Strategy Note 282, 24 September 2024

Disagree with your union officers?

If officers of your union local don't do what you want, what should you do?

First, talk with them. Say something like "I think we should do X and I'd like to help us do that. What do you think?" They'll likely welcome your help and gladly support that effort.

Perhaps your idea doesn't make sense to them. They ought to explain why. You get to revise your idea, come up with a better idea, or help with some effort they do support.

If your local has officers who persistently don't act in ways you can support, you have a few options:

- · Do nothing.
- · Quit your job or resign from your union.
- Whine, complain, gossip, waste time in negativity.
- Organize with other members to do the things y'all want.
- Organize with other members to elect officers who agree with vou.

I recommend the last two options in that list. Active members and union democracy can fix most problems within a union.

If organizing within your union doesn't work, you have one more option: organize a new union that competes for members with the old one. Before starting that big task, consider carefully. Does any other way look possible?

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