

KFTC Annual Chapter Meetings

Suggested agenda - revised, June 2012

It is important that someone takes notes during this meeting. This person should complete the chapter meeting report form and the chapter petition form.

1. Ice-breaker/Introductions. Pass around the sign-in sheet (10 minutes)

2. Review the agenda (5 minutes)

3. Review the chapter's work in the past year (20 minutes) (OPTIONAL)

- Briefly review the chapter's goals and activities from the past year.
- Discuss: What were some significant achievements or accomplishments? What are some areas that need improvement in the coming year?

4. Review upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer (10 minutes)

- Annual Meeting (Oct 26-28 in Faubush)
- Other....

5. Ideas and suggestions for KFTC's platform (15 minutes)

- Use platform guidance handout to help explain...
- That KFTC's platform is a set of positions taken by the statewide organization. Its purpose is to communicate – to ourselves and the outside world – the issues we are prepared to address or defend. It reflects issues that our membership is working on and committed to.
- That all chapters have the right to contribute revisions to the platform. These ideas will be considered by the Steering Committee in September. A proposed draft of the platform will be printed in *balancing the scales*. A final vote will be taken by the full membership at the annual meeting in October.
- Then give people a minute to find and review the platform (have copies available). Are there any proposals for changes to the platform? It is fine if there are no changes to be made at this time. Discuss and vote on proposed changes. (Please focus on the *content* of the platform, rather than trying to edit for style.). Make sure to record WHY the change is being recommend and develop the specific language you are proposing. If you don't have time to develop specific language during the meeting, select a small committee of members to do this after the meeting.

6. Review the chapter petition form and decide whether to remain a chapter. (10 minutes)

- Explain that local chapters are the building blocks of KFTC's power and democratic process. Each KFTC chapter has rights and responsibilities. Give people a moment to find the chapter petition form. (Have copies handy.) Ask someone to read the "rights" and "responsibilities" section of this form. *Ask for a motion whether to remain a KFTC chapter and take a vote.*

7. Nominations for KFTC statewide committees. (10 minutes)

- Explain that each chapter is asked to nominate at least one person to a statewide committee. Give people a moment to find the description of those committees (have a few copies handy). Let people know which chapter members currently serve on any of the statewide committees.

- Committees include: Personnel, Finance, Leadership Development, Land Reform, Economic Justice, New Energy & Transition, and Voter Empowerment.
- Ask for nominations or volunteers to serve on one or more of KFTC statewide committees. These positions will be finalized in November by the Steering Committee.

8. Election of Chapter Officers (20 minutes)

- Explain that each chapter is asked to elect people to 5 positions: Steering Committee Representative and Alternate, Membership Coordinator, Fundraising Coordinator and Publicity Coordinator. Give people a moment to find and review the descriptions of these roles (have a few copies available.) Let people know who currently serves in these positions and whether or not they are eligible to serve another term.
- Ask for nominations or volunteers for each position and call for a vote.
- Ask if there are any other positions that the chapter wants to establish, such as chapter chairperson, note-taker, etc. If so, ask for nominations and take a vote on those positions.

9. Review chapter membership statistics and set goals. (10 minutes – can be done at next meeting)

- Report on the number of total members, the number of new members, and the percentage of members whose dues are paid as of July 31, 2012.
- Ask the group to set a membership recruitment goal for the remainder of the year.
- Briefly brainstorm ways that the chapter could meet that goal. Set a time for turning those ideas into a real, concrete workplan.

10. Review fundraising statistics and set new goals. (10 minutes – can also be done at next mtg)

- Report on grassroots funds raised as of July 31, 2012.
- Set a grassroots fundraising goal for the remainder of the year. (Minimum of \$500.)
- Briefly brainstorm ways the chapter could meet that goal. Set a time for turning those ideas into a real, concrete workplan.

