

### **Changes in staffing at United Power for Action and Justice as of June 1, 2013**

Tom Lenz, who has been a member of United Power since its inception and its Lead Organizer for the past three years, has resigned to pursue other career opportunities. He was honored for his fine work at a reception on Sunday, June 2, at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Park Ridge. The Administrative Committee issued a statement thanking him for "leaving United Power in its healthiest and most powerful condition in years."

A search for his replacement is being conducted by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), with whom United Power has a long training and consulting relationship. Michael Gecan of IAF will increase his supervision time with United Power in the interim.

Amy Totsch, who has been organizing professionally for six years and with United Power for three years, has been promoted to the position of Senior Organizer and will be heading up the organization's work on health care and supportive housing, among other assignments.

Julie Webb, a United Power leader from Congregation BJB in Northbrook, has been hired part-time to staff the organization's "We Will Not Stand Idly By" campaign to curb gun violence.

Another full-time organizer is being recruited.

United Power for Action and Justice is a 15-year-old organization in Cook County, Illinois, made up of churches, synagogues, mosques, other religious institutions, community groups, unions and small businesses, and health-care institutions. It is run by a Collective Leadership made up of representatives from each of its member organizations, an Executive Committee of some 20 seasoned leaders elected annually by the Collective Leadership, and an Administrative Committee of six members of the Executive Committee who serve three-year, non-concurrent terms.

The organization has won major victories (and suffered a few honorable defeats) over the years on issues such as access to health care and insurance, affordable housing and homelessness, immigration, promoting ethnic and religious understanding, government reform, curbing gun violence, and many local issues. It has encouraged, supported, and worked closely with sister organizations DuPage United, Lake County United, and a new organizing effort in Kane County, Illinois.

**United Power is based on relational organizing, leadership training, development of its member organizations, and strategic action on behalf of justice for all.**

For further information, visit [www.united-power.org](http://www.united-power.org) or call Amy Totsch at 773-803-8830 or [amy.totsch@gmail.com](mailto:amy.totsch@gmail.com) or contact any of the members of the Administrative Committee listed below:

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