

Below is the full text of the two NBI's proposed by members of Social Equality Educators to be voted on at the April 17th Representative Assembly:

Jon Greenberg- Ethnic Studies

WHEREAS ethnic studies can be defined as an interdisciplinary approach to teaching about the identities, history, oppression, perseverance, and struggle for equality and power of marginalized cultures and gender identities in the United States;

WHEREAS ethnic studies courses not only have proven academic benefits for all students but also foster appreciation of students' identities and empower more students to work for racial justice;

WHEREAS an ethnic studies initiative ensures elementary school teachers have more opportunities to include social studies content in their curricula;

WHEREAS many educators in Seattle are teaching courses that already overlap – if not qualify – as ethnic studies courses;

WHEREAS the NAACP ETHNIC STUDIES RESOLUTION allows schools the autonomy to develop their own ethnic studies curricula in at least one existing, required course;

WHEREAS the district has the infrastructure to implement ethnic studies through the Department of Equity and Race Relations, as well as the 31 Equity and Race Teams that the SEA won in the 2015 strike;

WHEREAS the implementation of ethnic studies can be further aided by the SEA's Center for Race and Equity; and

WHEREAS all of the other evidence provided in the WHEREAS section of the NAACP ETHNIC STUDIES RESOLUTION;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

1. that the SEA Representative Assembly endorse the NAACP ETHNIC STUDIES RESOLUTION; and
2. that SEA to organize to testify at school board meetings in favor of ethnic studies until the School Board has approved a plan that implements ethnic studies throughout Seattle schools.

SEA Board of Directors recommend: DO PASS

Lauren Stark- Immigrant Rights Actions on May 1st

WHEREAS President Trump has issued two executive orders targeting immigrants from Muslim-majority countries, issued an executive order threatening "Sanctuary cities" such as Seattle, celebrated ICE raids as a "military operation" that targets "bad dudes," and shifted ICE policy toward arresting more immigrants without criminal records,

Whereas Daniel Ramirez Medina - a "Dreamer," parent, and Seattle resident without a criminal record - was arrested by ICE in February,

Whereas the Seattle Education Association is collaborating with Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle to welcome and educate all students "regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, country of origin, or a student's immigration status,"

Whereas the National Education Association is "deeply committed to supporting our educators, community members, students, and families who support immigrant students and their educational endeavors,"

Whereas El Comité and the May 1st Action Coalition are hosting a peaceful immigrant rights rally and march and calling for a general strike on May 1st (May Day), which is traditionally a day to celebrate immigrants' and workers' rights in Seattle, and

Whereas the Majority (a coalition including immigrant rights, labor, LGBTQ, and racial justice organizations) is calling for actions advocating for "economic justice, and worker justice, for all people" from April 4th through May 1st,

Therefore be it resolved that the Seattle Education Association encourage its members to wear their red SEA shirt on May 1st (May Day) in solidarity with immigrant rights actions and in support of union rights, and

Be it further resolved that the SEA compile and distribute a list of curricular resources that educators can use to teach immigration history and rights on May 1st (and beyond), and

Be it further resolved that the SEA encourage members to attend the peaceful afternoon May Day rally (after contract hours) sponsored by El Comité.

SEA Board of Directors recommend: DO PASS

May 1st: 18th Annual May Day March for Workers and Immigrant Rights

Location: Judkins Park, 2150 S Norman St. Seattle

Time: Rally starts @ 11:00 AM; March at 1:00PM to the Seattle Center; After school SEE encourages educators to head to the end point rally at the Seattle Center fountain which will still be taking place.

Contact: 206-650-2106 or 206-465-5511; Email: info@elcomitewa.org

Educators' Vision

Published By the Social Equality Educators (SEE)

April 2017

Social Equality Educators dedicates this issue to May Day and solidarity with immigrants, refugees, and Muslims.

Why did SEE propose the May 1 strike vote?

The history of May Day has its roots in the mass strike wave for the 8-hour day in the U.S. that began on May 1, 1886. Up through at least World War I, radical workers in the U.S. celebrated this day with meetings, protests, marches, and, at times, strikes. However, while it's a day that has continued to be honored with mass marches and strikes by workers in countries around the world since then, in the U.S. its recognition as a day of action, and for remembering the struggles of labors past, waned for decades. All that changed on May 1, 2006.

