



Building a Movement

What role were you born to play in social change?

by George Lakey

This article first appeared on the website Waging Nonviolence on February 3, 2016.

Bill Moyer was a street-wise, working class white boy from rowhouse Philadelphia, who – in the turbulence of the 1960s – went to Chicago to work for an anti-racist housing campaign. He wound up joining Martin Luther King Jr.’s national staff as an organizer. I played tag football more than once with Moyer, catching his grin as he mercilessly overwhelmed his opponents through daring and smarts. He might have been the most joyfully aggressive Quaker I’ve known. By the time he died in 2002, Moyer had given significant leadership on multiple political issues, including the national anti-nuclear movement.

In California, Moyer went to graduate school to study social movement theory and indulge his love of analytical thinking. He became best known for identifying eight stages of successful social movements, which he named the [Movement Action Plan](#), or MAP. I found activists using MAP as far away as Taiwan, where they had already read it in translation before I got there.

Moyer also invented a powerful tool that clarifies how we work for change on two levels: individually and organizationally. [Four Roles of Social Activism](#), he called it, and right



now the tool is helping environmentalist organizations in the Philadelphia area clarify their relationships to the [new campaign Power Local Green Jobs](#). The tool also empowers individuals to become more effective. In this column I’ll describe the four roles so you can notice their resonance personally for you and also for your group.

With Moyer’s permission, I tweaked the names of three of the four roles, making the differences sharper; you’ll get both names here. I call the roles advocate, helper, organizer, and rebel.

The advocate role

The advocate focuses on communication with what Moyer called “the powerholders,” who can change a policy or practice. Think of the civil liberties lawyer suing the city

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“The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA), guided by Quaker values, advocates for California state laws that are just, compassionate and respectful of the inherent worth of every person.”

Building a Movement

People organize in their communities to change the world

by Kevan Insko, FCLCA

For millions of people in our country and our state, 2017 has been a year of action – of mobilizing, organizing, building new ways to work together to make sure our voice of conscience is heard loud and clear. It’s also been a time of reflection – How do I forge consistency between my values and my engagement with society? How do I join with others to become the change I want to see in the world?

It takes many types of action and many types of people to build a movement for peace and justice, as George Lakey reflects in his article on Bill Moyer’s four roles of social change. In this issue we feature a sampling of the many ways people are organizing locally to effect change in their community, and by extension in our state and country.

In Monterey, civic activists organize to protect children from pesticides – first gathering local support and then coming to Sacramento to bring their voice to decisionmakers. In San Diego, a Unitarian Universalist group studies the issue of immigration and decides to start a program to visit people held by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in a private detention facility. They invite others to join and work with other organizations to change the policies that they witness in

their work. And in Silicon Valley, Quakers come together to witness for social justice.

Here in Sacramento, we’ve seen the effects of people power too, as supporters of FCLCA and our coalition partners have made an unprecedented number of visits to legislators. Members of our coalitions on Senate Bill 180 and Senate Bill 54 have organized on every level from big cities and small rural towns to the halls of the Assembly and Senate and the governor’s office. And the movement is growing: This week a rally and concert headlined by hip-hop artist Common drew a diverse crowd of 25,000 people that filled the state Capitol Mall – the theme: reform the criminal justice system.

Around our state, a well-organized movement has united immigrant rights advocates, community grassroots groups and faith-based organizations to say No to the Trump administration’s deportation plans and Yes to California leading the way by keeping state and local law enforcement out of the immigration enforcement business. With your support FCLCA has been working hard to pass Senate Bill 54. We hope to see you at the statewide rally here in Sacramento on September 7.

This year marks a milestone for FCLCA. It’s our 65th anniversary! Six and a half decades of bringing a voice – your voice – of

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for stop-and-frisk that profiles people of color, or the lobby group urging city council to change that policy. Moyer calls this role the “reformer,” while acknowledging that an advocate might urge changes that are radical in content.

In workshops, I invite people to scan their childhoods to recall whether they usually turned to an authority to correct what they felt was an injustice or problem. Maybe they went to the teacher after class to report bullying on the playground, or told a parent that little sister was upset. I’ve found that many adults who prefer to play the advocate role in social movements expressed that preference early, often developing some skill and confidence.

The helper role

The helper is drawn to direct service, personally doing what they can to remedy the situation. They address gender and racial discrimination in jobs by teaching how to write resumes or initiating job training. They attack carbon pollution by weatherizing houses or starting solar installation co-ops. Because much of mainstream community life is marked by service, Moyer’s name for this role is “citizen.”

