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Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union

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## MAYWORKS PROGRAMME BOOK FUNDING PROVIDED BY

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### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **APRIL**

A1 IXII		
28	MOURN THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING	11AM
MAY		
1	RISE UP – FIGHT BACK	6PM
3	EMBARGO	8PM
	BUTTERFLIES OF THE NORTH WOODS	7:30PM
5	EMBARGO	8PM
	THE LEGACY OF THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE	2PM
6	FREE ANGELA DAVIS	6 & 9PM
	EMBARGO	8PM
	RACE, RESISTANCE & REVOLUTION: FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE	8PM
8	MAKING A KILLING: EVENING WITH RICHARD SANDERS	7PM
13	A FESTIVAL OF MANDOLINS	8PM
17	GLOBAL CAPITALISM AND OUR FUTURE	7-9PM
28	THE UKRAINIAN LABOUR TEMPLE	11AM-5PM

#### **SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1**

**REVOLUTIONS** 



# **WELCOME TO MAYWORKS 2017**

Welcome to MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts 2017. This is the 23rd year for MayWorks. The Festival's first year was 1994 – the 75th Anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. It was those anniversary celebrations that prompted a number of trade union activists to launch the MayWorks Festival as a celebration of working class struggles.

MayWorks offers a mix of events and something of interest to everyone. We have some events that are part of the calendar every year such as those that honour the history of the Strike or unique cultural gems such as the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra. This year MayWorks looks at the effects globalization: "the Good, the Bad and the Ugly".

Events in Britain (the vote to leave the European Union) and the United States (the election of Donald Trump as President) have been part of a mass

response to globalization and its effects on working people.

In this year's Festival we examine the struggles of working people to maintain hard fought victories and forestall defeats in the face of corporate and government push for austerity, as well as ownership and control of all the supplies of food, water, energy and production. On this note the Festival will feature some events dealing specifically with the features of globalization.

Whatever your interest we invite you to come and participate in the events that are part of this year's MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts.

#### Glenn Michalchuk

President MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts

# ABOUT MAYWORKS FESTIVAL OF LABOUR AND THE ARTS

The MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts arose from the need to present art which explores the lives of working people, their struggles both past and present and their future aspirations. Since 1994 MayWorks has dedicated itself to presenting, in the month of May, art based on the lives of working people and their struggles. Our MayWorks Festival is not unique by any means. Other MayWorks festivals occur in Canada; labour arts festivals exist in many countries and all serve the important role of preserving and developing working class culture. We are proud to say that our MayWorks Festival is part of this.

Why is this important to unions and working people? Art is an important tool in shaping ideas, organizing

and communicating to world. The life and songs of Woody Guthrie are famous in this regard. Bertolt Brecht the German dramatist summed it up this way: "Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it"

#### **BEING PART OF MAYWORKS**

Would you like to participate in MayWorks? Artists, workers as artists or unions can organize an event in MayWorks for the 2018 Festival. The deadline for submissions is Friday, January 12, 2018. Submissions guidelines and forms can be downloaded from our web site: **mayworks.org**.

We also ask you to consider supporting the Festival by following us on Facebook, volunteering for MayWorks events and contributing financially to help us build the Festival.





## 2017 MAYWORKS

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**APRIL 28 • 11AM** 

#### **MOURN THE DEAD.** FIGHT FOR THE LIVING



**National Day of Mourning** 

#### **Union Centre • Second Floor Auditorium** 275 Broadway Winnipeg

Light refreshments will be served beginning at 10:30 am. Please join the Manitoba Federation of Labour in marking the National Day of Mourning with a special Candle Light Memorial Service to remember and honour workers killed or injured on the job. The service will end at 11:45 am and be followed by the Safe Workers of Tomorrow, Leaders Walk.

#### **MAY 1 • 6PM RISE UP - FIGHT BACK**



#### May Day March

Say No to the Agenda of Austerity, Privatization and Cuts to Jobs and Social Spending

Assemble at 5:30 pm at Memorial Park. March begins at 6 pm.