11. Optional: Nominate people to serve on KFTC's Executive Committee and Kentucky Coalition Board of Directors (10 minutes)

KFTC has an Executive Committee comprised of a chairperson, vice-chair, secretary treasurer and at-large member, plus the immediate past chairperson. These officers are voted in by the full membership at the Annual Meeting in October. Executive Committee members are elected to one-year terms and may serve in the same position for no more than two years. Currently these positions are held by Steve Boyce (Chair), Sue Tallichet (Vice-Chair), Dana Beasley Brown (Secretary-Treasurer), and Rick Handshoe (At-large member). They have each served two one-year terms. They are not eligible to be re-elected in their current position but could be nominated for a different position.

Invite nominations for any of these positions.

In addition, the chapter has an opportunity to nominate members to serve on the board of directors of the KY Coalition, KFTC's tax-exempt sister organization. The KC board is elected annually using the same process described above. There are three elected positions to this board. Bill Stolte, Doug Doerrfeld, and Beth Bissmeyer are currently serving on the board. They are all eligible to be nominated for another one-year term.

12. Adjourn, fill out paperwork and head for home!

VOLUNTEER TO BE A KFTC LEADER

You can play an important role in building your local chapter in the coming year. Please come to your chapter meeting in August ready to volunteer or nominate others for chapter positions below or for the statewide committees on the flip side.

1. Steering Committee Representative and Alternate

Each chapter selects a representative and alternate to serve on KFTC's Steering Committee. This is the statewide board that makes decisions about KFTC's budget, policies, strategy and long-term direction. This committee also helps develop grassroots fundraising and membership recruitment and retention plans. One person from each chapter must attend each Steering Committee meeting, which are held six Saturdays a year in different locations across the state. Two of these meetings include an overnight stay. Members can request reimbursement at a rate of \$.43 per mile for driving to these meetings. An individual can hold the chapter Steering Committee Representative office for no more than three one-year terms. The first Steering Committee meeting for this term will be held in November.

2. Chapter Membership Coordinator(s) (Chapters can appoint 1 person or a team.)

As membership coordinator, you will be involved in planning and carrying out activities to recruit, renew, and continually engage the chapter's membership. You help other members get excited about asking people they know to join KFTC, and keep the chapter focused on meeting its membership goal. The membership coordinator works closely with the fundraising coordinator to plan events that generate new members, energize the chapter and raise funds to support KFTC.

3. Chapter Fundraising Coordinator(s) (Chapters can appoint 1 person or a team.)

Each chapter must raise at least \$500 a year for KFTC. The fundraising coordinator leads the effort to raise this money and develop local events that reflect the creativity and diversity of the chapter. Examples include potluck dinners, musical events, car washes and more. He or she also helps identify local donors and participates in asking them to support KFTC. The fundraising coordinator gets others excited about fundraising and helps recruit volunteers to make phone calls to all chapter members during KFTC's fall fundraising campaign.

4. Chapter Publicity Coordinator(s) (Chapters can appoint 1 person or a team.)

This person will help the chapter think creatively about how best to communicate with local members and the broader public about our issues and organization. He/she can be responsible for sending frequent updates about your chapter's activities to *balancing the scales*, KFTC's newsletter, and to our website. He/she also helps the chapter make the best use of local media and other creative methods (including flyers, public service announcements, and on-line social networking sites) to get the word out about chapter meetings, issues and activities. KFTC's organizers and communication team are excited to help throughout the year.

KFTC's statewide committees need your active leadership!

Each chapter is asked to nominate *at least* one person to serve on *at least* one statewide committee. Feel free to nominate yourself! All nominations will be considered by the Leadership Development Committee. **New committee assignments will be finalized and begin in November 2012.**