When adults known for playing helper roles look back on their childhood they sometimes remember their own intervention to stop the bully, or their being the first one to bring a band-aid when little brother falls off the bike.

The organizer role

While the advocate and helper who want to make a bigger difference may themselves need to organize – by starting a nonprofit, for example – the organizing part is not the most satisfying for them. The advocate is happiest when convincing the judge that equal marriage is constitutional. The helper loves to witness the graduating class that includes more people of color.

The organizer, on the other hand, experiences joy from collecting people who may not even know

each other and turning them into a well-oiled team, or tripling the attendance at the union local’s monthly meetings. Organizers often believe that the sheer power of numbers will make change because powerholders are afraid of alternative sources of power and may concede something to head off further growth.

When organizers were children they may have been the ones who revived the celebration of Martin Luther King Day at school, or boosted the flagging morale of the drill team. Moyer calls them “change agents,” and he himself was certainly that.

The rebel role

The rebel who sees a problem or injustice prefers to make a commotion of some kind to force powerholders to make a change. Martin Luther King Jr. explained that a campaign must create a crisis. Gandhi made so much trouble that he made India ungovernable by the British. True, some famous rebels needed organizing skills to scale up their commotion to the crisis point. But rebels look at numbers not for their own sake but to determine “how many people will it take to create what degree of crisis?” Alice Paul left the mass movement for woman suffrage in order to lead a smaller band of rebels willing to make the [nonviolent trouble that forced U.S. President Woodrow Wilson](#) to give in to justice.

Roles can be played positively or negatively

While some activists dismiss one or more of these roles as uncool – “the nonprofit-industrial complex” or “sellout lobbyists” or “infantile protesters” – Moyer found the record clear: Successful social movements include all four roles.

He acknowledged, though, that any of these roles can either assist or undermine a movement, depending on how people play the role. Advocates, for example, can – through communication with powerholders – find ways of framing demands that make it more likely that the movement will take a large step forward. On the other hand, they can

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Building a Movement

Monterey County activists organize to protect children from harmful pesticides

by Lucia Calderon
Organizer, Safe Ag Safe Schools

When Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt ignored his own agency's science and reversed their proposed ban on chlorpyrifos, a neurotoxic pesticide known for its harms to children's development, it brought the issue of pesticide exposure and its consequences to the forefront of national environmental news. Manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, chlorpyrifos is a classic example of how big corporation's profits and power can be used to stall and even reverse necessary environmental protections.



Salinas high school teacher Ana Barrera leads the morning rally with chants including "¡DPR escucha! ¡Estamos en la lucha!"

Here in California, the Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR) coalition has been working to advance pesticide regulation and protect the health and safety of agricultural communities for over a decade by uniting organizations from frontline communities across the state and engaging community members in political action. I organize Safe Ag Safe Schools (SASS), one of CPR's member organizations and a powerful force of change in the agricultural counties of Monterey and Santa Cruz.

On July 12, 2017, 50 members of SASS joined hundreds of other California residents in a demonstration to tell the state Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) that it

is now their responsibility to ban the brain-harming chemical. Why should California ban chlorpyrifos?



2nd grade Salinas teacher Oscar Ramos speaks at the press conference about his experience growing up as a farmworker and the learning difficulties he sees his young students experiencing.

California accounts for 10-20% of the nation's chlorpyrifos use. It is our responsibility to take the lead on protecting the health of our nation.

The science is clear – chlorpyrifos has been banned for residential use since the early 2000s due to overwhelming evidence of its harmful impacts on children's development – and since then the evidence has only gotten stronger, thanks to epidemiological studies from UC Berkeley and UC Davis.



Three young leaders representing Monterey, Kern, and Tulare Counties deliver petitions to the Department of Pesticide Regulation. From left to right: Jose Gurrola, Angel Garcia de Sanchez, Cassandra Palmeno, Craig Cassidy

Farmworkers and children living, working, and learning near agricultural fields need protection from this potential-stealing chemical. We can no longer continue to put those at the heart of our food system at disproportionate risk of toxic exposure.

Our day began with a rally and press conference, including the delivery of over 167,000 petition signatures to the DPR, and we finished by marching to the Capitol to visit our elected representatives. Groups large and small explained why we came to the Capitol, what we wanted to get done, and how our elected leaders could help. By bringing people from agricultural cities into the Capitol offices, decision makers heard firsthand stories from the ground, and community members got to see where and how policies that affect them and the entire state are created. Despite the early start and long day, everyone left the Capitol energized and ready for the next trip, excited to see how they could continue to influence state policies for a healthier future for us all. [FCLCA](#)



Members of Safe Ag Safe Schools visit their elected Assembly member Anna Caballero, and request that she sign a letter to Governor Brown and the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Want more information?