According to journalist Juan Gonzalez, who wrote in Harvest of Empire, "Between March and May of 2006, an estimated 3 to 5 million people, most of them Latinos, filled the downtown streets of some 160 towns and cities in the largest series of mass demonstrations the nation had ever seen." They protested racist, anti-immigrant legislation, HR 4437, authored by Rep. James Sensenbrenner. It would have criminalized all 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. and anyone who aided them. In Seattle upwards of 50,000 marched on May 1, 2006. Due to the mass protests, the legislation died. Annual protests here on May Day have continued since then led by El Comité and the May 1st Action Coalition.

Since Trump's election, he's stacked his administration with racists and corporate executives while pushing executive orders and legislation to attack women, immigrants, Muslims, refugees, the LGBTQ community, unions, the environment, and seemingly any and all things progressive. Trump specifically targeted Muslims with a ban on immigrants from seven Muslim majority countries (Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Iran, Sudan, and Somalia).

He's attacked Latinx immigrants by calling for building an even bigger wall on the U.S./Mexico border. In addition, his executive orders call for a massive expansion in the deportation of immigrants. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) could deport undocumented people who've been convicted of a crime, no matter how minor, those who've merely been charged, but haven't been convicted, and even people ICE claims have committed a crime, but they haven't been officially charged with anything.

ICE agents have been given the power of "expedited removals" that allow for quick deportations without legal hearings. It restores a program to deputize police to work as deportation agents inside local jails. He plans to hire 10,000 more ICE officers and 5,000 new Border Patrol agents. There will be increased penalties for undocumented parents caught trying to bring their children into the U.S. Plus they will publish crimes committed (or alleged ones) by undocumented people. All of these policies will negatively affect the immigrant students, who attend our schools, and their families.

Upcoming Social Equality Educator (SEE) meetings

- May 7th - 1:00 to 3:00 pm at New Holly Library
- June 4th - 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Columbia City Library

socialequalityeducators.org/join-us/ 206.851.4963

Locally, this racist dragnet led to the incarceration of Seattle area resident, Daniel Ramirez Medina, on February 10. He had been granted legal status, most recently in May of 2016, as part of the Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Daniel has lived in the U.S. since he was 7. He's the father of a 3-year old. In an op-ed in the Washington Post, Daniel wrote, "Like all 'dreamers,' I gave all of my personal information and fingerprints to the government to qualify for DACA. I've been checked against every state and federal database. They verified twice that I have no criminal history, was never affiliated with any gang and was not a threat to public safety. Despite that, I was treated as though my DACA status and my work authorization meant nothing."

On April 10, more than 750 immigrants started a hunger strike at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma (an excerpt from their press release is below). Amongst other actions, they are refusing to eat and use the phone. They have a list of 8 demands: Change the food (menu); Lower the commissary (reasonable prices); Better hygiene (with the clothes); Increase rec-time; Bring programs such as: school and program to keep our heads occupied and avoid depression mentally; Better medical attention; Increase wages for working detainees (waxing floors, painting, cleaning, cooking, laundry); Facilitate court proceedings (speed up the process).

The high point of struggle against Trump came on January 21, the day after his inauguration, when over 3.3 million people protested around the country at the Women's Marches. These protests marked the single biggest day of protest in U.S. history. At the end of January, in response to the Muslim and refugee ban, thousands protested at airports around the U.S. On March 8, International Women's Day, women in the U.S. and internationally organized a day of protests and strikes against all forms of sexism. Meanwhile, coming up on April 22 there will be a "March for Science" in Washington, D.C. followed by the "People's Climate March" on April 29, also in D.C.

