



Report-back on Labor for Our Revolution meeting at the People's Summit in Chicago

Over 300 union members and allies gathered on June 9 at the People's Summit in Chicago to learn about Labor for Our Revolution – a new labor network building on the extensive labor support that the Sander's campaign inspired.

Before the start of our meeting, everyone gave a rousing cheer for Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party for its strong showing in the elections in England.¹

Our Revolution

Our Revolution Board Chair and CWA past-president **Larry Cohen** made a presentation on [Our Revolution](#), what it is doing and where it is heading. Currently there are more than 300 local Our Revolution formations and four State Committees ([TX](#), [MA](#), [WI](#), and [MD](#)). Cohen emphasized the importance of unions plugging into local groups or forming ones of their own. He cited the importance of bringing a working class perspective to building racial unity. Cohen said, "Our Revolution's priority is to campaign on issues first, candidates second. Going forward, all national endorsements start with support from local groups. Win or lose, elections should be viewed as local group activity that makes the group stronger."



Our Revolution's Larry Cohen emphasized the importance of starting or joining local groups with an energetic crowd of union members at the People's Summit.

Kyle Machado, organizing director for Our Revolution, reviewed the dynamic and evolving website tools available for groups to use that make it very easy for local organizations to start their own OR groups or plug in to existing OR organizations.

Labor for Our Revolution

United Electrical Workers ([UE](#)) General President **Peter Knowlton** made a presentation about Labor for Our Revolution's mission and UE union members' growing support for it.²

American Postal Workers ([APWU](#)) Labor for Our Revolution representative **Melissa Dimondstein** described her union's support for Labor for Our Revolution and shared excerpts from an APWU statement:

"Unions getting involved in Labor for Our Revolution give us the ability to influence Our Revolution so that it has significant focus on the working class...It also gives us the opportunity to organize our own members around broad, working class issues.

"Labor for Our Revolution is an opportunity to help build a movement that crosses all the political persuasions of our members. The issues of the Sanders campaign were put

¹ For an inspiring example of progressive campaign messaging from the Labour Party, watch: "[#WeDemand](#),"

² Read Labor for Our Revolution's mission statement: <https://tinyurl.com/LFORmission>

before the people as a referendum -- and the people spoke. So let's go out and build motion and power around these very demands."³

Building a progressive labor movement



Fernando Losada, CNA/National Nurses United ([NNU](#)) director of collective bargaining described how Labor for Our Revolution could improve the labor rights sections of the Our Revolution [platform](#) and other ways that we could contribute to a more progressive labor movement.

Amalgamated Transit Union's ([ATU](#)) **Clem Balanoff** led a presentation by Chicago labor activists on their work building Our Revolution in the metro Chicago area.

Additional reports:

- NNU staffer **Rebekah Patnode** described organizing with Our Revolution in Texas.
- CNA staffer **Debra Grabelle** talked about the Our Revolution-backed campaign for [Medicare for All in California](#).
- **Tony Flora** and **Joe Lawrence** described [Labor for Our Revolution's](#) work in Indiana.
- [Global Trade Watch's](#) National Field Director **Rose Espinola** talked about the importance of ensuring that the upcoming renegotiation of [NAFTA](#) must benefit working people -- not multinational corporations -- in all three North American countries.
- [Labor Network for Sustainability](#) director **Michael Guerrero** made a strong pitch for Our Revolution supporters to collaborate on issues of climate change.
- A **Communications Workers of America (CWA)** member who was recently on strike at AT&T, thanked everyone for their solidarity and support.
- **Daeha Ko** and **Lew Grupper** both of Our Revolution affiliate, [Grassroots Action NY](#) described their work on Christine Pellegrino's successful campaign for NY Assemblywoman.
- Labor activist **Phillip Kim** sought support for a plan, "[We Need a Union](#)" to take the political revolution into the workplace by tapping into Bernie Sanders' support to jump start more union organizing.

Next steps

National coordinator **Rand Wilson** urged supporters to take the *Sample [Union Resolution in Support of Labor for Our Revolution](#)* back to their respective union organizations for adoption as a way of building the network.⁴

For more information, contact:

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Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LaborforOurRevolution/

Photos from the Labor for Our Revolution meeting are posted on [Flickr](#) and on [Facebook](#).

³ The APWU passed two resolutions at its 2016 convention, "New directions for labor in electoral politics" and "Building a movement for economic and social justice," illustrating how APWU built membership support in support of an independent approach to electoral politics. For copies of the APWU's resolutions or the full statement in support of Labor for Our Revolution, contact laborforourrevolution@gmail.com

⁴ Copies of the "Sample Union Resolution to join Labor for Our Revolution" are available [online here](#).