Safe Ag Safe Schools
www.safeagsafeschools.org

Californians for Pesticide Reform
www.pesticidereform.org

Quaker Values in Action

A perspective from Carole Erickson, RN, PHN and member of the Monterey Peninsula Friends Meeting

The Quaker values/testimonies of community and equality as well as the EarthCare commitment are all present in the years-long effort of groups like Safe Ag, Safe Schools – Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. The energetic demonstration in Sacramento on July 12 demonstrated the wide range of people of all ages who insist that the EPA/DPR take actions to protect people, earth, air and water by major reductions in the quantity of pesticides used or prohibit their use entirely. The terrible damage known to be caused by these poisonous agents kills or sickens far too many workers and families near toxic applications. The busy intersection where we marched brought lots of “thumbs up” from drivers and passers-by, many of whom work in the EPA/DPR building.

Fortunately, our visit to the Assembly office of Mark Stone (29th District) who has been a strong supporter of public pressure to force legislators to take better care of this state, brought us in contact with his well-informed aide, Craig. We shared with him the newest developments – pesticide-related emergency treatment for 30 field workers in both Monterey and Santa Cruz counties in June, the statistic from Stanford Pediatric Oncology unit that 50% of their young patients are from the Salinas Valley, new research from UCLA, PANNA and a UN statement condemning the myth that pesticides are necessary to feed the world (March 2017). It was a very good day all around in making forceful, truthful statements to those who have the power and the duty to make the needed changes.

Building a Movement In San Diego, SOLACE volunteers visit immigrant detainees

Near the U.S. – Mexico border, grassroots activists have created the SOLACE project to visit immigrants held in detention by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. Kathy Smith, one of its leaders, tells us how SOLACE originated and evolved with the assistance of founders Angela Garcia-Sims and Penny Moreau.

FCLCA: How did this project begin?

In early 2011, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego selected a study issue: a 6-week course developed by the UU Association called *Immigration as a Moral Issue*. We opened the class up to the wider community and brought in outside speakers. Then we went through a process to decide how to carry our learning beyond an educational setting and out into the world around us. We chose to begin our own immigration visitation program – and we set it up to be interfaith – or rather no particular faith – in nature, open to the community and based at our church.

We knew what we wanted to do, but didn't know the steps to begin such a program locally so we invited speakers from other programs like Grassroots Leadership based in Texas. We also received help from the San Diego ACLU's immigration law program. We decided to become visitors to people held in the Otay Detention Center, near the U.S.-Mexico border.

We recognized that we needed to have a relationship with ICE and their approval, so that we could bring issues of medical, mental, or individual abuses to their at-



ention at quarterly meetings with them and the detention center authorities. We chose the name SOLACE, standing for Souls Offering Love and Compassionate Ears, and we developed a mission statement: *SOLACE is an interfaith visiting program that comforts and supports persons held in immigration detention, tells their stories, and advocates for a more humane immigration policy.* We officially began on September 29, 2012. And a few years later, we became an affiliate of CIVIC, a national visitation support and immigration reform advocacy organization.

FCLCA: Tell us more about how SOLACE operates today.

The main thing SOLACE does is visit detainees who have no one else who visits them. We are a friendly compassionate presence to folks who are isolated from their families and communities. The detainees we visit are housed in Otay Detention Facility, which is owned by

CoreCivic, a for-profit company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. They are not entitled to legal representation or a speedy appearance in court and because of their isolation, they are vulnerable to abuse. The detainees are held indefinitely, in some cases for years, waiting for backlogged immigration judges to hear their cases.

Visiting asylum seekers and immigrants detained in ICE or private prisons is both challenging and extremely rewarding. First and foremost is knowing that through our simple presence and friendly listening, we can ease the distress of someone isolated from loved ones, from family, from work and from the shelter they expected when they came to our country seeking asylum from danger and torture in their home country. There is no internet access in the facility, and the men and women there are often traumatized from their journeys to this country and from being isolated while in detention. Phone calls are expensive in these facilities. This is a big hurdle to connection to families around the world or in the US. The individuals who need the most support seem to receive the least. To me, they are all profiles in courage. Some redeem their lives from past infractions or mistakes. Others try to heal from their perilous journeys by helping each other because as opposed to criminal law, under immigration law they have no right to an attorney.

We also advocate for more humane treatment of detainees and reform of the immigration system. We believe a more humane system is possible, and part of our work at SOLACE is to bring to light the suffering of immigrants and families in the current system.

