

Check Out the Campaign for a Mass Party of Labor

Written by Marcus and Laura Mayo
Thursday, 18 October 2012 21:57

This article was originally published in the August edition of the [Dayton's Bluff District Forum](#) in St. Paul, MN



Our family has been residents of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood for nearly six and a half years. We moved into the neighborhood as we were able to find a first house that was relatively affordable, with the knowledge that the crime rate was declining, and for the most part housing prices were still on the rise. Of course, shortly after we moved in, things began changing very rapidly. Due to conditions and circumstances completely out of our control, within a few years the value of our house, like many others in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, had dropped tremendously.

During the past few years we have watched hard-working neighbors struggle to keep their heads above water, like so many other neighborhoods throughout the country. And while our policy makers in Washington have assured the survival of banks, whose complete lack of accountability and use of complex mathematical formulas resulted in the expansion of the subprime housing market, little more than lip service has been offered to working Americans. This raises a question that many of us have been asking ourselves – who in government represents the working/middle class? Of course, both parties claim to, but their policies would beg to differ. In fact when it comes time to vote for a candidate, many people feel they are voting for the lesser of two evils when choosing their party lines – is that really a choice at all?

The people in control of government and the people and corporations in control of the financial sector were not even remotely impacted by their own crisis in the same way that vast numbers of workers like you and I were impacted. In fact, according to recent figures released by the Federal Reserve, families in the top 10% income bracket in the US enjoyed a slight increase in net worth from 2007 to 2010, while most Americans - including those who can least afford to - experienced a drastic loss in net worth.

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Why are things this way? Must we continually be forced to accept the status quo, and continue to fight for every single crumb that we can get, while those at the top reap the vast majority of the rewards of our hard work? Perhaps the time has come for workers/middle-class Americans and labor unions to form their own party, a truly democratic party, not corrupted by corporate influence and corporate donations. Instead of the majority of us fighting over the crumbs thrown down by the minority, we can gather together and represent ourselves to assure policies are made with us in mind, not despite us.

We are working with a campaign to bring up the question of a mass party of labor to the public. If you are interested in finding out more about the Campaign for Mass Party of Labor (CMPL) or if you'd like to help, please check out the web site at: <http://www.masspartyoflabor.org/>