Winnipeg Labour Council marks International Working Class Day with the May Day March. People are getting organized against the cuts to jobs and social spending being planned by the Pallister

government. Come out on May 1st and add your voice to the resistance. Duration of the march is about one hour. The march returns to Legislature for a short rally.

#### MAY 3, 5 & 6 • 8PM **EMBARGO**



A One Trunk Theatre & MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts Production

#### **Prairie Theatre Exchange • Gendis Studio**

Embargo is a daringly theatrical, and highly physical performance inspired by the underground punk-rock music scene in Cuba, but set within our own political landscape. A timely piece that tackles globalization after the recent lifting of the Cuban embargo, this show is dirty, loud, and low-fi, the play is about the lengths we will go to be free-thinkers and dreamers. Embargo follows the journey of two sisters as they are gradually pulled apart while attempting to move beyond the parameters of their reality. The play will be presented as a work-in-progress, and we invite and encourage feedback from the audience as we continue to develop the piece.

Tickets • \$10 at the door • Cash Only

Limited seating. To reserve tickets, email: onetrunkcollective@gmail.com



















## 2017 MAYWORKS

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### MAY 5 • 7:30PM **BUTTERFLIES OF** THE NORTH WOODS

A book launch for Ron Romanowski's new collection of poetry.

#### **McNally Robinson Booksellers • Travel Alcove** 1120 Grant Avenue

Butterflies of the North Woods, Ron Romanowski's 7th book of working-class poetry is in response to the wholesale transfer of power to bullies and tyrants that is going on. Butterflies of the North Woods answers the outrages of the right-wing with a book of peace, anti-violence, and imagination.

"Poetry can, with the other arts, provide a vision of the possible alternative to the "Bad" and "the Ugly" of our current regressive powers." – RON ROMANOWSKI Refreshments will be provided.

#### Admission • FREE

For more information: Ron Romanowski • 204.667.6802

#### **MAY 6 • 2PM**

THE LEGACY OF THE WINNIPEG **GENERAL STRIKE** 

**Memorial Service** 

**Brookside Cemetery** 















On this the ninety eighth anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike please join us at Brookside Cemetery for a grave side memorial service for Mike Sokolowski, who died as a result of a gunshot wound on June 21, 1919.

After the service we will visit the gravesite of Steve Szczerbanowicz who died a few days later of gangrene poisoning as a result of gunshot wounds also received on June 21 during a peaceful demonstration.

#### MAY 6 • SCREENING 6PM & 9PM

Black Space Winnipeg & Winnipeg Film Group's Cinematheque Present



#### **FREE ANGELA DAVIS**

#### Winnipeg Cinematheque • 100 Arthur Street

In anticipation of Dr. Angela Davis' visit to Winnipeg on May 6, 2017 - Black Space Winnipeg and Winnipeg Film Group's Cinematheque are pleased to present a cinematic tribute to Angela Davis. Free Angela and all Political Prisoners is a gripping historic account of the events that catapulted a young University of California philosophy professor into a controversial political icon in the turbulent late 1960's. Angela Davis joins the Communist Party, protests with the Black Panthers, and becomes a principle spokesperson for the burgeoning prison reform movement. As a result, she finds herself fighting to keep her job, and in the national media spotlight









characterized by her many detractors as a dangerous subversive menace, and by her supporters as a strong leader challenging authority and boldly advocating for "Power to All People"

We will offer a double-screening of a documentary film focused on the iconic Black activist, as well as a panel discussion and reception between the two screenings. Join us at either screening time (6 pm or 9 pm) and stay for a panel curated by Black Space Winnipeg, where we will discuss race, racialized imprisonment and woman-led activist movements. Community members are welcome to participate in this educational evening where we will explore the work of Dr. Davis.