As I mentioned we are part of CIVIC, a national organization of visitation programs. CIVIC is currently co-sponsoring Senate Bill 29, the “Dignity

not Detention Act” in the California legislature with the goals of creating structures for monitoring detention centers, creating alternatives to detention, and ending bed quotas which sustain the profit

motive of the corporate prison industry.

We are collaborating with other organizations that are working for humane treatment and justice for immigrants. Among the many organizations that work for reform on a local, state and national

level are the Immigration Rights Consortium, Alliance San Diego, AFSC, Southern Borders Coalition, California Immigrant Policy Center, the UU Justice Ministry of CA, the San Diego Organizing Project/PICO and FCLCA.

FCLCA: What motivates you personally to do this work?

SOLACE is an extension of my work in the Alternatives to Violence project in state prisons. I see the parallels. I’m passionate about the need for visitation work – for a caring presence – as well as the need for focused advocacy to deal with the large shadow network of our jails, prisons and immigration detention centers. [FCLCA](#)

Want more information?

On the SOLACE project:

<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/solace>

If you are interested in volunteering with SOLACE, email solace@firstuusandiego.org. They hold regularly scheduled orientations.

On CIVIC and Senate Bill 29:

<http://www.endisolation.org/DignityNotDetentionAct>



Building a Movement

At the Capitol, advocates support bills to move California forward

by Jim Lindburg, FCLCA

The first year of the two-year legislative session is well underway. Policy committee hearings wrapped up prior to the summer legislative recess. Bills have advanced to the second house and are nearing their final floor vote before heading to Gov. Brown. The final weeks of the session will be chaotic with exciting floor sessions in what is shaping up to be year of progress. In addition to advancing progressive criminal justice reforms, anti-poverty measures and environmental measures, California continues to lead the resistance to the regressive policies being promoted by the Trump administration. While these efforts cannot entirely mitigate the impacts of the change of course at the national level, they provide real relief for California residents and provide a beacon of hope for other states and the entire nation.

What follows is an update of some key legislative activities that FCLCA has focused on this year. A more comprehensive review of the legislative session will be published after the session.

California leads the way on criminal justice reforms

FCLCA became a co-sponsor of **Senate Bill 180**, by Sen. Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles). Also known as the RISE (Repeal Ineffective Sentencing Enhancements) Act, SB 180 will do away with the three-year sentence enhancements for prior drug convictions that are applied consecutively for each prior conviction of possession for sale, sale or a similar offense. The bill, which is now supported by more than 160 organizations, does not provide relief for those involved in large volume drug trafficking. Rather, it is focused on those individuals who are overwhelmingly people of color, many of whom are addicted, homeless and suffering

from mental illness, who sell small quantities of illicit drugs to fellow users in order to sustain their own drug use. A remnant of the failed War on Drugs and the over policing of marginalized communities, since the passage of Realignment in 2011, most of those convicted under these offenses are now serving lengthy sentences in local jails and are a major driver of jail overcrowding. Moreover, the threat of an enhancement gives prosecutors considerable leverage to plea bargain for longer jail terms. Conversely, drug treatment, job training and wraparound services offer a humane, more effective and less costly approach than our over reliance on punishment. Despite significant opposition from the law enforcement lobby, SB 180 passed the full Senate, the Assembly Public Safety Committee and will soon be voted on by the full Assembly before going to Gov. Brown.

FCLCA has also been working with Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Los Angeles) to pass **SB 620**, which would give judges some discretion with regards to firearm enhancements. Current law gives only the district attorney discretion to seek a firearm enhancement. If the prosecution seeks the enhancement and obtains a conviction, the judge has no authority to strike the enhancement even when doing so would further the interest of justice. FCLCA has always opposed mandatory sentencing schemes. Instead, judges should have the discretion to tailor the sentence to fit the crime based on the individual circumstances of the individual case.

Given that SB 620 deals with crimes involving firearms, some progressive lawmakers were initially reluctant to support the measure. We pointed to the ineffectiveness of sentencing enhancements as well as our record of supporting legislation to reduce gun violence by reducing the proliferation of firearms and by requiring background checks, which, along

with a healthy economy, job training programs, substance abuse and mental health treatment available on demand, are constructive ways to reduce gun violence. (California has some of the strictest firearms regulations and lowest rates of gun deaths in the nation.) SB 620 passed the full Senate and is now on the Assembly Floor.

