

## Caucuses strengthen unions

Strategy Note 299 said we need caucuses to re-make our labor unions so our unions can re-make our society. *How* do caucuses do that?

Just as a union functions (or should function) as a social change organization within society at large, a caucus functions within a union to improve the union. Some caucuses work to elect new officers in their union. Some work to democratize the way their union selects officers. Some build solidarity across race lines or shift other attitudes in their union.

We need to see caucuses and their activity to move their union in the directions they prefer as normal signs of healthy union democracy. Open organizing for their viewpoint by groups of members strengthens a union. Grumbling and resentment by members who feel powerless to affect their union weaken it.

Rarely a caucus might try to destroy a union. An employer or other entity might persuade some members to agitate for de-certifying a union. Facing such a threat, a union will have more strength if it has strong pro-union caucuses. In fact, internal anti-union efforts rarely threaten a union that has strong internal democracy and caucuses.



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