It is in this climate of growing protests against the Trump adminis-

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Educators' Vision

Published By the Social Equality Educators (SEE)

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Educators' Vision is a monthly newsletter of the Social Equality Educators

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Mission

Social Equality Educators (SEE) is a new rank-and-file organization of educators inside the Seattle Education Association that seeks to transform education in terms that empower students, teachers, and the communities that our public schools serve. As members of the SEA we understand that the educator's union has a vital role to play in creating an equitable education system. As educators we understand the importance of using culturally relevant and holistic curriculum to empower our students. We have come together to fight against the corporate reform of our schools and to organize for a socially just education system.

May Day Solidarity • continued from page 1

tration that members of Social Equality Educators proposed the new business item (NBI) calling for votes in all Seattle Public Schools to hold a one-day strike on May Day. We did so with three goals in mind: 1.) To protest the budget cuts and to demand fully funded schools, 2.) To defend union rights against proposed anti-union federal legislation, 3.) To call for solidarity with immigrants, refugees, and Muslims.

Every educator knows firsthand the devastating effects the initially proposed \$74 million in budget cuts would have on our schools. Many also are aware of the proposed anti-union federal legislation like the so-called "right-to-work" laws that would lead to a draining of union funds and make even the most basic, daily union functions a challenge for all unions.

However, we feel the issue of solidarity with immigrants,

May 1st "Declaration of General Strike"

Social Equality Educators reprints the May 1st "Declaration of General Strike" by El Comité and the May 1st Action Coalition. We do so with the hope it will help clarify the interests and demands of the organizers of the May Day actions in Seattle

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Friends and Allies, We are workers, you and I. We work partly out of necessity, but also because it is through work that the conditions for life are created. We want to live and work with dignity! Now we find that even this simple desire is under threat. On May first, International Workers Day, you and I are called to testify that all workers need to be protected, regardless of their age, gender identity, social class or immigration status.

The May 1st Action Coalition is calling for a General Strike on May 1st, 2017 (International Workers' Day). We are responding to a nationwide call for a strike on that day, as well as to many in our community who have asked for a strong response to attacks by the new administration on labor in general, and immigrant workers in particular.

We also recognize that we are not just workers. We have families, friends and myriad ties to our various communities. The White House conspires to fund a massive increase in military spending while cutting virtually everything else. Our people deserve and expect more:

- Affordable housing.
- Living wage jobs.
- Universal health care.
- Fully funded education.
- Freedom to organize and maintain unions.
- Equal pay for equal work.
- Clean water, clean air, respect and care for mother earth.
- Fair trade with other nations.
- Respect for the Treaty Rights of our indigenous Nations.
- Community-based solutions to safety that don't rely on police, prisons, and immigration enforcement/ICE

Most importantly, we strike against the climate of fear spreading into every corner of our communities. While the Administration rails against "foreign" ter-

rorists, it has unleashed its own terrorist organization, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). ICE agents kidnap their victims, at work or home, without warning or warrants. They separate children from parents and wives from husbands. They deport or incarcerate without any pretense of due process. The very purpose of ICE is to spread terror – to serve as a warning to all of us of what we could face if we resist.

We want to rebuild our society from one that legislates hate to one that promotes peace and respect. We want the wars to stop and we want to stop the repression and continued "illegality" of our compatriots and their families! We know that we workers can obtain those things. With all this in mind, we are asking you to join us in the streets on May 1st - to walk with us in solidarity as fellow workers to show the powers-that-be we will not be silenced.

We won't stand for border walls, indefinite detention without charge or trial, mass deportations and separation of families. We also oppose the apparent bias of these actions that disproportionately targets non-whites, Muslims or other minorities.

In addition, we are asking you to call the city council, the mayor's office, the county council, the county Executive and our Governor to declare May 1st a holiday (as it is around the world), to ensure that government workers can join us!

We are asking all businesses to honor their workers request for the day off so they can also join us.

This is not an action against businesses. This is an action against national governance and policy that is inhumane, repressive, unwarranted, counterproductive and fiscally destructive.

We have been fighting separately for too long and this negligence and separation must cease. It can for at least one day: May Day!