Bail reform is also on track to becoming a reality in California! **SB 10** by Senator Bob Hertzberg (D-Sherman Oaks) and Assembly Member Rob Bonta (D-San Leandro) passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. Thanks to the strong support for bail reform Gov. Brown and California Supreme Court Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye have committed to work with Hertzberg and Bonta during the fall in order to advance bail reform in the second year of the legislative session. People awaiting trial account for roughly 60 percent of California's local jail population and is comprised largely by those who cannot afford to post bail. Pre-trial risk assessment, where judges examine the defendant's risk to public safety and their flight risk is more equitable and reduces "no-show" rates.

In 2012, FCLCA supported and Gov. Brown signed **SB 9**, by Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) to enable individuals sentenced to life without parole for an offense committed prior to the age 18 eligible to apply to the trial court after serving 15 years in order to become eligible for parole after serving 25 years. Instead of resentencing, **SB 394**, by Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens), will streamline consideration of these cases by making these individuals eligible for a youth offender parole hearing and eligible for parole after serving 25 years. The bill passed the Senate and is now on the Assembly Floor.

Protecting our undocumented residents

FCLCA has been working to pass The California Values Act, by Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles). **SB 54** will ensure that California's law enforcement resources are not used to fuel mass deportations of undocumented residents. It would prevent state and local law enforcement agencies from acting as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and prohibits the transfer of undocumented persons to ICE absent a judicial warrant with the exception of persons who have been convicted of a serious or violent felony. The comingling of the distinct functions of law enforcement and immi-

gration enforcement also discourages undocumented victims of crime from reporting crimes.

FCLCA organized a large interfaith delegation that met with members of the governor's staff to express support for SB 54. Staff heard moving testimony from an undocumented couple who described a family meeting to make emergency plans in the event that one or both parents were apprehended by ICE agents. The couple also described the fear they feel when in the presence of local law enforcement given the heated rhetoric emanating from Washington. SB 54 is now in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is expected to move to the full Assembly for a vote in early September.

Immigration law is extremely complex, and one of the best ways to prevent deportations is to have good legal help when navigating the deportation process. The 2017-2018 budget signed by Gov. Brown triples funding – from \$15 million to \$45 million – to increase access to legal services for people seeking naturalization, other legal status and for avoiding deportation. FCLCA is also supporting **AB 638**, by Anna Caballero (D-Salinas) to prohibit unqualified persons from acting as immigration consultants. The bill is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Fighting poverty and restoring the safety net

There is more good news to be had with regards to alleviating poverty. FCLCA lobbied for an expansion of the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable tax credit which helps our lowest income workers and their families. California was one of a few states which prohibits self-employed people from eligibility. Moreover, the income caps had not been raised in order to account for increases in California's minimum wage. Both provisions were included in the 2017-2018 budget. According to the California Budget and Policy Center, these changes could extend the EITC to an additional one million Californians. FCLCA also supported the restoration of full adult dental services for individuals enrolled in Medi-Cal (California's version of Medicaid) and the final budget continues the state's multiyear reinvestment in child care slots. Despite these restorations, funding for childcare is still over \$3 billion below Great Recession levels (California Budget and Policy Center.)

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Building a Movement In Palo Alto and San Jose, Quakers organize to put their spiritual beliefs into action

In the South Bay Area, members of Friends Meetings are organizing at the community level to bring a Quaker voice in response to national events, a project they call Quaker Civic Action. Bart Burstein of Palo Alto Friends Meeting explains:

The genesis of Quaker Civic Action was the federal elections last November – so many people were feeling powerless and needed to do something – to pay attention to what’s happening here at home. A second impetus was the Woman’s March in January. We all marched somewhere – together with so many other people! The desire for action, and moral leadership was tangible. We wanted to act in ways consistent with Quaker values that could act as a magnet for others, to try and affect national policies.

A “public meeting for worship” is a Quaker tradition that Palo Alto Meeting has used before in times of crisis – prior to this year, the last one was during the Iraq War. We did hold a public meeting for worship in Palo Alto in January 2017; after that, some of us felt that we needed to create a more sustained effort to bring a Quaker voice, particularly in light of the executive orders targeting Muslims that were coming out at the time.

At the same time a group from the San Jose Friends Meeting was also feeling that Quak-

ers needed to respond in a public way, and this was the spark that brought members of our two Meetings together to form an informal committee, using Quaker principles and decision making process to start active work. Our goal was to become visible

advocates for sane, humane government policy and actions in our local communities.

In February we held a second public meeting for worship in downtown Palo Alto, with a concern for religious tolerance, in response to the travel ban.

