



FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS IUE-CWA 81381

FSW FUNCTION REPORT

Person attending (Name & Title):

Jessica Kilpatrick, Senior Caseworker CPS Training Team, FSW Mobilization Chair

Name and nature of the event/function (i.e., Conference, Training, etc.):

Labor Notes Conference in Chicago, II

Dates attended:

June 16th-June 19th, 2022

What was the purpose/goal of the function?

The purpose of the Labor Notes Conference is to connect and encourage rank-and-file members, community members, local leaders, and labor activists interested in fighting for the labor movement in order to strengthen the movement from the bottom up.

What did you learn and/or what significant information was shared at the function?

I learned so much!!! I learned Organizing Never stops!!!

I learned about how solidarity is everything and without it, we are much weaker as a union.

I learned how to beat apathy and how to turn apathy into action, utilizing practical organizing tools and other tips on organizing. I learned about asking more questions of members, finding a good issue and meeting people where they're at will translate into more union members willing to take action.

I learned to never do anything alone as we are stronger together. I learned about how to get people sitting on the fringes of the union to take an active role within the union.

I learned how to take an agreed-upon issue and how to tackle it with simple, concrete steps. Plan: What do we want? Who has the power to give us what we want? Which tactics do we use?

I mostly learned we are not alone. I met steel workers, longshoremen, teachers, nurses, environmental services workers, etc. We all have the same goal: liberation of the working class.

How is what you learned relevant to FSW?:

FSW is currently lacking strong involvement from rank and file members. We are overworked, underpaid, exhausted and unable to strike. I have been guilty of sitting by and wondering what the union was doing to address the concerns without lifting a finger to get involved. Those days are gone. We are the union. If we want to see change, we must get involved. As the new Mobilization Chair, I am interested in building a fire under members in order to get them as angry as I am about our current wages, vacancies and safety within

the community. I also want to hear from unions members about what issues are important to them. I've only worked in CPS, so I want to know what the concerns are for other FSW members. And then I want you to be ready to fight. We are all FSW, despite attempts made to divide us in the past. We are stronger together. We will fight together and we will mobilize, rally and demand to have our needs met. WE ARE FSW!!!!