- 1. Personnel Committee:** Participates in hiring processes including helping to interview candidates. Participates in annual staff performance evaluations and manages the annual evaluation process of the Executive Director. Provides guidance and makes recommendations about personnel policies and issues. Meets as needed, primarily by conference call.
- 2. Finance Committee:** Reviews and recommends budget and quarterly financial statements, financial management policies and major financial decisions. This committee also helps review and report on KFTC's audit. Generally meets in person in January and then by conference call every other month.
- 3. Leadership Development Committee:** Nominates people to serve on statewide committees and offices. Develops, evaluates and helps to implement KFTC's leadership programs, including workshops and leadership schools. Generally meets in person in January and then by conference call throughout the remainder of the year.
- 4. Land Reform Committee:** Develops the strategy for KFTC's campaigns on issues connected to natural resources, especially coal and energy issues. Meets 3-6 times as needed.
- 5. Economic Justice Committee:** Develops the strategy for KFTC's campaigns on economic issues affecting low-income Kentuckians. Meets as needed, in person or by conference call.
- 6. New Energy and Transition (NET) Committee:** Develops strategy and priorities for three related KFTC campaigns: Rural Electric Co-op Reform, Sustainable Energy, and Appalachian Transition. NET committee members have the opportunity to explore one (or more) of these topics by joining sub-committee(s) focused on each campaign. The full committee will meet face-to-face at least once a year, and as needed by phone, to learn about related campaigns and develop shared strategies. Sub-committees will meet more regularly by phone or in person to guide the specific campaigns.
- 7. Voter Empowerment Committee:** Develops and evaluates KFTC's strategies for registering, informing and motivating voters in the communities where we work, including our restoration of voting rights campaign. Meets as needed, in person or by conference call.
- 8. Litigation Team:** KFTC's Litigation Team helps KFTC to engage in strategic litigation that supports our organizing goals. The team evaluates requests to join litigation and makes recommendations to the Executive & Steering Committees about potential new litigation. The team monitors current litigation and works closely with the Communications Team to develop press releases, statements, etc related to litigation. The best candidates for this team would be leaders with an established history with KFTC and an interest in coal and water work. The team has conference calls as needed and uses email regularly to manage updates and some decisions. Specific litigation team members get assigned as point person for specific cases and that can increase one's time commitment (for instance, being point person may require being on a call once a week or it may require a call once a month with the legal team and allies involved in that particular case).

Call for Nominations

Take a moment to nominate yourself or any other member for KFTC's Executive Committee and other statewide committees as well as for the Kentucky Coalition Board of Directors. This form must be returned by August 31st, 2012.

Person making the nomination: _____ Phone: _____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Executive Committee positions are described on the back of this page. Nominees will be considered by the Leadership Development Committee, which will recommend a slate of candidates to the Steering Committee. Candidates will be described in the September issue of *balancing the scales*. A final vote will be held at the October 26-27-28 Annual Meeting.

You may nominate as many people as you like for any of the following positions: 1) Chairperson 2) Vice-Chairperson 3) Secretary-Treasurer 4) At-large Representative

Nominee: _____ Office nominated for: _____

Why? _____

Nominee: _____ Office nominated for: _____

Why? _____

Nominee: _____ Office nominated for: _____

Why? _____

Nominee: _____ Office nominated for: _____

Why? _____

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS

KFTC's statewide committees include: Personnel; Finance; Leadership Development; Land Reform; and Economic Justice; New Energy & Transition; and Voter Empowerment. You may nominate yourself or anyone else in the organization for these roles. Nominees for these positions will be reviewed by the Leadership Development Committee and appointed by the new Steering Committee in *November*.

Nominee: _____ Committee nominated for: _____

Nominee: _____ Committee nominated for: _____

Nominee: _____ Committee nominated for: _____

KENTUCKY COALITION BOARD NOMINATIONS

At the Annual Meeting, the KFTC membership will elect the Kentucky Coalition Board of Directors. This board includes the five members of the Executive Committee as well as three additional members elected by the KFTC membership. The KC board is described below. Nominees will be considered by the Leadership Development Committee, which will recommend a slate of candidates to the Steering Committee. Candidates will be described in the September issue of *balancing the scales*. A final vote will be held at the October 26-27-28 Annual Meeting.

You may nominate as many people as you like for the three seats on the Kentucky Coalition board.