By then we were a group of about 20 Friends, and after our second public meeting for worship we developed a focus for our activities. The issue of immigration touched the lives and hearts of those of us in the group: we were teachers with immigrant students in our classrooms; we had co-workers and neighbors who were affected by the anti-immigrant actions of the government. We learned about the impact that federal policies were having on our community: contractors told us that their workers were afraid to come to the job site; the teachers’ union told us that many of their students’ parents were afraid to come to school and drop off their kids. We decided that a first focus area would be immigrants rights.

We decided to focus on the federal government’s actions in Santa Clara County and



held our third public meeting for worship in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Morgan Hill. This ICE office had been the site of three previous protests, including one organized by the Catholic Church.

So we held our meeting for public worship, consistent with Quaker practice, on July 12. We invited several community groups, and were joined by one named SIREN. The worship itself was largely uneventful, enlivened both by the presence of a handful of non-Quaker activists, and a somewhat hostile dialogue with the owner of the building that housed ICE, who felt that protestors were endangering his lease.

As an outcome of the public worship in Morgan Hill, we were contacted by the ICE community relations office. We learned two things from our first call: that in fact there is a new enforcement policy in effect which has led to greater fear in the community – under previous rules if ICE was looking for a particular person, and found others who were undocumented, they would not take them into custody. Now they do. The second is that community pressure in the form of these protests has, for now at least, caused ICE to shelve their plan to extend the Morgan Hill office to include a detention facility.

The ICE Community Relations Officer expressed willingness to engage. They are interested in talking with us and meeting with the community. We were told that the role of local community relations was not to defend policy, but they do wish to explain how they act locally and build communica-

tion. In addition ICE has initiatives that are not widely known, that it believes immigrant communities will support. This led us to the reflection that as Quakers, we may be able to play a role that we have in the past – to talk with both sides, respect



both sides, facilitate dialogue. We intend to follow this opening by meeting with the manager of the Morgan Hill facility and by hosting one or more public meetings in the broader community. We are currently at the beginning of an information-gathering and discernment process to engage a wider community base of action, and find a path to facilitate a helpful dialogue.

Society has often looked to Quakers to lead the way with nonviolent action when government acts against what we feel is contrary to our values. We have a responsibility, based on our heritage, to stand up and speak – to be civic activists. [FCLCA](#)

Want more information?

More articles from George Lakey and others on building a movement:

Waging Nonviolence:
People-Powered News and Analysis
www.wagingnonviolence.org
YES Magazine
www.yesmagazine.org

More on bills in the California Legislature:
www.fclca.org; click on Action Center
www.Leginfo.legislature.ca.gov – great information on current bills

People organize in their communities to change the world

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conscience to the legislative process in Sacramento. Thanks to you and the supporters who went before, we have an experienced and well-respected lobbyist at the Capitol, a grassroots lobbying program that enables thousands of people like you to talk directly to their legislators, and the means to educate people about how they can directly affect state policy.

We believe working at the legislative level is a critical part of the movement for social justice. The decisions made by our state legislators affect our lives every-day. Moving California forward as a beacon of social progress is essential, perhaps now more than ever. Your partnership – your activism, your contributions, your volunteerism – has built this key piece of our movement.

As we head towards the end of this legislative session, we'll be asking you to contribute generously to keep the work going strong. We need to raise at least \$100,000 from partners like you in the next few months. Please take a moment to reflect on what having an advocacy and lobbying organization that reflects your values means to you and to consider if you can stretch your contributions to a higher level this year – when so much is at stake.

Would you consider doubling your usual gift in honor of our 65th anniversary?

Could you perhaps become an FCLCA champion and sponsor one full day of our complete program – with a gift of \$1,000?

Whatever you can do, please know that we appreciate your support, your activism, and your encouragement as we build this movement for peace and justice together. We hope you will be as inspired as we were by the stories in this issue. Thank you! [FCLCA](#)

Partner with us!

Contributions may be made online at www.fclca.org

Advocates support bills to move California forward

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Protecting our environment from pollution and federal rollbacks

On the environmental front, FCLCA has been supporting **AB 1316**, by Bill Quirk (D-Hayward), which requires the Department of Public Health to revise the mandate on health plans and insurers for assessing the risk of lead poisoning in children in order to expand testing. The bill passed the Assembly and is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee. FCLCA has been helping to pass **SB 623**, by Bill Monning (D-Santa Cruz), to establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund. The fund will be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and imposes water, fertilizer and dairy fees to fund safe drinking water programs. The bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

