



The Washington County Chapter held a Know Your Property Rights forum on gas drilling.



Virginia Organizing members made the trip to Philadelphia for an appearance by Rep. Cantor.

The Staunton Chapter protested corporate greed and encouraged divesting from the big banks.



News From the Grassroots

Occupy the Polls on November 8!

Don't forget every year is an election year in Virginia. Wall Street and the big banks have their allies in Washington but they also spend a lot of time lobbying members of the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond. Be sure that the state Senators and Delegates representing you in Richmond are looking out for Main Street and not Wall Street. What happens in Richmond matters! Be sure to vote on November 8 and remind your family and friends to cast their ballots.

Take It Back from the Big Banks: Divest!

Wall Street and the big banks crashed our economy, destroyed jobs, caused

millions to lose their homes, bankrupted city and state budgets and refused to pay their fair share of what it will take to rebuild our economy. So, why should we continue to give them our money? We can vote with our feet on this one. It's time to ante up.

Virginia Organizing kicked off a statewide "Take it Back" big bank divestment campaign on October 14 in Charlottesville and we're encouraging everyone to close their big bank accounts and move their money to smaller banks and credit unions. The Virginia Organizing Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro Chapter has already held two divestment actions and actions are scheduled for Virginia Beach (Nov. 18) and Norfolk (Nov. 4).

In the coming months, Virginia Organizing will join the New Bottom Line, a coalition of organizations nationwide, to [take our money out](#) of the big banks—Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and Wells Fargo. [Join us](#) in telling the big banks: No more profiting off of millions of illegal foreclosures. No more billions of dollars in taxpayer funded bailouts. No more hoarding over a trillion dollars while our communities crumble and good jobs disappear. No more stealing our democracy with corporate money in politics. No more funding predatory lenders.

See our website www.virginia-organizing.org for more details on how to divest your money, or call 434-984-4655.



Virginia Organizing participates in the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign for public employees. Virginia Organizing's number is 3168. Thank you for supporting Virginia Organizing.

Real people. Real change.

Cantor: Scared Speechless

You probably already heard about Representative Eric Cantor canceling his speech in Philadelphia. Rep. Cantor rarely holds public meetings in his district, so on October 21 Virginia Organizing members drove 300 miles to Philadelphia to attend a protest outside where Rep. Cantor was speaking at the University of Pennsylvania (UPENN).

After getting word that he would be greeted with 500 protesters, Rep. Cantor abruptly canceled the speech at the last minute. Rep. Cantor refused to speak at the event because the audience was not hand-picked and he would have to deal with people he previously deemed "a mob." He skirted his obligation to deal with all Americans, not just the ones who agree with him. And then he lied about his reasons for canceling the event.

Rep. Cantor claimed that UPENN changed the attendance policy of the event and opened it to the public at the last minute. This is simply not true. UPENN spokesperson Ron Ozio said in a statement that Wharton's speaker series is "typically open to the general public, and that is how the event with Majority Leader Cantor was billed. We very much regret if there was any misunderstanding with the Majority Leader's office on the staging of his presentation."

Regardless of Rep. Cantor's reasoning for canceling his speech, it's clear he is avoiding the other 99 percent.

VA Health Care Exchange Update

As part of the Affordable Care Act, states have the option to set up a Health Benefits Exchange (HBE) in order to provide more affordable care for their citizens, or they can rely on the federal government to set one up for them. Virginia has decided to set up its own HBE and must have the legislation approved during the next legislative session.

The Commerce and Labor committees of both houses will meet November 15 for a joint briefing on the HBE. Virginia Organizing members will be meeting with members of the General Assembly to urge that our HBE reflects consumer interests. We believe:

- *No one with a financial interest in the insurance industry should be a voting member of the Exchange Board.
- * The Exchange Board should be structured as a quasi-governmental agency with members appointed by the Governor.
- *Active Purchasing is vital so that the Exchange will be able to negotiate the lowest rates and best plans within the market.
- *The rules and offerings should be the same inside and outside of the Exchange to prevent adverse selection.

Leader of the Month:

Dee Jacobson



When Dee Jacobson of Orange County heard that her often-illusive congressman Eric Cantor would be speaking on

income inequality at UPENN, she immediately signed up to carpool to Philadelphia. Dee dropped everything to join those protesting Rep. Cantor's appearance and even addressed the crowd of 500.

"I came up here today from Locust Grove, Virginia to stand in solidarity with you. Instead of facing his constituents to explain why he is not fighting for jobs, Rep. Cantor is here in Philadelphia speaking on the virtues of trickle-down economics, only to cancel at the last minute. In Virginia, we are tired of waiting for things to trickle down and we are tired of waiting for Rep. Cantor to show his face in his district."

Dee Jacobson supports the American Jobs Act, which will create 2.6 million jobs nationwide. Job creation is a particularly important priority for Dee because she works with a non-profit organization, Harmony for Recovery, that promotes wellness for people with mental and emotional challenges. She finds that the population she serves has been hard hit by the jobs crisis and she wants to see Washington do something to promote job creation.

VIRGINIA ORGANIZING

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Local Chapters (call or visit the website for more information)
Charlottesville
Danville
Martinsville
Fredericksburg
Northern Virginia
Newport News/Hampton Roads
South Hampton Roads
Williamsburg
Shenandoah Valley
Washington County & Lee County
Tri-Cities/Petersburg
Richmond
On Campus: W&M, UMW, VSU,
CNU, UVA, E&H, U of R

News in Brief

- The Virginia Main Street Alliance will be presenting a one hour seminar on health care reform for small businesses in Norfolk on November 10 at 8:00 a.m.
- Virginia Organizing will hold its annual Social Justice Bowl fundraiser on Friday, November 18, at 6:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Rugby Road. Call Sally @ 434-984-4655 x229 for tickets.
- On November 17, the Richmond Chapter will be holding a local event on a bridge to call attention to the need for infrastructure investment as part of the American Jobs Act.
- The Washington County Chapter held a Know Your Property Rights hydrofracking forum and brought attention to the gas industry's attempts to change a local zoning ordinance.
- The South Hampton Roads Chapter held a Real Dialogue on Health Care forum with former insurance executive Wendell Potter.