Nominee: _____

Why? _____

Nominee: _____

Why? _____

Nominee: _____

Why? _____

Nominations must be submitted in writing no later than the last day of August to KFTC Leadership Development Committee, 140 Mini Mall Drive, Berea, KY 40403 or emailed to lisa@kftc.org.

The KFTC Executive Committee

KFTC's Steering Committee is the statewide board that makes decisions about the organization's budget, policies, strategy and long-term direction. The Steering Committee is made up of one representative from each chapter, plus five statewide officers.

These five officers make up the **Executive Committee**. This group makes necessary decisions between Steering Committee meetings and provides leadership for the organization. Four members of the Executive Committee are elected. The fifth position is the immediate past chairperson. Following is a description of the four elected positions.

Chairperson

The Chairperson is voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition. He or she presides at all Annual Meetings, Steering Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and Board of Directors meetings.

Vice-Chairperson

The Vice-Chairperson is voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition. He or she presides in the absence of the Chairperson at all Annual Meetings, Steering Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and Board of Directors meetings.

Secretary-Treasurer

Serves as Secretary-Treasurer for KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition. She or he also serves as a voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition. The Secretary-Treasurer also serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee.

At-Large Representative

The At-Large Representative is a member elected from a county without a chapter. He or she serves as a voting member of the KFTC Steering Committee and Executive Committee, as well as the Board of Directors of KFTC and the Kentucky Coalition.

Requirements:

- 1) A statewide officer must be a member of KFTC.
- 2) A statewide officer cannot be a paid employee of KFTC or Kentucky Coalition.
- 3) A statewide officer cannot serve in the same position for more than two years.

The Kentucky Coalition Board of Directors

Kentucky Coalition is the sister organization to Kentuckians For The Commonwealth. Kentucky Coalition (KC) is a 501(c)(3) organization, meaning that it is allowed to accept tax-deductible donations from members and it can access foundation grants that are not available to Kentuckians For The Commonwealth.

Kentucky Coalition's purpose is to support grassroots community organizing, leadership development, and public education around important public policy. Kentucky Coalition's reach stretches beyond KFTC and beyond Kentucky. Kentucky Coalition has provided support and acted as fiscal agent for groups working in Appalachia and the South. For instance, Kentucky Coalition is currently the fiscal agent for the Alliance for Appalachia, a group of 13 organizations from Central Appalachia working to stop mountaintop removal coal mining.

The KC Board provides general oversight and direction for the organization. It maintains a close working relationship with the KFTC Steering Committee, monitor finances, and conduct planning and evaluation. The Board meets at least quarterly, often by conference call.

The KC Board is comprised of the 5 members of the KFTC Executive Committee plus 3 additional members who are elected by the KFTC membership at its Annual Meeting in October. KC Board members serve 1-year terms. The KC board members who are also members of the Executive Committee follow the term limits placed on them as KFTC Executive Committee members. The three additional KC board members may serve 4 consecutive terms.

Requirements:

- 1) A KC board member must be a member of KFTC.
- 2) A KC board member cannot be a paid employee of KFTC or Kentucky Coalition.
- 3) A KC board member cannot serve in the same position for more than two years.



KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

30 Years of Action for Justice

P.O. Box 1450 • London, KY 40743 • 606-878-2161 • www.kftc.org

Guidance in modifying KFTC's platform

Summer/Fall 2012

What is the KFTC Platform:

The platform is a statement of KFTC's public position on issues. We're not necessarily working actively on every item in the platform but these are issues and concerns that have been identified by the membership over the years upon which we've taken a position. If something is in the platform, chapters can engage in work on that issue.

What the Platform is NOT:

It is not our public vision or mission statement. It is an internal document used to help allow chapters and clusters of members to work in KFTC's name on issues.

