

Creative Action

Annual Report 2020



**VIRGINIA
ORGANIZING**





Members from the New River Valley, Richmond, and Newport News gather to watch the General Assembly in January during a lobby visit (left). Members from Fredericksburg were present to celebrate the passage of the new driver privilege card for immigrants in February (right). In Abingdon, the Washington County Chapter participated in the march for racial justice on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (below).

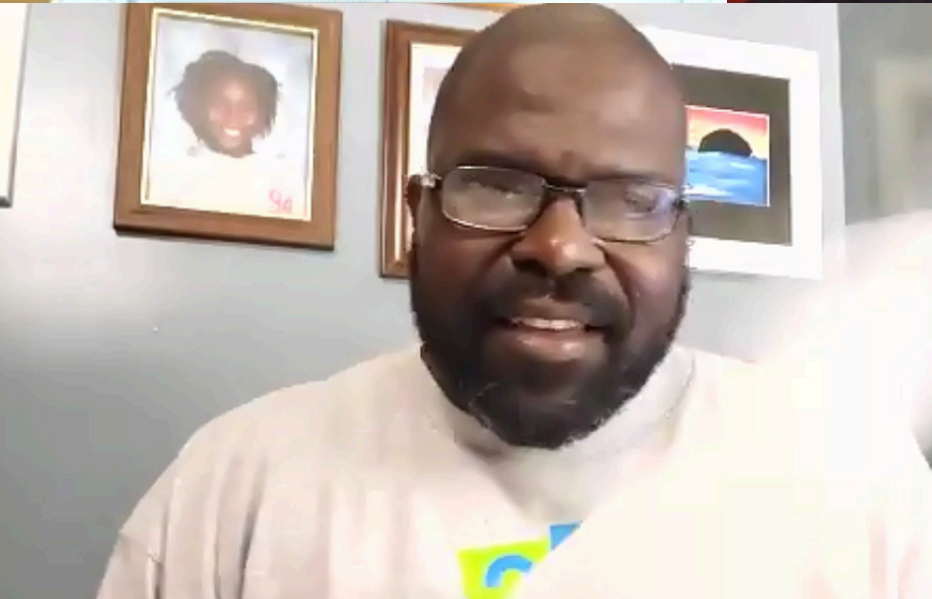
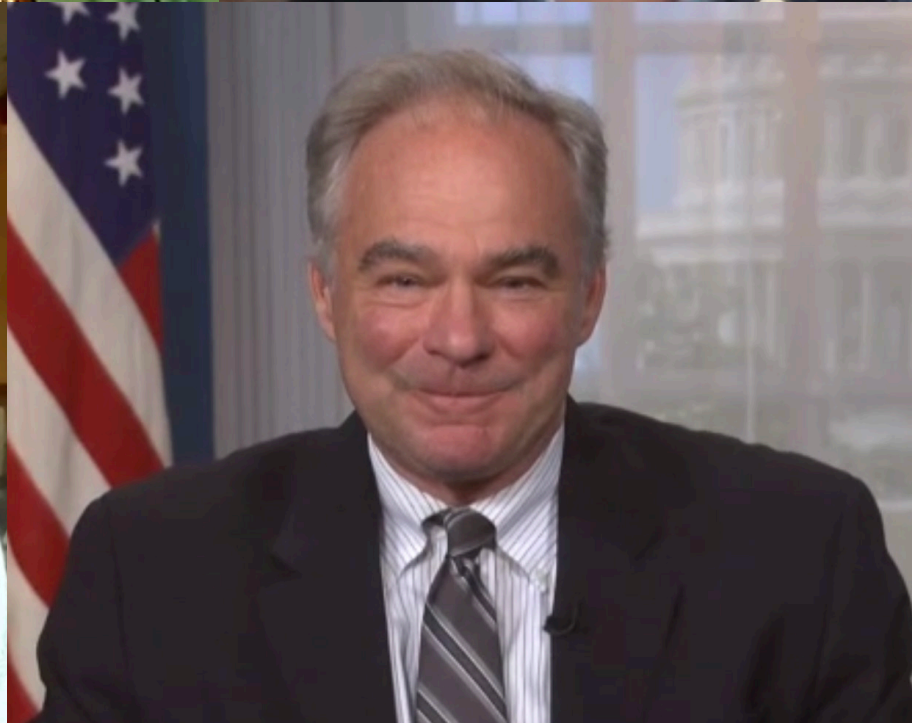


