

From Chairperson Del McWhorter:

We have a special victory to celebrate in 2018: **the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia!** It was a long time coming, and I want to thank every one of you who wrote, called, donated, and showed up to rallies and other events throughout this campaign. We did it at last!

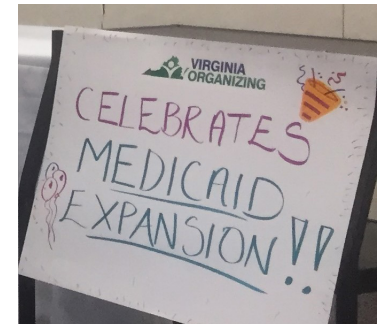
We have other campaigns and victories to lift up.

- The New River Valley Chapter got the Montgomery County School Board to adopt a statement on diversity and inclusion in the school system.
- The Washington County Chapter is working with the school board to implement several proposals around school inclusion.
- The Lee County Chapter has continued working to make sure the hospital reopens. They have also worked on education issues this year.
- Leaders in the Eastern Shore and Lynchburg Chapters have spoken at school board meetings and met with members of their school boards.
- The Fredericksburg Chapter has made numerous presentations to area boards for their affordable housing campaign.
- The Portsmouth Chapter canvassed the city and is starting a campaign about police/community relations. They also organized a rally on predatory lending.
- Charlottesville and many other chapters have continued to register voters and help returning citizens get their voting rights restored. They are also working to dismantle racism and protect access to health care.
- Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Fredericksburg, and Martinsville Chapters have helped organize coalitions that protested family separations, cooperation between ICE and local police, and the failure of Congress to pass a clean Dream Act.
- The Danville Chapter continued monitoring its 2015 policing campaign victory by meeting with the newly appointed Chief of Police. The chapter is happy to report more steps in the right direction.

I participate in the work of Virginia Organizing because I feel inspired by the courage and persistence of our membership and their strategic thinking about how to win justice for all. We're connected to each other. When people start to have access to health care, or a school system begins to recognize the value of diversity and inclusion, that benefits everyone. Thank you for all you do for grassroots change in Virginia. These victories belong to all of us.

Del McWhorter

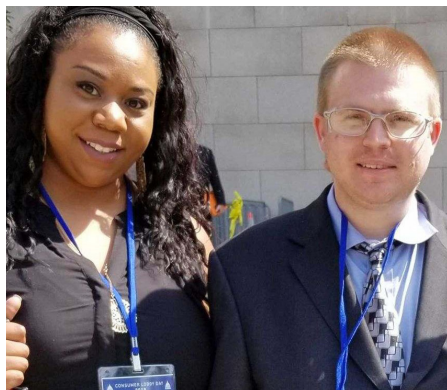
Virginia Organizing
703 Concord Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-984-4655
www.virginia-organizing.org



VIRGINIA ORGANIZING
2018 Mid-Year Report



We continue to organize Dismantling Racism Workshops all over the state. The Wytheville Concerned Citizens Network participated in this one in May. Each of our chapters will hold a one day workshop this year before the three day advanced workshop in November.



Board Member Ebony Guy of Danville and Leader Dustin Robins of the New River Valley Chapter went to D.C. for Consumer Lobby Day to fight predatory lending.



Chapters continue to work on immigrant rights. Leaders Gerie Fatundimu and Makunda Abdul-Mbacke of the Martinsville/Henry County Chapter spoke at this "Keep Families Together" rally sponsored by the Southern Virginia Latino Association.



Leader Eunice Haigler spoke to the Stafford County Board of Supervisors about the affordable housing crisis in her area. Stafford agreed to the chapter's proposals. The Fredericksburg Chapter will continue to pressure all of the area's boards, councils, and planning commissions.



In April the Portsmouth Chapter hosted a regional skill-building workshop with members from the Eastern Shore, Fredericksburg, and Norfolk Chapters. The New River Valley Chapter hosted another with Lynchburg, Washington County, and Lee County in June.

Virginia Organizing added two new apprentice organizers to our amazing group. Tony Jones has been a leader in the Portsmouth Chapter since it was founded. He has begun to develop a chapter in Suffolk. Ciera Killen, also a native of Virginia, has experience in public health advocacy and will be organizing in Hampton and Newport News. We keep growing all the time!



22 meetings between leaders and local decision-makers or state legislators.

221 new members were recruited.

34 meetings to engage with other progressive groups.

123 mentions in the news.

503 one-to-one meetings.

372 leaders learned new skills.

108 members made their views known in letters to the editor.

people attended forums and rallies on health care and immigrant rights.

810

