

NOTES: UNION-COOP COLLABORATION ROUNDTABLE

This is the 3rd in a series of workshops. Hope to actually choose an idea to implement. The union-coops ctee will be discussing all the ideas.

Macro:

- Include unions on co-op projects
- AFL-CIO workshops:
- Lobby together
- Benefits proposals : collaborate.
- In a given region, start a labour-worker coop council to build rela'ps – with the long-term result of exploring buy-outs.
- Invite the AFL-CIO, indiv unions, to be an assoc member of USFWC
- Coop-union collaborative capitalization, including pension funds.
- Increase working class co-operative ownership of land: for gardening, housing, etc.

Local:

- Discussion courses: union halls (This is a manual on self-directed education, already written seminal, introductory readings (Johnston Birchall, Iain MacDonald, etc. – on co-op philosophy. She plans to appr the Steelworkers to see if they'd like to form a group on this, in Pittsburgh. Get into their training programs. (*Lisa Stolarski*)
- insurance co-ops for N.O.: *Don Paul*
- Get together locally – one eg in Oakland due to many unionized wc's.
- Local advocacy : lobbying at the local level.
- Leading N.O. union locals to work with Social Aid & Pleasure Clubs: first to raise money for Afr Amer funerals (eg, Zulu). (Already filled with working class people
- Unions collaborating with local non-profits.) *Don Paul*.
- AFL-CIO to invest \$700M in green, co-op afford housing in the poorest areas.
- Work with the union (AFCSME) to insert WC values into the city-owned gas & water co. AFL has investment funds. (Duluth, MN). It's a strongly union town.

What would be attractive to the AFL-CIO? They may also want the US FWC to become a member of the AFL-CIO.

(1) Reach out to AFL-CIO / Change to Win Unions (splinter gp)

Poss things to do:

A level: (*time frame: whole next year: by next members' mtg.*).

- Workshop at their conf.
- Invite them to endorse the US FWC
- joint conf's / meetings / workshops
- possibly affiliate

B level (next stage):

- collaborate on benefits

-collaborate on capitalization, start-ups & conversions, land ownership, green co-op housing.

-embrace specific projects that would be appealing both to union membership & to the leadership.

C level (next stage):

-lobbying / advocating together

-state councils

Do a hostile take-over of a utility company.

It would be important to get our ducks in a row before approaching them.

-Get together locally the co-ops that are in unions: Liz, for Oakland.

There could be 2 diff study groups: getting to know the co-op move't; one on benefits; lead the Discussion Course. The work will be beforehand.

See www.discussioncourse.coop

Training: on starting a worker co-op: to get this into labour schools.

Andrew McLeod is regularly coming to N.O.; is talking about putting tog a group of dev'rs to come down for a group of dev'rs, esp around housing co-ops; then do guidance.

They started an adopt-a-neighbourhood program, in collaboration with labour.

I noted that there would likely be some tensions w/ labour.

Don: try to figure out what could work in a union – worker co-op collaboration. What will work for working people?