FCLCA signed onto the Preserve California package of bills designed to protect California's environment from weakened federal environmental regulations and policy changes. **SB 49**, the California Environmental Defense Act by Senators Kevin de León and Henry Stern (D-Canoga Park), protects California from federal rollbacks in vital environmental, public health and worker safety laws, and ensures that California maintains existing protections for its most important assets – its people and natural resources. **SB 50**, the Public Lands Protection Act by Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), maintains public lands for the public by directing the State Lands Commission to establish California's right of first refusal for any federal lands proposed for sale or conveyance to other parties. The Whistleblower and Public Data Protection Act, **SB 51** by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara), ensures that federal employees do not lose state licensure for revealing legal violations, unethical actions or dangers to public health and safety. The bill also directs state agencies to protect scientific information and data from censorship or destruction by the federal government. All three bills passed the Senate and are currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. [FCLCA](#)

Lobbying Begins at Home

Meeting with legislators in your district

You don't have to come to Sacramento to lobby your legislators. In fact, there are benefits to lobbying your legislators in your own district: legislators and staff may be more accessible, and it's a great way to establish a relationship with your legislator's office.

1) Pick an issue or piece of legislation that concerns you and gather like-minded people in a group for the meeting. About three to five people is a good number.

2) Fax a written request for a meeting to the legislator's home office and follow up with a phone call. Or you can email the office through the legislator's website. Let the staff know what you would like to discuss.

You can find information like fax and phone numbers and the legislator's website address by clicking on Action Center at FCLCA's website www.fclca.org. On the Action Center page, enter your zip code (sometimes you may need to enter your full address) to access your legislator's information.

3) Prepare for the meeting.

- Research the bill/issue you will be addressing, and identify specific actions you can ask your legislator to take. www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov is helpful.
- Review the legislator's website to see his or her biography and press releases and to get a sense of their values and priorities.
- Set up a face to face meeting with the members of your delegation and determine who will cover which points and who will "chair" the meeting to keep it on topic.
- Summarize the key elements you want the legislator to know in a one-page memo.
- Bring a few pages of relevant materials to leave at the office.

4) At the meeting.

- You may meet with the legislator, but often you will meet with a staff person. It is very useful to get to know the staff, as they will provide information on critical issues to the legislator.
- Be prepared for a meeting of around 15-30 minutes. When you come to the meeting, all the attendees should introduce themselves and state what group, if any, they represent. State what topic you wish to discuss. Ask for your legislator's view on an issue. Be patient and passionate and remain polite even if you don't get the response you want.
- Present your case and be prepared to answer questions. Make a specific request for support of a bill or legislative action. Give several brief points about why the legislator should support or oppose this issue – stay concrete. However, if you are speaking from a religious or spiritual basis, it is fine to discuss the underlying values that motivate you. Legislators need to hear from people of faith.

5) Follow up.

- If asked for information you can't provide, offer to follow up with a staff person.
- If a staff person doesn't know much about the issue or the legislator's position, ask for a follow up letter from them. Leave your carefully selected material with the staff person. Ask when the legislator will have made a decision and be sure to follow up.
- Send a thank you note soon after the meeting, reiterating your request to the legislator and adding any key information you may have overlooked.

Please let FCLCA know about your visits. Remember, legislators are elected by you to serve you – hearing from you is part of their job and makes them more effective in Sacramento.

get co-opted by the powerholders and undermine a campaign's clarity so it settles for less.

Rebels can either generate drama that motivates the undecided to take the issue more seriously and to side with the movement, or it can choose tactics that are so self-marginalizing that the undecided lend their support to the powerholders.

Helpers can empower people who are feeling helpless by giving them skills and assisting them to see that they can only get what they really want through solidarity with others. Or the helpers can adopt the false belief that society changes through individuals enhancing their lives one-by-one.

In his book "Doing Democracy," Moyer describes a number of positive and negative ways each role can be played. Looking fearlessly at his analysis helps our learning curve.

How do you play your role?

I've personally performed a lot of voluntary service, started and led new organizations, and lobbied elected officials. In my heart of hearts, though, I'm a rebel. To avoid burnout, I need to remember that I'm healthiest, most creative and productive when I'm in touch with my rebel self and find a group that's OK with that.

Becoming self-aware is also helpful for organizations. They do best when they clarify their mission, even when that means saying "No" to lots of otherwise good ideas that are offered but aren't really aligned with the essence of their role. Earth Quaker Action Team, my primary affiliation, claims its rebel role in the larger struggle for environmental, economic and racial justice. In our new campaign Power Local Green Jobs, other groups we talk with expect that we will join with them as they advocate, or organize, or do job training. We get to explain over and over the advantages of a division of labor: "Do what you're best at and we'll root for you while we do our rebel thing."

