



Granite State Organizing Project  
A Voice for Justice

# A Voice for Justice

Spring 2019 Newsletter

## Around GSOP

As the legislative session draws to a close ....

**Minimum Wage:** Between the House and Senate, two bills would increase the minimum wage to \$12/hour in NH. HB 186 and SB 10 vary on sick days, wages for tipped workers, and when increases would go into effect. We expect the two chambers to iron out the differences between these and send the resulting bill to Governor Sununu. Contact his office to ask him stand with NH workers by signing a bill to raise the wage floor in NH. (Office of the Governor, State House, 107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301, 271-2121)

**Driver's License:** The House passed HB 397, which would permit NH residents without social security numbers to get drivers' licenses. The bill then went to the Senate Transportation Committee for a hearing at which individuals from the impacted community and clergy shared their stories in support of the bill. The committee voted to re-refer the bill until the next legislative session, giving us time to educate our state senators about the importance of this bill in increasing road safety in NH. [Contact your senator](#) to urge them to support HB 397 when it is brought back in the next cycle.



Fr. Sam Fuller of St. Anne St. Augustin Parish testifying in support of HB 397 before the Senate Transportation Committee (photo V. Katusiime)

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From left, **Judit Ignacz, Sarah Jane Knoy, Aron DiBacco, Sudi Lett, Irina Vasilescu, Viola Katusiime, Iliana Barreto.** Staff & visitors at weekly staff meeting. (Photo R. Wendt)

### Director's Corner

I am grateful for the three-month sabbatical from which I have just returned. It was a time of rejuvenation and inspiration ([details here](#)) which filled me with ideas for how GSOP can make our work for racial and economic justice in New Hampshire stronger and more powerful than ever.

While away, I saw groups like ours using art, music, and cultural activities in their work for justice. I saw regular leadership training for members and professional development for staff. I saw groups developing sophisticated communications strategies and shifting critical narratives in their communities.

All this reminded me that HOW we build power is important, but that we must also be clear about WHY we build power; We must know the "North Star" by which we guide our long-term journey. And so I bring back the question, "What is your North Star?" I look forward to learning what inspires and guides you and where these shared visions can take GSOP in the coming months and years.

Sarah Jane Knoy  
Executive Director

**Granite State  
Organizing Project**

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### ***Around GSOP, Continued from previous page***

**Y.O.U.** — Young Organizers United continues to strengthen students' voices in the decisions that affect them. This recently included getting a non-binding referendum on student representation on the ballot for the November Manchester elections (click [here](#) for news on this exciting work.) In the fall we will host school board candidates forums.

**Immigrant Rights** — GSOP convenes the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network (ISN), bringing together faith communities and others to support our immigrant neighbors. Along with the American Friends Service Committee we participate in prayer vigils 9am on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at I.C.E. headquarters at 275 Chestnut Street in Manchester. The ISN meets at the Blessed Sacrament Parish at 10am on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays. All are welcome.

**Centro Latino de Hospitalidad** is a drop in resource center run by GSOP and the St. Anne—St. Augustin Parish to provide information on immigration, housing, culture and other topics to the Latino community. Drop in at 189 Spruce Street in Manchester any Tuesday or Thursday between 1 and 5.



Centro's neighborhood open house. (Photo I. Barreto)

### ***Getting Involved with GSOP***

**The Manchester Chapter** supports Y.O.U., immigrant rights through vigils, and important legislation. Join us from 6 – 7:30 pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at the UU Church, 669 Union Street.

**The Nashua Chapter** works on affordable housing for Nashua and immigrant rights. We meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays from 6 – 7:30 pm at 4 Lake Street in Nashua, and would love to see you there.

**Individual Membership:** GSOP now accepts individual members!! For \$10 to \$30 a year, you can support GSOP's work reducing hate and increasing justice. For more details click [here](#) or contact Aron at 668-8250 or [adibacco@granitestateorganizing.org](mailto:adibacco@granitestateorganizing.org).

**To be kept up-to-date on actions you can take, email [GSOPStaff@granitestateorganizing.org](mailto:GSOPStaff@granitestateorganizing.org) to sign up for GSOP's Five-Minute Friends alert email list.**

### ***Upcoming at GSOP***

Our annual **MICAH Celebration of Community in Action Heroes will be Saturday, June 8**, from 6:00—8:30 pm at 347 Island Pond Road in Manchester. Please join us in celebrating those who serve the community in the spirit of MICAH.

This Summer the Immigrant Solidarity Network is holding the **2<sup>nd</sup> annual Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice**. This year, we will walk from Concord to the Strafford County detention center in Dover. The four day walk will include educational events highlighting the inhumane nature of our immigration policies and the need for real reform.

**Check our [calendar](#) for information on all our events.**

### ***The People of GSOP***



GSOP periodically hosts two international Fellows from Eastern and Central Europe to share our community organizing tools and philosophy. This year, we were joined for a month by Judit Ignacz of Budapest, Hungary (left), and Irina Vasilescu of Bucharest, Romania (right). Click [here](#) for personal reports of [Irina's](#) and [Judit's](#) time with us. (Photo A. DiBacco)

**Granite State Organizing Project** unites religious, labor, and community groups to shape the decisions that affect our communities and quality of life. Guided by faith and democratic values, we mobilize many voices on issue oriented actions; strengthening our organizations and our leadership while building community. GSOP was incorporated as a non-profit, non-partisan organization in 2002.

We believe in the transformational power of relationships based on mutual trust and accountability.

You can support our work through [donations](#), group, or [individual](#) membership. Click on the previous links or call 603.668.8250 for more details.