

Virginia Organizing 2015 Mid-Year Report



A Note From Chairperson Sandra A. Cook:

Thank you for all your support so far this year! Virginia Organizing leaders have been spending our 20th anniversary year building more power, ensuring that directly affected people were active to create change in our communities, our state, and our nation. I am especially proud of our work on restoration of civil rights, raising our visibility through 20th anniversary proclamations across Virginia, and our local and statewide campaigns to ban the criminal history box on job applications. We have accomplished a lot this year and there is much to

be proud of! I hope you will join me at our Grassroots Gathering this year to celebrate what we have done in 20 years and participate in more power-building organizing. The Gathering will be held October 9-11, with lots of opportunities to learn and participate. To register or learn more, visit the Grassroots Gathering event page at <http://www.gg2015.eventbrite.com>. I look forward to a great rest of 2015 with you and hope to see you in October.

Sandra A. Cook



Virginia Organizing
703 Concord Avenue, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
434-984-4655
www.virginia-organizing.org



"It's about power: real people creating real change in their communities is powerful and important...and Virginia Organizing is doing that."

– Jay Johnson, State Governing Board Treasurer

BUILDING POWER

Virginia Organizing is building power as we celebrate 20 years of grassroots organizing.

☑ Leaders have been active this year in local and state-wide campaigns to ban the criminal history box on job applications and have participated in Dismantling Racism workshops and #BlackLivesMatter rallies.

☑ The Fredericksburg Chapter celebrated the installation of a more diverse history mural in the Spotsylvania County Board Room and the Harrisonburg Chapter convinced City Council to focus on diversity in hiring practices for local government jobs.

☑ In South Hampton Roads, the Chapter finished up two years of "Light the Way to Immigration Reform" vigils, which resulted in U.S. Rep. Scott Rigell urging the House of Representatives to take up immigration reform.

☑ Chapters across the state celebrated the 5th anniversary of the Affordable Care Act in March and celebrated again when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of subsidies in June.

☑ Several Chapters began new local campaigns, including addressing access to healthy food and stopping the school-to-prison pipeline.

☑ Chapters are working on climate change, Medicaid expansion, and removal of the Confederate flag from government property.

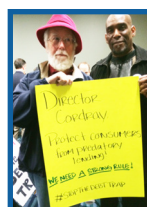
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Virginia Organizing leaders learned new skills like how to meet with others in their communities one-to-one, how to do a community power analysis, and how to develop a campaign strategy. A total of 2,381 people attended 197 leadership development workshops. Because 2015 is Virginia Organizing's 20th anniversary, leaders also learned what it took to petition local governments for proclamations to mark it.

These are just a few of the many skills that Virginia Organizing leaders are learning in the process of building more power.



Charlottesville community leader Tamara Wright spoke for the first time in a public forum about her children, one with autism and the other with auditory processing difficulties, and how proposed federal budget cuts would keep them from getting the services they need to become contributing members of the economy.



VIRGINIA ORGANIZING 2015 MID-YEAR NUMBERS UPDATE

818
ONE-TO-ONE
MEETINGS

374
LEADERS
LEARNED
NEW SKILLS

2381
PEOPLE
ATTENDED
A FORUM OR
WORKSHOP



15
LOCALITIES AND THE
STATE OF VIRGINIA HAVE NOW
BANNED THE CRIMINAL HISTORY
BOX ON PUBLIC JOB APPLICATIONS

159
PEOPLE
ATTENDED
SEVEN
DISMANTLING
RACISM
WORKSHOPS

47
CONSULTATIONS
WITH OTHER
GROUPS THAT
BUILDS POWER

93
MENTIONED
IN THE NEWS
TIMES

15
LOCAL
PROCLAMATIONS
RECEIVED
HONORING VIRGINIA
ORGANIZING'S 20TH
ANNIVERSARY

459
PEOPLE PARTICIPATED
IN 24 DIRECT ACTIONS, VIGILS,
GATHERINGS, AND PROTESTS



44
LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR
PUBLISHED

INCREASED BY:

126 LIKES

135 FOLLOWERS

HUNDREDS OF PHOTOS