

League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Basic Education for New Members

Class VIII
The League

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The League

A world economic revolution has made world political revolution inevitable. The question is: What kind of revolution will it be?

Organizations are created to answer that question. Building an organization to guarantee that the struggle will be in the interests of the common people is a huge and historic task. It cannot be done by leaders and followers. It can only be accomplished by an organization with a structure that allows and demands that all of the members have a voice in determining what is to be done and each has a specific responsibility in carrying that decision out.

"Our task is to be part of the historic effort to transform the disorganized American mass into a conscious political force. Our tactic is to participate in their crossing over from the defensive to the offensive. Our goal is to utilize this spontaneous process to prepare the people to reclaim their country by struggling to achieve political power and transforming the property relations from private to public."

The League of Revolutionaries for a New America has to be in position, connected, and oriented to participate in the broad and sweeping possibilities of the American people's change in thinking.

Our Program sums up our estimate of the situation that we face. Carrying out the Program is the fundamental work of the LRNA and its organization bodies.

Assessment and Planning

Assessment: the process of considering all the information about a situation... The first thing you must do is make an assessment of the situation.

Cambridge Dictionary

We continuously strive to understand what is making social motion happen. We address this through an ongoing assessment of the quantitative stages of the revolutionary process. We look at the objective situation, we try to understand what caused it and what will happen as a result.

Making a political assessment depends upon our understanding as much as we can about the situation. We have to know our class enemy, and we have to know ourselves. It is important to have a thoroughly objective, scientific, and in-depth grasp of the real situation. What are the moving parts? What are the forces in motion? And why.

Planning: the act of deciding how to do something.
Cambridge Dictionary

Our Program and assessment of the world has to be reflected in our planning - what we do as an organization.

Our assessment will provide us with the objective foundation for a plan of work that will allow us to propagandize people as they rise up, build the organization with them, and develop them as communists. Based on our mission and political assessment, planning is to identify, train, and organize the tens of thousands of people who are moving toward revolution.

We keep planning to its essentials. What is our relation to other social forces? Who are they? How and where can we carry out a campaign to build the LRNA? Where and how should all of our resources (cadre, papers, energy, propaganda, funds, etc.) be allocated? Ultimately how can we contact, connect, and work with those in motion?

Planning requires an assessment of the objective situation and of our resources in each locale. On the basis of the assessment and mission, a plan is developed to take the new ideas we are talking about (propaganda) to the revolutionaries.

As we recruit new members, they become a part of this ongoing process.

Propaganda

League propaganda is "material or information propagated to advance a cause." Propaganda introduces the new ideas that are needed to push this process forward.

Revolutionaries emancipate the thinking of new class forces in motion to play their decisive role in the emancipation of humanity. We grasp the significance of the contradiction between society's productive forces and its productive relations. Guided by philosophy — which is the study of the processes governing thought, principles, and laws of motion — we put ourselves in a position to be a force for class consciousness.

The results of the capitalist crisis push people into the streets to right what they perceive as wrong. It is revolutionary propaganda that points out class interests, that unmask the enemy and points the way forward with a vision of a new society. We can accomplish our goals because potentially powerful social forces resulting from changes in the economy are spontaneously moving toward challenging the existing property system. These social forces — the spontaneous movement — are fighting for their immediate needs, such as education, medical care, or housing, within the existing system. This is the objective side — something that both the enemy class and LRNA have to deal with. The subjective side is the thinking of the people we are trying to influence. Participating in the marches and the different forms of motion, we can be there with our propaganda, with consciousness and vision. We participate by being a part of the motion, events, and organizational efforts. We participate from a propagandistic standpoint. We are a revolutionary organization in America that talks in terms of changing a system.

Vision

Vision and mission:

- A vision statement focuses on tomorrow and what an organization wants to ultimately become.
- A mission statement focuses on today and what an organization does to achieve it.

ClearVoice

We know this country is in crisis. What is behind the crisis, the economy — that is, the way things are produced and distributed — is the foundation of society and the political system.