#### Panel Discussion & Reception • FREE

Screening • \$10 in advance • \$15 at the door

To purchase tickets or for more information visit: winnipegfilmgroup.com/cinematheque blackspacewpg.ca

#### MAY 6 • DOORS 7PM • PROGRAM 8PM

Dr. Angela Davis

# RACE, RESISTANCE & REVOLUTION: FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE

#### **Knox United Church • 400 Edmonton Street**

Wheelchair accessible

Hosted by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba (CCPA MB) in partnership with Black Space Winnipeg and Queer People of Colour Winnipeg, internationally-renowned activist and scholar Dr. Angela Davis will be speaking on the role of social movements in the Trump-era in Winnipeg this May 6, 2017.

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

#### **General Admission • \$30**

angeladaviswpg.eventbrite.ca; blackspacewpg.ca; policyfix.ca and McNally Robinson Booksellers.

#### Student • \$20

University of Winnipeg Info Booth; University of Manitoba Answers; CCPA Manitoba office at 204.927.3200

Ticket and post-talk reception with Dr. Davis • \$100 (Includes \$50 tax deductible receipt from CCPA)

Limited number of reduced rate tickets are available for those whom which cost is a barrier.

Please call CCPA MB for availability.

#### **MAY 8 • 7PM**

# CPP INVESTMENTS – MAKING A KILLING: EVENING WITH RICHARD SANDERS

## Millennium Library • Carol Shields Auditorium 251 Donald Street

Thanks to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP), millions of Canadians are being forced to invest their retirement savings in many of the world's largest war industries, from those making nuclear weapons, to major contractors for the infamous F-35 warplane. CPP investments include eight of the world's topten weapons manufacturers. Besides investing in the deadly tools of war and repression, the CPP's portfolio includes many of the world's largest oil, mining, tobacco and sweatshop profiteers. Richard Sanders is the writer and researcher of Press for Conversion, a highly informative newsletter published by the Ottawa-based Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT) which was formed in 1988. His research is unique and highly regarded.

Doors open at 6:30 pm.

#### Admission • FREE

Donations accepted to help defray costs.

### You can find out more at: coat.ncf.ca

Sponsored by Peace Alliance Winnipeg, in partnership with: Council of Canadians–Winnipeg, Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties,



The

Fight

for





# **Fairness**

# Continues.



## **2017 MAYWORKS**

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Canadian Dimension magazine, Wolseley Greens Constituency Association

#### **MAY 13 • 8PM**

#### A FESTIVAL OF MANDOLINS

#### Ukrainian Labour Temple 591 Pritchard Avenue

The WINNIPEG MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA in concert, playing traditional and contemporary music. The concert features 3 movements from "Pictorial Sketches for Orchestra" by Ben McPeek, a Canadian composer/arranger, which was commissioned for the Toronto Mandolin Orchestra in 1976.

Guest artist (TBA)

Tickets available at the door

Admission • \$20 | Students • \$15

For more information please email Koren Kaminski at koren.kaminski@gmail.com

#### MAY 17 • 7-9PM GLOBAL CAPITALISM AND OUR FUTURE



Panel discussion with David Camfield, Mark Hudson, Lynne Fernandez, Evan Bowness

Millennium Library • Carol Shields Auditorium 251 Donald Street

What will capitalism's current trajectory mean for different aspects of our lives, and what can we do about it? This forum will feature four short presentations followed by a discussion.

#### **SPEAKERS**

**Evan Bowness** (PhD student at the University of British Columbia) on capitalism and agriculture.

**David Camfield** (Associate Professor, Labour Studies and Sociology, University of Manitoba) on capitalism and work.

**Lynne Fernandez** (Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues) on capitalism and public services.

**Mark Hudson** (Associate Professor, Sociology and Global Political Economy, University of Manitoba) on capitalism and climate change.

**Admission • FREE** 

#### MAY 28 • 11AM-5PM THE UKRAINIAN LABOUR TEMPLE



**Doors Open Winnipeg** 

#### **591 Pritchard Avenue**

The Ukrainian Labour Temple is the headquarters of the Winnipeg Branch and the national offices of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, a progressive organization which offers cultural, social and educational activities.





