

GGJ MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY 2014

April 10-13, 2014: Detroit, Michigan

**No War! No Warming!
Build an Economy for the People and the Planet!**

Packet #1



(above image is from GGJ Congress 2011 in Raleigh, NC)

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TIME TO GET IT DONE

Why is this Year's Membership Assembly so Critical?

GGJ has a long tradition of important Membership Assemblies— and this year's is no different. When we gather in Detroit, more than 100 of this country's most dynamic organizers will be taking time away from some of the most important social justice struggles happening right now. We will be converging at a time when the situations in our communities and around the globe are getting more and more critical. Conditions are worsening for many, and struggles are widening and deepening.

This year's Membership Assembly is particularly important, as we will be building on the advances made at past assemblies.

In 2008, the Black Mesa Water Coalition hosted GGJ member organizations in Flagstaff, Arizona. At that Membership Assembly, GGJ members adopted a program that pushed us to engage the emerging climate justice and anti-war movements.

Two years later, the Miami Workers Center hosted GGJ member organizations in South Florida where we began talking about the intersecting crises of the economy, the ecology and the empire. It was then that GGJ members added the fight for a more just economy to the alliance's plate.

Then in 2012, when Black Workers for Justice hosted GGJ member organizations in Raleigh, North Carolina, GGJ members adopted the No War, No Warming, Build an Economy for the People and the Planet framework. Unfortunately, just a quick scan of what's going on in the world confirms the accuracy of our framework which points to the danger of a system that promotes war-making and prison-building in order to reap unbelievable wealth for the 1% while starving humanity and poisoning the planet. In many parts of the world, the popular uprisings that gave so many of us hope have been turned back by forces of reaction and neoliberalism.

As we prepare to come together, this time in Detroit with our hosts, GGJ member organization East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC), we do not need a new framework. We've identified many of the central problems we're facing. We have a sense of what needs to be done. This Membership Assembly will be about coming up with a plan to get it done.

A lot has changed within GGJ since our last Membership Assembly. The alliance has a new National Director. Our Anti-War/Anti-Militarization working group has struggled in parallel with the decline of the anti-war movement in the U.S., and our New Economy working group has needed more time and attention than we have had to give. Yet, GGJ is at the helm of a promising, new national climate justice campaign called Our Power: Communities United for a Just Transition. Our relationships with our social movement allies around the world have been strengthened, and we are seen as partners in movement convergence spaces.

Like so many social movements around the world, we face critical questions of how to take our struggles to the next level— questions like:

- What is our vision of an alternative to capitalist, white supremacist and

hetero-normative domination? Or What is our vision of the systems change that we want?

- What is our vision for an alternative to capitalism? And what are our principles of a Just Transition to get there?
- How do we move beyond isolated resistance to cohere a more holistic movement of movements?
- How do we lift up our struggles and fights, each with their own unique conditions and character, to be more coherent together?
- How can our day-to-day campaigns be connected to our vision of grassroots internationalism?

Where other Membership Assemblies have focused on diagnosing the different sides of the systemic crisis that we face, this Membership Assembly will build on what we've got and will push us to develop a plan to get in motion. For the Assembly, we have five key objectives:

1. Highlight the conditions and work happening in Detroit as examples of the crisis as well as the opportunities to fight for a just transition;
2. Deepen our understanding of the No War, No Warming, Build an Economy for the People and the Planet framework;
3. Clarify GGJ's positions in and contributions to the Climate Justice Alliance / Our Power campaign;
4. Give life to GGJ's work on grassroots internationalism, gender justice, just transition and system change; and
5. Make organizational commitments about what we will each do in the next year to advance GGJ's work.

In the coming weeks, GGJ's staff and Coordinating Committee will be sharing a proposal for discussion as well as pulling together two prep calls so we can all discuss and refine the proposal. We will also be reaching out to and available to all of the member organizations. It's a lot, but we are confident. After all, nothing less than the fate of humanity depends on us doing our part to get it done!

GETTING READY FOR DETROIT

How Your Organization Can Prepare for the 2014 GGJ Membership Assembly

In April, dozens of the most kick-ass organizers from across the country— and around the globe— will be gathering in Detroit for GGJ's 2014 Membership Assembly. Because it is such a commitment for all of us to dedicate the resources to travel and take time away from our pressing campaigns, we want to make sure to make the best use of our time together.

One important part of this preparation will be the work our organizations do before our representatives even get to the Assembly. This guide is intended to offer suggestions to make sure that we are on the same page when the Assembly opens.

