**OFA**

**Local Issue Advocacy**

**Foundations**

**Opening Question -** What have you learned about your issue since our workshop last week?

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| **NOTES:** |

*Case Study: Mr. Page and Resolution 124*

* CIty of St. Louis: 400,000 people and an economic hub
* Home to Peabody Coal and Arch Coal

*Key players*

* James Page: OFA St. Louis chapter leader
* Ann Wagner: Republican congresswoman representing Missouri’s 2nd district
* Lewis Reed: First black man to be elected to Board of Aldermen for St. Louis; primary sponsor for Resolution 124
* Heather Navarro: Alderwoman for St. Louis’ 28th ward; executive director for Missouri Coalition for the Environment
* Missouri Clean Energy Coalition: 17 different political, environmental, scientific, farming, and interfaith organizations

**Key point 1: Know the story of your city and assess the efficacy of your current actions**

**Reflection question -** What are you doing currently that feels good but is not leading to change?

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| **NOTES:** |

*But what kind of coalition?*

* Broader is better
* Application of pressure
* Well organized
* Logical
* Benefits the community
* Building of relationships with elected officials over time

**Key point 2: Begin building relationships with community members, elected officials, and organizations**

**Reflection question**: What groups are you currently working with? What demographics do they represent?

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| **NOTES:** |

**Key point 3: Gain knowledge on your issue and set your strategy**

Best practices:

* Look for people with the resources you need
* Ask for advice
* Show up -- relationships are everything
* Brainstorm contacts
* Work together to build relationships
* Partnerships and coalitions are everything

Q & A Wisdom:

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**Indicators of good issues:**

* Result in the improvement of people’s lives
* Make people aware of their own power
* Be winnable
* Be widely felt
* Be deeply felt
* Be easy to understand
* Have a clear decision maker
* Have a clear time frame
* Be consistent with your values and vision

**Reflection question:** What are your next steps in building a coalition? Why are those your steps? What else is missing?

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| **NOTES:** |