Platform Modification Process:

- (a) At the Chapter Annual Meetings in August each chapter discusses the platform and makes recommendations to the Steering Committee. The platform is also published in the August issue of the KFTC newsletter, balancing the scales, and recommendations can be submitted to the Steering Committee by individual members.
- (b) Steering Committee discusses these suggestions and decides how to handle each one. They generally accept the recommendation, or revise the language but still accept the recommendation, or they may decide to not accept the recommendation. The Steering Committee then adopts a draft platform to recommend to the members at the Annual Meeting.
- (c) Members at the KFTC Annual Meeting can make recommendations to the draft platform during the business portion of the meeting.
- (d) At the Annual Meeting all of these recommendations are explained, discussed and considered.
- (e) Each recommendation is voted on unless there is a motion to accept the entire platform as proposed.
- (f) If there is discussion on individual platform changes, at the end there is a vote to accept the entire platform as proposed or amended.

Cautionary Notes:

1. The platform works better when it reflects what the membership has agreed to: when we radically change the platform without educating and listening to the members we sometimes create an argument instead of a learning opportunity.
 - Example: Death Penalty. A couple members announced at 2010 Annual Meeting that they wanted to work over the next year to educate members and then bring a proposed plank to the 2011 Annual Meeting. They spent the next year doing some workshops and KFTC newsletter articles. In 2011, their plank passed.
2. Please limit editing of the document. The platform has been generated from scores of committees and chapters over many years. It's long and clunky and there probably are grammar mistakes or word choices that could be better. Just think carefully before offering minor editing changes. Use what discussion time you have to discuss the value and content of the statements, not editing.
3. If you want to offer up a new plank, please be sure that idea isn't already covered elsewhere.
4. Propose specific language; not just ideas. It's not helpful to the Steering Committee if all they get is "let's add a plank on local foods." The Steering Committee needs specific language to consider. Also, please help the Steering Committee understand the intent behind your recommendation by providing background information about what you are recommending and include that along with the specific recommendation itself.
5. Be careful not to over-do it. Most chapters submit 0-3 suggestions. If all 11 chapters submitted 10 new planks each, the platform would be unmanageable. Think hard about what the top modification priorities are coming out of your chapter. And remember, there's already a lot in the platform. Likely some of what your chapter wants to propose is already represented somewhere in the platform. Please use discretion.

Tips on Process:

At the annual chapter meetings, there simply isn't enough time to do all that really needs done.

One idea is that you might discuss the purpose and process for the platform, review it, and then have a brainstorm about what folks think. If there are lots of ideas, maybe take a minute or two to prioritize those ideas.

Then, maybe assign a small workteam to work with a KFTC staff person to further develop the ideas (i.e. write the language; narrow the list from 10 proposed planks to 2 proposed planks, provide background information, etc).

KFTC's 2011-2012 Platform

Adopted by the KFTC membership, October 16 2011

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth is a statewide, grassroots, citizens' organization working for a new balance of power and a just society. As we work together we build our strength, individually and as a group, and find solutions to real life problems. We use direct action to challenge - and change - unfair political, economic and social systems. Our membership is open to all people who are committed to equality, democracy and nonviolent change. KFTC's goals of organizing are: (1) fostering democratic values, (2) changing unjust institutions, (3) empowering people and communities, (4) helping people participate, (5) overcoming racism and other discrimination, (6) communicating a message of what is possible, (7) building organizations, (8) winning issues that affect the common welfare, and (9) having fun.

We will work to create a society which focuses on supporting the human rights of all people. We are a social justice organization. We believe that all people must be treated with respect and dignity regardless of ability, age, gender, national origin, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other defining characteristic.

