

From Chairperson Del McWhorter:

Virginia Organizing could not do our work without your support, and thanks to you our numbers keep growing! We now have more monthly sustainers and that steady generosity helps us make real change in our state.

So far this year, you helped our leaders in Portsmouth, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, and the New River Valley stand up with students against the school-to-prison pipeline. Thanks to you, all of our chapters held rallies and media events to save the Affordable Care Act, and members from all over the Commonwealth called their representatives in Congress to demand that they protect our health care. Together we fought the return of abrupt and questionable deportations and held educational sessions so that immigrants and their allies would know their rights.

Virginia Organizing coordinated constituent meetings with a host of Commonwealth's Attorneys and police chiefs about immigration and asked them to address citizen complaints about police mistreatment. We helped create new procedures for accessibility in area hospitals for the deaf community and are producing informational videos so that affected members of the community know what is available. We also registered voters, helped returning citizens get their voting rights back, and trained new members about how to stand up for themselves and their values in our democracy. We fought hard on environmental justice, pollution, and climate change issues — clean energy and clean jobs!

We keep moving forward, and your help makes it happen. I hope you will join us at the Grassroots Gathering this year, September 29-October 1 at beautiful Smith Mountain Lake, so that we can make new connections and continue to grow our organizing. (Register at [virginia-organizing.org/grassroots2017](http://virginia-organizing.org/grassroots2017).)

Thank you for your support,

Del McWhorter  
Chairperson

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 **VIRGINIA ORGANIZING**  
**2017 Mid-Year Report**



Al Willis and Malaika Mitchell canvass on the Eastern Shore to talk with parents about their childrens' experiences with school discipline.



Pastor Reason Chandler, leading a group of parents and supporters, asks the Lynchburg School Board to meet with community groups and parents.



Leader and parent Tyran Green speaks to community members and Superintendent Bracey of the Portsmouth Schools about the school-to-prison pipeline.



Barbara J. Harris in the South Hampton Roads Chapter holds the letter from the governor which restores her voting rights.



The Harrisonburg Chapter held two media conferences and rallies to protest the deportation order on Cesar Lara Rios "over a piece of firewood." Lara Rios was granted an emergency stay so that his petition for asylum could be evaluated. Chapters continue to fight questionable deportations and to hold workshops so that immigrants know their rights.



The Charlottesville Chapter held a Community Forum so that residents could hear the views of the two candidates for Commonwealth's Attorney.



Virginia Organizing members attended a bill signing in Richmond, supporting Gov. McAuliffe's "Classrooms not Courtrooms" initiative. The Virginia Department of Education issued a model memorandum of understanding and a program guide for school resource officers.



**46** leaders met with school boards and administrators about the school-to-prison pipeline

**502** more followers than last year on Twitter and Facebook

**504** new skills learned by leaders

**367** new members were recruited

**86** members made their views known in letters to the editor

**129** people attended Organizing 101 and Democracy 101 workshops

**1023** people attended 20 rallies on health care and immigrant rights

**187** leaders held seven meetings with law enforcement officials about discrimination and civil rights

