

INTRODUCTION

In two recent VFP Santa Fe Chapter Meeting, the attendees participated in the first stage and second stages of “bottom-up self-organization.” The approach is based on a structural concept of organizing wherein the basic building block of the organization is the “activity,” the actual stuff that gets done. In the first stage, participants collectively group the activities into “functions” performed by the organization. The second stage assigns the functions to “teams” which will perform them. The final stage will be to assign teams to chapter officers or delegates who will coordinate the teams and provide oversight, reporting to the chapter as a whole. Throughout all the stages, however, chapter members will be encouraged to sign up for activities. That’s where the work get’s done.

To “jump start” the process, about 50 3x5 cards were passed out with the names of potential activities, functions, and teams. The assignment for the first evening was for the group as a whole to attach activities to the function where they seemed to belong. Blank cards were also available to add activities or functions to those on the printed cards. By the end of the meeting, a good start had been made toward developing a “map” of activities to functions. At the end of the second meeting, functions had been assigned to teams. More work obviously needs to be done. As the teams are constituted they will identify needs for more activities and functions. This is the beginning, not the end of self-organization. Hopefully this will enable meetings of the whole chapter to identify opportunities for effective action and then turn the opportunities over to the relevant teams to implement.

The teams, their functions and associated activities as identified so far are listed below.

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COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

FUNCTION – COMMUNICATIONS

- Activity – Local/State Agency Liaison
- Activity – Chapter National Contact
- Activity – National Newsletter Contact
- Activity – Info e-mail handler
- Activity – List serve management
- Activity – Archive collection and management
- Activity – Letter writing campaigns

FUNCTION – COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Activity - Local Business Liaison
- Activity – Development of issue-focused alliances

FUNCTION – MEMBERSHIP

- Activity – Recruiting
- Activity – Recognition programs
- Activity – Dues tracking

FUNCTION – PUBLIC RELATIONS

- Activity – Peace & Justice Community Relations
- Activity – Participant Appreciation
- Activity – Press Liaison
- Activity – Website Management

Activity – Flyer Design and Production

EVENTS TEAM

FUNCTION – EVENT PLANNING AND EXECUTION (Classroom Type)

Venue Selection

FUNCTION – EVENT PLANNING AND EXECUTION (Lobbying Type)

Activity – Tabling

FUNCTION – EVENT PLANNING & EXECUTION (Street Type)

Activity – Venue Liaison

FUNCTION – EVENT PLANNING AND EXECUTION (Theatre Type)

Activity – Event Cashier

Activity - Pot luck coordinator

FACILITIES TEAM

FUNCTION – FACILITIES/LOGISTICS/PROPERTY

Activity – Ordering materials

Activity – Worksite maintenance

Activity – Inventory management

Activity – Library management

FULL DISCLOSURE TEAM

FUNCTION – FULL DISCLOSURE RECRUITING

Activity – Full Disclosure Classes

Activity – Full Disclosure Material Acquisition

Activity – Full Disclosure School Liaison

FINANCE TEAM

FUNCTION – FUND RAISING

Activity – Grant research

Activity – Grant review reporting

Activity – Grant writing

Activity – Paraphernalia, books, button sales

FUNCTION – BOOKKEEPING AND REPORTING

FUNCTION – MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Activity – Signup Entry (Data Entry)

POLITICAL ACTION TEAM

FUNCTION – POLITICAL ACTION

Activity – Legislative action (state, local, national)

Activity – Non-violence training

Activity – Non-violent demonstrations

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

FUNCTION – INFO TECH

Activity – Website management

Activity - List serve management

FUNCTION – TECHNICAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Activity – Computer management

Activity – Video management

Activity – Audio management