country participate in many of our meetings on a wide array of issues. Some issues were discussed in numerous meetings as they related to other topics under discussion. For example, the fight against white supremacy and male supremacy, and building a united multi-racial and multi-gender labor movement was discussed within the context of many other issues. Several of our members participated in national and international labor conferences. Here are some of the issues and topics we discussed and acted upon where possible:

- Labor's role in Presidential election campaigns
- Covid 19's impact on workers and labor's response to protect workers and the community
- Education on Black women's history in the labor force revealed deep seated race and gender-discrimination
- Labor's activities in the New York presidential primary
- May Day activities involving the United Auto Workers and other unions
- Southern Workers Assembly organizing report
- Theory and practice of labor's fight against racism and sexism
- Rise of global workers' strikes and the crisis of capitalism
- Jobs, racism, Southern Workers Assembly, unemployment benefits, wealth tax, labor's fightback
- Report from working-class struggles: Caracas
- 2020 elections: Labor for Bernie organizing, labor in the elections, fight to defeat Trump
- Autoworker international conference in South Africa to save jobs, fight for Green New Deal: attended by a UAW member of the CCDS Labor Committee
- Impact of W. VA Supreme Court ruling to uphold right-to-work: RTW imposed on workers in Kentucky
- Discussion of the one-time power of the United Mine Workers Union in Kentucky to win big gains for workers in the past, but has been greatly weakened by changes in economy and attacks on labor. Teachers and Service workers unions trying to make up that loss.
- Payday Report has reported on a large and growing number of strikes by workers protesting unsafe working conditions due to Covid 19, and winning some gains
- Update and strike support for UAW in 2019 national strike; CCDS gave strike support on picket-lines
- Discussion of the work of Labor for Bernie by local Labor for Bernie leader and CCDS leader in Los Angeles: rallies, marches, mass distribution of fliers at workplaces, campaigning among co-workers

- Discussion and promotion of Sanders' Workplace Democracy Plan, the most advanced program for labor
- Update on work of US Labor Against War USLAW): campaign to shift money from military budget to social needs
- Labor struggles from around the world and need for and examples of international labor solidarity
- Discussion of work of LabourStart
- Analysis of the UAW organizing campaign defeat in Chattanooga, Tenn. Lessons for future campaigns.
- Veterans Administration Chief Attacks AFGE's criticism of Shutdown
- Discussion of the CPUSA Statement and other statements on the 20th International Meeting of the Communist and Workers Parties
- Discussion of the Supreme Court decision to attack unions and greatly reduce worker protections: We invited progressive Labor Attorneys on the call to discuss Court decision, right to work threat
- Presentation on the power of Stewards Councils and how to organize them on the job
- Discussion and strike support for Teachers strikes, the front-line of labor activism
- Assessing the new attacks on Labor and Labor's fightback
- CCDS Labor Committee participation at the 2018 Labor Notes Conference, with participation on two panels, and distribution of CCDS Labor Committee leaflet