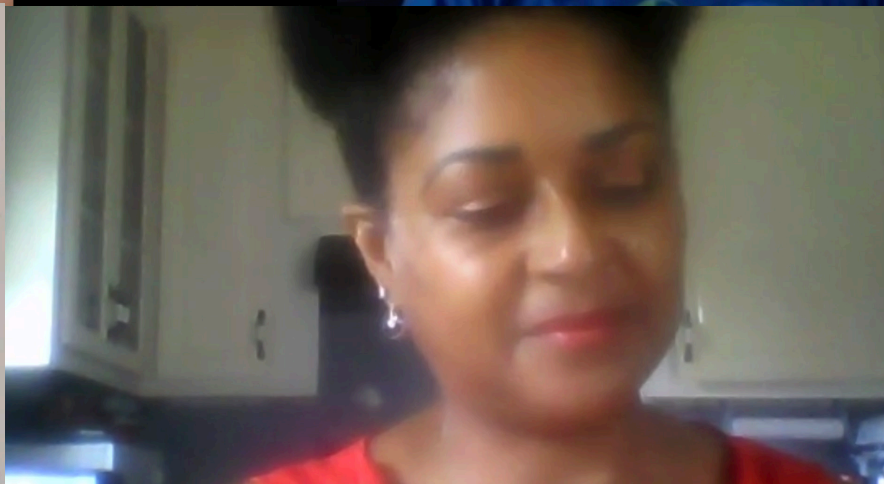
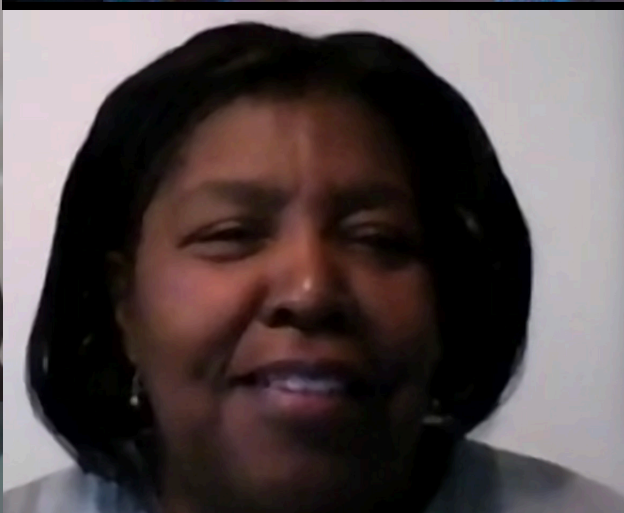
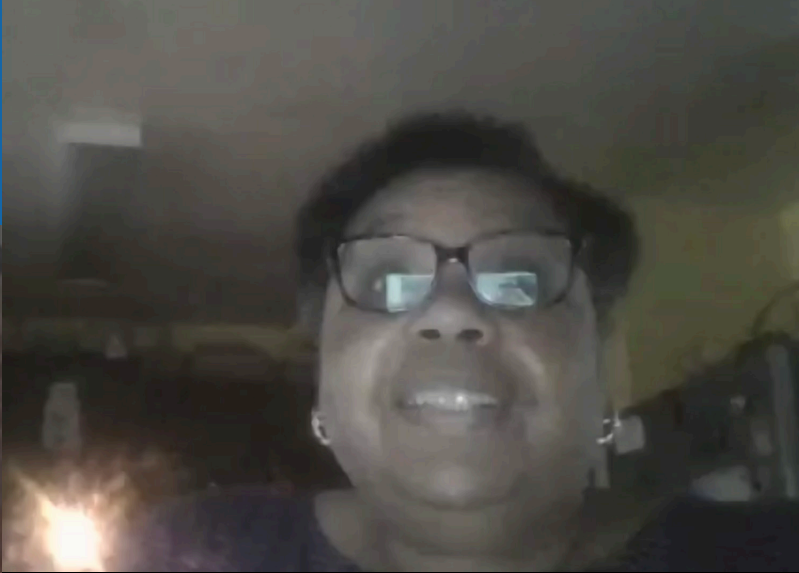


When the Supreme Court upheld DACA, the Harrisonburg Chapter held a masked and socially distanced celebration (above). In December, members from many chapters met with Senator Mamie Locke to discuss the Right to Vote Amendment she would submit during the 2021 session (below).