Since clean air, water and land are every Kentuckian's right, KFTC will work to protect and preserve a clean environment and protect bio-diversity by working for stronger regulations and better enforcement. Specifically:

- We will work for a sustainable forestry products industry [non-timber and wood products] for Kentucky that relies on ecologically sound forest management and the use of Best Management Practices on public and private lands.
- We will work to preserve and protect publicly owned lands and their natural resources
- We oppose on every front the rollback of the authority and funding for agencies and services that protect the environment and the rights of surface owners.
- We will fight to ensure safe, accessible and affordable water for all Kentuckians.
- We demand reasonable regulation of oil and gas drilling including protection and replacement of water and reclamation of damaged land.
- We demand full enforcement of laws and regulations related to the mining, transportation and burning of coal in order to protect water resources, prevent blasting damage, and require the reclamation of land and permitting of secondary road used for hauling coal.
- We oppose the use of dangerous coal sludge impoundments and call for the development of emergency action plans for communities living near impoundments.

- We oppose the use of the mountaintop removal method of surface coal mining and valley fills that bury perennial, intermittent and ephemeral streams.
- We oppose the environmental and economic destruction of industrial farming and its threat to clean air, clean water, rural communities, and small family farmers.
- We oppose importation of all solid, hazardous and special wastes, and promote local control over land-use decisions involving landfills and incinerators and related facilities.
- We oppose irresponsible uranium mining associated with nuclear power, nuclear power plants that are harmful to people and the environment, and environmentally dangerous storage of nuclear waste
- We will work to protect air quality to ensure the health and safety of Kentuckians.
- We will support reducing the use of harmful pesticides, the right of the public to know the nature of pesticides applied, and the right of a local government to have more stringent control of pesticide use.
- We promote source reduction, recycling, strong procurement policies for recycled products and a bottle bill.
- We will oppose environmental racism and classism, or the practice of locating polluting industries and waste facilities near low-income and minority communities, and in neighborhoods where people are least able to fight back.
- We support strengthening present timber theft laws in Kentucky to protect forests and private property rights.
- We support protection of biodiversity, including endangered species.

We will fight to protect surface owners from the abuses by extractive industries. Specifically:

- We demand that the broad form deed amendment be fully enforced by all levels of government.
- We support a change in property laws so that a minority owner of an undivided interest cannot allow the sale, leasing or mining of land or minerals against the wishes of the majority of owners.
- We demand that oil and gas operators have permission of surface owners before they drill.
- We support the property rights of all landowners and will work to ensure these rights are exercised responsibly and equitably so as not to unfairly compromise the interests of the public, the environment, or surrounding property owners.

We will work to empower voters and expand authentic, democratic participation that makes government open, honest and responsive to the needs of the people. Specifically:

- We will fight to protect the local control of solid waste management and siting, and support strong host agreements before permits are issued by the state.
- We will work to strengthen and enforce ethics codes for elected and appointed officials.
- We will work to expose connections between money in political campaigns and governments that are non-responsive to the people.
- We support campaign spending limits and public financing of elections to reduce the amount spent on elections and the power of big money contributors.
- We will work to make state and local economic development authorities accountable to the people.
- We demand easy access and an end to the bureaucratic procedures necessary to obtain open records in Kentucky.
- We oppose the inappropriate use of police powers to address problems, the expansion and privatization of the prison system and the use of excessive force by police. We do support full funding of public defenders.
- We support equitable access to state funds for roads and public transit.
- We support local communities' cooperation on common issues.
- We oppose closed-door meetings and decision making not open to the public.
- We support restoring voting rights to former felons. We support programs that promote the positive re-entry of former felons into our communities.

We will fight to create a just economy that sustains communities, families and individuals, promotes health and protects resources for the future. Specifically:

- We will work with all interested parties, including recipients, to develop a welfare system that benefits the community as a whole, provides a safety net, helps people move forward, and treats people fairly and with dignity.
- We will work for an economic development process that is open, sustainable, supportive of local economies, and sees that companies receiving public money for job creation provide training, safe working conditions, health benefits and a living wage and transition away from a fossil fuel extraction industry.
- We support public policies and utility programs that minimize utility customer shutoffs due to inability to pay and we will work to eliminate customer shutoffs during extreme weather conditions and medical emergencies. We support energy conservation programs, the implementation of percentage of income payment plans and fair access to utility services including local gas hookups.