**MUSIC** 





**LITERARY** 

**THEATRE** 





Constructed in 1918–1919, it is the largest of the Ukrainian Labour Temples in Canada. The Winnipeg hall was built by volunteer labour and financed by donations from the newly arrived Ukrainian community.

For much of its life it was the focus for Ukrainian culture and worker and farmer political activism. It is the only surviving labour hall associated with the events of the Winnipeg General Strike.

The Ukrainian Labour Temple holds heritage designations from all three levels of government. The building continues to be a vibrant centre for progressive culture and politics and remains a focal point for the Ukrainian community.

#### **PERFORMANCES**

**AUUC Festival Choir • 1PM** 

Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra • 2PM

Yunist Dance Ensemble and AUUC School of Folk Dance • 3PM

#### **SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1**

## **REVOLUTIONS**



#### **University of Manitoba**

In the 100th anniversary year of the Russian Revolutions, which inaugurated the series of revolutions that marked and defined the twentieth century, our conference focuses on the theme of revolutions. We want to speak to the widespread and widely varying causes, contexts, conditions and consequences of modern revolutions. There are many types, of course, but we are primarily interested in the often-spectacular political, social or economic events that confront particular institutional, social and ideological regimes and the unfolding consequences and actions in the days and years that follow. The revolts of colonized, enslaved and indigenous peoples from Tyrone, Toussaint, Tupac and Tecumseh, through the revolutions which defined the West like the English and the French

to today's Bolivarian, Arab Spring, and colour revolutions, revolutions have transformed politics, state structures, economies, cultures and societies. Revolutions require imagination: ideologies motivate actors and, events confound them – prompting new explanations. By some accounts, we are still living in an age of revolutions; others question their possibility today.

Within this broad framework the conference will consider past and present revolutions, their causes, characters and consequences. We will consider revolutions beyond those primarily within the political, social and economic spheres (Scientific, technological, artistic etc.) in terms of their association with watershed moments in social, political or economic life.

#### **CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS INCLUDE**

**Julia Buxton** of the Central European University who has written extensively on the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela and 21st Century Socialism in Latin America,

**Ruslan Dzarasov** of the Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Department of Political Economy, an expert on the Soviet Experience and post-Soviet Russia

**Domenico Losurdo** of the Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo, Departments of Philosophy, History and Politics who almost uniquely combines philosophical and historical interests in the theme of revolutions

**Gong Yun** of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Department of the Development of Marxism, whose work focuses on the Chinese revolution and its fate.

Any questions about the event can be directed to **contact@gergconference.ca** 

For more information visit geopoliticaleconomy.org/revolutions-conference-2017

# GLOBALIZATION AND THE

# **WORKING CLASS**

#### BY KEN KALTURNYK

Globalization per se is neither good nor bad; it is simply a reality of life created by the modernization of transportation technologies, a process which began in the late Middle Ages. Since then, globalization has given rise to many ugly realities, indeed – wars of conquest, colonization, imperialism and accompanying policies of genocide against whole peoples and continents. These are the ugly realities which have created the most recent form of globalization, which goes by the name "neo-liberalism".

The issue of whether the current form of globalization is "good" or "bad" is meaningless unless viewed from the perspective of class. From the perspective of those who own and control the vast majority of wealth, neo-liberal globalization has been very good, indeed; since 1985 their "share" of the wealth has reached unprecedented levels. But from the perspective of the working class things have not been so rosy.

The two main features of neo-liberal globalization are the globalization of finance capital and the globalization of labour markets.

The globalization of finance capital means that multinational corporations have enormous mobility in terms of where production takes place. Mobility of capital means that workers in a "high wage" country like Canada are forced to compete for jobs with workers in "low wage" countries like Mexico and China. If Canadian workers refuse to make wage concessions (and often even if they do), the factories where they work are closed down and reopened in a country where workers will work for less. This drives down wages in countries like Canada, as the army of unemployed grows. If wages in the "low wage" countries increase too much as a result of the increasing demand for labour, the owners of

capital simply move again to an even poorer country, resulting in "a race to the bottom".