This is especially important this year since we will be tackling five critical objectives at the Assembly where we plan to:

- Highlight the conditions and work happening in Detroit as example of the crisis as well as the opportunities to fight for a just transition;
- Deepen our understanding of the No War, No Warming, Build an Economy for the People and the Planet framework;
- Clarify GGJ's positions in and contributions to the Climate Justice Alliance / Our Power campaign;
- Give life to GGJ's work on grassroots internationalism, gender justice, just transition and system change; and
- Make organizational commitments about what we will each do in the next year to advance GGJ's work.

Obviously that's a lot— even for four and a half days we'll have together. Still, we are confident because of the caliber of our organizations and because of the work that the staff, the Coordinating Committee and all of us will be doing to prepare.

To be successful, we can't have organizations send representatives who are there just to "check things out." We want all of us to make organizational commitments so that we leave the Assembly with real momentum. Clearly, this means that each of our organizations must discuss the 2014 Get It Done plan, raise questions and offer suggestions in the next few weeks. That way, all of the organizational representatives will be empowered to give a sense of what their organizations will be able to take up in the coming year. Much of this builds on models developed by the Zapatistas with the Caracoles and the Cuban Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

To help all of us do this type of prep, we ask all organizations follow these steps:

Read the 2014 Get It Done proposal. This will be emailed by March 3.

Hold organizational discussion(s) about the proposal. This/these discussions should involve as many people in your organization as makes sense.

Offer any feedback to GGJ staff. This could include questions, concerns, suggestions or uncontrollable praise.

Attend the two prep calls. There will be two prep calls leading up to the Assembly. Each call will happen twice in order to accommodate folks' schedules. Delegates to the Assembly are expected to participate in two prep calls— one of each session. Contact Helena Wong at helena@ggjalliance.org if you are unable to attend one of the sessions.

Session 1

Wednesday, 3/26, 7pm EST/6pm CTL/5pm MTN/4pm PST (1.5 hrs)

or

Thursday, 3/27, 12 EST/11 am CTL/10 am MTN/9 am PST (1.5 hrs)

Session 2

Wednesday, 4/2, 7pm EST/6pm CTL/5pm MTN/4pm PST (1.5 hrs)

or

Thursday, 4/3, 12 EST/11 am CTL/10 am MTN/9 am PST (1.5 hrs)

Read the summary of the decisions that come out of the prep calls.

Hold an organizational discussion. This discussion should build off of the proposal and the summary of any decisions that come out of the prep calls. This discussion should be focused on what work your organization would be most interested in taking up so that your organizational reps are empowered to do more than just take the information back.

Offer any feedback to GGJ staff. Email Helena at helena@ggjalliance.org with your questions/comments/thoughts.

Hold a final organizational discussion if it's necessary.

Get to Detroit ready to spark a movement of movements! Do we have to say any more?

We recognize that all of our organizations have different structures, practices and cultures, so we do not see this guide as a one-size fits all set of instructions. All of us should adjust this plan in the ways that make the most sense for our organizations, but we do hope that all of our organizations do the prep work necessary so that we can hit the road running. We trust that you'll figure out the best ways to do this, but if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Helena Wong at helena@ggjalliance.org or anyone else on GGJ's staff.

WELCOME TO DETROIT FROM EMEAC

Dear member of GGJ,

Welcome to Detroit! We are excited to host you all as members of Grassroots Global Justice during the Assembly in our wonderful and complicated city. We are looking forward to getting to know you and sharing more about our organization. Below please find a little information on our organization, the work we do and the current political climate in Detroit.

The East Michigan Environmental Action Council exists because there is a real need for justice based framing and articulation of ecological problems and solutions; solutions that reflect the best hopes of people for their families and communities. Toward that end, our mission is to empower the Detroit community to protect, preserve and value the land, air and water. We build community power through environmental justice education, youth development and collaborative relationship building. Our programs and initiatives work to bring about change on multiple levels and reflect the following areas of work: youth leadership development, policy and advocacy, and community-based media and journalism. Further, as EMEAC has been gifted a building, we are committed to creating a space in which members of the community and grassroots organizers have an accessible space to reflect, share, hear and share concerns and heal ourselves and the planet. We value the rights of Mother Earth and the sacred relationships that exist between and among all of her children and are rooted in the Principles of Environmental Justice, Eco-Feminism and Digital Justice.

EMEAC is a local place based membership organization. We do our work because Detroit is in crisis. In every area of life, Detroiters are under assault: the education system has been dismantled, unions broken, houses foreclosed on, pensions defunded, emergency services selectively applied, street lights permanently shut off in certain areas, environmental injustices abound, social safety net services defunded, will of the people (through democratic processes) denied and so on.