- We support policies aimed at significantly increasing the development of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and clean renewable energy sources in Kentucky, ultimately leading toward climate neutrality.
- We seek energy policies that promote the development of community-scale, locally owned renewable energy sources, create local jobs, and help low-wealth households, enterprises, and communities to access energy efficiency measures and clean energy solutions.
- We support funding effective and efficient community services through an equitable, fair, and progressive tax structure.
- We support the continued fair taxation of unmined minerals.
- We support the collection of coal severance taxes on every ton of coal mined and demand an increasing return of severance tax funds to promote sustainable economic development in coalfield counties; we call for an increase in the severance tax rate and the creation of a community-based process to determine how funds are spent.
- We call for a system of high quality public education, including pre-school through higher education that is accessible and affordable for all Kentuckians.
- We support policies that are in favor of reducing the economic burden of higher education.
- We object to the dominance of corporate interests in the decision-making, values and priorities of our public universities."
- We support economic reform through the use and support of sustainable agriculture.
- We support affordable access to nutritious and healthful foods for all people.
- We demand quality, affordable and preventative health care for all Kentuckians, and support a single payer health care system.
- We support a comprehensive approach - and investments - that recognize good health is determined by a wide range of social and economic factors *such as* education, social welfare, housing, income, *and* environmental conditions, as well as traditional health factors.
- We support the right to a living wage for all Kentuckians.
- We oppose exploitation of labor and unjust international trade programs and demand an end to the use and sale of sweatshop-made products.
- We call for a new system for the transportation of coal that makes possible better pay for truckers, shared company accountability for safety violations and road damage, safe roads and safe mining communities, and reduced weight limits for coal trucks.

- We support the right of workers to organize and the right to collective bargaining.
- We support quality, affordable, accessible housing and demand just housing policies that protect the rights of renters to be treated fairly.
- We demand enactment and enforcement of occupational health and safety laws that protect all workers in Kentucky, especially workers in occupations that continue to suffer high rates of preventable work-related death, disability, and illness such as coal miners, coal truckers, and other coal industry workers.
- We support fair and equitable lending practices.
- We support adequate, affordable, and energy efficient public transportation on a statewide basis, and we demand infrastructure planning that supports alternative modes of public transportation such as biking and walking.
- We support fair and equitable access to information systems for all people.

We will fight to create a fair and just society that respects human and civil rights, uplifts all people to their potential, and values the participation of everyone. Specifically:

- We support affirmative action programs that guarantee equal rights for all people.
- We oppose all forms of racism and work to eliminate it from our society and from within our organization.
- We condemn and oppose oppression and harassment of all people by public or private individuals or institutions based on ability, age, gender, national origin, citizenship, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, immigration status, or any other defining characteristic.
- We will work toward a more fair justice system not mired in discrimination based on ability, age, gender, national origin, citizenship, race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, immigration status, or any other defining characteristic.
- We support a transition from our current punitive justice system to a more restorative system that honors the inherent dignity of all individuals.
- We support the abolition of the death penalty.

KFTC Chapter Petition Form

County or Chapter Name _____

Date _____

Chapter Description

Chapters are formal units of the KFTC's statewide organization. They are typically formed along single county lines; however, multi-county chapters are possible. Chapters and the statewide organization have a mutually supportive relationship. Chapters provide the bulk of KFTC's power base by recruiting members, actively working on issues, turning people out to events, and fundraising. In return, the statewide organization provides organizing assistance, leadership training and other support.

Chapters select their own local issues and leaders. To work on issues outside of KFTC's statewide platform, a chapter must have permission from the Steering Committee. Chapters must meet certain requirements as spelled out in a chapter contract. The contract lists chapters' responsibilities and rights. These contracts are signed and upheld by the Steering Committee.

Beginning, Continuing and Ending Chapter Status

KFTC members can petition to form a new chapter at the KFTC Annual Meeting or at a Steering Committee meeting. Chapters wishing to remain active must re-petition each year at the Annual Meeting. Chapters are accepted by a majority vote of the organizational membership or of the Steering Committee.