Grassroots Gathering 2020





Virginia Organizing's Chapters in Action

- 1. The Lynchburg Chapter won both of their school campaigns. The school board removed the automatic restriction against people with felony records volunteering in the schools. The chapter also convinced the school board to add sexual orientation and gender identity to their non-discrimination policies.**
- 2. The Norfolk Chapter convinced their school board to budget money to fund a staff member who will oversee implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports in order to reduce the high rate of suspensions of students of color and students with disabilities.**
- 3. Montgomery County Public Schools adopted a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with their School Resource Officers after more than a year of work by the New River Valley Chapter. The MOU will help prevent students of color from being targeted by law enforcement.**
- 4. The Harrisonburg and Eastern Shore Chapters held car rallies to support poultry workers who were getting sick with COVID. Directly affected chapter members told their stories to the media and helped inform Virginians about the neglect of these workers by the meat-packing industry.**
- 5. The developing Suffolk Chapter began working for criminal justice and police reform. They surveyed the community and published a series of letters to the editor about the issue.**
- 6. The Newport News Chapter succeeded in winning better public transit for their region. Hampton Roads Transit will provide more frequent service and upgrade their fleet.**
- 7. Waynesboro community members came together to create connection and commit to equity by holding the Waynesboro Chapter's first interest meeting in August (and four more after that!). They are now weeks away from starting their first campaign.**
- 8. The Washington County Chapter organized for racial justice with the Future Black Leaders Coalition. Together they held a townhall meeting with Senator Tim Kaine and a large group of Southwest leaders to discuss the challenges of voting and racial justice during the pandemic.**
- 9. Portsmouth held virtual candidate forums for their City Council and School Board before the election in November.**
- 10. The developing Richmond Area Chapter engaged more than 100 community members in online forums and listening sessions about education justice and community healing at Richmond Public Schools.**
- 11. The Danville and Martinsville/Henry County chapters held two Dismantling Racism Workshops with the local NAACP. Chapter members are now researching racist policies in local banks.**
- 12. The Fredericksburg Chapter lobbied for an eviction moratorium at the state and local level.**

131

mentions in the news, letters to the editor, and op-eds

1383 new skills learned by leaders

1243

one-to-one meetings

431 new members recruited

6557

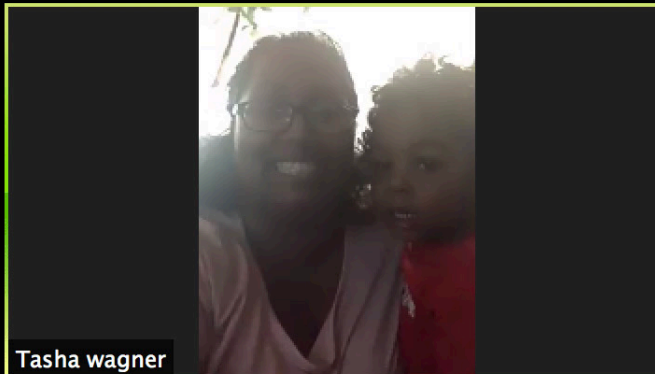
people attended forums, workshops, and rallies

