

Celebrating Ten Years Online For Class and Climate Justice



kclabor.org

An independent, volunteer-driven site, we have worked to bring news, analysis, reference resources, and issue campaigns to the working class since March, 2000.

We have also come to recognize the urgent need to develop a working class strategy in the fight to stop climate change—a struggle we cannot afford to lose.

Over the years we have initiated or co-sponsored conferences on topics of concern to working people.

We published the first Internet report on the founding conference of US Labor Against the War.

We have provided web space to the Kansas City Labor Party and Kansas City Labor Against the War.

Our *Week In Review* e-mail column is delivered to hundreds of subscribers throughout the world.

Currently our main focus is on building participation in the Labor Notes Conference to be held in Detroit, April 23-25.



Greetings From Some Of Our Readers

The California Nurses Association/NNOC/NNU has continually supported Bill Onasch's Weekly KC Labor email column. His contribution to keeping the labor movement's feet to the fire is invaluable. It is important to have someone who is a strong impartial labor supporter to provide a mirror for the labor movement. To hold all of us, who hold positions of authority and trust with our members accountable to the larger social justice cause here in the U.S. and Internationally.

Deborah Burger, Co-President, CNA/National Nurses United

Congratulations to KC Labor on their 10 year Anniversary. Working people have benefited from your continued efforts to promote and defend the issues most important to America's working families. It has been a valuable experience for me to share in your events and programs. Keep up the good work!

Donna Dewitt, President, South Carolina AFL-CIO

We wish to express our solidarity and congratulations to Brother Onasch and the Kansas City Labor Organization website for being a powerful beacon of light for the world's working class in general and the American working class in particular. In these dark and troubled times of war and recession, collaboration and sell out, your staunch defense and consistent reporting of events and policy that affect our class has served us well. Keep up the good work!

Jed Dodd, General Chairman, Teamsters Rail Conference

Congratulations on the 10th Anniversary of kclabor.org. These have been very difficult times for organizations that advocate for working class interests. That you have survived these past ten years is a significant accomplishment. That you have thrived and grown is a tribute to the clarity of your message, the freshness of your analysis and the usefulness of your information. I always look forward to your dispatches and always learn something from your website. Your reporting is ahead of the curve. As workers in the U.S. begin to organize and fight back against this world economic crisis, I expect to read of their first victories on kclabor.org. In Solidarity,

Mark Dudzic (Labor Party & Labor Campaign for Single Payer)

Congratulations to kclabor.org and Bill Onasch, celebrating the website's tenth anniversary! It seems like only yesterday that Bill visited the picket line with me at Purdy's Chocolates here in Vancouver, B.C., in May of 2001, when the website was still quite young. It was quite a thrill for the mostly female workforce that someone running a solidarity website was visiting them all the way from Kansas City. And to this day kclabor.org continues to keep us informed and create solidarity and support for those in struggle. Here's to many more years of the same! Yours in warmest solidarity,

Gordon Flett, IWW, solidarity activist, Vancouver, B.C.

As a labor historian I see KC LABOR as the inheritor of the best traditions of the labor movement -- class-conscious, inclusive, anti-racist and anti-sexist, militant, and open to alliances with other progressive movements. While KC LABOR is securely grounded in the reality of working people in Kansas City, it engages and speaks to the experiences of workers across the country and across the world.

Peter Rachleff, Professor of History, Macalester College, Saint Paul, Minnesota

I start my day with a cup of union grown, union processed and union transported coffee, (<http://www.usacoffeecompany.com/>) and then turn my attention to wide-awake union news and views on kclabor.org.

Dave Riehle, Local Chairman Emeritus, United Transportation Union Local 650, St Paul

KC Labor provides one of the few sources of reliable reporting about the labor movement and its struggles. This shows that, despite everything, the American labor movement still exists and fights. KC Labor shows trade union activists that they are not isolated, but are part of a broader movement. It also provides these activists with the overall political direction that they need to “keep on keeping on.” I can think of no more important task. In solidarity,

Adam Shils, past President, Aptakasic Education Association, a suburban Chicago affiliate of NEA

The KCLabor web site provides uniquely relevant and timely news to labor and community activists which few other sources can match. And, Bill Onasch's Week In Review is one of labor's most in-depth reporting & commentary online newsletters in circulation today. In Solidarity,

Jerry Tucker, former UAW IEB member; Center for Labor Renewal

As a union organizer, it's essential to stay on top of developments in the labor movement. An overwhelming number of sources will tell you WHAT is going on, and you can always find writing and talking heads to tell you WHY it is going on. But there are very few place to find labor news and analysis presented in a way that's interesting and accessible to regular working class folks, and this is exactly what KCLabor.org does best. In a time when ivory tower academics, labor apologists, and party hacks confuse and frustrate the rank-and-file, Brother Onasch gives it to us straight and unvarnished, and damn the sacred cows. KCLabor is a 21st century throwback to a time when the working class spoke honestly with each other, and believed in ourselves, and the labor movement desperately needs this kind of straight talk.

John Woodruff Jr, UE Field Organizer, Gastonbury, Connecticut

Face To Face Encounters

In addition to cyber communication, KC Labor has sponsored, or co-sponsored, four informative conferences:

Labor and the Law, June 2001

Worker Rights At Home and Abroad, March, 2004

The Future of the Labor Movement, April, 2005

New Crises, New Agendas, April 2009

Last year's event was in partnership with Labor Notes Troublemakers Schools.

Among the special guest speakers we brought to these Kansas City gatherings was Amjad Al-Jawhary, representing the Federation of Worker Councils and Trade Unions of Iraq.



Amjad Al-Jawhary

Fun Facts About kclabor.org

- At least 274 other websites have links to kclabor.org
- In mid-March we were averaging about 500 unique visits, 1100 page views per day.
- Over the years, we have identified visits from at least 64 other countries. The top five countries in our daily international traffic are: Canada, France, China, Russia, and Britain.
- Our web host is Supreme Server. Our ISP is AT&T. Our e-mail service is I-Contact.
- Microsoft FrontPage 2003 is our primary publishing software, supplemented with Mozilla Composer. Mozilla Sea Monkey is our favored browsing tool because it contains both the Firefox browser and Composer. We use Zone Alarm security software.
- Our most visited pages are: Home; Unions; News; Know Your Rights; and Labor & Environment.



A New Tenant

KC Labor is proud to provide web space to a new formation—the Alliance for Class and Climate Justice. ACCJ comes out of discussions among Midwest labor and environmental activists who attended our New Crises, New Agendas conference last year. Its objective is to promote effective measures to stop global warming through an emergency restructuring of our economy—providing full employment in good jobs at the same time. Click on their link on our home page.

From KC To Detroit

KC Labor is promoting participation in the upcoming Labor Notes Conference. The gathering is expected to draw a thousand or more labor and social movement activists from around the country—and throughout the world. There will be presentations, workshops and interest group meetings on a wide range of topics and dozens of literature and information tables.

2010 Labor Notes Conference **Friday, April 23 – Sunday, April 25** **Hyatt Regency Dearborn**

You can click on the conference link on the kclabor.org home page for more information and to register.

Our site is also involved in a discussion group focused on *Labor Notes* articles that meets monthly in the Kansas City area. The group is organizing a van and car pool from KC to the Detroit conference. For more information call Bill Onasch at 816-753-1672.

And Now On To Our Second Decade

Copy prepared in house—Printed in a union shop.