Chapters may end their status by notifying the Steering Committee and fulfilling any remaining obligations. The Steering Committee can end a chapter's status if it fails to meet its obligations. A chapter that is not represented at three Steering Committee meetings in a row will lose its chapter status and its staff and legal support.

Chapter Rights

1. to be formally affiliated with Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, a statewide citizens social justice organization which uses direct-action community organizing methods
2. to have one vote on all matters brought before the Steering Committee
3. to recommend statewide platform issues
4. to request organizational support, including staff support, for chapter activities and to receive preference over non-chapter counties for KFTC support and resources
5. to nominate members for KFTC statewide offices and committees and to receive preference over non-chapter counties for members to serve in those positions
6. to submit articles and local updates to *balancing the scales*
7. to review official KFTC records

Chapter Responsibilities

1. to elect a Steering Committee Representative and Alternate, a chapter fundraising coordinator, a membership coordinator and a publicity coordinator.
2. to have a chapter member attend all Steering Committee meetings, including an overnight Leadership Gathering in November and July.
3. to have chapter members attend the KFTC Annual Membership Meeting, Oct. 26-28, 2012.
4. to have an Annual Chapter Meeting in August and other meetings as needed.
5. to begin with at least 15 members and increase to at least 30 members within 2 years; to set membership goals in August; and to expand chapter membership each year.
6. to set chapter fundraising goals each August; to raise a minimum of \$500 through grassroots fundraising activities (other than donations and memberships); and to participate in the KFTC fall fundraising campaign by contacting all chapter members to ask for a donation.
7. to support KFTC's goals; to work on KFTC's statewide platform issues; and to use non-violent, direct-action organizing methods.

WE UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL OF THE CHAPTER RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PROCEDURES.

Steering Committee Representative

Steering Committee Alternate

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE:

KFTC Chairperson

Date

KFTC 2012 Annual Chapter Meeting Report Form

Chapter: _____

Meeting Date and Time: _____

Person filing report: _____

1. DO YOU WISH TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE ISSUE PLATFORM FOR 2011-2012? IF SO, FOR EACH RECOMMENDATION PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

a. WHY IS THIS CHANGED NEEDED?

b. WHAT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE ARE YOU RECOMMENDING TO BE CHANGED:

2A. NOMINATIONS TO A KFTC COMMITTEE

Each chapter is asked to nominate at least one person to a statewide committee. Current committees include: Finance; Personnel; Leadership Development; Land Reform; Economic Justice; New Energy & Transition; Voter Empowerment, and Litigation.

NAME

COMMITTEE

2B. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR KENTUCKY COALITION (NOT REQUIRED.) OFFICES INCLUDE: CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY TREASURER, AT-LARGE MEMBER, AND KENTUCKY COALITION AT-LARGE MEMBERS.

NAME	OFFICE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. PETITION TO REMAIN A KFTC CHAPTER

Will your chapter petition to be a chapter at KFTC's Annual Meeting, Oct. 26-27-28, 2012?

Is the signed chapter petition form attached? _____

4. CHAPTER OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE MEETING:

Steering Committee Representative _____

Steering Committee Alternate _____

Membership Coordinator (s) _____

Fundraising Coordinator(s) _____

Publicity Coordinator(s) _____

5. MEMBERSHIP:

Number of members in the chapter (as of 7/31/12) _____

Number of new members recruited this year (as of 7/31/12) _____

Percentage of members whose dues are paid (as of 7/31/12) _____

Number of members who attended this annual chapter meeting _____

Chapter membership goal for remainder of 2012 _____

6. FUNDRAISING:

Chapter fundraising in 2012 (as of 7/31/12) _____

Chapter fundraising goal for remainder of 2012 _____

Signature of person filing this report

Date

Please return this form to KFTC, 140 Mini Mall Drive, Berea, KY 40403 within 48 hours of your chapter's annual meeting. Thank you!