Some claim that the solution to the mobility of capital is mobility of labour. However, this "solution" is already a reality and one which certainly does not favour the working class. The globalization of labour markets means that workers in various desperately poor (or war-ravaged) countries are forced to uproot their families and move to some capitalist metropolis where they are forced to work for sub-standard wages in order to make ends meet. The influx of foreign workers, who are willing to work for less (whether they are "migrant" workers, refugees or immigrants), drives down wages of the more established workers, who are then told that they should direct their anger at the "foreign" workers, rather than at those who have created the problem - the capitalists. Encouraging one set of victims of capital to fight against another set of victims of capital through the promotion of racism, xenophobia, etc., becomes a useful tool to divide the working class and prevent it from waging a united struggle against capital. Only by the working class of all countries taking control of the product of their labour - including capital, itself-can globalization become a "good" thing for working people everywhere.

# FREE TRADE: IS IT GOOD, BAD OR UGLY?

BY LYNNE FERNANDEZ • ERROL BLACK CHAIR IN LABOUR ISSUES | PROJECT COORDINATOR | CCPA MB

Trade in itself is a good thing. Without it, we wouldn't have fresh oranges, Scotch whiskey, Italian shoes or Japanese electronics. Without it we wouldn't have markets to sell our high quality wheat, award winning rye whiskey, or locally produced buses. Trade expands the market for producers, creates employment and gives consumers access to products that are not produced locally.

Trade becomes a bad thing when different regions use unfair competition to undercut each other. That happens when corporations are able to pay workers lower wages, or when they convince governments to remove environmental and/or employment standards. In her book *No Logo* Naomi Klein documented how 'free trade zones' in developing countries allow corporations to avoid taxes, regulations and unions. Workers are paid a fraction of what they would earn in Canada, and they often work in terrible, if not dangerous conditions.

There may well be ways to better accommodate trade for Canadian producers, but agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union; or the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) are not really about trade. They are all about harmonizing

financial, health, labour and safety standards; reinforcing intellectual property rights; and, opening up new sectors to privatization and foreign investment. One study estimated that GDP in the US would increase a mere .13 percent by 2025 if the TPP came into effect – hardly a ringing endorsement of the benefits expected from the agreement.

Many prominent economists, including Paul
Krugman, Joseph Stiglitz and Dani Rodrik, feel
that the trade impacts of the TPP are far less
important than the serious concerns it raises
about the investor-state dispute settlement
(ISDS) mechanism.

Investor-state dispute settlement clauses are the ugly side of free trade agreements.

NAFTA's controversial ISDS mechanism enables foreign corporations to directly sue governments for loss of anticipated profits associated with government

#### Free Trade: Is it Good, Bad or Ugly? continued...

policies and regulations. The mechanism is only open to foreign investors and disputes are settled by appointed tribunals of international trade lawyers operating outside of and unaccountable to Canada's legal system. Under NAFTA Canada has already faced 30 claims. Some of these claims are ongoing but the five suits which Canada had lost by 2010 have cost the country more than \$157 million damages alone and millions more in legal costs. These suits cover a wide range of activities from governments requiring local development benefits on investment to legislation promoting environmental sustainability.

The ISDS mechanism in the CETA – recently accepted by the European Union – and the TPP – in limbo now that the US has refused to sign on – is similar to Chapter 11 in NAFTA, but even more tilted in favour of corporations. The ISDS issue is so contentious in Europe that the provision for its tribunal was not part of the EU vote to pass CETA; all national EU governments have to hold parliamentary votes to accept or refuse it. This concession to the approval process is the result of the thousands of Europeans who have demonstrated against the agreement.

Canadians seem largely unconcerned by the prospect of living under CETA rules. This is surprising given that CETA expands the coverage of international trade and investment agreements to cover provincial and municipal governments and will impact all new services and regulations. The changes

associated with CETA will, under most-favourednations provisions, be extended to trading partners with which Canada has free trade and investment agreements, such as the US and Mexico.

