Progressive Vision for Long Island: Organizing for Success

Sponsored by Center for Study of Working Class Life & Long Island Progressive Network

Stony Brook University Student Activities Center, November 7th, 2015

The goal of the conference is three-fold:
1) To provide a comprehensive understanding of the current operation of American economic and political institutions. Such an understanding requires an appreciation of the policies, programs and resources of the major players that primarily determine US policies, and the challenges that these present for local efforts to promote decent and progressive programs on Long Island, as well as across the state and the nation.
2) In light of this analysis, to assist our member organizations in shaping more effective practical progressive strategies to promote the concerns and interests of their members, and to improve our collective ability to engage in coordinated and effective joint actions. And,
3) To develop improved means of local coordination, and deeper mutual appreciation of the problems and programs of each member organization, while building a stronger network of personal relations and trust among organizational activists.

8:00am-8:45am Registration

8:45 am – 10:30 am Opening Plenary
Bob Master, Legislative and Political Director, Communication Workers of America District 1
Followed by Local Stories (ex. H.S. Student Dream Act, Whole Food Worker) and then a multi-issue panel to highlight the different campaign areas and then a Q&A.

10:45 am -12:00 pm Issue Lens Workshops
Each Workshop will have the same agenda and goal but will look at how our campaign intersect from the specific issue area listed. For example, the Immigration workshop will examine health services issues, worker justice issues, housing issues, etc. through an immigration lens.

1) Immigration Reform:
   This workshop may include and is not limited to the following:
   a. Access to healthcare
   b. Access to fair affordable housing
   c. Access to high opportunity schools/education
   d. Income Inequity/wage theft/opportunities to unionize
   e. Advocacy for legal reform: comprehensive federal reform; the NYS DREAM Act
   f. Negative impacts on families of broken immigration laws

2) Income Inequity
   This workshop may include and is not limited to the following:
   a. Worker Justice: low-wage workers; collective bargaining rights; union organizing opportunities; benefits such as pensions and health care
   b. Impacts on families of low-wage jobs, lack of benefits; shifting work schedules
   c. Supports for working parents: child care; paid leave; health insurance
   d. Gender pay gap
e. Income inequity resulting in adverse health outcomes / poor access to healthcare
f. Access to education: racial and class differences
g. Taxing inequities: income taxes; property taxes; corporate taxes; estate taxes
h. Strategies for Building Community Wealth
3) Sustainable Development
   This workshop may include and is not limited to the following:
   a. The built environment/ environmental concerns
   b. Strategies for building community wealth
   c. Affordable housing
d. Economic develop opportunities for poor communities & communities of color
e. Social determinants of health (i.e. green infrastructure, safe housing accommodations, the built environment)
4) Gender Equity and Gender Identity
   This workshop may include and is not limited to the following:
   a. Gender pay gap
   b. Reproductive justice
   c. LGBT legal rights
d. Health care equity
5) Education
   This workshop may include and is not limited to the following:
   a. Ed. segregation as a result of housing segregation/affordable housing availability
   b. Education inequity as a result of implicit bias (i.e. unconscious attitudes & stereotypes among teachers cause adverse effects on students of color)
c. Educational funding, teacher evaluations and student outcomes
d. Poverty as a determinant of educational outcomes: health care; secure housing; nutrition; parenting skills; pre-school opportunities; etc.

12:10 pm-1:40 pm   Lunch + Action Planning
Lunch will incorporate a presentation on the strategy chart and table discussions centered on action building. Each table will have a facilitator. Focus questions: What problems do see on LI or what issues do you care about? What connections are there between all the issues? What obstacles have affected your group and their ability to get victories on LI? How do we collaborate as a progressive community to organize for success?

1:50 pm-3:30 pm   Skill building workshop
3-4 different workshops to choose from. Skill building workshops will reflect what is needed by our organizations and our members.
   1) Organizing 101
      Rosemary Rivera, Organizing Director, Citizen Action of New York
   2) Media Strategy: Getting Your Message Out
   3) Coalition Building
      Jessica Wisneski, Legislative and Campaigns Director, Citizen Action of New York
   4) Engaging Youth in Organizing