

staff will move as one and will bring home the bacon yet again. Luckily we have seen 10 years where this organization and the collective strength of its membership, leadership, and the staff have continually been able to transcend any frailties that each of us individually has brought to it and its course.

When I mentioned earlier that my recommendation will not be final, I was referring to a continuing leadership process which will review a number of things in order to make its final determination.

They will review the adequacy of the preparations and whether they concur that the pieces are in order.

They will review my recommendation that some kind of final offer should be made to Fair Share in order to eliminate any problems that Fair Share might have with our organizing in Massachusetts.

Mr. McDonald has accepted an invitation for himself and some of our leaders to meet with the Fair Share leadership in January in Boston. He has asked that the meeting be held on January 19th. The ACORN Executive Board is meeting in Memphis on January 26th. If the board feels that the Fair Share leadership has advanced issues which they had not considered or for some reasons they believe that it is not necessary at this time for ACORN to organize in Massachusetts, then they will cancel the project for now and recommend such action to the full Association Board in April. If on the other hand they feel that the mandate in their view still exists for organizing in Massachusetts, then they will argue that they have fulfilled the wishes of the board and call for the organizing to begin.

While we await the final events in this process at the leadership level, the ACORN staff in Boston and elsewhere will operate within the original board decision and my recommendation to the leadership that the pieces are ready. We will continue preparing to organize in Massachusetts and assemble the pieces for doing so, although we will do nothing that cannot be undone, if the board reverses field after their meetings in Memphis and Boston.

Regardless, 1980 is only days away, so with complete confidence we can be sure that it will indeed be a Happy New Year for ACORN and for each and every one of you.