Just as the Detroit public school system of over 230,000 students in the 1980s was carved up (with barely 41,000 students in 2013) and parceled out to outsider profit-driven Charter school companies and a claimed "statewide" failed schools initiative (with only Detroit-area schools funding it)---Detroit as a municipality is on the same chopping board. The majority of Detroiters took part in a democratic voting process in 2012 to oppose the appointment of an Emergency Financial Manager (EFM); they voted elected officials into office with the hope that they would represent the People at the local and state levels; they spoke out against the large scale land sale to private developer John Hantz; and they opposed and pushed back on other policies that would further disenfranchise Detroiters. None of this, however, halted the abrogation of democracy.

State-level officials appointed people to oversee and have veto power over all decisions made in the city, i.e., 2009 and 2013 appointments of the EFM over Detroit Public schools and the city of Detroit, respectively. In July, the Governor appointed EFM filed bankruptcy.

Defenders of the systematic denial of democratic processes justify this move by drawing upon racist, ahistorical and inaccurate stereotypes of Black people. This sentiment was aptly reflected in the views of Detroit EFM, Kevyn Orr who was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying that “For a long time the city was dumb, lazy, happy and rich... [and] if you had an eighth grade education, you’ll get 30 years of a good job and a pension and great health care, but you don’t have to worry about what’s going to come.”

While there are real obstacles to a democratic process in Detroit there are many exciting neighborhood initiated projects to create community. While you are here you’ll be spending a good amount of time in the Cass Corridor Commons. You’ll have an opportunity to mingle with Commons members during bike rides with Fender Bender through the neighborhoods to see Detroit examples of climate resilience, during cultural hip-hop, b-boy or dj demonstrations with the 5E gallery or working in the Oakland Community garden with residents of the Northend.

Warm regards,

Diana Copeland
Co-Director
East Michigan Environmental Action Council

GENERAL INFORMATION

Grassroots Global Justice Alliance (GGJ) is proud to announce our 6th Membership Assembly on April 10-13, 2014, hosted by [East Michigan Environmental Action Council](#) (EMEAC) in Detroit, MI!

Why is this Membership Assembly Important?

GGJ has a long tradition of important Membership Assemblies— and this year's is no different. When we gather in Detroit, more than 100 of this country's most dynamic organizers will be taking time away from some of the most important social justice struggles happening right now. We will be converging at a time when the situations in our communities and around the globe are getting more and more critical. Conditions are worsening for many, and struggles are widening and deepening.

This year's Membership Assembly is particularly important, as we will be building on the advances made at past assemblies. **See page 2 to read historical context for this important Membership Assembly.** Or visit <http://ggjalliance.org/whyMA2014>

Who should attend?

In April, dozens of the most kick-ass organizers from across the country— and around the globe— will be gathering in Detroit for GGJ's 2014 Membership Assembly. Because it is such a commitment for all of us to dedicate the resources to travel and take time away from our pressing campaigns, we want to make sure to make the best use of our time together.

One important part of this preparation will be the work our organizations do before our representatives even get to the Assembly.

Over the next few months, we are asking GGJ members to engage in discussions, and to aim to bring 2 representatives from your organization to the Membership Assembly in April. See page 4 for a Prep Guide intended to offer suggestions for how to prepare your delegates, to make sure that we are on the same page when the Assembly opens. Or visit <http://ggjalliance.org/gettingreadyMA2014>

REGISTRATION

Early Registration Fees (Feb 10-March 10): \$130 per member organization (covers registration for all delegates), or **\$55 per individual** for invited guests.

We'll be participating in a Detroit Community Activity as part of the Assembly. When you register, choose your adventure between a Bike Tour or a Gardening Project! More info coming in March.

GGJ is spending roughly \$900 per member, so registration fees will only partially offset the costs of the logistics for the Assembly.

Members, please register online at <http://bit.ly/registerGGJmember2014>

Invited Allies, please register online at <http://bit.ly/registerGGJally2014>

If you have trouble with the online registration form, please contact Sha Grogan-Brown at sha@ggjalliance.org or 540-445-0819.

REGISTER NOW!

You must register your delegates by Monday, March 17 to guarantee your place, including lodging and food.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2014 please do so ASAP. Your organization must be a member in good standing in order to vote and to be reimbursed for travel stipends. To pay your membership dues, visit <http://www.ggjalliance.org/memberdues> or contact sha@ggjalliance.org

If you are not able to pay dues because of financial limitations, please contact sha@ggjalliance.org

DIGITAL AD BOOK: Send a Saludo to the Movement!