Revolutionaries today must think in terms of a system, ending the system of private property. A change will not occur within the capitalist system. These elementary things must be developed from the outset. The economic foundation of society has changed. This will inevitably change the society and political system. Significant upsurges are the beginning. We face a qualitative leap and must exacerbate the antagonism between productive forces and relations.

We always strengthen our grasp of the revolutionary significance of the electronic revolution in production, the emergence of a new revolutionary sector of the working class, and the beginnings of an objective communist movement. We know this is the only force that can create the conditions for a transfer of political power from the capitalists to the working class.

What do we mean by an objective communist movement? That movement which arises when there is such an intense antagonism between private ownership of the necessities of life and the social character of distribution and consumption that the entire social order begins to collapse. Communism – society's ownership and control of the socially necessary means of life – is the only means by which society's actual, practical demands can be resolved.

The historic leap in the economy presents us with an urgent problem. Fascism is gaining ground as the ruling class takes the tactical offensive in an attempt to shore up its strategic weakness. Historically, the objective communist movement is on the offensive, but subjectively – intellectually – is anticommunist. It doesn't have the slightest chance of success unless it comes to understand that communism is the solution. Nothing can be done except through the process of changing people's minds as they struggle for the basics of life. This is our propaganda task.

Next Stage

The next stage is the outward motion of the League. To accomplish anything, we must grow — grow in such a way that we carry out our mission.

That mission calls for us to unite the revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class and to educate and win them over to a cooperative communist resolution of the problem.

Our Program maps out the development of the battlefield and the forces at work. It gives us direction, vision, and goals. Every day we must organize to carry it out. The League's outward motion can be accomplished if we are clear about our mission. Every member contributes their energy to carry it out.

If revolutionaries understand the significance of consciousness they can influence the people they lead. Then the question we must answer is, how are the leaders of this revolutionary class to be developed as strategic thinkers, as revolutionaries positioned to shape class consciousness as a condition of moving along the path to revolutionary solutions? This gets to the heart of the question: what kind of organization is the League building, and what are the tasks of the League at this particular point?

The League is where the revolutionaries can receive the tools necessary to resolve the problems facing society today. By bringing the revolutionaries who are the leaders of the dispossessed into the League, the conditions can be set not only for their development and training but also for the League to build the type of organization that can be about change. Understanding it, visualizing it, preparing our class to lead in that change.

This is the moment for an organization of revolutionaries to develop strategic leadership, to inspire the people with a vision of the new society. Revolutionaries enter into every social struggle with a propaganda message that empowers people with the consciousness to strive for this new society and understand their responsibility to carry out their role in history.

Doing widespread propaganda does not mean that revolutionaries step away from the heat of battle, or propagandize from a distance. Revolutionaries accomplish their mission by working within the practical struggle. From within the struggle, revolutionaries offer solutions to the questions of the day, pushing the movement forward along its line of march from scattered defensive battles to united political struggle. Unity is the key to victory. Unity rests upon objective equality and subjective consciousness. The unity of the revolutionary section of the class stands on class consciousness.

Today every struggle is a battle over actual/real class interests and a school for revolutionary ideas and propaganda.

This is your organization. All the correct lines and organizational structures mean nothing without people. The success of the organization, and we deeply believe the future of this country, depends on its members. The future is up to us. Let us collectively seize and secure that future.

Building the LRNA so that it can participate in the struggles of the day, so that it can educate and propagandize, is central to all our planning. The LRNA has to recruit people and develop them as cadre who can function as propagandists, and recruit others.

Discussion

1. Discuss how these elements help us make an assessment in our Area or committee:
 - How is the ruling class changing its methods of control of the developing social struggle?
 - What forces are in motion against this?
 - What is our relation to other social forces? Specify who they are.
 - How and where can we carry out a campaign to build the League?
2. Why is an organization of revolutionaries needed for our class to win? What is our role?
3. Discuss: "Participating in the marches and the different forms of motion, we can be there with our propaganda with consciousness and vision. We participate by being a part of the motion, events, and organizational effort. We participate from a propagandistic standpoint. We are a revolutionary organization in America that talks in terms of changing a system."
4. How is this related to a visionary perspective?
5. Discuss the Program and mission of the League.