A group that embraces its particular role in the movement can also have a diversity of roles within its membership. Within EQAT we have people who as individuals shine as organizers, helpers and advocates and contribute quite a lot to the group's internal life. Within any group there is room for all as long as they support the clear, overall mission.

Of course a membership that includes multiple role identities will also experience conflicts, and that's a good thing – especially when hard choices must be made. An organizer may object that a rebel's tactical proposal is premature because the group doesn't yet have the resources to deal with the consequences. A helper may say that more solar installation training needs to be in place before the utility yields and funds extensive rooftop programs, or else the poor and people of color will be overlooked when workers start lining up for jobs. An advocate may note that the opponent is for the first time engaged in serious consideration of the demand, and argue that this is the wrong time for militant action.

People who face strategic hard choices are more likely to come up with creative and wise next moves when the four roles fight it out – fighting fairly while acknowledging differences. The research is clear: Over time, diversity actually does produce the best outcomes. Or at least diversity works when everyone agrees on the bottom line: The role the group plays in the larger movement.

This illustration from Earth Quaker Action Team can be repeated for organizations taking a different role: advocacy, say, or helping or organizing. The combination of diversity of membership and unity of purpose is a winning combination.

Bill Moyer's Four Roles is about effectiveness. Instead of one organization trying to do many things and risking scatter, his vision was that of a proliferation of groups, each maximizing strength through focus while networking and supporting a broader sense of unity. That's what a powerful movement looks like. [FCLCA](#)

WAYS TO GIVE THAT BENEFIT YOU AND YOUR FAVORITE CHARITIES

Make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your individual retirement account (IRA).

Have you reached age 70½ and are you required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA?

Perhaps you don't need all of that distribution to live on and you would also like to make a charitable gift to a cause you believe in, like the FCL Education Fund. Consider making the gift as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).



What is a QCD?

A QCD permits annual direct transfers to a qualified charity or charities of up to \$100,000 of tax-deferred IRA savings. The distribution must be made directly to the charity.

These gifts count toward your Required Minimum Distribution but do not increase your income. This can be beneficial to many people because a higher income can have impacts such as increasing the tax on social security benefits and increasing Medicare insurance premiums.

We recommend that you first contact your financial advisor to see if a QCD makes sense for your specific financial situation. Many IRA custodians have forms and additional information available to help you make a QCD.

The charity must qualify as a 501(c)(3) organization and some charities such as private foundations and donor-advised funds do not qualify for a QCD.

It's important to make a QCD in the right way. If the funds from the IRA are distributed directly to you first and then you in turn contribute them to the charity, that will not qualify. That's because taxable IRA distributions made to you must be included in your adjusted gross income and will have other impacts on your tax situation.

You'll want to contact the charity to make sure you have the correct name and have the custodian of your IRA make the check out directly to the charity. The custodian may send the check to the charity or may send the check to you and you may send the check to the charity. In either case, it's a good idea to enclose a letter stating who the donor is and that the donation is a QCD. Be sure to get an acknowledgement letter from the charity documenting the donation.


If you would like to make a QCD in support of the work of the FCL Education Fund in informing our supporters and the wider public about the issues that face California and our work to train grassroots activists on how to effectively lobby their legislators, here's our info:

Formal name: FCL Education Fund EIN number: 68-0062639

Address: 1225 8th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814 Attn: Kevan Insko

**FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATION OF CALIFORNIA**

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COMING THIS FALL

An Annual Tradition – Everyone is Invited!

The 51st Annual Harvest Festival

Saturday, September 30, 2017 • 9am - 4pm

A Benefit for the Friends Committee on Legislation of California



At Palo Alto Friends Meeting
957 Colorado Avenue, Palo Alto, CA
Come to shop, hear music, browse our
book sale, and eat lunch at our 51st Harvest
Festival. The specialized boutiques (including
an international bazaar, treasured collectibles,
jewelry and plants), and HUGE rummage
and book sale, guarantees there will be
something for everyone.

*Have something to donate or want more information?
Visit www.friendsharvestfestival.org*

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The Friends Committee on Legislation of California (FCLCA) includes Friends and like-minded persons, a majority of whom are appointed by Monthly Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in California.

Expressions of views in this newsletter are guided by Statements of Policy prepared and approved by the FCLCA Committees. Seeking to follow the leadings of the Spirit, the FCLCA speaks for itself and for like-minded Friends. No organization can speak officially for the Religious Society of Friends.

While we strive above all for correctness and probity, we are quick to recognize that to err is human. We therefore solicit and welcome comments and corrections from our readers.