

Western Wisconsin Organizing Co-op Steering Committee Meeting
April 21, 2016
Eau Claire, WI

1. **Attendance:** Craig Brooks, Myron Buchholz, Kelly Holzer, Rev. David Huber, Judith S. Hull, Terry Meyer, Paul Miller, Joe Plouff, Joan Pougiales, Caryn Treiber, Karli Wallace Thompson, Elaine Wendt, Barbara Wise, Jeff Smith
Absent: Nick Smiar and Steve Hanson
2. **Nominate and elect Chairperson and Vice-chair:** Terry nominated himself, Kelly nominated Joe. Myron moved to end nominations, unanimously approved. Craig moved, Myron seconded, to have the second place vote be Vice-Chair, unanimously approved. After the candidates made speeches, a ballot vote was taken and Joe was elected Chair, and Terry as Vice-Chair.
3. **Decide Organization Name:** Milwaukee's is called Citizen Action Organizing Co-operative - Milwaukee. Terry moved that we call ourselves Citizen Action Organizing Co-operative - Western Wisconsin, Myron seconded, unanimously approved.

[possible names on the table were: Citizen Action Organizing Co-operative - Western Wisconsin; Citizen Action Western Wisconsin Organizing Co-op; Citizen Action Eau Claire; Citizen Action Organizing Co-operative - West-Central Wisconsin]

4. **Pledges:** Jeff gave us a list of the people that have not paid their pledges. We decided to choose people we knew to contact, and then Jeff and Joe will divvy up anyone who is left, and send out an email with a master list of who is calling whom, and also some talking points for helping us in the conversations.
5. **Report from Organizer:**
 - a. Jeff and Kevin Kane met with some people in Wausau about starting a co-op.
 - b. Jeff said that two main issues that keep showing up are environmental and communications. The Sierra Club has asked CAOC-WW to take up their sustainability group, and the Democratic Party has offered for us to take their communications group.
 - c. Geographic region meetings updates: Jeff is scheduling gatherings in areas around Western Wisconsin .He would like to have steering committee members who are in those areas to also come to them.
 - d. Leadership training: a training seminary is coming up in May 12-14 in Milwaukee. This coming Monday, April 25, is the deadline for signing up for it. Joan, Paul, Jeff, and possibly Judy and Barb are going.
 - e. Living Wage ordinance: we had a press conference on Tuesday (the day that the ordinance was introduced to the County Board) with a great turnout and good speakers. Jeff spoke Tuesday night at the County Board meeting. It will go through the Human Resources, Finance, and Human Services committees. The

outlook is very positive for it passing, and of us then presenting it to other counties.

6. **By-Laws discussion:** Send to Joe and Jeff your ideas about changing/writing the by-laws. Every Steering Committee member needs to read the Milwaukee by-laws.
7. **Other business:**
 - a. **Press release:** Myron suggested that we might put out a press release that the steering committee has met and what our main issues are, including that we have supported a living wage for the county of Eau Claire.
 - b. **Defining our mission:** Judy raised the issue that we should spend some time to think more deeply about who we are, and what our story is and what we want to do - something clear and simple. She suggested that those who are going to the training ought to focus on this while they are there.
 - c. **Getting to know each other:** Joe will contact all of us to spend time together individually to get to know one another.
 - d. **Holding politicians accountable:** Paul thought it would be helpful to also be active in holding candidates to their promises. Perhaps putting together a list of the values we hold to, and asking candidates if they hold to them as well.
8. **Future meetings:** Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 25 at 6 pm at Plymouth UCC, Eau Claire.
9. Adjourned at 8 pm.