It is feared that the increased patent protection for pharmaceutical drugs being demanded by the EU and its brand name pharmaceutical companies could increase Manitoba's annual drug costs by up to \$81.1 million, costing the province's Pharmacare program an additional \$38 million annually and private drug plans and consumers an additional \$43.1 million a year.

CETA intellectual property rights protection measures could jeopardize agricultural seed saving and replanting. A farmer simply accused of reproducing or seeding a patent-protected variety could be confronted with the seizure of property and the destruction of either the seed or the crop resulting from the seed. Any third party deemed to have assisted in the alleged infringement, like a seed cleaning establishment, could face similar consequences.

These agreements should be of concern for all citizens, regardless of which country they call home. Powerful transnational corporations, including some located in Canada, have taken something good and turned it into something bad for many workers and ugly for society as a whole. Only when citizens unite across the globe will we have a chance to say NO to the bad and the ugly.

# **THANK YOU!**

MayWorks gratefully thanks and acknowledges the support of the following funders who have contributed to the Festival

(as of March 31, 2017)

#### **LEADERSHIP \$1,500+**

Canadian Union of Public Employees–Local 500

Canadian Union of Public Employees–Manitoba

Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union United Food & Commercial Workers–Local 832

#### **ORGANIZER \$1,000-\$1,499**

Canadian Labour Congress Manitoba Federation of Labour Unifor National

#### STEWARD \$500-\$999

American Income Life

Manitoba Nurses Union Manitoba Teachers' Society

#### MEMBER AT LARGE \$299 AND UNDER

Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union–Local 342 Canadian Union of Public Employees–Local 998

Operating Engineers of Manitoba Local 987

**Unifor Local 7** 

## THE FRONTLINE IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK



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## **GLOBALIZATION IS GOOD FOR YOU**

#### LYRICS BY DAVID ROVICS

Well it's been a lengthy lesson
But we've been learning every day
Perfecting our techniques at keeping
The working class at bay
First we tried slavery
But those slaves did rebel
Then we tried colonies
But that worked about as well

Well we kept trying to stabilize Minority control
To provide a sense of honesty In this land we stole
Then we came upon it
The key to legitimization
You can call it what you want
We call it globalization

And globalization is good for you
Different from before
We'll just sell the arms you need
To fight your civil war
And when you look at those golden
arches
You know who to thank
Let's hear it for the IMF
And the World Bank

We'll loan you lots of money So you can modernize Build up your infrastructure Which we'll then privatize 'Cause you gotta pay your loans somehow It is only right And at eighty percent interest We'll just take everything in sight

And globalization is good for you It'll open many doors
Though you've sold your country
And it's no longer yours
Now you've got a coca-cola
And a very modern tank
Let's hear it for the IMF
And the World Bank

If your people start dying younger
And they say they're underpaid
Then you must remind them
Of the wonders of free trade
Just borrow some more money
And ignore that little rider
And remember you've got ten choices
Of mobile phone provider

And globalization is good for you If you do it well
Just close those schools and hospitals
And sign this contract here with Shell
And tell those labor leaders and protesters
To go walk the plank
Three cheers for the IMF
And the World Bank

If the idea of democracy
Had a pleasant ring
We'll help you realize that dictatorship
Is really just the thing
This self-determination Is all a silly fuss
A billion dollars in your pocket
Says just listen to us

'Cause globalization is good for you Even if the people disagree They'll take their orders from you As you take yours from DC Now don't forget to pack the prisons And to watch your flank Let's hear it for the IMF And the World Bank

### **CONTRIBUTION COMMITMENT FORM**

Labour Group/Organization/Individu	ual	
Phone Number(s)		
Address		
Website		
Email Address		
PLEASE SELECT YOUR DESIRED LEV	VEL OF CONTRIBUTION AND MAKE CHEQ	UE PAYABLE TO MAYWORKS
Leadership \$1,500+	Organizer \$1,000-\$1,499	Steward \$500-\$999
Activist \$300-\$499	Member at Large \$100-\$299	Other (please specify)

