

Building an Inclusive Movement: The Role of Politics and Principles
Presenters: Ajowa Nzinga Ifateyo, Ethan Miller, Jim Johnson
Sunday, 2:45 - 4:15

I. What Is Politics

- A. Ask attendees to define or give their opinions on what is political and how rigid the lines are when it comes to other issues without defining “political.”.
- B. we will "discover" that we all probably have different definitions of "political." Then we could give a definition that we have come up with, and/or work on a group definition.

C. Definitions:

1. American Heritage:

- a. The art or science of government or governing, especially the governing of a political entity, such as a nation, and the administration and control of its internal and external affairs.
- b. Intrigue or maneuvering within a political unit or group in order to gain control or power
- c. The often internally conflict interrelationships among people in a society.

2. *Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal*, Andrew Hacker

“Problems associated with race continue to beset this nation, as they have since its earliest origins. Americans of all persuasions look to the political process, if not always for solutions, then for gradual progress and piecemeal remedies. In this view, politics is seen as a means for achieving compromise and coping with social change. So conceived, the process can work to redistribute resources, redress injustices, and improve the atmosphere in which people live and work.p. 199

“Of course, politics is a mélange of activities, taking place in the streets as well as within conference rooms. It ranges from judicial decisions and administrative rulings to legislative trade-offs and moral leadership. And where race is concerned, the process can lead to a confrontation between minority and majority.” p. 200

- 3. The co-op principles prohibit discrimination and democratic participation. One example of “politics” being inherent in co-ops

- D. The context and the politics of inclusion/exclusion: how groups obtain power and control of their lives in a white supremacist, misogynist, heterosexist culture/society.
 - i. It is important to understand the culture/society that we live within and how this economy and government impacts all people

Ajowa – Why I think everything is political: race/racism, sexism etc., and any type of organizing or personal actions including how we spend our money are political acts and the need for us to a) be conscious and deliberate in our thinking and actions and b) take personal and political stands such as committing to inclusiveness

II.. Ethan – the Solidarity Economy and The Politics of Inclusiveness. Why and How the Solidarity Economy developed? Who is included; who is not? Examples. What Needs to be Done

III. Jim – some practical experiences on politics in co-ops; some traps to avoid and whatever else you want to bring to the discussion

IV. Group discussion (40 minutes)

II. Wrap up (15): What do we do for ourselves and in our own organizations? What concrete steps can be taken to create a more inclusive movement? To create a safe and welcoming atmosphere in our co-ops and the U.S. Federation? How do we build bridges with other communities? How to we educate ourselves?