Send a shout out to the movement! We are doing an eco-friendly digital program book. Ads will rotate every 10 seconds, and pricing is based on how frequently your ad is shown. Deadline for payment and artwork is MARCH 31. **For more info and rates visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ggjsaludos>**

IMPORTANT LINKS

BUY A SALUDO (SHOUT OUT) IN OUR DIGITAL PROGRAM BOOK! <http://tinyurl.com/ggjsaludos>

MEMBER ONLINE REGISTRATION <http://bit.ly/registerGGJmember2014>

ALLY ONLINE REGISTRATION <http://bit.ly/registerGGJally2014>

VISIT OUR MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY PAGE: <http://www.ggjalliance.org/membershipassembly2014>

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION: <http://ggjalliance.org/assemblylogistics2014>

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

The Cass Corridor Commons: 4605 Cass Ave, Detroit, MI. Hosted by [East Michigan Environmental Action Council](#) (EMEAC)

FOOD

During the Assembly, GGJ will cover breakfast, lunch and dinner for all participants. Food will be locally sourced from the community food security gardens and projects. Please tell us any dietary needs you have when you register online.

LODGING

We will be staying at the [Hotel St. Regis Detroit](#) at 3071 W Grand Blvd in Detroit. In order to get the best rates, all lodging reservations will be made through GGJ. **Please do not contact the hotel directly.** Please note any special needs or requests in the registration form, and contact Helena Wong with any questions: helena@ggjalliance.org 917-270-0322

GGJ will cover 4 nights of lodging (Wednesday 4/9, Thursday 4/10, Friday 4/11, Saturday 4/12) for up to 2 delegates of member organizations, and for all international allies. National allies will be invoiced to reimburse costs of their hotel rooms. **NOTE: All participants must confirm their lodging needs through the online registration form by Monday, March 17.**

TRAVEL STIPENDS FOR GGJ MEMBERS

GGJ will provide travel stipends for up to 2 members of GGJ member organizations. Stipend amounts are based on average flight cost for your region. Allies are expected to cover their own travel costs. GGJ does not provide travel stipends for children of members—members or their organizations will be responsible for travel costs for children.

NOTE: GGJ members organizations will receive your stipend once you register online, enter your travel information into our online form here (<http://ggjalliance.org/travelform>), and send us your ticket receipt to helena@ggjalliance.org

Regional Member Stipend Amounts:

Northwest: \$450

Southwest: \$400

Midwest + Northeast: \$200

South/Southeast + Rhode Island: \$325

Bemidji, Bismarck, Flagstaff: \$500

California, Vermont & Albuquerque: \$450

SEND US YOUR FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please purchase your own airline tickets for the Assembly. You should fly into Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) on Wednesday April 9, and out of the same airport AFTER 2pm on Sunday April 13. We will provide transportation from the airport on Wednesday April 9 and to the airport for flights departing AFTER 2PM on Sunday April 13.

Once you have purchased your ticket, please send your ticket receipt to helena@ggjalliance.org and **enter your travel information into our online form: <http://ggjalliance.org/travelform>**

Coordinating Committee Members: All members of the Coordinating Committee should arrive by 4pm for a meeting at 6pm.

CHILDCARE

We will provide childcare for children age 3 and older. Please let us know in the online registration form how many children over age 3 you need childcare for, and we will follow up with you. GGJ does not provide travel stipends for children of members—members or their organizations will be responsible for travel costs for children.

INTERPRETATION

We will provide English-Spanish interpretation as needed. Please let us know if you need interpretation in the online registration form.

Still have questions? Please contact Helena Wong: helena@ggjalliance.org * 917-270-0322

We look forward to seeing you in Detroit!

Contact GGJ Staff:

Cindy Wiesner, National Coordinator
cindy@ggjalliance.org * 305-735-3256

Helena Wong, Membership Assembly Organizer
Helena@ggjalliance.org * 917-270-0322

Sha Grogan-Brown, Development & Communications Coordinator
sha@ggjalliance.org * 540-445-0819

GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE
CUOTA DE MEMBRESÍA / MEMBERSHIP DUES 2014



Información de Contacto/Contact Information

Nombre de la Organización
Name of Organization _____

Persona Principal de Contacto
Main Contact Person _____

Dirección de la Organización
Organizational Address _____

Ciudad Estado Código Postal
City State Zip _____

Teléfono de la Organización
Organizational Phone _____

Escala móvil de cuotas anuales / Sliding scale annual dues:

<u>Org Budget/Presupuesto</u>	<u>Annual Fee/Cuota Anual</u>
\$300k o menos/or less:	\$250
\$300k - \$500k:	\$250 - \$500
\$500k - \$1,000,000:	\$500 - \$750
\$1 - \$2,000,000:	\$750 - \$1,000
\$2,000,000 +:	\$1,000 - \$1,500

Estamos pagando cuotas por los años calendarios / We are paying dues for calendar year(s):

2013 2014 2015

\$ _____ Suma de la Cuota/Dues Amount

Please write a check to Grassroots Global Justice with "Dues for [name of your organization]" in the memo line, and send with this form to:

Por favor escriba un cheque a Grassroots Global Justice con "Cuota para [nombre de su organización]" en el memo y mándelo con este formulario a:

Sha Grogan-Brown
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
4919 Pentridge Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19143



**GRASSROOTS
GLOBAL JUSTICE
ALLIANCE**

Sponsorship Form

6th GGJ Membership Assembly 2014

April 10-13, 2014, Detroit

Hosted by East Michigan Environmental Action Council (EMEAC)

Grassroots Global Justice (GGJ) is an alliance that weaves and bridges together US-based grassroots organizing groups and global social movements working for climate justice, an end to war, and a just transition to a new economy that is better for people and the planet. Our Membership Assembly process is a crucial component of our strategy to bring our members together to build relationships, share successes and challenges, and develop common strategies. Grassroots organizers from across the US will come together with special guests from our international social movement partners and other close allies to deepen our grassroots internationalism, to support EMEAC’s work on the ground in Detroit, and to explore key questions about the alliance's work and strategic direction.

Send a Shout Out to the Movement and support GGJ’s Membership Assembly by purchasing an ad in our digital program book! Slideshow will be displayed at strategic times throughout the Assembly and posted on our website and Facebook page. Digital Ads will rotate every 10 seconds.

Payment and Artwork due March 31st. Please send artwork to sha@ggjalliance.org

To purchase an ad online, [click here](#)

If you’d rather send us information by mail, please fill out this form and send it to:

Grassroots Global Justice, 4919 Pentridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Sponsorship Levels*:

- \$500: Digital Ad shown 3 times in rotation
- \$250: Digital Ad shown twice in rotation
- \$125: Digital Ad shown once in rotation
- \$75: Org Name Only listed in Digital Slideshow

****GGJ members: Pay your 2012 dues and get \$75 off!***

Payment Information

- Enclosed is a check made out to Grassroots Global Justice.
- I want to pay by credit card. → → → Visa / MasterCard / American Express
- Please send an invoice.
 - Name on card: _____
 - Number: _____
 - Exp Date: ____/____ CVC: _____
 - Billing Zip Code: _____ Billing Phone #: _____

Contact Information

Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send a Shout Out to the Movement:

Sponsor GGJ Membership Assembly 2014 with a Digital Ad



April 10-13, 2014: GGJ's Membership Assembly will bring together grassroots organizers from across the US with international social movement partners and other close allies to share successes and challenges, and develop common strategies.



Send a message to support GGJ...

Purchase an ad in our digital program book! Slideshow will be displayed at the event and posted on our website and Facebook page. Digital Ads will rotate every 10 seconds.

Click here to sponsor

Sponsorship Levels:

GGJ members: Pay your 2014 dues and get \$75 off!

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- \$250:** Digital Ad shown twice in rotation
- \$125:** Digital Ad shown once in rotation
- \$75:** Org Name Only listed in Digital Slideshow

**Payment &
Artwork Due:
March 31**

For more info contact Sha Grogan-Brown: sha@ggjalliance.org * 540-445-0819

Mande un Saludo al Movimiento:

Apoye la Asamblea de Miembros de GGJ 2014 con un Anuncio



10-13 abril, 2014: la Asamblea de Miembros de GGJ reunirá a organizadores de base de los EEUU con aliad@s de movimientos sociales internacionales y otr@s aliad@s para compartir sus éxitos y desafíos, y desarrollar estrategias comunes.



Envíe un mensaje de apoyo a GGJ... Compre un anuncio en nuestro libro digital de programación! La presentación se mostrará en el evento y publicado en nuestro sitio web y página de Facebook. Anuncios Digitales rotarán cada 10 segundos.

Haga clic aquí para patrocinar

Los niveles de patrocinio:

Miembros de GGJ: Paga su cuota 2014 y recibe \$75 de descuento!

- \$500:** Anuncio Digital se muestra 3 veces en rotación
- \$250:** Anuncio Digital se muestra 2 veces en rotación
- \$125:** Anuncio Digital se muestra 1 vez en rotación
- \$75:** Solamente Nombre de Organización aparece en diapositivas

**Fecha Limite:
31 de Marzo**