106 meetings with legislators and other decision-makers

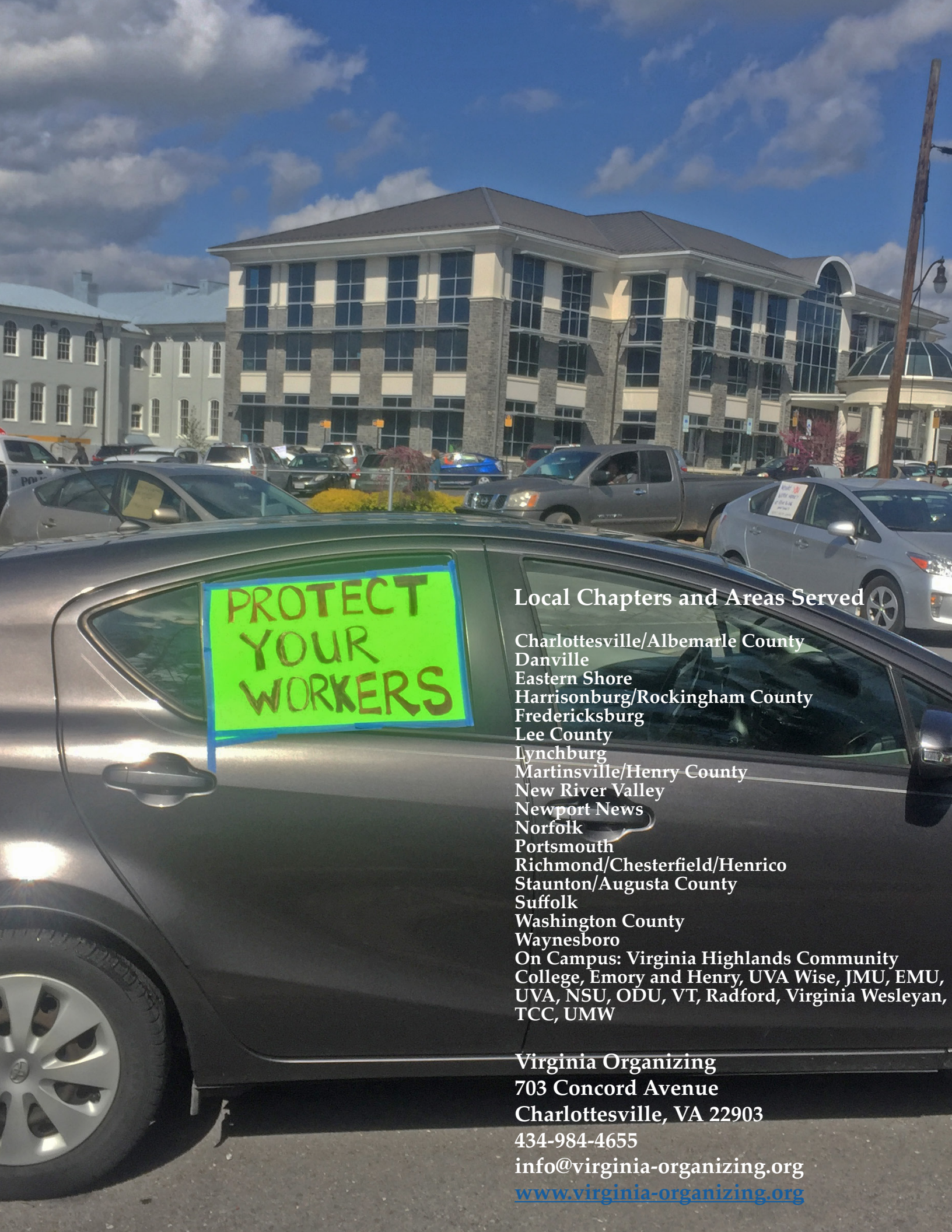
19 direct actions (before the pandemic)

65 forums and online learning workshops and gatherings

The Portsmouth Chapter met with Senator Louise Lucas in December (below).



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**PROTECT
YOUR
WORKERS**

Local Chapters and Areas Served

Charlottesville/Albemarle County
Danville
Eastern Shore
Harrisonburg/Rockingham County
Fredericksburg
Lee County
Lynchburg
Martinsville/Henry County
New River Valley
Newport News
Norfolk
Portsmouth
Richmond/Chesterfield/Henrico
Staunton/Augusta County
Suffolk
Washington County
Waynesboro
On Campus: Virginia Highlands Community
College, Emory and Henry, UVA Wise, JMU, EMU,
UVA, NSU, ODU, VT, Radford, Virginia Wesleyan,
TCC, UMW

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