

GETTING READY FOR DETROIT

How Your Organization Can Prepare for the 2014 GGJ Membership Assembly

In April, dozens of the most kick-ass organizers from across the country— and around the globe— will be gathering in Detroit for GGJ's 2014 Membership Assembly. Because it is such a commitment for all of us to dedicate the resources to travel and take time away from our pressing campaigns, we want to make sure to make the best use of our time together.

One important part of this preparation will be the work our organizations do before our representatives even get to the Assembly. This guide is intended to offer suggestions to make sure that we are on the same page when the Assembly opens.

This is especially important this year since we will be tackling five critical objectives at the Assembly where we plan to:

1. Highlight the conditions and work happening in Detroit as example of the crisis as well as the opportunities to fight for a just transition;
2. Deepen our understanding of the No War, No Warming, Build an Economy for the People and the Planet framework;
3. Clarify GGJ's positions in and contributions to the Climate Justice Alliance / Our Power campaign;
4. Give life to GGJ's work on grassroots internationalism, gender justice, just transition and system change; and
5. Make organizational commitments about what we will each do in the next year to advance GGJ's work.

Obviously that's a lot— even for four and a half days we'll have together. Still, we are confident because of the caliber of our organizations and because of the work that the staff, the Coordinating Committee and all of us will be doing to prepare.

To be successful, we can't have organizations send representatives who are there just to "check things out." We want all of us to make organizational commitments so that we leave the Assembly with real momentum. Clearly, this means that each of our organizations must discuss the 2014 *Get It Done* plan, raise questions and offer suggestions in the next few weeks. That way, all of the organizational representatives will be empowered to give a sense of what their organizations will be able to take up in the coming year. Much of this builds on models developed by the Zapatistas with the Caracoles and the Cuban Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

To help all of us do this type of prep, we ask all organizations follow these steps:

Read the 2014 Get It Done proposal. This will be emailed by March 3.

Hold organizational discussion(s) about the proposal. This/these discussions should involve as many people in your organization as makes sense.

Offer any feedback to GGJ staff. This could include questions, concerns, suggestions or uncontrollable praise.

Attend the two prep calls. There will be two prep calls leading up to the

Assembly. Each call will happen twice in order to accommodate folks' schedules. Delegates to the Assembly are expected to participate in two prep calls— one of each session. Contact Helena Wong at helena@ggjalliance.org if you are unable to attend one of the sessions.

Session 1

Wednesday, 3/26, 7pm EST/6pm CTL/5pm MTN/4pm PST (1.5 hrs)

or

Thursday, 3/27, 12 EST/11 am CTL/10 am MTN/9 am PST (1.5 hrs)

Session 2

Wednesday, 4/2, 7pm EST/6pm CTL/5pm MTN/4pm PST (1.5 hrs)

or

Thursday, 4/3, 12 EST/11 am CTL/10 am MTN/9 am PST (1.5 hrs)

Read the summary of the decisions that come out of the prep calls.

Hold an organizational discussion. This discussion should build off of the proposal and the summary of any decisions that come out of the prep calls. This discussion should be focused on what work your organization would be most interested in taking up so that your organizational reps are empowered to do more than just take the information back.

Offer any feedback to GGJ staff. Email Helena at helena@ggjalliance.org with your questions/comments/thoughts.

Hold a final organizational discussion if it's necessary.

Get to Detroit ready to spark a movement of movements! Do we have to say any more?

We recognize that all of our organizations have different structures, practices and cultures, so we do not see this guide as a one-size fits all set of instructions. All of us should adjust this plan in the ways that make the most sense for our organizations, but we do hope that all of our organizations do the prep work necessary so that we can hit the road running. We trust that you'll figure out the best ways to do this, but if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Helena Wong at helena@ggjalliance.org or anyone else on GGJ's staff.