

We Need Unions that Fight!

The Republican attempts to weaken and restrict Unions in Michigan are an attack on the entire working-class and must be resisted. The best way to fight is through mass direct action with rank & file workers (unionized and not) in the driver's seat. This is how the Unions were built and many victories won.

We need:

- Unions that are democratic with horizontal structures controlled by the rank & file workers
- Independence from the political parties, the bosses, and the police
- Solidarity with the entire working-class, including those most marginalized and excluded:
single moms; immigrants; prisoners; minimum wage workers; our people in the ghettos, barrios, trailer parks and reservations
- Methods of struggle that make us stronger and can get the goods: direct action, occupations, mass picketing, and the General Strike
- An understanding that we are not up against just a few bad bosses or politicians, but an entire system – capitalism – built on the exploitation of working-class people and the Earth



WI General Strike poster (IWW)



Occupy Movement Shuts down Oakland CA Port



Anarchist unions in Spanish strike

While the GOP is brazenly open in their hostility and hatred for working people, they are not alone in seeking to control the Labor Movement. The Democratic Party also seeks to render the Unions harmless by co-opting them as an arm of their electoral machine, or giving the Unions a “seat at the table” only to take more cuts and concessions.

This 1-2 punch has left the Unions weak and on the defensive. It has promoted a ruling bureaucracy within the Unions that sees its interests as bound up closer with the bosses and politicians than with us rank & file workers. For the most part we workers and union members have been too complacent in allowing the Labor leaders to pursue this failed course. Where we have stood up, the undemocratic structures within the unions have stifled resistance.

But things are beginning to change. The 2011 mass movement in Wisconsin included mass sick-outs by the teachers, an occupation of the Capitol, and popular sentiment for a General Strike. The Occupy movement a year later popularized the anger we all feel toward the capitalist elite, brought hundreds of thousands out into the streets, and with port workers shut down the West Coast ports.

Let's start building where we are - in our workplaces, communities and Unions - and make connections with those who feel the same need for a new kind of labor movement – or you could say, an old kind of labor movement – a revolutionary movement.

We need a revolutionary labor movement!

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