

2018 GSOP MANCHESTER CHAPTER REPORT

Kevin Kintner

Our monthly meetings at the Unitarian/Universalist Church help us keep up to date on the campaigns we're working on, offer all a chance to give input on how to further those campaigns through questions and discussion and to build relationship and community for our chapter.

Y.O.U. reports on their activities each month at the Chapter meeting and as always have been very active during the year and you will/have hear/d of their accomplishments. Chapter members pitch in and support the youth whenever and wherever they can, by example, attending school board meetings alongside them.

We continue to work toward a moral economy with additional monthly meetings of the Moral Economy Table, ongoing "Fight for Fifteen" work, and lobbying of State legislators where we can count a success in the defeat of proposed cuts to the Food Stamp SNAP program.

Work around immigration has been highly visible and strategically organized in this year. The UU Church where we meet has gone through a lot of difficult work to become a Sanctuary Church, offering their space to any immigrants facing deportation and in need of a safe place from which to continue their struggles to keep themselves and their families together in this country. Our ongoing vigils at the Norris Cotton Federal building in downtown Manchester continues to receive press, and presses on, finding new ways to agitate the ICE workers within the building and shed light on our nation's policies that destroy families. And most importantly the vigils support our immigrant friends entering the federal building for stressful meetings that may have dire outcomes. Many of our members and member organizations also helped organize and participated in the long walk from that very same building to the prison in Dover where ICE has incarcerated many immigrant friends as a show of support to them and to let their families know they do not stand alone. The vigils are followed each month by a meeting of the Immigrant Solidarity Network. Meetings that continue to grow in numbers and creativity.

The Manchester chapter also was involved in electoral work. As with most electoral cycles, our canvassing was focused on voter outreach and establishing dialogues with new voters. A concentration in ward 5 of Manchester was made around the issues of "care," because health care, child care and elderly care were the issues brought up by these voters in the dialogues. GSOP held a forum with the candidates for State Rep in ward 5 where voters could directly ask about these issues. The candidate that decided not to come to the forum, incumbent Lisa Freeman, lost her seat at the State House. Manchester Chapter also had a separate canvass for the C4 side of our work which will be highlighted in another part of today's meeting.

Our chapter has worked hard and though we've accomplished much we realistically know the struggles will continue into 2019 and we will continue to build relationships and become an even stronger organization so that our 2020 vision of an electoral cycle with a more humane and just outcome may happen.