In Solidarity,
El Comité and the May 1st Action Coalition

refugees, and Muslims is the most pressing reason to continue to support the May 1 rally and march led by El Comité and the May 1st Action Coalition. It is with this in mind, despite the strike vote not passing, that SEE is proposing a new NBI (full language on the back page) to be voted on at the April 17th Representative Assembly. It calls on all members to wear their red SEA t-shirts in solidarity with immigrant and union rights, to hold teach-ins on May 1 on immigration history and

rights, and encourages all members to attend the peaceful May Day rally at the fountain at the Seattle Center after contract hours.

In the May issue of Educator's Voice, we will discuss more our thoughts on the May 1 SEA strike vote, why it didn't pass, what it means for our union, and next steps in the struggle for fully funded education, opposing anti-union federal legislation, and defending immigrant, refugee, and Muslim rights.

Radical Roots of May Day, the Haymarket Martyrs, and Why May Day is a Celebration of International Workers' Solidarity.

"THERE WILL be a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today." Those were the last words of August Spies, one of four innocent men executed for an explosion at Chicago's Haymarket Square in May 1886. The real "crime" for which Spies and his comrades were condemned was being labor militants fighting for workers' rights and the eight-hour day. The national strike for the eight-hour day that they organized was called for May 1, 1886--it was the first May Day.

Their struggle, and the struggle of thousands alongside them, convinced a generation of labor militants and radicals to devote their lives for the fight for workers' rights and for socialism. Still, although May Day was founded to honor a U.S. labor struggle, few workers in this country typically know its origin, because the history is largely untold. This has changed, however--since the mass immigrant workers' May Day marches that began in 2006....

The eight-hour movement began in 1884 when the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (the predecessor to the American Federation of Labor) passed a resolution at its Chicago convention that "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886."

...The eight-hour demand spoke to workers frustrated with 14- to 18-hour workdays amid high unemployment...On May 1, 1886, some 190,000 workers struck around the country, and 150,000 more won their demand for an eight-hour day simply by threatening to strike. Chicago was a key center of the battle....

ON MAY 3, lumber workers who were on strike for the eight-hour day were attending a meeting near the McCormick Reaper Works on the south side of the city, where 1,400 workers had been locked out since February and replaced by 300 scabs. When they went to confront the scabs at McCormick, the workers were attacked by some 200 police. Four workers were killed and many others injured. The attacks continued into the following day, with police breaking up gatherings of workers.

Strike leaders called for a protest against police violence the following evening. Some 3,000 workers gathered in Haymarket Square, the center of the meatpacking business.

By the end of the evening, the rally had dwindled to a few hundred because of rain--when about 200 armed police marched into the peaceful crowd. Someone--whose identity is still unknown--threw a bomb into the ranks of the police, killing seven and injuring dozens.

The government used the incident as an excuse to crack down on the entire labor movement in a reign of terror that lasted for days. Workers' homes, meeting halls and newspaper offices were raided, and anyone affiliated with the anarchist, labor or socialist movement was hauled to jail. When the police were done, they had blamed the bombing on eight men--all leaders of the eight-hour movement.

The eight were Albert Parsons, August Spies, Michael Schwab, Samuel Fielden, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Oscar Neebe and Louis Lingg. Parsons and Spies weren't even in the square when the bomb was thrown, but that mattered little at their trial. In Judge Joseph Gary's courtroom, they were already guilty because of their political beliefs....

All the defendants except Neebe, who was given 15 years in prison, were sentenced to death. As national attention focused on the trial, sympathy and solidarity for the Haymarket Eight grew, with protests taking place around the country and the world against the injustice of the verdict....

The governor of Illinois was forced to later commute Fielden's and Schwab's sentences to life in prison, and Lingg committed suicide the day before he was scheduled to hang. Some half a million workers lined Chicago's Milwaukee Avenue on November 13, 1887, as the funeral procession for the Martyrs wound its way to the railway station for the trip to Waldheim Cemetery....

As Spies said before he was executed:

"If you think that by hanging us, you can stamp out the labor movement...the movement from which the downtrodden millions, the millions who toil in want and misery expect salvation--if this is your opinion, then hang us! Here you will tread upon a spark, but there and there, behind you and in front of you, and everywhere, flames blaze up. It is a subterranean fire. You cannot put it out."

socialistworker.org/2009/05/01/the-story-of-may-day